

“Children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.” Psalm 127:3



Christian

KINGS COUNTY NewsMagazine

DEAR
NOELLE
SEEKING AFTER
God's wisdom

Page 10

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 7

"A Voice for the Christian Community"

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BEHIND the HEADLINES



FAITH IN ACTION

VBS Director
Lakeside
Community
Church

Margie Newton

P5



BELIEVERS IN BUSINESS

Owner/Barber
The Cutting
Lounge

Emmanuel
Hernandez

P8



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Alayna Unrau
Salutatorian
CVC Class of
'25

Alayna Unrau
Salutatorian

P9



EDUCATION MATTERS

Now you can
opt-out by
just going
online

Larry Pegram

P12

Training Up the Next Generation



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By: T. M. Dinkins

Summer is here and that means churches in Kings county have been going above and beyond for their outreach programs! Many churches provide a Vacation Bible School (VBS) while others sponsor sports camps, BBQ's, and picnics. The goal of all these events is ultimately to bring glory to God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:20 says, "For you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." There are thousands of ways to glorify God, but during the summer one of the most popular ways is for churches to provide activities for children that teach them about the God who made us all.

One of the great benefits of summer programs is that they help train up the next generation in the truth of God. Colossians 1:28 says, "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." This verse functions as a great goal to pursue in bringing youth to maturity in Christ. The focus of every biblical church's message will always be that of Jesus Christ. The message will also include warning people about the danger of sin and how each person's sin separates them from the holiness of God. A biblical message will also carefully teach the wisdom that is found in God's word and the overarching goal of the teaching is to help people grow in wisdom

and stature with God and with man (Luke 2:52). This is done best in the context of local churches because they are the ones who have been given the authority and the responsibility to make disciples among all the nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

What a joy to see so many churches in Kings county using the summer months to serve families with these creative programs. There is not enough room in this edition to include all the outreach events that are taking place during the summer. This article will highlight three events that have already taken place, including a soccer camp that the author was able to help out with this year.

Continued on Pages 6 & 7



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<div>JUNE3</div> <div>1776 Sons of Liberty Patriotic Jamboree</div>	<div>JUNE4</div> <div>Visalia Rawhide 4th of July Fireworks after the game - 7:00 PM</div>	<div>JUNE6</div> <div>All American Breakfast at First Baptist Church 8:30 AM</div>	<div>JUNE7</div> <div>P.A.T.Y.'s Studio Summer Camp - July 7-19 Music & Dance</div>
<div>JUNE9</div> <div>The History of Faith - 6 PM South Valley Community Church</div>	<div>JUNE11-13</div> <div>Carnegie Museum Hanford - Ag History Exhibit is Open</div>	<div>JUNE16</div> <div>Summerfest at Grace Church of the Valley - 6 PM</div>	<div>JUNE17</div> <div>Reptile Ron at 10 AM - Hanford Civic Center</div>
<div>JULY24</div> <div>Winston the Magician - 10 AM - Hanford Civic Center</div>	<div>JULY26</div> <div>Grace Bible Church Youth Pool Party</div>	<div>SEPTEMBER20</div> <div>Fall Vendor Market - 9 AM - 4 PM - 108 E. Eighth St.</div>	<div>SEPTEMBER27</div> <div>Classic Car Show & Farmers Market - Clovis, CA</div>



ValleyViews

P-3 - The Power of Proverbs

T. M. Dinkins Column
"Christ & Common Sense"

P-5 - Faith in Action

Margie Newton - VBS Director
Lakeside Community Church

P-6-7 - Training Up the Next Generation
(continued from page 1)

P-8 - Believers in Business
Emmanuel Hernandez

P-9 - Student Spotlight

Alayna Unrau Salutatorian
Central Valley Christian

P-10 - Dear Noelle: Biblical Counsel
for Christian Women - Knowing God's Will

P-12 - Larry Pegram - Parents Dodge
Bullet – but not for long

P-14 - Church & Culture: Neil Mannen

P-15 &16 - Local Business Guide
Driving school, mechanics, jewelers, etc...

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For general questions call
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Kings County Publisher:
Tim Dinkins

For questions about the Kings County
edition, including placing an ad in the
Kings County edition contact:

Tim@ChristianNewsMagazine.com

www.ChristianNewsMagazine.com

Tel: 559-272-0581

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The Power of Proverbs

Christ & Common Sense



T.M. Dinkins: County Publisher

I have been amazed at how helpful the book of Proverbs has been in raising our four children. No other book in the Bible has brought as many fruitful discussions to our family devotions. We keep coming back to its thought-provoking chapters and profound moral puzzles because they help our sons and daughters learn how to navigate the difficulties of life. Some of the wise sayings are straight-forward and simple to understand, but many of them make you stop and think through the implications of their ancient wisdom.

I have lost count of the times I have told my family, “A Proverb a day keeps temptation away.” Studying the book of Proverbs does not guarantee an end to temptation, but it does provide a Biblically approved path that avoids the minefield of sin and dangers that lie on either side of the road of righteousness. Proverbs 10:9-10 puts it like this, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (English Standard Version) The book of Proverbs also makes it clear that it would be foolish to try to learn from its pages without first submitting yourself to God. Proverbs 9:10 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” There is a right way to read the book of Proverbs. It is to come with the attitude of a submissive learner, ready to learn from its remarkable deposit of truth.

It’s interesting to note that the book of Proverbs was compiled during the reign of the Jewish king Hezekiah (circa 715-686 BC). It is made up of 915 verses, which were written by at least four authors, of whom King

Solomon is by far the most well-known. The fame of his wisdom is not surprising if one realizes that the Bible claims he was the wisest man to ever live (1 Kings 3:12, 28). During his lifetime, men and women of renown traveled great distances to listen to his teaching on a wide range of subjects, including biology, philosophy, and theology. 1 Kings 4:34 gives the following historical account, “And people of all nations came to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.”

I am often convicted by how easy it is to take God’s word for granted. Imagine what people who lived during king Solomon’s time would have thought if they could own a personal copy of a book that had almost a thousand of the wisest sayings in the world? They would have considered it one of their most valuable possessions. One way to ensure that you don’t take Proverbs for granted is by reading a chapter or a portion of a chapter every day. This is easy to do because the book of Proverbs is divided into thirty-one chapters, one for every day of the month. Whenever I meet someone who wants to read the Bible consistently, I encourage them to read a Proverb a day. This makes it easy to keep track of the reading assignment and it keeps the topic interesting because the topics often change from verse to verse.

Some people find it difficult to read through Proverbs because the topics change so often. That is one reason why I recommend Dr. Richard Mayhue’s book *Practicing Proverbs: Wise Living for Foolish Times*. It is an excellent guide that takes a thematic approach to the book. This helps the reader dive into different themes such as Family, the Marketplace, Personal, and Spiritual wisdom. Dr. Mayhue encourages people to take an entire year to read through the Proverbs, reading through the chapters repeatedly in order to soak up the wisdom of each passage.

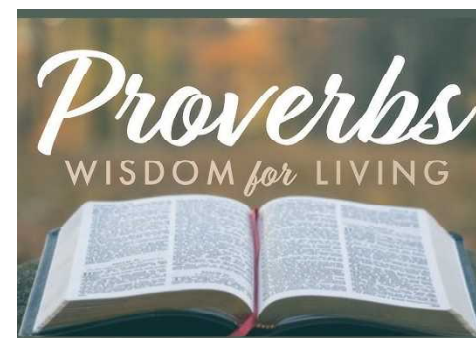
Personally, I have found it is helpful to ask the following questions with each Proverb: 1) How is this principle shown to be true in the rest of Scripture? 2) How is the truth of this proverb illustrated in modern life? These two questions have helped our

family delve into hundreds of proverbs. This approach is helpful because the discussion can be adapted to the age of the children, whether they are young or teenagers.

One of the most fulfilling aspects of reading the Proverbs with our family has come from seeing our children grow in wisdom and in stature with God and man. It has been deeply encouraging to see how God has used His word to convict them and help them grow in wisdom. He has helped them to see their own tendency to be immature and that has helped give them a desire to grow in spiritual maturity. He has used the book of Proverbs to give them priceless warnings about the dangers of life, so they will be prepared when the difficulties of life and the temptations of the world try to disrupt their path. My prayer is that they would develop a habit of reading the Proverbs that will serve them the rest of their lives.

Proverbs 8:35-36 provides a classic summary for why we should all pursue wisdom, “For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death.”

Pastor Tim is an associate pastor at Grace Bible Church Hanford. He can be reached for questions and comments at timothydinkins@gmail.com



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From the Founder:



Terrence Wild

Christian NewsMagazine is thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of a new community information website and daily WebTV newscast for Kings County, starting this September—and we warmly invite YOU to be a part of it!

This exciting new platform is designed to be a trusted, family-friendly, and faith-based resource for the people of Kings County. Our goal is to deliver meaningful, uplifting, and reliable local news and information that reflects the values, culture, and spirit of our community. From city council meetings to school activities, church events, local ministries, youth programs, volunteer initiatives, and business highlights, we are here to report on the stories that matter most to you.

But this isn't just a news platform—it's a community partnership. We believe the best way to serve Kings County is by working together with those who live, serve, and thrive here.

We're actively seeking:

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Whether you're a pastor, teacher, student, parent, business owner, or simply someone who cares—your voice matters. Together, we can create a local media source that

strengthens community ties, celebrates the good, and brings people together through shared values and stories.

Join us in launching this new chapter for Kings County. Let's build a platform where faith, family, and community come first—and where every voice has a place.

We look forward to connecting with you!

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FAITH IN ACTION



Margie Newton VBS Director Lakeside Community Church

This year's VBS was called True North - Trusting God in a Wild World. What were some of the highlights from the five-day program at Lakeside Community Church?

A highlight is always the enthusiasm of the children. They come with open hearts, showing love to others, and just soak in all that is shared. Every laugh, every squeal of excitement, every question, and every nod of understanding, combine together to make huge highlights. It is also wonderful to see all the people that step up to serve make the week as impactful as possible.

One of the main verses from the week was Matthew 28:19-20, which emphasizes the need for Christians to make disciples among the nations. How did this year's VBS help make disciples of Christ?

We feel it is our responsibility to introduce the word of God to the children. We also believe we need to do our very best to deliver God's word in five different ways through the activities in each of the stations they visit. We have planted seeds and pray that they will continue to grow in their faith.

Thursday night is a special night at the VBS. What were some ways you saw God bless the preaching of God's word on that night?

We have used this curriculum for several years and on Thursdays we consistently share the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. It calls for a person to play the part of Jesus in our closing, and it is very impactful. Over the years we have gotten so many different responses, but always a confirmation that they understand the importance of the cross. The closings are generally fun with music and demonstrations. Because of the reverence of the lesson, the children lean into what is being said and done. It makes it real to them.

How many years have you been the director for the VBS at Lakeside? Why do you find it so fulfilling?

It has been nine years, but I have always participated in some way for the last thirty years. I believe being an educator leads me to want to serve in this capacity. It is certainly a positive way to spend time and energy. As Christians it is important that we provide the tools and knowledge for our youth to know and defend their faith. This is just one of the many platforms to accomplish this.

You have a great team of volunteers each year. Why are so many volunteers needed to run the VBS?

We have an outpouring of volunteers

and appreciate each and everyone of them for sharing their gifts. One of our goals is to develop relationships and provide positive role models for our children. We have an abundance of adults and youth that fit that category so all children have the opportunity to participate at a personal level with them. We want the children to feel heard and seen. We want to make sure their questions are answered and they learn all that they can. That takes people willing to show up.

The second part to this is the preparation. This includes the lessons that need to be learned, the decorations, the snacks, the Friday night program, and the auction to help cost. The list goes on and on. Our church loves this outreach, and they show it by their time and generosity. There are many

moving parts, but with God's grace it has happened at Lakeside for over 50 years.

God's word says "Children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward." Psalm 127:3 Why do you think it is so important to invest in the children at Lakeside Community Church?

We had a wonderful Family Camp right before VBS and one of the adult campers spoke at the campfire. She eloquently said to the next generation, "It's your time". She was pointing to the Seniors. She said, "Not only have they been great mentors but it is now their turn to lead". Many of those young adults attended Sunday School and VBS at Lakeside. We are training our next generation of Christian leaders. The investment is very little for the magnificent return.

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Training Up the Next Generation

Continued from page 1



Grace Bible Church's outreach was called Grace Kids Soccer Camp. It took place on June 10-12 from 9 AM - 12 PM. The church offered a free t-shirt and free registration to any camper who signed up before June 1st. This year was the inaugural soccer camp at the church and the maximum capacity was reached before the June 1st deadline.

The theme of the camp was on the Power of God's word and each day the soccer players heard a lesson that emphasized the good news of Jesus Christ and the importance of obeying God's holy word. The highlight of the camp was the Skills Showcase on the final day of the camp. A local professional soccer team from Fresno, Central Valley Fuego FC, sent their mascot "Fuego" the fox to the camp. The students were able to take pictures with him and even try out their skills shooting a goal on the mascot.

Lakeside Community Church has been offering a VBS for over fifty years. This year's theme was "True North - Trusting God in a Wild World". The VBS director, Margie Newton said, "We have been fortunate that families from other places come. The fact that we have repeats tells me that people enjoy it. The kids like it. They only had one child who didn't make it to every night of the camp. They participate and are engaged." The VBS was offered in the evening and ran for five days, from June 16 - June 20.

First Baptist Church of Hanford always has a great VBS. This year the theme was called Live It Out. Sara Allein, the Elementary Kids Director described the week as "an incredible experience, full of energy, purpose, and connection." She wrote, "The theme focused on not just learning about faith, but really living it out in our everyday lives and that message came through in everything we did. Each day, we focused on a different



truth from Scripture and paired it with real-life action steps the kids could relate to whether that was being kind, standing up for others, or trusting God even when it's hard. We wanted the kids to walk away not just with knowledge, but with a sense of how to live boldly and faithfully outside the church walls."

She said "We saw kids genuinely engaging not just during worship and stories, but in conversations with their leaders, during crafts, and even through acts of service. Watching them take ownership of their faith, even in small ways, was really powerful. The whole week was joyful, meaningful, and impactful. From the high-energy worship to the intentional small group moments, Live It Out really helped bring faith to life in a lasting way.

Sara was willing to answer a few questions about the VBS. How many





years have you been the director for the VBS at FBH? This was my second year serving in the position of Elementary Kids Director for VBS at FBH. It's been such a rewarding experience to see the program grow and to watch the kids get more excited each year about learning and living out their faith.

God's word says "Children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward." Psalm 127:3 Why do you think it is so important to invest in the children at FBH?

Psalm 127:3 reminds us that children are not just a part of the church, they are a precious gift from God and a sacred responsibility. Investing in the children at FBH is vital because: Their faith starts now – Early spiritual formation shapes their lifelong walk with God. They are the church – Not just the future, but an active part of the body today. We're entrusted with them – God calls us to teach, guide, and love them well. Jesus valued them – He welcomed children and called us to have faith like theirs. When we invest in children, we're investing in the future of God's Kingdom. It's not optional, it's our calling.

You have a great team of volunteers each year. What are some ways the volunteers help make the week a memorable one?

Our volunteers make FBH unforgettable by pouring their hearts into every moment. They: Welcome each child by name – helping them feel seen and loved from day one - Make God's Word come alive in small groups – making God's Word exciting and memorable - Lead high-energy worship and games – creating a fun, faith-filled atmosphere - Guide crafts and small groups – sparking meaningful conversations - Offer listening ears and kind words – building trust and lasting relationships. Their dedication helps kids experience God's love in real, personal ways all week long.



BELIEVERS IN BUSINESS



Emmanuel Hernandez Owner/Barber The Cutting Lounge

How long have you been working at The Cutting Lounge in Hanford?

I have been here in the Artesian building (101 N Irwin Street) for five years. I've been in the current suite for a year and half.

How did you get started as a barber?

I worked in agriculture and I had no free time. I would cut my own hair and I saw myself being able to cut other people's hair. I got in an accident one day while I was in my work truck. I told God I was tired of working so many hours. It was taking me away from church. I had asked God to give me something else that was better. Not too long after that I got in an accident at work. I fell in a module from work and I injured my spine. I got rib contusions and I never stood the same. I went through the procedures of workers compensation. I just wanted to go to work, but the employer told me to reach a settlement. With that money I was able to go to barber school. I went to Frederico's in Fresno in 2016. I worked in Corcoran for a couple months and then my best friend told me they are opening a new barber shop in Hanford. I got hired and I started working in Hanford. Right before Covid the owner moved to the

Artesia building and he retired and he gave me the business. I changed the business name to The Cutting Lounge.

Is there a verse from the Bible that inspires you in your daily work?

Yes, Joshua 1:8 means a lot to me. It says, "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." I like this verse because it helps me when I get lost in my selfish ways. When I read this verse it helps my perspective change. Instead of looking to the culture I look to God's word. When I look back I can see how God aligns everything in just the right way.

Are you able to share your faith with your clients?

Yes, definitely. When I am talking to my clients I try to talk on a personal level. I get to know them. Then they open up. A lot of them bring up faith on their own.

What is one way you have seen God use your business to bless other people?

My clients love coming to the shop. They like the atmosphere. A lot of families want to come to a place that is calm and has a positive environment. I have also been able to help more than one barber get started.

How does your brother help with work at the shop?

He is my right hand man. If there is anything that needs to be fixed or cleaned. He is ready to help. I can't lift heavy things so he is always there to help with that. I've gotten to know my brother a lot more now that we are working together. I've been able to get to know him in a unique way.

Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "Do not neglect meeting together as some are in the habit of doing..." What are some of the reasons you go to church so often?

I go to church because it is a privilege and honor to get together and learn about God. It is so great to hear the word of God so we can get through life. We need to set the time aside to worship God and listen to him so we know what he wants to tell us.

So how did you come to Christ?


My mom brought me to church. I was seven years old. I was baptized when I was fourteen years old. I left church around that time and made some mistakes. I remember at the age of twenty-two that I came back to God. My mom encouraged me to come. I was angry and she looked at me with deep pain. That same month I got sick and I remember crying out to God asking him for help. I said, "God would




you take me back?" I went to the revival and as I got there the pastor called me to the front. God used him to help me grow in God. I remember breaking down and from that point on I made up my mind that I was going to go all in on serving God.


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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Alayna Unrau Salutatorian CVC Class of '25

Congratulations on graduating from Central Valley Christian as the Salutatorian!

What are your plans now that you have graduated?

Thank you! In the fall, I will be attending University of Northwestern - St. Paul to study studio art and graphic design. I am so excited to go and build connections with others, have new experiences, and discover new opportunities to grow as a person and in my relationship with God.

How long did you attend CVC? Who were the most significant teachers during your career at the school?

I have gone to CVC since 4th grade and over the course of my time there, I had so many wonderful teachers. Three teachers in particular who have impacted me the most are my very first teacher in 4th grade, Mr. Vandenburg who made me feel welcomed in a new place, and in highschool, my english teacher Mr. Hackbarth and my art teacher Mr. Langmaack. They invested their time and care into my life and not only encouraged me to grow as a person and student but reassured me the whole way through.

Did you have a favorite subject while in High School? What did you like about it?

I have always loved making art, and in high school it was no different. I have distinct memories of working on a painting in junior year and I was so focused on the details of what I was painting that my mind, which is often full of scattered thoughts, felt quiet and I felt peaceful. There is so much beauty in making and sharing art and I love that it is such a unique form of communication. I also had an amazing teacher, the aforementioned Mr. Langmaack, who encouraged me and showed me how to make things I never thought I could have made. I'm just so glad that God blessed us with art and that I can take part.

Were you involved in any extra-curricular activities, such as FFA, sports, music, or acting? Which one was your favorite and why?

Throughout high school, I participated in some extracurricular activities, from band to volleyball to the spring musical. I have the fondest memories of the musical, The Sound of Music. I felt God pushing me to step out of my comfort zone and try something new. Being in a musical was something I had wanted to do for a long time but was too scared I would mess up and embarrass myself. I was blessed with one of the lead roles and I was so excited to be a part of a production. I had so much fun and bonded with some wonderful people, and performing was so fulfilling because we had all worked so hard to make it a great production. Putting aside my fears of failure to do something I really wanted to do for so long was so worth it.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." How were you able to use your academic/extra curricular career to glorify God?

Trying to do your best in an opportunity given to you by God is certainly a way to glorify him. In my extracurriculars and in my classes, I put my heart into what I did and made efforts to improve when I fell short. When I struggled or felt discouraged, lifting up my concerns to God and praying for reassurance



and comfort helped me through my problems. I also think that using these opportunities to connect with others and show them love and learn from them is a way to glorify God. It can definitely be hard, I felt it would have been a lot easier to sink into the background and be a silent part of whatever activity I was in. But I realized that the interactions I have are an opportunity to step outside of myself, reach out to someone else, and build meaningful connections.

Did you play any sports while at CVC? How were you able to find a balance between sports, academics, and other extracurricular activities?

I played volleyball for two years and absolutely loved the sport, though between classes, sports, and church activities it can be tough to find a way to fit everything in. But taking advantage of the time I had was really important to getting everything done. I had to be aware of upcoming deadlines and events and plan my time accordingly. I didn't have a super rigid schedule, but generally I would come home from practice, eat dinner and spend the remainder of my night with my family. On the days that I had youth group or another church event, I had to be aware that I didn't have a lot of time to get work done, so putting study halls to good use was very helpful.

Your family has had a big impact on who you are today. What are some of the ways your parents and your siblings have encouraged you as you serve God?

My family has always been my biggest support. They have been there to talk through things if I feel unsure or lost and always encouraged me to listen to the calling I felt from the Lord. When it came to picking a career and an area of study for college, my parents could have dismissed me when I said I wanted to do art, but because they knew I felt like God placed it on my heart, they were right there to encourage me to go ahead and give me their advice. Not only has my family been there to advise me directly, but they have also done so indirectly by setting examples of godly living. All throughout my life I have seen them put their faith and trust in the Lord and live out that faith which has shown me what a close relationship with God looks like and never discouraged me in my own walk with him.

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DEAR NOELLE by Noelle B. Nightingale
Biblical Counsel for Christian Women

Dear Noelle,
I have a lot of big decisions to make about where to live and what to do, but I feel overwhelmed about trying to figure out what God’s will is for my life. I know so many people who have received a prophetic word from God telling them what to do, but I don’t have a prophecy for my life. And then other people are saying to just follow my heart. But I’m afraid to make a decision because it might not be God’s will for me. How can I know God’s will?
~ “Overwhelmed with Choices”

Dear “Overwhelmed,”
Your heart to obey God is a good thing. It would be good if all of us had a similar desire to do God’s will and not our own. The problem, though, is that seeking a prophetic word and following your heart are actually two ways of doing the same thing: following our own will. God’s will is clearly revealed to us in the Bible, and God wants us to search the Scriptures to understand His will, rather than looking for His will outside of Scripture.

You seemed concerned that you do not have a prophecy for your life, but I want to put your mind at ease and tell you that prophecy is not the normative way for Christians today to know God’s will. During both Old Testament and New Testament times, before the Scriptures were complete, prophecy was a normative way for God to reveal Himself to His people. But God did not reveal Himself through prophecy all the time. Four hundred years went by between the Old and New Testaments, and there was not a single word from the Lord during that time. Instead, God’s people devoted themselves to studying the Scriptures in order to know God’s will. And now that the Scriptures are complete, we Christians can also find everything we need to know for life in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4).

It may surprise many Christians to learn that the Bible is actually very critical of prophetic dreams and visions. Jude 1:8 says that dreams have led many false teachers to “defile the flesh” and “reject authority.” By relying on dreams for guidance, Christians reject the authority of the Bible to guide them. We can easily see the danger of looking for guidance from prophetic dreams and visions when we look at false religions such as Islam or Mormonism, which were founded on revelation through dreams and visions. At best, prophetic dreams are the product of one’s own deceitful mind and heart (Jer. 14:14; 17:9; 23:16). At worst, they arise from demonic sources. It’s hard to argue with someone who confidently says that “God told me to do this.” Unfortunately, there is usually no way to confirm most prophetic words today, but many prophetic words resemble something that you might read in a fortune cookie. It often sounds positive, something that we would want to hear, similar to the false prophets of the Old Testament. On the other hand, there is a way to prove that someone is a false prophet. If someone’s prophecy does not come true, the Bible is scathing in its description of the “lying prophet” (Jer. 14:13-16; 23:16-40; 28:9).

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Even though prophecy seems like a spiritual way to make decisions, it really is a religious version of the world’s mantra “Just follow your heart.” But the Bible says that we cannot find direction for our lives inside of us (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 3:5-6). Christians who make decisions based off prophetic words are choosing to follow their own desires rather God’s will. The scary thing is that Christians can convince themselves that it’s God’s will to marry a non-believer, divorce their spouse, neglect the church, or abandon their family because they think God told them to do so. But God will never tell someone to disobey His commands in Scripture. Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Mt. 7:21). People will say to Jesus, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name..?” (v.22) But Jesus will say to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.” (v. 23)

Jesus wants us to obey His commands which are found in Scripture. If we apply God’s word to our lives, there is actually a lot of freedom to make decisions that are within His revealed will. We may have multiple options to choose from about where to live and what to do or whom to marry. We must ask ourselves if God would be pleased with the decision we are making and diligently search the Scriptures to know what it says. But after searching the Scriptures, praying for wisdom as we weigh the options, and seeking godly counsel, we can then move forward with confidence, knowing that the decision is pleasing to the Lord.

*Noelle is a wife and mother and enjoys counseling women in the church.

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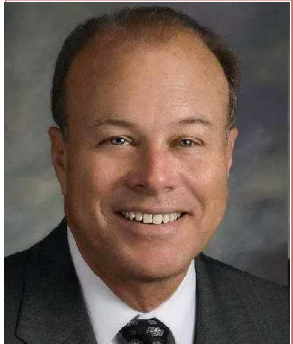
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EDUCATION MATTERS

S.F. Parents Dodge Bullet—but not for long



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LARRY PEGRAM
www.ip-ca.org

“Grading for Equity,” was set to launch this fall as a pilot program in 14 high schools in San Francisco. The initiative, spearheaded by Superintendent Maria Su, would have drastically changed how grades are calculated—eliminating homework, participation, and classwork from consideration and basing 100% of a student’s grade on “summative” testing.

Passing thresholds would be significantly lowered...a C grade could be awarded for a score as low as 41, and a D for as low as 21 out of 100!

Not surprisingly, San Francisco Unified School District Test scores are in the tank! English/Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Spelling) test score is 53% of district students test at grade level or above, while only 45% test at grade level or above in Math. Seems that a more rigorous academic standard is called for...not a more forgiving rating scale!

District officials said the policy was designed to promote fairness and reduce bias in grading. Consultant Joe Feldman, a leading voice behind the initiative, has worked with other districts on similar reforms. The San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) had allocated \$172,000 for his services, pending board approval.

“ OPT OUT is now available to every parent of a public school child in California! Parents rights activists are heralding the Informed Parents capability to deliver an OPT OUT Notice prepared by Pacific Justice Institute for a parent having a child in public schools in California. Now every parent of a public school child may OPT OUT his/her child from non-family friendly sex education, intrusive surveys, and non-parent approved counseling. ”
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The plan quickly drew sharp criticism after it was first publicly reported. Critics—including San Francisco Mayor Daniel Lurie—accused the district of lowering academic standards and eroding student accountability. On social media and parent forums, many expressed concerns that the plan would harm student readiness for college and careers.

Adding to the controversy, the plan was not brought before the Board of

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Education for formal approval and was buried in the final pages of a lengthy agenda document, raising transparency concerns.

In response to the public outcry, Superintendent Su announced that the district would pause the initiative for at least another year. “I have decided not to pursue this strategy for next year to ensure we have time to meaningfully engage the community.”

In the professional world, excellence is the standard...employers expect competence, accountability, and results. Shouldn’t we hold our public schools, funded by taxpayers, to the same expectations? When a system lowers standards instead of raising achievement, it fails the very students it claims to support. Our children deserve better—and so do the families and communities counting on their success.

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**DR. SHEILA
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I have always admired my father, Robert H. Schuller, for his courage.

It was natural for me to step into his ministry of love and mercy, but courage? That was a step too far for me. Or so I thought.

Then, my grandchildren, who are homeschooled and in private Christian schools, started telling me things I had hoped they had been sheltered from. “What’s going on Grandma?”

It was clear that there were no safe places anymore for the children.

So, I had to decide: stay in my comfort zone, or step into places that required courage.

I read in Joshua 1:9 to “Be strong and courageous!”

Taking a Stand for His Children

How could I, a grandma, do or say enough, to rescue all the children from the pervasive attacks on their true identity — God’s beloved children? But if I didn’t take a stand, what legacy was I leaving?

So, I found myself as a Lead Intercessor for Jenny Donnelly’s movement, “Don’t Mess With Our Kids” (hervoicemovement.com). Jenny joined with Ross Johnston to take this movement to the streets of 5 cities in America: NYC, Miami, Houston, Seattle, and LA. LA was my city. My role was to lead a national prayer team from the safety and comfort of my home, praying over the other cities, in real time.

In NYC, we prayed for the torrential rain to abate enough for the children of the city to receive the donated bikes and the parents the message of Christ’s love. It did. The rain abated. Miami and Houston were beautiful!

Then, Seattle! Over 400 protestors overwhelmed the police. Breaking through the barriers, they became violent and publicly hurled abhorrent words and displayed deplorable acts

in front of the children. We intercessors do not war against flesh and blood but against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. I will forever remember when the shift occurred, and the worship rose above the violence. And the park became infused with the sweet Holy Spirit of love and mercy.

LA was seven days later. LA required leaving my safe, comfort zone. Upon arriving there with my prayer team, we learned the city had not given us a permit. They had given a permit for the Pride parade the following week, but not for our Christian event.

Ross and Jenny prayed and decided that if the Pride parade had a right to the street, so did the church. So, all of us were informed we would be holding the event without a permit. This meant no barricades or police protection.

So, along with 400 hundred others who came out to take a stand for the children, this grandma stepped out into Hollywood Boulevard. We stood in front of cars, drawing a line in the



sand with our bodies: Enough is enough!

Our peaceful stance allowed many beautiful children in LA, to receive a bike, free haircuts, face painting, music, and the love of Jesus. Not to mention — their true identity as His beloved kids.

These days call for courageous stands. If not the church of Jesus, then who?

Sheila Schuller Coleman<colemansheila240@gmail.com>



Getting Christians to Vote is Key in California

Christians who choose not to vote have created a mess. California is a one-party state. It shows.

By Richard Bailey

California has a crumbling infrastructure. Its water system, once the envy of the world, is being dismantled. Ditto schools. It has the highest poverty rate in the nation. Based on rate of incarceration, California looks like the Alabama of 1870.

California leads the nation income disparity. Its economy features exploiting noncitizens through human labor trafficking, offshoring jobs and wage suppression. Its forests burn. Voters can no longer count on free and uncorrupted elections.

“Rendering unto Caesar” includes participating in the life of the community. That means paying taxes, obeying the law, serving on juries and in the military and, most significantly, voting. Christians who don’t vote ought to view themselves as responsible for California’s decline from Golden to Third World State. School kids suffer. Those in poverty and the homeless suffer. Families suffer. Unborn children never have a chance to live. The State’s forests burn. Those who can, leave.

Senator Ted Cruz put it this way, “There are 90 million evangelical Christians in the United States, it’s about 30 percent of our population. In the last election, 54 million evangelical Christians stayed home. If Christians will simply show up and vote our values, we’ll turn this country around.”

He went further, “The message my father conveys to pastors is that we have too many pastors hiding behind the pulpit who are afraid to preach the word of God, who are afraid to say to Christians, we have a scriptural obligation to be salt in the light, we have a scriptural obligation to be watchmen on the wall, and every one of us has a responsibility to be engaged in our public life, voting our values.”

In 2018, Pastor Franklin Graham put it bluntly when he described the class that calls the political shots on today’s west coast. “Progressive?” he said, “That’s just another word for godless.”

According to the Pew Research Center, Christians make up almost two thirds of California residents. Nationwide, an estimated 25 million Christians don’t vote in presidential elections. 65 million do not participate in local elections. 15 million are not registered voters. California includes about ten percent of the nation’s Christians.

Working it out, if California Christians follow the national trend, over two million California Christians will sit out the 2020 presidential election. Six and a half million will fail to vote in the next round of local elections. One point five million aren’t even registered to vote.

If even a small portion of Christians who now sit on the sidelines got involved, the state would be transformed.

In June of 2019, David Clausen of the Family Research Counsel, put it this way,

“It is no surprise that withdrawing from the political process has become a temptation for many Christians. . . . Do we really need to get involved in the messy world of politics?” His answer. Yes, it is. “Engaging in politics,” he writes, “is not only unavoidable, it is also an opportunity to obey God and show love to our neighbors. American Christians, with our right to vote, have a unique opportunity and duty to affect the political process.”

Dran Reese, of the Salt and Light Counsel, is on a mission to develop Biblical voters. “Christians,” she writes, “have written platforms on what they believe. This is called the Bible.” Other voters rely on their own platforms. Low information voters listen to the media and “parrot what they say.” Her guide suggests “Breaking free to become a true Biblical Citizen is to take your Biblical knowledge . . . and align to the party that most represents your faith and values.”

Getting Christians to vote is possible. It is a necessary step in moving California out of its political dead-end.

How to Stop Racism in America: A Real Solution for African American Plight



Neil Mammen's new book: HOW TO STOP RACISM IN AMERICA, speaks from a personal experience as one who was born in Africa, has roots in India, raised in America, and has traveled throughout the world. Neil is a successful husband, father and businessman.

BY: NEIL MAMMEN

By Neil Mammen, Co-founder & Executive VP, Every Black Life Matters (www.EveryBLM.com)

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It's painfully clear to us that African Americans today are grappling with monumental challenges. Unemployment rates are nearly double the national average, a staggering literacy rate of just 17%, a poverty rate three times that of whites, and a homelessness rate four times that of whites—these statistics tell a harrowing story. As if that weren't enough, many continue to perceive African Americans as dangerous, criminally inclined and untrustworthy, adding yet another layer to their struggles.

We must confront the critical questions head-on:

1. Is this disparity due to slavery?

2. Is this disparity due to racism?

Many on the left insist that the answer is undoubtedly both, but we can't help but wonder: is this assertion truly accurate? In our groundbreaking new book, **How to Stop Racism in America**, we embark on a thrilling journey through history, rewinding back to the time of slavery to explore the incredible journey of African Americans. Our mission is to unearth the root causes of their plight and unveil real solutions to these pressing issues. While we won't have the space here to fully address these two vital questions, we promise to start revealing the truth and continue this vital conversation in future columns.

Victors or Victims?

After the Emancipation Proclamation, many freed slaves made bold moves from the countryside, where they had been forced into labor, into the cities. When we examine African Americans in the 1920s, we don't find a group of **oppressed victims** shackled by their past; instead, we uncover a community of **oppressed victors!** Despite the relentless oppression inflicted by Democrats and their Jim Crow laws, along with the horrors of lynchings, segregation, and racism and discrimination all which are far worse than anything today, African Americans were not merely surviving; they were thriving and that too against all odds. The cornerstone of their success was a robust family structure, anchored by a father. Moreover, since they were unwelcome in traditional schools, their commitment to homeschooling resulted in an impressive literacy rate of about 70%.

But there's more! They were willing to take the same jobs as whites for half the pay, leading even the most racist employers to hire them, as the allure of green—money—eclipsed the color of one's skin.

As a result, African Americans acquired new trade skills and reinvested them into their communities, building homes and launching businesses—law practices, banks, dental offices, medical practices, contracting firms. White dollars flowed into the black community, circulating an astonishing 36 to 100 times before leaving, generating wealth, products, and invaluable skills. Black Wall Street emerged as a beacon of prosperity, a symbol of resilience and success. While many are familiar with the tragic burning of this vibrant

community, few know that it rebounded fully within just two years. African Americans were not mere victims; they were true victors!

But what happened between that glorious era and now?

First, racists devised a new tactic to stifle black prosperity: The Minimum Wage. This law was specifically designed by the KKK and the Democrats to prevent black men from taking white jobs. With the minimum wage law in place, white business owners had no incentive to hire black men because they couldn't pay them less. The origins of the minimum wage are rooted in racism, and today, it continues to act as a barrier to wealth. With the black literacy rate at a mere 17%, black youth struggle to read, write, or perform math at a level necessary for jobs that pay a decent wage of \$15 to \$18 an hour. Consequently, the effective minimum wage for most black youth is zero, thanks to this law.

With this understanding, we cannot ignore the reality that anyone who supports minimum wage laws, like the new California law, is, in effect, perpetuating racism.

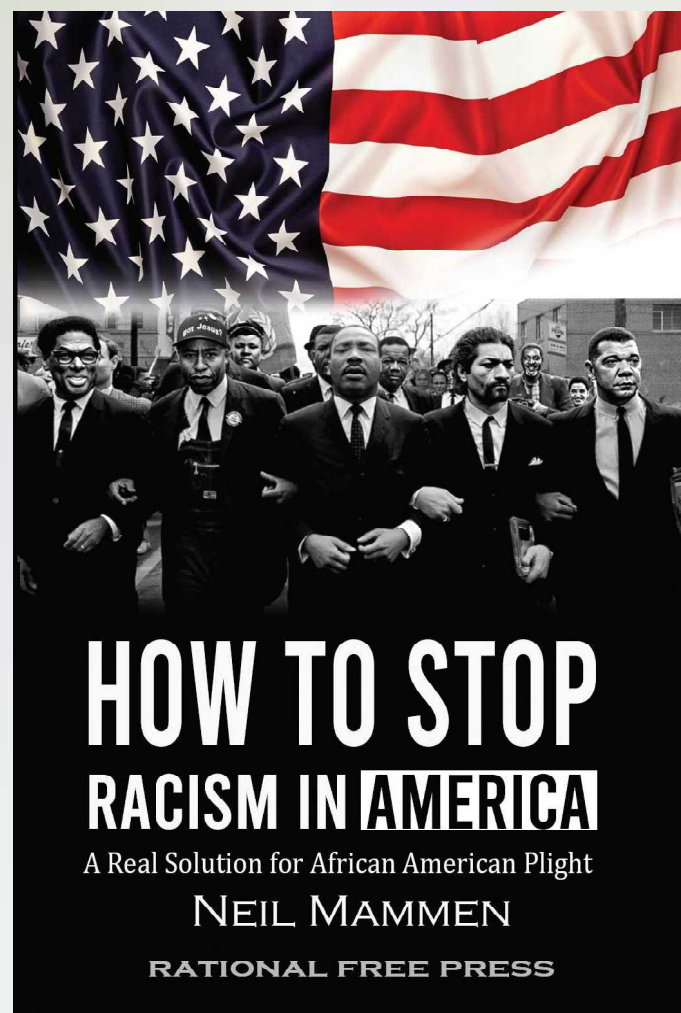
To be continued.

For deeper insights, we invite you to explore the book at StopRacism.j3ip.com.



Book Talk *noun* (buk) (tawk)

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