"You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Galatians 5:14



Christian KINGS COUNTY News Magazine



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VOLUME 2 ISSUE 6

"A Voice for the Christian Community"

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Salt & Light in the Valley



By: Abby Jackson

Salt + Light was founded in 2019 in response to the growing needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in our community.

It began with a simple yet radical commitment to walk alongside our neighbors in love and hope. Since then, it has grown into a comprehensive service agency that built the first permanent supportive housing village in California. Salt + Light offers dignified housing,

essential case management services, purposeful work opportunities and whole-person outreach programs that are rooted in dignity and radical hospitality.

I serve as the Marketing + Development Specialist at Salt + Light. I've been with the organization since June 2024. My role includes communicating the stories of transformation we witness every day, connecting our community to our mission, and supporting donor engagement, campaigns, and events. Working at Salt + Light is inspiring—it's a place filled with people who truly

believe in transformation. Our leadership ensures we stay true to our mission while planning strategically for long-term sustainability. The board of directors plays an important role in shaping our vision, offering wisdom, accountability, and support.

One of our most innovative ways we are serving our neighbors is at The Neighborhood Village, which is located in Visalia. It is California's first permanent supportive housing community. Unlike many models that operate with limited staffing and programming, we offer robust wholeperson care with an average of eight events each week. Continued P6

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

16-

20

7

JUNE 1

Pops Concert in the Park - Downtown Hanford - 7 PM

JUNE 7

Carnegie Museum Car Show in Hanford - 8 AM JUNE

7

Centennial Celebration

in Downtown Hanford - 3 PM

JUNE

9

Summer Day Camp starts at Koinonia

Church for 3-6 Year olds (June 9 - August 1).

JUNE

10-12

Grace Kids Soccer Camp at Grace Bible Church
Hanford - 9 AM -12 PM

JUNE

Summerfest for Middle Schoolers at First Baptist Hanford

JUNE

16-20

VBS at SouthValley Community Church in Lemoore JUNE

20

Rockin' Downtown Lemoore - 6-9 PM

JULY

4

Visalia Rawhide 4th of July Fireworks after the game - 7:00 PM

JULY

P.A.T.Y.'s Studio Summer Camp - July 7-19 Music & Dance JULY

11-13

Carnegie Museum Hanford - Ag History Exhibit is Open **JULY**

16

Summerfest at Grace Church of the Valley -6 PM



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Suiting Up for Spiritual Battle pt. 2

Christ & Common Sense



T.M. Dinkins: County Publisher

"Failing to prepare is preparing to fail." John Wooden's famous quote was backed up by decades of success coaching the UCLA basketball team. From 1948 to 1975 coach Wooden prepared his team for whatever difficulties came their way. The team's preparation was one reason they were able to win ten national championships over a twelve year period. Coach Wooden's team set a NCAA record for most consecutive wins with a total of 88 games played without a loss!

Reading about coach Wooden's preparation reminds me of the need for Christians to prepare for spiritual battles. The enemy would love to attack unprepared soldiers. He would love to see weak believers overwhelmed by temptation and trials. As Christians, we need to make sure we are ready to stand firm against the schemes of the enemy. If we are prepared we will be able to resist him and he will flee (James 4:7).

The apostle Paul understood the need for Christians to be prepared. That is one reason he wrote about the armor of God in Ephesians 6:11-20. Last month I wrote about the importance of putting on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, shoes of the gospel, and the shield of faith. This month I want to write about the last two pieces of the armor, the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit.

One reason I separated the helmet and the sword from the other pieces of armor is because the author set them apart with a new verb. He wrote, "take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." The verb "take" in the original Greek has the idea of taking up something quickly, "to grasp." Harold Hoehner believes this verb was used because there was a sense of urgency with the helmet and the sword. These were the final pieces of the armor that the soldier would need as the enemy approached.

The helmet was not a comfortable part of the uniform. It was made of a leather cap interior and a metal covering, which was sometimes made of iron with a bronze exterior. The helmet was most likely hot and heavy to wear. Some scholars believe this type of helmet would have included a large neck guard and chin guards that were tightened around the face. This would have helped protect the soldier from near and distant threats.

The sword that is described is a makaira, which was the famous Roman short sword that was used for hand-to-hand combat. Thousands of these swords are still in existence today. They often had a two-inch thick blade, which was sharpened on both sides. The blade was about two feet long, with a hilt that was made to use with one hand. This was a defensive sword, which was only used when the enemy was close enough to attack from behind the shield.

Paul saved these two pieces of armor because he wanted to emphasize the importance of the helmet and the sword during the heat of a spiritual battle. The helmet of salvation plays a vital role because the enemy often tries to make Christian's doubt their salvation. If he can tempt a believer to doubt their relationship with God, then he has already started winning the spiritual battle. But, if the Christian remembers verses such as John 10:29 then he will have confidence in the outcome of his salvation. John 10:29 is a quote from Jesus Christ, "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand."

The sword of the Spirit is easy to understand because the apostle Paul explained it "is the word of God." The word of God refers to the sixty-six books of the Bible. 2 Timothy 3:16

describes God's word as "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." God's word is especially useful for resisting the temptations and attacks of the Devil.

When Jesus Christ was being tempted by Satan in the desert he used the word of God like a defensive sword. When the Devil commanded Jesus to turn a rock into bread so he could eat after fasting for forty days and nights. Jesus quoted Scripture, "It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone." (Deuteronomy 8:3) Then Satan promised to give Jesus authority over kingdoms of the earth. Jesus quoted an answer from Deuteronomy 6:13, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve." The Devil's final temptation involved tempting Jesus to start his earthly reign before the appointed time. Jesus replied, "It is said, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test." (Deuteronomy 6:16).

Jesus made resisting the temptation seem easy because he was using the word of God as his weapon. Satan did not argue with Jesus. He accepted his response and then tried a different temptation. Once Jesus responded correctly, the temptation came to an

end. I believe that is what is possible for believers dealing with temptation as well. If a Christian is tempted to worry or be anxious he should draw the sword of God's word and quote Matthew 6:34. "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." If a Christian is dealing with inappropriate thoughts or temptations he can quote from 2 Timothy 2:22, "So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart."

In order to defend against the enemy, believers must be prepared. They can be prepared by putting on the full armor of God, which includes armor and a sword, which is the word of God. Armed with the armor of God, the Christian will be able to obey the command of Ephesians 6:11, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil."

Pastor Tim serves at Grace Bible Church in Hanford. He can be reached with questions and comments at timothydinkins@gmail.com





Student Spotlight

Presley Sousa CVC Valedictorian



By T. M. Dinkins

Congratulations on graduating from Central Valley Christian as the Valedictorian! What was your GPA (if you don't mind me asking). How were you able to achieve such a high score in so many subjects?

4.28

My siblings were always good at sports or art or building things and I never really had something I was great at. That was until I really took school seriously and realized it was something I could excel in. I tried my hardest at all times whether that meant skipping certain events to study or leaving early so I could get a good nights sleep before a test or project I had to present the next day.

What are your plans now that you have graduated?

I plan to attend Northern Arizona University's honor college and major

in psychology. I want to pursue a masters degree in applied behavior analysis to become a board certified behavioral therapist for kids with autism.

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

I have been at CVC since preschool, 14 years. I have enjoyed my time mostly because of my teachers such as Mr. Kornelis in sixth grade, his son also Mr. Kornelis who was my Bible teacher freshman and junior year, but most of all my English teacher Mr. Hackbarth junior and senior year.

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

I loved math because there was always an answer and it had formulas that always worked. But my senior year I started liking English even more because of my teacher Mr. Hackbarth.

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

I was involved in FFA for three years and I loved it because it was a great community and provided me with public speaking skills. I didn't do it senior year because I didn't have enough time between COS classes, my regular classes, and work.

The Great Commission says believers are called to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). What are some ways you were able to invest in the lives of younger believers while at CVC?

I babysit a lot and they are kids of all ages. They are also mostly CVC families. While babysitting they would ask me questions about God or the Bible and I was given the opportunity to answer them to the best of my ability. I hope I helped guide them in the right direction and in their journey with the Lord.

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

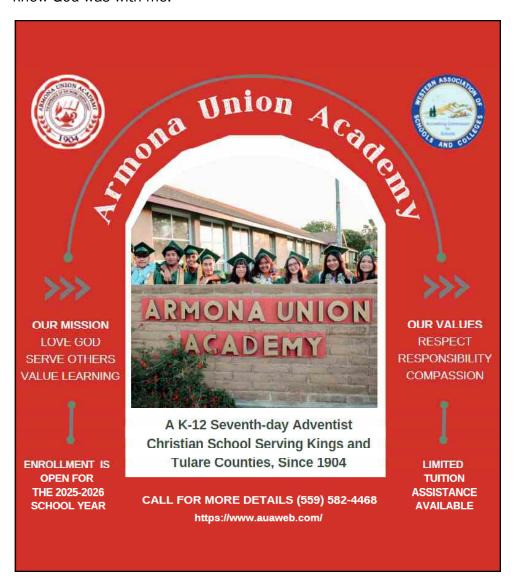
I played soccer my sophomore year but sports were never my thing. I loved playing it but was not the best. I was going to play a sport my senior year but I found out I needed scoliosis surgery so I was unable to participate in sports this year. However I am grateful for the surgery and the trials I faced this year as it provided me with more resilience and determination. It was hard to find a good balance between everything but I made sure to prioritize school above all my other activities. This resulted in me managing my time better.

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?

While my family has had a big impact on me I would say the main family I babysit for has had an even bigger impact on my life. They have a son with cerebral palsy and severe autism but throughout the struggles that arise with raising a disabled child they always stayed true to Christ. While they have really struggled in this journey they have shown me what a true believer and servant of Christ is. They fight for their little boy more than he will ever know. When a door closes they find another one and trust that God will lead them through each wave of pain.

As you look back on your time at CVC, what advice do you have to incoming freshmen so they will maximize their time at the school?

While I would say to prioritize school I would also say to have fun. Go to the football games and dances, join that club or team, go out for the play. High school is an amazing time but also a great time to develop in your relationship with Christ. It is never too early to start your journey with Him. I put off my relationship with Him until my senior year and this year while I have had many trials including a massive surgery I had peace because I knew God was with me.



Courage & Consistency: TMU's Historic 27-0 Season

Coach Jared Goldberg highlighted consistency as the key theme that helped The Master's University complete a perfect season (TMU is located in Santa Clarita, CA).

By T. M. Dinkins

Several of the starting players for The Master's University's (TMU) championship men's volleyball team went to schools in the Central Valley. Will Avera (Clovis North), Matthew Hamm (Clovis West), Carston Saelzler (Fresno Christian), and Braden Van Groningen (Ripon Christian) all contributed to TMU's historic 27-0 season. The team was able to defeat every team they played in their conference (Great Southwest Athletic Conference GSAC) and outside of their conference (eleven teams including Stanford University). Their season came to a climactic finish when they won the GSAC tournament as well as the national NAIA championship, which took place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

We were able to catch up with coach Jared Goldberg as he reflected on what it took to claim the Red Banner for The Master's University. When asked for his thoughts about the Central Valley he said, "The Central Valley has some good volleyball talent. I appreciate the Central Valley for that."

Can you tell us what made this team so special?

I am still trying to figure that out. I think a lot of it had to do with the culture of our program and our team's consistency. The team's culture has developed over five seasons and this last season we had an impressive amount of by-in from the team. With that said, we had a number of our guys that have been playing with me for four years. We had guys coming into the season who understood the expectations of our team. We built on the previous years runs and successes and losses. That is a little bit of the combination of what led to the season we had.

Can you tell us the names of the players and how many of the students were seniors and how many were on the team?

The team was made up of four seniors: Max McCullough, Bryce Jones,



Braden Van Groningen, Ian Duncan; two graduate students named Isaac Laing and Will Avera; six juniors: Carston Saelzler, Ezra Vlad, Finn Kelly, Matthew Hamm, Grant Foster, Isaac Seltzer, four sophomores: Gio Baltazar, Garrett Beall, Garret Foster, Preston Schmidt, and three freshmen: Barney Sivonen, Isaac Igo, and Trace Oswald.

How long have you been coaching at TMII?

I got here in 2021. The program at Master's started in 2020. Due to COVID, the school had half of a season in early 2020. Right after that the head coach left. The program was very new in terms of commitment level. It was kind of like starting from scratch.

I was previously the Assistant Coach at Harvard university for men and women's volleyball. I arrived a week before the 2021 season started. We had a shortened schedule and we went 2-8. I got right into recruiting very quickly. We pulled in some players. The next season we were 14-10. We turned it around somewhat. Then we made a big jump after the second season. We recruited a guy named Nolan Flexen. He may have been the best player to play at the NAIA level. He just signed his first professional contract in a German league. In 2023 we made it to the national finals and lost. In 2024 we made it to the national finals and lost it in the last game of

the season. This season we went 27-0 and won the conference championship and the national finals.

Was there a specific game or two that were especially difficult? How did the team manage to overcome the difficulties and persevere to the end?

The big turning point in the season came in a game that we expected to lose. We went to Stanford in our 5th or 6th game. This was the week after Stanford beat Hawaii. They were the 3rd ranked team in the country. We beat them in five sets. After that match, we were 6-0 and we began to have a conversation about chasing a perfect season. We knew all of the games after Stanford were going to be against easier teams than Stanford.

One of the hardest things to do in sports is to chase consistency. Some days we were better than others, but we were able to achieve the consistency that we were looking for. We we

able to finish consistently.

Who was the final game against and where did they play?

Our national tournament was in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. We played four matches, which included two rounds of pool play. We played against St. Xavier from Chicago in the final. Both of our teams were undefeated.

We knew one of the teams was going to be an undefeated champion this year. Whoever wins would deserve it.

We competed well in the final match. The first set of the match we were down 21-24, but we ended the game by coming back and winning 27-25. We ended up winning that match 3 sets to 1.

Were there any injuries on the team during the season?

Our starting setter, Matthew Hamm, was out for about two months of the season with a bad case of pneumonia. He started getting sick during the game against Stanford. He was able to come back and play at the end of the season. He played in the last one or two matches of the season and then played through the conference tournament and the final tournament.

Was there a specific verse that has been significant for the team this year?

I would say the specific verse would be Philippians 1:21 "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." That was the team verse for the year. The team included guys playing volleyball at a high level and we knew it would take a lot of effort.

Are any of the students planning on returning to play next year?

We will have four of our starting seven players back on the team next year. We have some building to do again. Both of our starting middle players graduated as well as one of our outside hitters.

Next year we have been invited to play in our first international game in Canada. We will be going to Calgary in Alberta, Canada. We will also be playing in a tournament in Fresno in the fall.



Bringing Salt & Light to the Valley CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1.

Page 6

Our approach is built to support the physical, emotional, spiritual, and social needs of each neighbor—because healing requires more than a roof. We also run Everyone Eats Today, a mobile meal outreach program, serving those at the Tulare Cares Encampment.

Everyone Eats Today has provided over 100,000 meals and 120,383 palliative items, tracked 17,271 volunteer hours, and supported 1,662 individuals. The response to this program has been incredible. We've seen individuals who first met us through Everyone Eats Today eventually find housing, jobs, and community with us. Volunteers consistently share how this program not only blesses those we serve but transforms their own perspective on service, compassion, and what it means to be a neighbor.

We've witnessed neighbors go from feeling isolated and hopeless to becoming valued and deeply connected. Our Care Support Specialists—who serve as Case Managers—do an incredible job of building trust with those on their caseload. They walk alongside individuals as they navigate housing, employment, recovery, and more. It's a whole-person approach that honors each neighbor with the care and dignity they deserve. In addition, our on-site Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist brings a unique ability to walk with neighbors through trauma and emotional healing, providing compassionate, trauma-informed care that's truly transformative.

We are taking a big step forward by developing "The Salt + Light Way"—our model for whole-person care built around the Six Pillars of Neighbor Care: Case Management, Mental Health, Physical Health, Skills/Employment/Education, Nutrition, and Community Engagement. These pillars reflect the heart of our mission: meeting urgent needs while walking with our neighbors toward long-term healing and stability. We're also excited about relaunching our Social Enterprise initiative, which provides meaningful job training and income opportunities. We're currently working toward securing the funding needed to bring that piece back to life—and once we do, it will be another powerful way to support sustainable transformation.

There are so many meaningful ways to get involved! Financial support is critical—especially to help sustain The Neighborhood Village and the comprehensive care we provide. One of the most impactful ways to give is by joining Salt + Light's Circle of Hope, our community of monthly givers. These generous individuals help fuel long-term change, and you don't need to give a large amount to make a real difference. We also welcome volunteers with

open arms! Whether it's serving meals, helping at the Village Market, or sharing a skill, there are countless ways to contribute. Just head to our website to explore current opportunities and sign up for what best fits your passion and schedule. Businesses also play a vital role. One of our favorite partnerships is a "Give Back Day," where a business donates a portion of its sales on a chosen day to support Salt + Light's mission. It's a powerful way to build community, raise awareness, and make a lasting impact—together!

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God's holy word tells us that the gospel is the Good News that Jesus Christ is the son of God. He came to the earth and died on the cross to pay for our sins (John 3:16). How does this message give hope to the people who come to Salt + Light?

The message of hope found in the gospel is deeply meaningful to many on our team, including our CEO, and it shapes the way we approach our work—with love, grace, and compassion for every person we serve. We don't require anyone to believe a certain way to receive support. Our neighbors come from all walks of life and belief systems, and they are welcomed with dignity and love. That said, we love providing opportunities for those who are interested. We host optional worship nights, offer access to Celebrate Recovery each week, and create space for people to find healing through God's word.

We partner with a number of local churches that provide volunteers, meals, financial support, and spiritual care. Churches have hosted worship nights, led recovery groups, and embraced our neighbors as part of their own congregations. The church plays a vital role in loving and caring for our neighbors.

What should someone do if they want to get help for someone they know?

You can go to our website [saltandlightworks.org] or contact Kings Tulare Homeless Alliance for assistance!

What is the process that someone will go through if they are admitted into the program and are able to get help?

While The Neighborhood Village is currently at full capacity, our outreach doesn't stop there. We actively serve individuals experiencing homelessness on the streets of Visalia and Tulare through our Care Support Team. In 2024 alone, we've housed 104 individuals and provided case management support to 146 people navigating their journey toward stability. For those we support—whether in our Village or throughout the community—the process begins with relationship. Each person is paired with a Care Support Specialist who walks with them through their goals, from securing housing and accessing healthcare to building life skills and finding community. Our approach is grounded in dignity,





trust, and long-term support—because healing doesn't happen overnight, and no one should have to walk that road alone.

What plans does the Salt + Light have as they look to move into the future this year?

Looking ahead, we're dreaming big. We envision expanding The Neighborhood Village to include more homes and on-site social enterprise opportunities—jobs and training programs that help our neighbors thrive and build lasting stability. It's a bold vision, and it will take generous support to bring it to life—but we believe it's possible, together.

We also believe that our model—centered on dignity, relationship, and whole-person care—isn't just working here; it's a model that can and should be duplicated in other communities. We're committed to sharing what we've learned and helping others create spaces of healing and belonging for their neighbors experiencing homelessness. And above all, our daily mission remains the same: to keep loving and walking with our neighbors here. Because hope and healing take time, and we believe real change doesn't come just from providing a home—but from creating a place to belong and people to lean on for the long haul.













Conservatives get a spine:



By Richard Bailey

When regular folks say, "Enough!", interesting things happen. Leaders - people who otherwise would shy away from center stage - show up and answer the call. Passive victims suddenly get a spine.

Tyranny is self-limiting. It rouses passions. The winner-take-all of any tyranny means it tends to eat its own. Desperate grasping for power leads to reckless and self-defeating acts.

Americans can review their history for examples.

George III misbehaved. Americans of 1776 acted. Democrats pushed nationwide slavery. Abraham Lincoln appeared. Teddy Roosevelt stepped up to the plate to put down his generation's version of big tech. Ronald Reagan answered the call when Americans once again said "Enough."

Donald Trump followed these examples. Voters, as they always seem to do, said "Enough." Not once, but two times. Globalist donors lost. Democrat sponsored repression, incompetence and corruption lost.

President Trump continues to ride a wave. It's rolling forward, despite desperate efforts of Democrat's, their donors and the Democrat press, to turn back the clock.

Some conservatives somehow remain paralyzed with fear. They focus on what propagandists want them to think about. As in the Revolution, this is a time to try one's soul. As before, information is the solution. It is the path to conservatives re-acquiring the spine evident in the American Revolution and every time they have been called

Interesting people are stepping up to the plate. Obviously, now President Trump is leading the charge. Others include Congressmen J.D. Vance and the amazing members of the President's cabinet. Senate standouts include Senators John Kennedy and Ted Cruz. The administration's daily news briefing and videos of cabinet meetings carry the ball forward.

In the face of a dying left-wing press, conservatives occupy center stage. Conservatives have focus, that is, a

Keeping focus means finding reliable sources of information. Focus means rejecting outlets offering outrage. Cable news may not be good for your mental and political health.

In the 1980s, Fox News and Rush Limbaugh staged a revolution. They proved that the left's stale narrative deserved only a laugh. What eventually followed was a huge, profitable market for internet news alternatives.

Disconnecting from toxic media means finding trusted outlets. The transition from brief uninformative sound bytes to extended presentations by credible sources is currently occurring.

Some network outlets still worth watching include Newsmax and One America. Breitbart, Red State, the Bongino Report, the Daily Caller, the Daily Wire, HotAir, and the Postmillennial provide useful information. Podcasts doing professional work include the "All In"

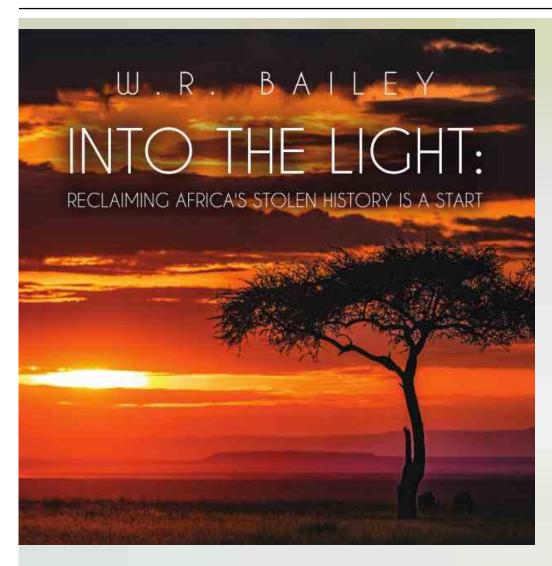
Podcast, the Ruthless Podcast, and the Verdict with Ted Cruz. Breitbart's Fight Club is helpful. Christian News Magazine aims to fill the need for trustworthy information.

The reader probably already has a set of information sources. Outlets that sell outrage are losing. Those that inform are winning.

Every county and city includes election targets: councils, boards and commissions. School districts desperately new board members who insist on reading and math proficiency. City councils need members who reject this week's woke nonsense. America-first state and Federal office holders will arise from the pool of world-beating conservatives who are being elected today to school board and city councils.

Getting a spine starts with focus on reliable information sources. It means connecting with local people who want to make America great. Contesting for local, state and federal office follows. This is how the 1776 revolution got started. This is familiar territory.

Getting a spine isn't hard. Just stick to reliable information sources and laugh at propaganda. Expect setbacks but keep moving. The payoff is getting good people elected. It's that simple.



W.R. Bailey has had a decades-long interest in African and African-American history. Into the Light distills the current movement to celebrate the African Century and the achievements of African and African Americans. The author is a graduate of UC Berkeley and the University Of San Francisco School Of Law. He is a member of the American Historical Association (AHA) and Computational history makes use of the lessons from our digital age and does take the nineteenth century view that history is not simple or inevitable, but the product of complex mixing of communities and cultures. Bailey grew up in a San Francisco Bay Area aerospace family in a culture focused on lively political discussion, jazz music, outdoor sports, and digital technology. His background, which includes law and engineering, dovetails with this emerging new framework. The author's website, "The Computational Age," focuses on the rise of a network-centric view of history and culture's culture. Bailey's published articles have covered current affairs, history, and natural resources. The author enjoys reading, spending time in the mountains, outdoor sports, friends, his cat, and any good chat.

For many good reasons this is being called the African Century. For the same good reasons, it's time to celebrate the history of Africa's urban and scholary past " www.Info@CountyNewsMagazine.com

FAITH IN ACTION:

Lieutenant Commander Danny Cho Chaplain Corps, United States Navy





How long have you been a chaplain and what kind of ministry experience did you have before?

I have been a chaplain in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps for 10 years. Prior to the Navy I served as a pastor at two local churches in California.

What led you to become a Navy Chaplain?

There were three major contributing factors and influences. The first, of course, was a burden placed on my heart for ministry, and in particular, ministry to young people. This is what led to attending seminary and ultimately paved the way to chaplaincy. The other two influences were close friends of mine who are also Navy chaplains as well as the military

communities I lived in, both of which solidified the pathway to the Navy.

The purpose of the Navy Chaplain Corps is to "build the Spiritual Readiness of warfighters and their families for the rigors of military service." Can you give us some examples of how you have helped work towards that goal?

"Spiritual Readiness" in the Navy is defined as the strength of spirit that enables the warfighter to accomplish the mission with honor. We focus on building spiritual readiness in four specific ways: establishing a connection to the divine, building communities, making sacrifices for the greater good. and finding meaning and purpose in all that we do. From worship services to community service, to training on character and leadership to hands-on training, and everything in between, as chaplains the focus is oriented toward building spiritual readiness.

In Joshua 1:9, the Angel of the Lord helped Joshua prepare for battle against Jericho when he said, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you

go." How important is it for sailors to have courage in their military service?

Less than 1% of our country's population serves in the military. Service to our country involves sacrifice and selflessness. Courage is crucial to being sacrificial and to putting country and others before ourselves. Deployments, long work hours, time away from family and loved ones, combat, these can only be accomplished when courage is present.

What are some ways you have seen that sailors have benefited from having a strong relationship with God?

Whether you're in the military or not, faith provides comfort, hope, and peace in a way the world cannot. Sailors that are tied into their faith and seek to maintain that relationship when on deployment, overseas assignments, family separations, on ships, in harms way, and anywhere the military takes them have a source of strength and sustainment unlike any other. As chaplains, we do our best to ensure Sailors do not neglect this part of their lives, whether they are Christian or of other faith traditions.

NAS Lemoore has unique benefits

and difficulties for sailors stationed here in Kings County. What are some of the ways the chaplaincy is able to help sailors who are experiencing difficulty?

Chaplains are the only officers in the Navy that can provide Sailors with 100% confidential counseling. Chaplains often say that their offices are the safest places in any unit where Sailors can go, speak with a Chaplain, be able to speak honestly and freely, and have no fear of any repercussions. Instead, only get the care that they need.

Recently the Chaplaincy at NAS Lemoore has participated in some local events, such as the THX2U bbq. How have you seen that local churches help the military community?

Community involvement—and in particular local church and religious group involvement—on board military bases near them is incredibly valuable. For the service members, local churches and religious groups that are involved on base offer a connection to community that service members otherwise would not have. Many service members grew up going to church or particular faith communities, and as often as service members move around the country and overseas, it can be difficult to get connected again. To have local churches and religious groups on base at events like a BBQ, coming to the service members, these interactions allow for those connections to happen.

As you look to this next year of service here in Kings County, what are some ways our readers can be praying for you and the sailors on base?

As expected at any military base, there is often turnover of personnel occurring all the time, people coming and going. Whether it's due to deployments or change in duty stations, we are always experiencing some measure of turnover, and this reality is always a challenge to ministry. Please pray that in the midst of the realities of military life that our ministry needs and the needs of our service members would continue to be provided for.



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Noelle@ ChristianNewsMagazine.com

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

Dear Noelle,

A friend of mine seems to be a godly Christian man. But it bothers me that he watches horror movies. He says he wants to learn what he can from these movies so that he is better able to battle spiritual darkness, but I'm afraid that he's opening himself up to things that he shouldn't. Is it ok for a Christian to watch horror movies?

~ Concerned about Horror Movies

Dear "Concerned about Horror Movies,"

This is a great question for Christians to think about! It is important for the Christian to search the Scriptures to know how the believer is to interact with things that are clearly connected with spiritual darkness. I can help you by pointing you to several Bible passages that will help to clarify what the believer's relationship with spiritual darkness is, why horror movies are problematic, and what to do when your conscience is bothered by something.

First of all, what is the believer's relationship to spiritual darkness? Paul tells us in Colossians 1:13 that God "has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son." In other words, when we were unbelievers, we were under control of Satan and lived in darkness, but now as believers, we no longer live in darkness but in the kingdom of light which belongs to Christ. Paul also says in 2 Corinthians 8:14-15 that believers cannot partner with the evil of darkness, just as Christ and Satan (Belial) have nothing in common. The book of 1 John also makes it very clear that believers are to be characterized by light and not by darkness. In fact, 1 John 1:5-7 says, "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth." It doesn't get much clearer than that. If we are believers, we should be repulsed by darkness, not drawn to it. But if we are fascinated by evil, this is a clear sign that we are lying to ourselves about being a Christian, and we actually are not believers.

Second, why are horror movies problematic for a Christian to watch? Horror movies (along with haunted houses and other demonic material) are clearly designed for someone to be entertained by evil and drawn to further occult practices. Is there anything to be gained or learned by watching a horror movie or entering a haunted house that might equip a Christian for spiritual battle? No, I don't think so. There might be a need for parental review for one's children, but there should be no need for a complete showing to know if it's good or bad.

Horror movies, haunted houses, psychics, books about witchcraft/sorcery etc., also give a twisted view of reality and are not a good source of information. For example, the Bible clearly states that the souls of those who die go to one of two places, either heaven or hell/Hades (Luke 16:22-23). So the Bible teaches that there is no such thing as the souls of dead people (aka ghosts) lingering behind to haunt spaces. However, there is such a thing as demons



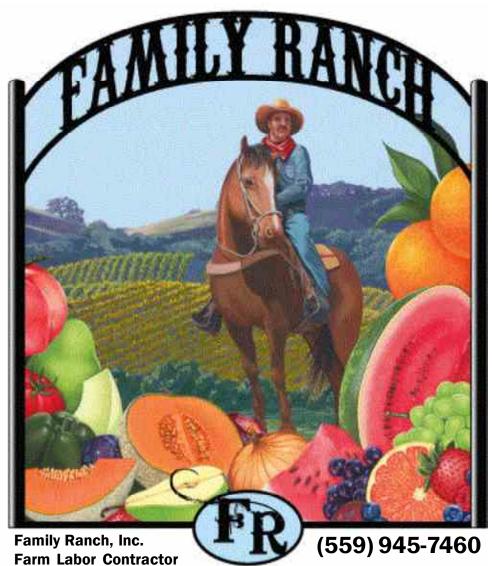


who can occupy spaces and possess people. Anything that might seem like ghost activity in our world, the Bible would attribute to demons. So rather than delving into occult material to find out about it, we should go to the Bible for our information about Satan and his demons. But we also need to be on guard even in our Bible study of demons and not become fascinated by the demonic because the Bible says that "Satan is prowling around like a roaring lion seeking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:7). We do not want to fall prey to Satan's schemes, especially since he is a master of deception, the father of lies (John 8:44).

Finally, what does the Bible say about listening to your conscience? First of all, it is important to inform our conscience with the truth of God's Word. Our conscience may be too strict or too freed up without knowing what the Bible says. The principles found in Scripture are a lamp to our feet and will help us to know whether a particular activity or decision is good or bad for the Christian. Secondly, if your conscience is bothered by something, then for you to engage in that activity is sinful because "whatever does not proceed from faith is sin" (Romans 14:23). So even if you see a fellow Christian doing something but your conscience says it's wrong, then you cannot participate in it. You can bring up your concern to your fellow Christian, but try to make sure that you can back your concern with Scripture before doing so.

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

SEND IN YOUR LETTER TO: Noelle@ChristianNewsMagazine.com





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BIBLETALK

Authority: Source and pathway for appeal

By: Eli Komai

In this third installment we will discuss the source of all true authority, specifically what the Bible and history shows clearly to anyone who diligently searches. All authority comes from God. He makes this known through his creation. To further help us, God tells us in plain language that the Earth is his in Psalm 24:1. God goes further and explains that this includes the realm of the affairs of men in Daniel 4:17. All authority on earth is given/delegated by God.

A common framework for realms/spheres of government was initially formulated by Abraham Kuyper, and is restated in *The Doctrine of the Lesser Magistrates* by Matthew Trewhella. It is very helpful and is seen below. It is ordered vertically ascending, proceeding outward from the individual.

- **Civil Government**
- Church Government
- **■Family Government**
- **■Self Government**

The delegated authority of each realm (like everything else in existence) has its bounds set by God's law. This means that authority is not unlimited nor autonomous but rather subject to everything He has decreed.

When a higher adjacent realm is in rebellion to Gods law, it is the duty of the lower realm to appeal to a yet-higher authority. Lets look at both a small and a large scale example.

SMALL SCALE: A father tyrannically rules his house, in violation of His law. A God fearing wife would be duty bound to appeal to the elders of that family's local church.

LARGE SCALE: When a state is in rebellion to God's laws, then a county or city can appeal to a federal authority. We see this in the judicial system, when cases get appealed to higher courts such as the Supreme Court of the United States.

Appendix: Fear of the Lord in Proverbs

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 1:1)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the counsel of saints is understanding: for to know the law is the character of a sound mind. Pro 9:10

The fear of the Lord is a strong hold of the saints: but ruin comes to them that work wickedness. Pro 10:29

The fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and he leaves his children a support. Pro 14:26

Better is a small portion with the fear of the Lord, than great treasures without the fear of the Lord. Pro 15:16

Let not your heart envy sinners: but be you in the fear of the Lord all the day. Pro 23:17

The fear of the Lord is the offspring of wisdom, and wealth, and glory, and life. (Pro 22:4, LXX2012)

Sacrifice Proves Love



By Lawrence Hebron

We've learned a great deal about politicians who have feathered their own nests while plucking the American eagle. That is not the way it is supposed to work, and it definitely is not how we started.

March, 1783. After eight years of fighting, the American Revolution was finally drawing near an end, but success still teetered on the rim of the abyss. Congress lacked the money to pay the heroic soldiers who had sacrificed so much for so long. Disgruntled

senior officers, camped in Newburgh, New York, spoke of mutiny against the government. George Washington, aware of the crisis, met with his officers to urge them to, once again, put the welfare of their country above their own interests. He began to read a letter from a legislator explaining Congress's plight, but began to fumble over the words. He paused with dramatic effect. He then hesitantly pulled from his pocket something his officers had never seen him use—reading glasses. Washington spoke softly, "Gentlemen, you must pardon me. I have grown gray in the service of my country, and now find myself growing blind." The surly officers began to weep as they remembered the great personal sacrifices Washington himself had endured. When the general left the room, they voted to give Congress more time, and the Revolution was saved.

Sacrifice proves love, and few have loved their country more dearly than the first American, George Washington. He took no salary during the eight-and-one-half years of the Revolution. He suffered all the privations of his troops. During that time he visited his home in Mount Vernon only once, and that was on his way to fight Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Washington once said, "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." Washington did all three, and we would be well-advised to look for leaders like him; namely, those who put the interests of the people above their own.

Among His last words of advice to His apostle, Peter, Jesus said, "Feed my sheep." [John 21:17] Notice, the command was to feed the sheep, not fleece them. Great leaders, like Jesus and Washington, are willing to sacrifice everything for the benefit of their followers. That is true love. That is true leadership. Americans deserve and must demand leaders who love them enough to give up everything for them. Otherwise, they likely will try to take everything from them.



Terry Wild

FROM THE PUBLISHER

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CHURCH & CULTURE:

PJI-CPP Successfully Urges FDA to Review Abortion Pill Authorization Following Alarming Study BRADDACUS

FDA now reviewing mifepristone regulations, as urged in PJI-CPP's formal letter

Pacific Justice Institute – Center for Public Policy (PJI-CPP) is renewing its urgent call for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to revoke or suspend approval of mifepristone—the abortion pill—after a new, in-depth study revealed shocking rates of serious complications among women who take the drug. The FDA has now confirmed it will begin reviewing regulations surrounding mifepristone, a step PJI-CPP strongly advocated for in its recent letter to the agency.

The study, released earlier this week by the Ethics and Public Policy Center (EPPC), analyzed 865,727 insurance claims from 2017 to 2023. It found that 10.93% of women who took mifepristone experienced serious adverse events within 45 days—an alarming rate more than 22 times higher than the <0.5% risk cited on the drug's label.

Key findings from the April 28, 2025 EPPC study include:

- 4.7% of women required emergency room care after the abortion
- 3.3% suffered hemorrhaging
- 1.3% developed infections

Over 1,000 required blood transfusions

Nearly 2,000 experienced other life-threatening adverse events

2.84% required surgical intervention for incomplete abortions

Full study: https://eppc.org/stop-harming-women

"EPPC's groundbreaking study—by far the most comprehensive to date—exposes a serious public health crisis the FDA can no longer afford to ignore," said Brad Dacus, president and founder of PJI. "We are encouraged to see the FDA now reviewing mifepristone regulations, but reviewing alone is not enough. This drug's approval must be reconsidered to protect women's lives."

In its formal letter to Commissioner of Food and Drugs Martin A. Makary, M.D., M.P.H., PJI-CPP highlighted his previous commitment to reassessing mifepristone's availability if new safety data emerged. The letter also noted that Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. pledged during his Senate confirmation hearing to investigate concerns about the drug's safety.

PJI-CPP is calling for the FDA to immediately:

Revoke or suspend mifepristone's approval pending a full safety review

Reinstate original REMS protocols including in-person dispensing, physicianonly prescribing, three office visits, and mandatory adverse event reporting

Launch an independent investigation into mifepristone's real-world safety using current, large-scale data

"The FDA has a legal and moral obligation to act in light of this overwhelming evidence," said David Peters, an attorney and medical doctor with PJI. "Women's health is at stake."

PJI-CPP is urging citizens nationwide to contact the FDA and their federal representatives, demand action, and help raise awareness about the devastating consequences this drug poses.

Media Inquiries: Please contact nsher@pji.org

About Pacific Justice Institute

Pacific Justice Institute is a non-profit 501(c)(3) legal defense organization committed to defending religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties.

PJI Attorneys Answer Your Most Asked Questions

Each week, our attorneys at Pacific Justice Institute answer real questions from people just like you who want to live out their faith boldly and legally. This week's topic hits close to home for many believers: "Is it legal to hold a Bible study at work?" The short answer is yes—but with some important guidelines. Below, we break down five common questions about faith in the workplace and your legal rights.

Q1: Can I start a Bible study during lunch or break time at work?

Yes. If your employer allows employees to use break time for personal activities, you can use that time for a Bible study. Employers must treat religious expression the same as any other personal use of time and space.

Q2: Can I invite coworkers to join?

Yes, with limits. You can invite coworkers respectfully and non-coercively. However, repeated invitations after someone declines could be seen as harassment. Make sure your invitation is warm, voluntary, and respectful.

Q3: What if my employer tells me I cannot hold a Bible study on company property?

That may be illegal. If other non-work-related gatherings are allowed (like hobby clubs or personal discussions), then banning only religious gatherings is likely a form of viewpoint discrimination. PJI can help assess and challenge unfair policies

Q4: Can I share my faith during work hours?

It depends. You are allowed to talk about your faith in the same way you would discuss other personal topics as long as it doesn't interfere with your work or violate clear, content-neutral company policies. Keep it respectful and natural.

Q5: Do I have to hide my Bible or faith-based items at my desk?

No. Personal expressions of faith, such as a Bible, a cross, or a Scripture verse in your workspace, are generally protected under federal law. Employers cannot single out religious items unless all personal expression is banned.

Need Help Navigating a Workplace Issue?

PJI offers legal support to employees who face discrimination for living out their faith. We also offer workplace rights guides to help you know what is allowed. If you have any other questions you want our team to tackle, please reach out today!



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