

“He is like a tree planted by water...and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green.” - Jer. 17:8



# Christian

## KINGS COUNTY NewsMagazine

DEAR  
NOELLE  
SEEKING AFTER  
*God's wisdom*



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VOLUME 2 ISSUE 3

“A Voice for the Christian Community”

www.ChristianNewsMagazine.com

## Believers In Business



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**DAVID ROE**  
Manager of Roe Oil

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**ALANA EDMONDSON**  
VP for Grangeville 4-H

## Church & Culture



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**Brad Dacus**

# Faithful Through the Flames

## *Ag Expo Prayer Breakfast 2025*



**Jerry Kliwer and his family**

By: T.M. Dinkins: County Publisher

### The theme of this year's World Ag Expo Prayer Breakfast was “Faithful.”

The theme was clearly put on display with the video testimony given by Jerry Kliwer and his family. This was especially true when Jerry told the remarkable story of how God provided a packing house for their business when the original facility burned down. He said, “About sixteen years ago, we were just getting ready to start picking our kiwis when I got a call in the middle of the night.” He was told their packing house was on fire. Almost the entire facility

burned down. It was right before they were going to process the kiwi harvest and Jerry had no idea what they were going to do. That was a time where they had to trust God and they saw how God was faithful. A Christian brother came to him and said “why don’t you come use my packing shed?” Jerry accepted the offer and they were able to finish a successful kiwi season. After the end of the season Jerry’s friend said, “You know what? I think I am going to retire, why don’t you buy the packing shed?” So that is what Jerry did. They bought the packing facility and they are still using it

today. There were able to see God’s faithfulness through the flames.

**Jerry also spent time telling his family history. His father migrated from Russia to Kansas.**

They eventually arrived in the Central Valley and were involved in construction work. They came from a farming background. Jerry bought property with kiwis and he developed that into a larger kiwi farming operation. Jerry’s son, Jerin remembers working with Steven Schuil in the packing house. When he was sixteen years old he got

**SEE PAGE 7**

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KINGS COUNTY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<div>MARCH1</div> <div>History of Ag Exhibit is Open at the Carnegie Museum in Hanford</div>	<div>MARCH3</div> <div>Visalia Rawhide Baseball Tickets Go on Sale</div>	<div>MARCH5</div> <div>Ladies Spring Brunch at SV Community Church - 9:00am in the Chapel</div>	<div>MARCH5-7</div> <div>Shepherds Conference in Sun Valley, CA</div>
<div>MARCH21-22</div> <div>Valley Conference: Momentum - SouthValley Community Church</div>	<div>MARCH22</div> <div>Guns N Grub Men's Event - Grace Bible Church</div>	<div>APRIL4-5</div> <div>For the Valley Bible Conference at Grace Church of the Valley in Kingsburg</div>	<div>APRIL5</div> <div>Cars on K Street in Tulare, CA - 9:00 am</div>
<div>APRIL18</div> <div>Good Friday Service - 6:30 pm Grace Bible Church Hanford</div>	<div>APRIL20</div> <div>Resurrection Sunday - He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!</div>	<div>MAY24</div> <div>Christian Fellowship Night at Fresno Grizzlies Stadium</div>	<div>JUNE7</div> <div>Carnegie Museum Car Show in Downtown Hanford</div>



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# Lessons Learned from Covid 19

## Christ & Common Sense



**T.M. Dinkins: County Publisher**

**On Thursday, February 20th, the Central Valley Fellowship of Pastors hosted a lunch at Faith Baptist Church in Visalia.** The goal of the lunch was to meet together, pray, and have a discussion on the following topic, “Lessons Learned from Covid-19.” I will list the questions that were given with a summary of some of the answers.

**It has been almost five years since the shelter in place order was given on March 19, 2020 (Executive Order N-33-20). As you look back, what lessons did you learn from your church’s experience with the Covid lockdown?**

**Many of those who spoke supported the idea that they would not respond the same way if they were to go through the situation again.** Some pastors said they have learned things recently that were not known at the time. If those things had been known, churches would have been much more cautious about accepting the governmental guidelines that were originally given.

**One example of this was how the threat was communicated.** The media made it seem like Covid would wipe out the majority of the world’s population. It was as if a Tsunami was going to hit the country, so every responsible pastor needed to “do the right thing” and shelter in place. This created a dilemma for the leaders of local churches because the Bible clearly states that believers should not “neglect to meet together as some are in the habit of doing” (Hebrews 10:24-25). It wasn’t until much later that people began to learn that there were alternative theories on the danger of the virus.

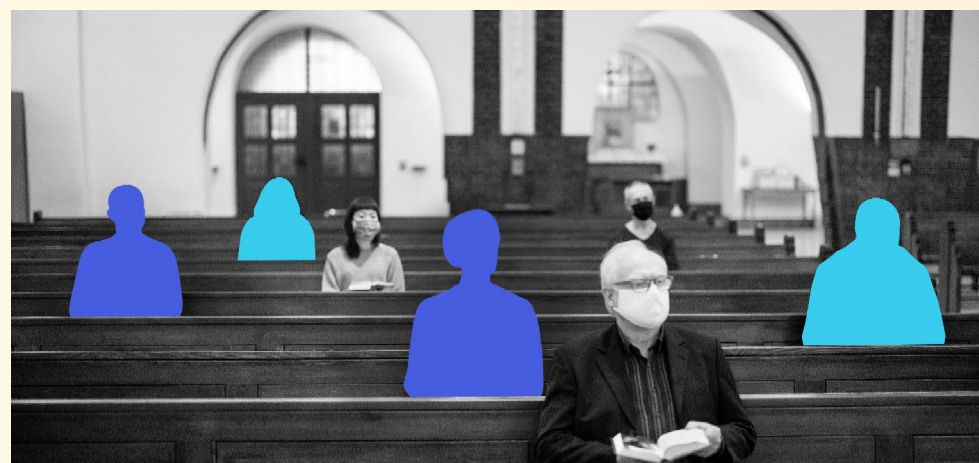
**During the “Lessons Learned” discussion several pastors mentioned the need for more research to be done.** The government gave a limited amount of information, which obligated churches to respond in a certain way. If the churches had been told that decisions were being made based off a select group of information, then churches would have been less willing to restrict people from gathering to worship. One pastor mentioned that certain government decisions were made that favored some businesses and limited others. This was a double-standard that should not have been accepted.

**The whole concept of “Essential workers” was formulated without giving allowance for religious workers and religious exemptions.** Many pastors understood that their work as a pastor was essential because God’s word says so (2 Timothy 4:2). The problem was the health department defined an “essential worker” differently than the Bible. One pastor shared that they were able to communicate with the board of supervisors and the district attorney of their county. The pastors learned that their meetings would not be shut down by local authorities and so that gave them a better understanding of how the guidelines were being interpreted and enforced.

**All the pastors present at the event agreed that the church needs to question the governments orders to the church.** Internal research needs to be done to give leadership clarity on issues related to public health and government guidelines.

**It wasn’t until February 23, 2023 that the last state of emergency was lifted in California. Do you still see an impact from Covid on your church today? What are some ways it is still impacting your church?**

**One pastor mentioned that there are still people who are reluctant to gather at church on Sundays because they stopped attending in person during Covid.** Another pastor mentioned that there is still someone in their church who wears a mask at meetings. This is leftover from the mask mandate during Covid.



**As you look to the future, what are some principles that will guide you and your church in times when the government’s guidance goes against Scripture and your conscience?**

**During the discussion, many pastors mentioned the need to be prioritize God’s word over the government’s guidelines.** Often they are in agreement, but in cases where there is disagreement, Christians need to be confident to follow Scripture’s guidelines because the church’s authority takes precedence in matters related to faith and fellowship.

**One pastors mentioned that they recently became concerned because of the government’s guidelines related to “youth organizations.”** He made the argument that the government is once again in danger of overstepping it’s jurisdiction because it is treating churches like non-religious youth organizations. This is an area where pastors in the Central Valley Fellowship will need to carefully consider the

government’s ruling. Are churches able to use their own criteria for choosing responsible youth workers? Will insurance companies be able to provide coverage to churches that are not compliant with Department of Justice guidelines?

**Church leaders were forced to become more aware of government guidelines during Covid.** It caused disruption to churches throughout the country. Discerning elders were able to consider Scripture’s guidelines as Covid happened. Hopefully churches will be more prepared for future situations where the government crosses into the church’s jurisdiction. This will take prayerful, careful discernment so that the church will continue to meet it’s purpose of making “disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep all that I commanded you.”

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# PJI Defeats Oregon's Employment Appeals Board a Second Time



**BRAD DACUS**

## PJI PRESS RELEASE

**SALEM, Ore. – Thanks to the Pacific Justice Institute, Oregon's Court of Appeals has overturned a decision** denying a Christian healthcare worker unemployment benefits and ordered Oregon's Employment Division to pay up.

**On Dec. 18, the Court of Appeals overturned the second decision of Oregon's** Employment Appeals Board (EAB) denying Alison K. Lavelle-Hayden unemployment benefits. Lavelle-Hayden is a Seventh-

## *Unemployment Benefits Battle "WIN"*



Day Adventist and a respiratory therapist whose former employer, Portland-based Legacy Health, fired her for declining to receive a COVID-19 vaccine for religious reasons.

**At her unemployment benefits hearing, Lavelle-Hayden testified** as to her religious opposition to receiving a COVID-19 vaccine due to the vaccines' connection to abortion. She also provided a letter she had submitted to Legacy in support of her request for a religious exception to Oregon's vaccine mandate for

health care workers – something both Title VII, Oregon law, and even the mandate itself allowed. Neither Legacy nor Oregon's Employment Division provided any evidence to controvert Lavelle-Hayden's assertions concerning the religious nature of her beliefs.

**Despite Legacy failing to meet its burden of proof concerning misconduct,** the administrative law judge (ALJ) at Lavelle-Hayden's hearing still found misconduct on Lavelle-Hayden's part due to her religiously based refusal to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The EAB twice upheld the ALJ's ruling – the first time after admitting to the Court of Appeals that its prior decision was not supported by substantial evidence. The Court of Appeals remanded the case the first time so the EAB could correct its erroneous decision.

**The EAB failed to do so, instead focusing on evidence in the record that the EAB** believed undermined Lavelle-Hayden's assertion that her beliefs were, in fact, religious. PJI's Oregon-based staff attorney, Ray D. Hacke, thus petitioned the Court of Appeals a second time, arguing that the EAB had blatantly ignored a long line of Supreme Court precedents prohibiting the board from punishing Lavelle-Hayden for adhering to her sincerely held convictions.

**THE COURT AGREED.**

**"What matters for purposes of the First Amendment** is whether someone seeking unemployment benefits lost their job based on a sincerely held belief that is rooted in religion," Hacke explained. "While Ms. Lavelle-Hayden did express some secular concerns related to COVID-19 vaccines, the law requires the Court of Appeals to look at the record as a whole. The court rightly found that the EAB chose to focus on Ms. Lavelle-Hayden's secular concerns while completely ignoring uncontroverted evidence that her beliefs are, in fact, rooted in religion.

"Ms. Lavelle-Hayden even quoted Scripture supporting her position. If that's not evidence that her beliefs are rooted in religion, it's difficult to fathom what is."

The Court of Appeals has ordered the EAB to pay Lavelle-Hayden unemployment benefits, ending a battle that has taken nearly three years.

"Why the EAB has consistently sought to punish Alison Lavelle-Hayden for not receiving a COVID-19 vaccine for religious reasons is beyond me," PJI President Brad Dacus said. "Thankfully, Oregon's Court of Appeals right recognized that the hostility the EAB showed toward Ms. Lavelle-Hayden's beliefs has no place in American law and took the board to task over it. PJI is glad to have played a part in getting her the unemployment benefits she should have gotten way back in 2022, and we hope the EAB has learned to stay in its constitutional lane moving forward."



WORLD

AG EXPO

TULARE, CA 2025

PRAYER

BREAKFAST



**FIRST ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**

- 1. The Worship Team from Tulare Community Church**
- 2. Nick Falcone of Alpha Dairy Consulting gave the opening greeting.**
- 3. CA State FFA Officers (from Left to Right) John Dein, Gianna Gonzalez, Camille Zavala, Melissa Lua-Duarte, Joshua Wolford.**

**SECOND ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**

- 1. Jerry Sinift CEO International Agri-Center**
- 2. & 3. Kliever family video**

**THIRD ROW FROM LEFT TO RIGHT**

- 1. Dave Hansen President & CEO Student's International**
- 2. Dave Hansen holding the flag that his father made in a POW camp during WWII.**
- 3. Michael Schuil Ag Real Estate President of Hope International**

**The Prayer Breakfast takes place on the Wednesday morning of every Farm show. Join us in praying for all those connected with Ag in the Central Valley**

# Continued from Page 1

## Faithful Through the Flames

### Ag Expo Prayer Breakfast 2025



a Class-A license. He drove a truck to help the farm. Once he graduated he asked his dad, “What should I do now?” His answer was, “Do whatever needs to be done.” That is still Jerin’s job description today.

**Jerry was brought up in a Christian home.** He is grateful for that because not everyone has that opportunity. He came to a point where he had to ask if he was going to be a follower of Christ and do what the Bible says. He chose to follow God. He said, “Every part of what we do is tied to our faith.” This includes the ethics of business deals and paying taxes to the government.

**Jerry’s wife, Priscilla, told the story of how God was faithful with the health difficulties of their son, Jerin.** When Jerin was born, they had Tiffany who was twenty months old. Jerin’s birth was wonderful and he was able to go home. An hour later, the pediatrician came and said “I am so sorry. Your son has a serious heart condition.” That is when it felt like everything fell apart. Their family really had to rely on God. They prayed together and came to the point where they had to tell God, “Jerin is yours. We trust you whether you choose to heal Jerin in heaven or on earth.” A week later he had heart surgery. Fast forward



twelve years. Jerin knew what was going on with his health. The cardiologist decided Jerin needed another heart surgery. That is when their family verse came into existence. It says, “For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord. Plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

**Priscilla said, “We prayed that prayer upstairs and we prayed over Jerin. On Monday,** Jerin had another heart surgery. They tried an experiment to see if it would work. Everything was great, but then as time went on, on Thursday, they said, “We are sorry it didn’t work. We will have to go back in.” Jerin went back in on Friday and had a second open heart surgery. All our church and friends came together at Valley Children’s Hospital. They were praying with us and supporting us. We really felt the faithfulness of God at that point. Jerin was able to pull through that surgery. Jerin said, “When I was twenty years old I was in college. I had another surgery. I was dating Laura at the time. When I came out of the surgery I asked for Laura instead of my mom.” That was when his mom knew Laura was the one he was going to marry.


Laura said, “We have three kids and we enjoy having them with us around the farm. I am very grateful for the

legacy of faith that is in Jerin’s family. We have seen God answer prayers when we needed an employee or when we needed a decision to be made about something on the farm.” She said she has prayed for Jerin and then she has seen God answer their prayers.

**Jerry said, “We are glad to see our children following Christ and now our grandchildren are.** That is a great blessing. We don’t want to take it for granted. God has been gracious to us and to each one of our eleven grand children.” He went on to say, “Before I read His word I say, “Teach me something from your word that I can use today. A couple days ago I was reading Matthew 25 and Jesus was talking and giving a parable to the people listening. He ended the video by saying, “You can’t live in fear and hold onto the one talent. We have each been given things. To whom much has been given, much is expected. That means much of us have been given a lot. We have been given inheritance that we can start a farm with. We have been given talents to manage people with. We are all responsible for what God has given us. We need to be responsible stewards. Everything that we have has been given to him. We hold our hands open. It is all yours God.”



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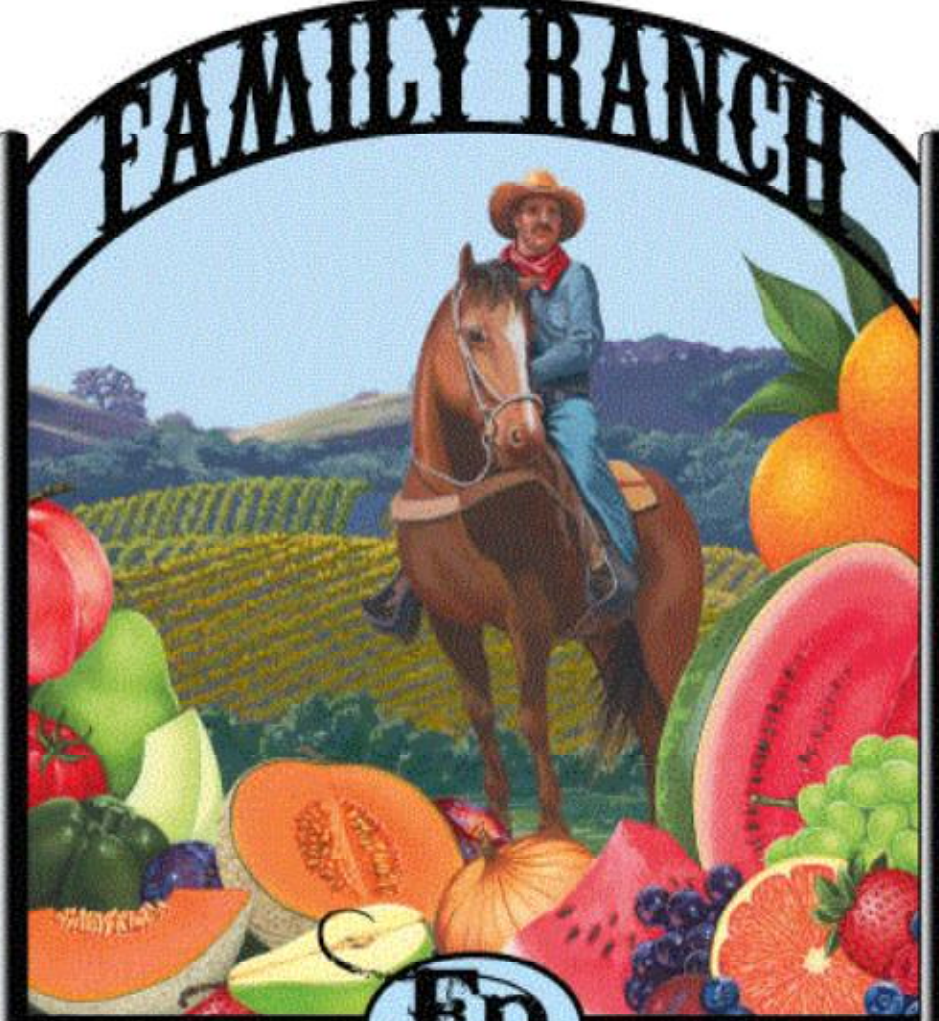
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# Believers in Business

David Roe

Co-Manager of Roe Oil



**Can you tell us the history of Roe Oil and when you started working there and how your job has changed over the years?**

Roe Oil Company was founded by my Grandfather William (Bill) Roe in 1964. It started as a small bulk fuel business supplying gas and diesel to farms and dairies in Kings County. My Grandpa would make deliveries during the day, then finish paperwork in the afternoon and into the evening. He was a very hardworking man. My father, Jeffrey Roe, joined my grandfather full time in January of 1980. From there they worked together to grow the bulk fuel business, and also established the card lock for fleet fueling. Over time, the business grew large enough that Roe Oil Company built its main card lock fueling location in Hanford. This established our fuel site as a key fueling location for CFN customers in Hanford and surrounding areas. Myself and my brother Benjamin joined full time in 2012, after graduating from The Masters College with degrees in Business Management. At first we focused on learning the ropes of running the day

to day operations. Currently Benjamin and I manage Roe Oil Company, Inc. with my dad Jeffrey Roe jumping in as necessary. The Lord has blessed Roe Oil Company with great customers, and we continue to provide the best service possible.

**What is the area of the oil business that Roe Oil focuses on? How many physical locations do you have and how many locations can people fill up from in your network of gas stations?**

Roe Oil has three main focuses of business: Cardlock (fuel card sales), Bulk Deliveries, and Freight Deliveries. We have 2 physical card lock fueling locations where our customers use our proprietary fuel card to authorize fueling transactions through the CFN Network. As a CFN Participant, we are able to market our fuel card to customers across the United States. Our Bulk fuel business is a key area of Roe Oil focus. We have and established “keep full route” where we manage our customers tank levels and keep their products filled as necessary. We will continue to market our bulk business and focus

on providing fast, friendly service at a fair price. The last of the three main areas of focus for Roe Oil is our freight business. With the freight business we haul fuel to other petroleum marketers customers on their behalf. We like to focus on truly serving our customers in each of these areas of business.

**What are some of the highlights of working at Roe Oil?**

Probably the biggest highlight of working at Roe Oil is the family aspect of the business. Not only do we have family working and running the business, but we are able to treat our employees like family.

**You work with some great people. What is it like to work with such a fun crew?**

We are blessed to have a great team at Roe Oil. We have a lot of fun together. Each member of Roe Oil is truly family. We will often get into some great spiritual conversations, encouraging one another and exhorting one another. We are thankful for that freedom, which is the freedom to be able to share the

truths of Scripture together on the job site. It is a huge blessing that not everyone gets to experience at work.

**Your business is closed on Sundays. How does that impact your ability to serve God and attend church?**


My Father made it a priority early on that Roe Oil Company would be closed on Sunday. It is very clear in the Bible that God wants his people in church, worshipping Him, fellowshiping together, and serving one another (Hebrews 10:24-25). As believers, we are a members of the body of Christ, serving one another like Paul talks about in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. This should have a tremendous impact on our lives because as believers we need to be fellowshiping and serving one another in the local Church.

**What is it like working in a family business? How many children do you have and do they ever come to work with you?**

Working in a family owned and operated business is a lot of fun. That is not to say that there are not inherent challenges that come with it, but overall I wouldn’t want to change it. My wife and I have 5 children. One day I would love to work together with my children in the business. My wife will often bring the kids by the office and have lunch, or I will take them individually to the office to “work” with Dad. They have a good time being in the office.

**The Bible says, “He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord” (Proverbs 18:22). How has your wife helped you in your life and business?**

My wife is an amazing blessing in my life, and I could not imagine life without her. She is a great example of the Proverbs 31 woman. She is a Godly woman who does a tremendous job teaching and raising our 5 children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. She is a huge help to me in my life. When there are problems at work and I need to talk through things, she is always willing to listen and give me solid advice. Outside of my Salvation, my wife and my children are the biggest blessings God has given me. I strive to be a godly husband and father to them.




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# Student Spotlight

Alana Edmondson

VP for Grangeville 4-H

By: T.M. Dinkins

**How are you involved with 4H in Kings County? How long have you been involved?**

I've been a part of 4-H for about 13 years now. I'm a member, and the Vice President of the Grangeville 4-H Club. I'm also a Kings County 4-H Ambassador, so I help plan and execute all our county's 4-H events. I'm involved in my club's sheep project along with photography and public speaking.

**It is a lot of work to care for the animals. What do you have to do in order to show lambs at the fair?**

It is definitely a lot of work. We feed, water, exercise, and train them everyday, twice a day. Two to three times a year, we clip their wool. The Kings County Fair is in June, so we are taking care of our animals for about 5-6 months. To get them show ready, we constantly work with our lambs and their posture, obedience, and poise. We also work on ourselves, making sure that we are confident, and are prepared for anything in the show ring.

**What is it like being in the 4H competition? How have you done in previous years?**

This is my seventh year showing sheep, and I really enjoy it. I especially like the competitiveness, pressure, and the sportsmanship of the show ring. In the competition, there's a judge who is judging your animal's physical frame and market features, and your showmanship ability. This last year, I got second place in my market class, and first place in my showmanship class. Getting first place in showmanship, I got the opportunity to go to the Round Robin competition. In Round Robin, you get to show all the other species of large animals at the fair, competing in showmanship against others in your age division. In Round Robin, I earned 4th place.

**How is your family involved in helping you with the animals?**

My family is a great encouragement to me. They help me remember things

when I forget them. Two of my siblings also do sheep with 4-H, and we work together to get all the feeding, watering, exercising, and training done everyday. We work together as a great team!

**Do you have any plans to be involved with Ag in the future?**

Yes, I am hoping to have a future in Ag. I'm not exactly sure what yet, but I am thinking of something that has to do with soil health. We'll see! I especially like the idea of Ag, because it's so important to our area. Ag is such a huge part of California in general, and I want to be a part of it.

**The Bible is full of illustrations that describe sheep and the good shepherd. How does your experience with 4H help you appreciate how God cares for you?**

It has definitely given me a deeper appreciation for how much God actually has to be constantly watching us. Sheep are not the smartest animals, and so they often do some pretty dumb stuff. With these experiences, I have a better understanding of God's constant care, watch, and tender affection for me.

**It is also amazing to see how God created each animal. What are some things that you appreciate about how God created the animals you work with?**

Sheep are interesting creatures! I learn and appreciate more and more every year, just how intricately God has made sheep. We'll never really know how amazing our Creator God's mind is. Really getting out there to see His work, helps. And even then, we're just scratching the surface! I really appreciate that God made sheep to be pack animals. They like to be with others, and they are also dependent on other sheep, and us humans. The way that God has created their minds, they tend to be fairly stubborn. But, with some repetition, and patience, they can learn to do exactly what you want them to.





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

Dear Noelle,

My marriage used to be stronger, but my husband and I almost feel like strangers now. We hardly see each other during the week because we're both working full time, and our kids are doing competitive sports. Everyone else seems to be managing this schedule just fine except for us. How can we strengthen our marriage in the middle of a busy schedule?

~ Married to a stranger

**Dear "Married to a Stranger,"**

**It's good that you're taking the time out of your busy schedule to think about the impact** it's having on your marriage. Marriage is one of the greatest gifts that God gives us, and it's important to invest consistent time and energy into keeping your relationship with your husband strong. It sounds like the work and sports activities you're doing are all probably good things in and of themselves, but when you try to do all of them, they're having a negative impact on the relationship that should be the most important human relationship in your life: your marriage.

**I don't think that you're alone in this struggle to keep your marriage alive,** especially when your kids are at an age to be involved in sports or other extra-curricular activities. Whether it's sports, music, or some other club, the activities usually take up multiple nights of the week and often take up most of the weekend as well. As a parent, you might convince yourself that helping your children achieve their dreams and attain success is worth any sacrifice on your part. But is it? Any husband or wife who places their children's activities as a higher priority than their spouse is taking a risk that may end up costing you your marriage in the long run. It's not worth pursuing your children's success at any cost if it means that it will result in a divorce for you.

**The Bible teaches us that the relationship between husband and wife should take priority** over the relationship between parent and child. In Genesis 2, God created marriage and gave this command, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." (Gen. 2:24) This verse shows that the marriage relationship is designed by God to be permanent, but the parent-child relationship is meant to be temporary. One day your children will grow up and leave the house, and then it will just be you and your husband left at home. If all your energy is going toward pursuing your own work and your children's dreams but not toward pursuing time with your husband, what will be left of your marriage when your children are grown up?



**If you never see your husband and feel like you're married to a stranger,** then the warning signs are already there that something needs to change soon in order to save your marriage. I would recommend planning time into your schedule to be with your husband, but one face-to-face time in the week is not enough. You should set a specific time to talk over the week's events and decide how to share the workload for the week. You also need time to be with your husband and just enjoy being in each other's company without the kids and without being rushed. This could be as simple as going to coffee or having lunch together. It doesn't need to be expensive or extravagant to be a special date. And if your week is too packed to be spontaneous, then you may also need to plan times to be intimate with your husband because it won't just happen with a busy schedule. By giving of yourself to love your husband first and foremost and secondly to love your children, you will fulfill God's purpose for you (Titus 2:4).

**If you can't fit these times into your schedule to be intentional with your husband,** then you need to talk over what you can cut out of your schedule. Are there any activities that you can say no to? Do your kids need to do year-round sports, or can they take breaks in the year? Can you cut back at work in order to be more available to your husband? Pray with your husband about these decisions. They are not easy decisions, but God will bless you for choosing to make your marriage a top priority in your home.

**SEND IN YOUR LETTER TO:**  
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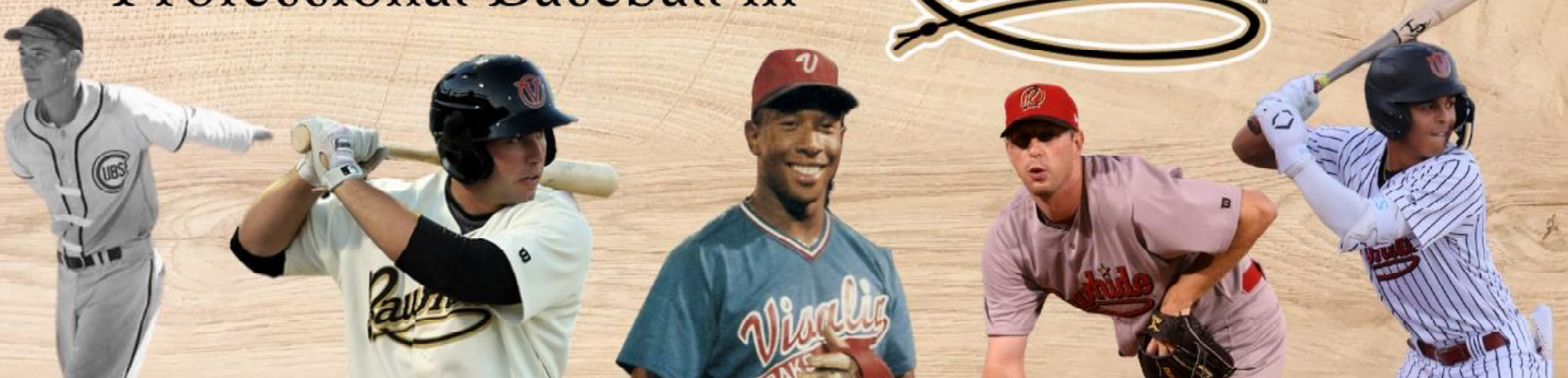


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