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"Pup"
Nelson
FCA
NorCal
Director
PAGE 8

Christian

KINGS COUNTY NewsMagazine

DEAR
NOELLE
SEEKING AFTER
God's wisdom



Page 10

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5

"A Voice for the Christian Community"

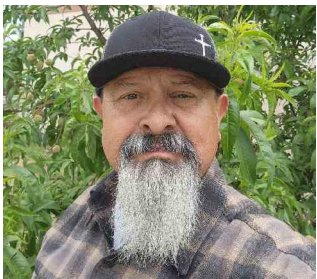
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Student Spotlight



Rusty Martin
KCS Senior P4

Believers in Business



Alfred Trujillo P6
Kings Gospel Mission

Faith in Action



Jose Alcivar P9
GCV Pastor

God and Government: a Trip to the Nation's Capitol

Hanford Christian
Eighth Grade Class

By: T.M. Dinkins:
County Publisher

God's holy word tells us that "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will" (Proverbs 21:1). This verse teaches us that God is able to accomplish his overarching purpose through the daily decisions made by the government. This does not mean that God agrees with all decisions made on the earth, but it does mean that he is able to orchestrate human events so they will result in his will being done. This makes human history interesting to experience because we can look back and see how God has been able to direct his longterm plans through the shortsighted choices of man (Romans 8:28).

One of the benefits of living in the modern age of technology is that Christians can stay informed about the decisions that are being made in the government. This helps us be discerning about the legislature and it helps us know how to pray accurately for our leaders (1 Chronicles 12:32; 1 Timothy 2:1-2). There are many ways to learn about the government's decisions and there are many ways to pray. One of the best



ways to learn about the way the country is run is to go on a visit to either the state capitol of California or the national capitol in Washington D.C. Recently the eighth grade class from Hanford Christian school was able to go on a trip to our national capitol. The class began their trip on Monday, March 24 and they returned to the Central Valley on Saturday, March 29.

I was able to communicate with one of the trip leaders, Mrs. Barbara Zystra. She was kind enough to answer my questions.

Can you tell us a little bit about the trip (Dates, places you visited).

We flew out of Fresno on returned home on Saturday, March 29. We visited so many places—many of the memorials (World War II, World War I, Navy, Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson, Vietnam, Korean, Martin Luther King, 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon, Washington Monument), the Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum, the Museum of the Bible, Arlington National Cemetery (we were able to lay the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown), the Capitol. We saw the White House, the Holocaust Museum, some Smithsonian Museums, the National Archives all before

heading to Pennsylvania to see Gettysburg, the Amish, and see Noah at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster. We flew out of Philadelphia after enjoying Philly Cheesesteaks and running up the "Rocky Steps" in front of the Philadelphia Art Museum.

Is this the first time you have been involved in the trip?

Did you go on it yourself? This is my fourth time visiting DC with a school group and my second time with Hanford Christian School.

What was it like to meet Representative David (PG 9)

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HAPPY
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KINGS COUNTY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<div>MAY</div> <div>1</div> <div>Thursday Night Market in downtown Hanford</div>	<div>MAY</div> <div>2-3</div> <div>Roots before Fruit Women’s Conference at First Baptist Hanford</div>	<div>MAY</div> <div>8</div> <div>Moms Night Out! Thurs- day Night Market down- town Hanford</div>	<div>MAY</div> <div>11</div> <div>Muffins for Moms at Grace Bible Church - 9:30 AM</div>
<div>MAY</div> <div>15</div> <div>Swedish Pea Soup & Pancake Supper in Kingsburg - 5:30 PM</div>	<div>MAY</div> <div>16</div> <div>Swedish Dinner - Coffee Pot Park - 5:30 PM</div>	<div>MAY</div> <div>17</div> <div>Swedish Festival Grand Parade - Downtown Kingsburg 10:30 AM</div>	<div>MAY</div> <div>27</div> <div>Hanford City Splash Pads are open</div>
<div>JUNE</div> <div>1</div> <div>Pops Concert in the Park - Downtown Hanford - 7 pm</div>	<div>JUNE</div> <div>7</div> <div>Carnegie Museum Car Show in Hanford - 8 AM</div>	<div>JUNE</div> <div>7</div> <div>Centennial Celebration in Downtown Hanford - 3 PM</div>	<div>JUNE</div> <div>20</div> <div>Rockin’ Downtown Lemoore - 6-9 PM</div>



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Suiting Up for Spiritual Battle pt. 1

Christ & Common Sense



T.M. Dinkins: County Publisher

Imagine a fireman rushing off to fight a fire without his suit and helmet. Imagine a policeman going on duty without a bulletproof vest or a fighter pilot taking off on a mission without any weapons. You would call them back. You would tell them,

"You forgot something! You can't leave without being ready to defend yourself!"

We all understand the need for people to defend themselves, but how often do Christians forget to defend themselves against our enemy? How often do believers start the day without reading God's word? How often do followers of Christ forget to put on our spiritual armor?

There are many reasons Christians live without adequate spiritual protection. Some don't realize how strong the enemy is. Others think they can get by without being burned. Many Christians are living life so fast, they forget to suit up each and every day. In reality, the believer who doesn't put on the armor of God is asking for trouble. He or she is heading off to battle without realizing how much they have left behind.

The book of Ephesians has a powerful chapter on spiritual warfare. It starts by calling the Christian to find their strength in the Lord and not themselves, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the might of His strength." (Ephesians 6:10, Legacy Standard Bible) The next command is to put on the full armor of God, "So that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." The next verse

gives a sobering explanation of the enemy. He is not limited to the physical realm, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood." The Christian's battle is a spiritual one. It is against, "The rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places."

The spiritual reality of the Christian's battle is one of the reasons it is so difficult to fight. As humans we are used to looking for cause and effect in the physical world. We are not used to looking out for spiritual cause and effect. We have to learn to look for how the world and the system of the world is being used by the enemy as a spiritual battlefield. The devil wants to tempt Christians to sin in any way possible. He wants them to question their faith (Gen. 3:1). He wants them to give into physical and spiritual temptation (Mt. 4:1-11). He wants them to forget that they are being tempted (2 Cor. 11:14).

Once a Christian realizes how dangerous the enemy is, he or she will be motivated to put on the armor of God. Ephesians 6:13 says, "Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm." The idea of standing firm is taken from the Roman military. Before I explain the pieces of armor, it is important to remember that the soldier was never supposed to go into battle alone. Imagine a regiment of soldiers standing next to each other in a rectangular pattern, with shields guarding them on all sides. The Christian is not to think of themselves as a lone soldier, taking on the enemy themselves. No, that would be foolish because the enemy is so large. The wise Christian recognizes their own weakness and stands firm with other believers.

The wise Christian knows their armor and they know how to use it. Ephesians 6:14 starts the list of defensive armor with the belt of truth. This is a core piece of armor that is based upon the truth of God. The

believer does not look to the world for truth, he or she looks to God and his word. The next piece of armor is the breastplate of righteousness. This is a reference to the actions of the believer. He or she can defend themselves against temptation by living a holy life. They should not place themselves in compromising situations, that would be going into battle without the breastplate. There are many Christians who think they can handle more than others. In reality, they have already started losing the battle because they have let their guard down. It is only a matter of time until they will be spiritually wounded.

One reason we know this armor is supposed to be defensive is because of the next item in the list. Ephesians 6:15 says, "as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace." (ESV) The idea here is of the boots used by Roman soldiers. These shoes often had nails at the bottom to help the soldier stand their ground. The spiritual meaning refers to the saving message of the gospel. A believer can not hope to resist the enemy if he has not committed his life to Christ. Once he has done so, the Christian will find immense strength knowing that his sins have been paid for. If the devil tries

to make him doubt God, the Christian can be strengthened by trusting in the saving work of Christ!

There are two other important parts of the armor of God, but they will have to wait until the next part of this series of articles. I trust that this short analysis of the armor of God will help believers be encouraged to get dressed for battle every day. Christians need to recognize that reading God's word, prayer, and fellowship with other believers are all a necessary part of being prepared for each day. It would be foolish for a soldier to leave the barracks without armor. It would be even more foolish for a Christian to leave his home without being armed for spiritual battle.

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



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Student Spotlight

By: T.M. Dinkins

Rusty Martin Senior at Kings Christian School

Congratulations on being so close to graduating from Kings Christian School. How long have you been studying at KCS? What has been your favorite part of being a senior?

I’ve been at KCS since I was in preschool and stayed all the way through senior year. My favorite part of this year has been making the most of the opportunities KCS offers, since it’s my last time getting to experience them rather than taking them for granted.

You have been on the basketball and baseball team at KCS this year. How has the school helped you improve as an athlete and as a team player?

The opportunity to play sports has been very important to me in high school. Not only did it help me develop as an athlete and in those sports, but I’ve been able to make memories that I’ll never forget. The lessons I’ve learned from team sports are those that I know will translate to my life for years to come.

One of the best parts of sports is the friendships you get to make with your teammates. What are some of the highlights of being on the basketball and baseball team this year?

It’s nice to be in an environment with guys that can push each other while still knowing they have my back no matter what when game time comes. One moment that sticks out is the basketball team’s win against Arvin. It was my first playoff win and a memory I’ll always get to share with those teammates.

Parents also play a huge role in a students athletic career. What are some of the ways your parents have helped you pursue sports during High School?

My parents have made lots of sacrifices these last four years to allow me to play sports. They made it a priority to make it to every game they could, which shows their love and support for me. They’ve also been flexible to work around my practices during the season and offseason.

The coaches and teachers at KCS emphasize the need to remember that all of life is done for the glory of God. What are some ways you have been able to grow in your relationship with God while you have been at the school?

KCS has been a huge part of my walk with the Lord. The school has not only given me the freedom to openly learn and follow Christ, but I’ve also been shown what it looks like to seek God on a daily basis. Going to camp each year was a great opportunity for me to grow and pursue God more in my life.

Is there a specific verse that has helped you stay focused on God recently?

Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” This verse has been a good reminder in this graduation season that I can trust and rely on the Lord at all times.

What are some of your favorite subjects at school? Are you planning on pursuing more education in one area after you graduate?

In college, I plan to pursue an education mainly in math and some science which are subjects that I have enjoyed in school.

Have you already started working during the off season? Where would you like to work this summer?

I haven’t started working yet since I’ve been busy playing baseball, but I would like to get a job somewhere this summer.

If you were to give any advice to future student athletes what would you tell them?

I would advise future student athletes to make the most of the opportunity. Playing sports is something I would recommend to students to stay active and get more involved. It is beneficial to develop athletic skills but it also teaches lessons that can be applied to other areas of daily life.





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Second Annual King of Kings All Star Event



Kings Christian School recently hosted its second annual Kings of Kings All-Star Event. The event celebrates the accomplishments of Christian senior basketball players from primarily Christian schools throughout the Central Valley and surrounding areas. The event's name highlights God's call for believers to "work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men" (Colossians 3:23-24).

The event honored 16 All-Star athletes—2 girls and 14 boys—who exemplify excellence both on and off the court. Each was awarded a plaque and a personalized warm-up shooting shirt in recognition of their contributions to their teams and communities.

The players represented schools from across the valley. Fresno Christian was represented by two female students, Ava Bishel and Devyn Wilkinson, along with three male students, Trevor Engelman, Chance Hertel, and Jeremiah Mason. Ava was a team captain for her team and won Defensive Player of the Year all four years. Devyn was team captain twice and 2nd Team All-League twice. Trevor Engelman was co-defensive player of the year and 2nd Team All-League.

Chance was 2nd Team All-League as well as having the privilege of being a part of the National Society of High School Scholars. Jeremiah Mason was 1st Team All League and his team's assists leader.

Kings Christian School had four seniors present: Elyas Miro, Trey Brower, Rusty Martin, and Caiden Irwin. Immanuel Christian School had Micah Vossler and Caden Joseph. Elyas Miro was 1st Team All League for 3 years. He is planning to attend Rome City Institute in Rome, Italy for basketball. Trey Brouwer was East Sierra League MVP. He plans to attend Grand Canyon University. Rusty Martin was 2nd Team All-League and will be attending Boise State University. Caiden Irwin is a 3x First Team All-League, 2x Team MVP, 4x honor roll student and he will be attending Ohio Christian University to play baseball.

The following players were the representatives from their schools: McKenzie Escalante and Jayden Chamblee (Stockton Christian - Jayden was league mvp). Rey Benedicto (Lemoore HS), and Christian Fernandez (Caruthers).

The boys' All-Star game was the evening's highlight, featuring dynamic gameplay that enthralled the spectators. The lead went back and forth between the Legends and the Black Knights. There was some impressive 3-point shooting as well as solid defensive blocks. The final score was 67-68. The game proved to be evenly matched between the Legends team coached by Kevin Dalafu and the Black Knights coached by Miguel Araya.

Kevin Dalafu, the event coordinator, reflected on the event's significance "It was such an honor to be with these young men and women as they represented not only their school but Christ. It was a night where we got to see their skills one more time as they glorified God and represented everything about Christian school athletics. The Kings of Kings All-Star Game was not just a celebration of athletic talent but a profound demonstration of the values cherished at Christian schools. It was a joy to watch these young men play as they glorified the King of Kings tonight."

Kings Christian School has now established the Kings of Kings All-Star Game as an annual tradition. Next year's event will showcase the excellence among young athletes in the region while strengthening the bonds within the Christian community.





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Believers in Business

Alfred Trujillo
Director Kings Gospel Mission Hanford

What is your role at the Kings Gospel Mission and how long have you been involved with the organization?

My role here at Kings Gospel Mission is as the Executive Director. The Kings Gospel Mission is a homeless shelter and sober living program. It is a non-profit which is located in Hanford, CA. I manage all the organizations operations including staff oversight, men's program and women's shelter for unhoused individuals.

Who is currently on the board of the Kings Gospel Mission and how are they wanting to help the organization serve those in need?

Board Members: Charles Feaver, David Stanfield, Elana Anzoleaga, and Paul de Jong.

The Board Members provide immense help reaching out to the community for fundraising, financial resources, and donations. Our Board has helped steer Kings Gospel Mission in a positive direction.

What are some ways the mission currently needs help from the community?

As a non-profit homeless shelter we currently are in urgent need of financial donations as well as everyday toiletry items (toilet paper), clothing, socks, food and hygiene products.

How did Kings Gospel Mission begin? When did it start?

Initially Kings Gospel Mission began as a 12-month faith based discipleship program. In 2015 it became the first homeless rescue mission in Kings County. The main focus has been serving the homeless in this county and offering job training and life skills, and spiritual guidance for those who choose to participate in our program.

What are some of the ways the mission serves men and women in the community?

Here is a partial list of some of the ways we serve: The shelter is available every day from 6PM to 7AM. There are work opportunities at Cornerstone Industries. In terms of education there is the New Song Academy for Recovery and Christian education. We provide room and board for men and women in Cornerstone Housing. There is also case management to connect to people to services. We provide transportation to important venues. We also serve men and women in our community by ministering to people on the streets and those who come on the property, provide emergency overnight shelter, food, clothing and friendship. We gear towards making individuals feel appreciated in a world that is so full of hardship.

What can you tell us about Cornerstone Industries? What are some of the success stories of people who have come through the program and been rehabilitated?

We have Thrift Store which help our shelter guests so they can volunteer and achieve valuable work experience and essential skills in finding future employment. They are able to use Kings Gospel Mission as a reference.

Four years ago our Men's Lead, Robert Gapin, found himself walking off the train in Hanford with no place to go. Someone directed him to the Kings Gospel Missions and he joined our 12 month discipleship program. After graduating our program he worked his way to Men's lead. Robert came from a life of hardships and by the Grace of God he now plays a role as a leader, a counselor, and he minister's to that men come to Kings Gospel Mission for help. Robert is grateful for KGM opening the door for him to have a new life that God prepared for him.

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 Kings Gospel Mission?

This verse offers purpose, comfort, hope and it teaches that God's love extends to the whole world. John 3:16 encourages people to believe in Jesus Christ. This verse also encourages people to have a deeper relationship with God.

What local churches are connected with Kings Gospel Mission? How does the local church help people hear the gospel and get the help they need?

Koinonia Church, South Valley, First Presbyterian and many more. Local churches teach and provide biblical guidance in helping people understand God's love. Local churches also have program designed to help people grow in there faith such as bible studies, small faith based groups, Celebrate Recovery Programs, and counseling.

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

Reach out to local agencies like Kings Gospel Mission, churches, and county Human Services Programs.

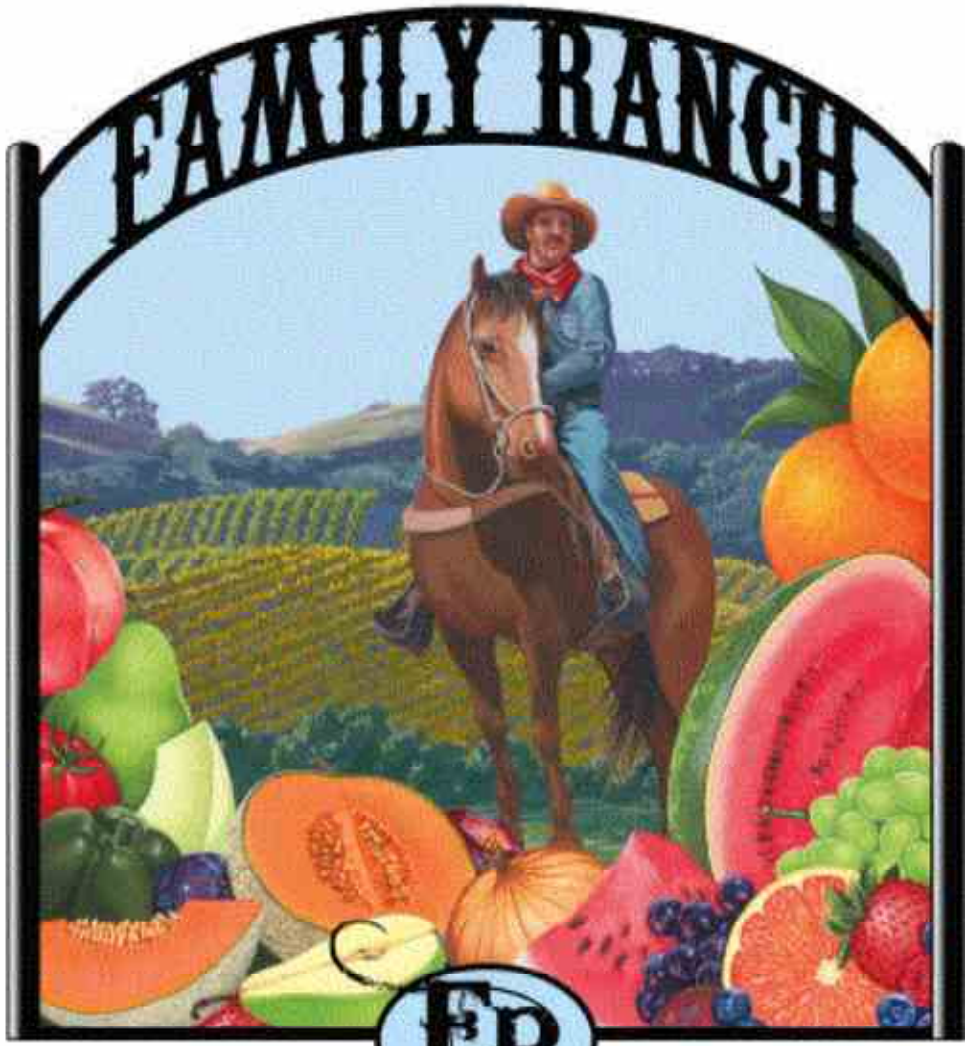
What is the process that someone will go through if they are admitted into the program and are able to do get help?

Kings Gospel Mission's initial process is for the individual to request to be part of the program. They are then asked to complete an application and meet with the Executive Director. Once enrolled we request the individual has a 30 day blackout (ie: no phone, not allowed to leave the premises) which allows the individual to focus on the program for the first 30 days and not worry about whats going on in the world. This gives the individual an insight of living a life involving biblical studies and mentoring by trained staff. They also have biblical curriculum throughout the week and they have the opportunity to attend Celebrate Recovery and church allowing the individual to grow spiritually with God.

What plans does the Kings Gospel Mission have as they look to move into the future this year?

We want to continue to provide services to the unhoused and share the gospel to those who are dealing with the hardships of this world. We are also praying that in the future we can start a Women's Discipleship program which is much needed.





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CHURCH & CULTURE:

Ron “Pup” Nelson
NorCal Director
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Can you include a short biography of your current position at FCA and different jobs you have had in the past?

Currently, I am the northern California Director for the Fellowship Of Christian Athletes (FCA). This means I oversee forty-nine counties, from the grapevine to the Oregon border. We have an FCA group in 13 of those counties.

My job is to Shepherd my current staff and pray in leadership boards and staff in the other counties. I was a Youth Pastor for over twenty years before jumping into FCA. Before that I was a single A baseball player with the Philadelphia Phillies and was doing really well until they started cheating by throwing sliders against me.

You recently spoke at a men's event at First Baptist Hanford. What was the main point of what you shared? How can men improve in living for Christ in our community?

When I was at First Baptist in Hanford, I encouraged the men to remember how big God is. He is Ephesians 3:20 big! He is able to do more than we could ever hope or imagine so we need to ask Big and treat him like he's big! I encouraged them to anticipate as Joshua told his team in Joshua 3:5, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes describes itself as “A community working to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.” What are some ways you have seen coaches and athletes impacted through FCA?

Our vision is to see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. This motivates me each day as we have seen coaches and athletes surrender their lives to Jesus and their trajectories in life have changed for the better.

What are some ways you have seen schools and the local community impacted by students who are a part of FCA?



We have seen how students have been empowered to lead their huddles on campus, and when the student leadership is strong, our huddles thrive and students are attracted to that. They want to know more of who this Jesus is. When students understand whose glory they are playing for it makes a difference in their game and it is evident in those who come to watch the athletes compete.

Hebrews 10:24-25 includes a command to stay connected to a local church gathering. How important is the local church to FCA? How does FCA encourage students to get connected with a local church?

The church is our endgame, as seen in our mission statement, where it says that we're going to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and partner with the local church. The church is the hope of the world.

FCA students can leverage their influence on public school campuses, the Holy Spirit works in the lives of students and we connect them to the local church.

FCA has been involved in Kings county for many years. What are some of the plans that you have for the high schools in our county?

We are asking the Lord of the harvest for Kings County. We're asking for coaches, athletes, pastors, board members, donors, speakers and staff.

There are hundreds of coaches and athletes that need to hear the gospel and we're looking forward these types of people to help us fulfill our vision mission.



FAITH IN ACTION:

Jose Alcivar

Pastor of the Spanish Ministry, Grace Church of the Valley



Where did the mission team travel, and what was the purpose of the trip?

This year, the Spanish Ministry's short-term mission team traveled to El Fuerte, Sinaloa, to assist with the logistical needs of the Portavoces Conference. By the grace of God, this conference has generated significant interest among Spanish-speaking pastors and teachers, primarily from Mexico City and surrounding nations. The team's purpose was to help prepare the facilities, serve the attendees, and offer encouragement to the members of the local church hosting the event.

How many individuals composed the team, and were any participants from the Kings County area?

The team was composed of six members from the Spanish congregation, each sensing a call from the Lord to serve His church in this way. Upon their return, the participants shared a deep sense of encouragement, having witnessed firsthand the Lord's work in the lives of men eager to be trained for the ministry of the Word. One team member, Miguel Alvarez—who also serves faithfully in our Spanish ministry and the local prison ministry—is from Hanford, along with his family.

How many attended the conference? How were the team's expenses covered?

The conference welcomed over 500 men, each devoting three days to the faithful exposition of God's Word by pastors marked by godliness and

an unwavering commitment to rightly dividing the Scriptures. Travel to El Fuerte required several vehicle rides and an international flight. The expenses associated with travel, lodging, and meals were fully provided through the generous contributions of church members who, upon learning of the trip's purpose and knowing the team members personally, were moved to support the effort. By the Lord's abundant provision, the total cost of the trip was met prior to departure.

Given Sinaloa's reputation for violence, why was this location chosen, and what safety measures were observed?

It is indeed well-known that Sinaloa ranks among the more violent regions globally. However, the location was not selected by the team; rather, El Fuerte has been the established site of the Portavoces Conference for several years. The team sought to meet the need presented rather than to choose a convenient setting. After consulting with trusted local pastors and contacts familiar with the area, the decision was made to proceed. While the general environment poses significant dangers, much of the violence is concentrated among organized criminal groups. The prayers of the congregation were crucial in sustaining the team, and the Lord's protection was evident throughout their time in Sinaloa. Precautionary measures were also taken, including traveling in groups, remaining within known areas, and staying under the guidance of local believers.

Are there notable differences between the Spanish spoken in that region of Mexico and that spoken in California's Central Valley?

Generally, there are few differences. While Spanish varies considerably across countries, the Spanish spoken in El Fuerte closely resembles that spoken in California's Central Valley, especially within Christian circles. Communication in matters of faith, therefore, remained clear and unhindered.

Are there plans for future mission trips?

The Spanish Ministry maintains a strong desire to continue supporting missionary efforts and to serve through future short-term trips. The Lord has graciously raised up a number of brothers and sisters who are eager to labor for the advance of the gospel throughout Latin America.

How might readers pray for the church in Mexico?

There is an urgent and ongoing need for laborers to be raised up for the harvest. A significant shortage of trained, qualified pastors exists, even as many churches and groups of believers cry out for faithful leadership. Cities such as Saltillo and Monterrey illustrate the depth of this need. Readers are encouraged to pray that the Lord would raise up men who embody the pastoral qualifications outlined in Scripture—men who are able to teach and who are committed to the faithful exposition of the Word. Prayer is also needed for the training of local leaders and the provision of sound theological resources that will serve the edification of the church in Mexico.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

God and Government: a Trip to the Nation's Capitol

By: T.M. Dinkins: County Publisher

Valadao in the nation's Capitol?

We were very blessed to meet with Congressman Valadao. He was able to talk with the students about his work in the House of Representatives. We were able to go into the "gallery" of the House and he discussed what normally goes on there. It was one of the highlights of the trip as the students were able to ask questions and more clearly understand what it is like to be a Congressman.

Was there one particular location that was the most popular or meaningful to the students?

It looks good. Their favorites were the Capitol (because of Congressman Valadao), the Udvar-Hazy Center, Sight and Sound Theater, and The Museum of the Bible.

Were there any surprising aspects of the trip? I didn't even think about the fact that we would be there one day before the peak of Cherry Blossom season. It was so beautiful!

Did you get a chance to go to the Bible museum while you were there?

The Museum of the Bible is always one of my favorite places to go. The "Walk through the Hebrew Bible" is very well-done, and it really helps to show the themes of Covenant and God's faithfulness to his people. My students had just done a research paper on a famous Church father, and may were able to find information on their "person" on the fourth floor, which was dedicated to the history of the Bible.

Has Hanford Christian School been going on these trips for many years?

When was the first trip and why does the school organize them for the students? I am not sure how long the school has been taking these trips. I love to help organize the trip because it gives the students a chance to see ways our country was founded on Biblical principles. It also gives students a chance to see and learn about the early founding fathers as well as how our nation is set up. I hope that they were able to learn and experience more about God and the world he created as well as their obligation to serve Him and glorify Him with the talents he has given them.



We want to hear from you. Send your questions to:
Noelle@ChristianNewsMagazine.com

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

Can we trust what the Bible says about science?

Dear Noelle,

My son is in second grade at public school. He asks me a lot of questions about how God made the world and what the Bible says about evolution. I don't know how to answer his questions and I'm not sure it even matters if he believes in evolution or not. Can we even trust what the Bible says about science? Or is there maybe a way for both evolution and creation to be true?
~ "Science Questions"

Dear "Science Questions,"

What great questions! Can we trust what the Bible says about science? Absolutely! And it's very important that we believe the whole Bible and not just parts of it. If there were errors of any kind in the Bible, then it would not be the Word of God, and we really would not be able to trust anything the Bible says. But the Bible is the Word of God, and it is because "all Scripture is breathed out by God" (2 Timothy 3:16) that we can trust it. This is not man's word. This is God's Word, and God cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18).

Not only is it impossible for God to lie, but God also knows everything there is to know (Rom. 11:33; Ps. 139:1-6). In the book of Job, Job was tempted to think that he knew better than God did. Then God showed up (Job 38-41), and for four whole chapters God asked Job a ton of questions that Job couldn't answer. Questions like, "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements—surely you know!" (Job 38:4-5) God knows the answer to every single one of these questions. Scientists try to seek out answers, but we have to remember that only God was there at the beginning of time. Why would we believe what scientists says about the beginning of time, when they are living thousands of years after the fact? Doesn't it make a whole lot more sense to believe what God says about the beginning, especially since He was there and He knows everything and He always tells the truth?

You also asked if evolution and biblical creation are compatible, if it's ok to believe in both. And the answer is no. There is no way to read the biblical account of creation in Genesis 1 and 2 and make evolution fit into what the Bible says. People who try to make it sound like the Bible says that each day of



creation was millions of years long are changing the meaning of the words to try to fit with evolution. But evolution at its core is the belief that there is no Creator, and evolution's explanation of the world purposely leaves God out of the picture. We can't twist the meaning of God's Word to try to make evolution fit with the Bible. The Bible means what it says, and we need to believe that it is true.

I think you should also know that there is a lot of scientific evidence, that creation scientists have discovered, that actually supports the biblical account of creation. There are excellent articles, videos, and books available on answersingenesis.org that answer all kinds of science questions related to the Bible. Many exciting discoveries in the fields of astronomy, geology, genetics, paleontology, biology, and archeology are being made that confirm what the Bible says. And it's helpful to know that many evolutionary scientists are having trouble believing in evolution because so many discoveries disprove this theory. I hope you will take the time to do your own research so that your faith can be strengthened and that you can help your son have confidence in God's Word as well.

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

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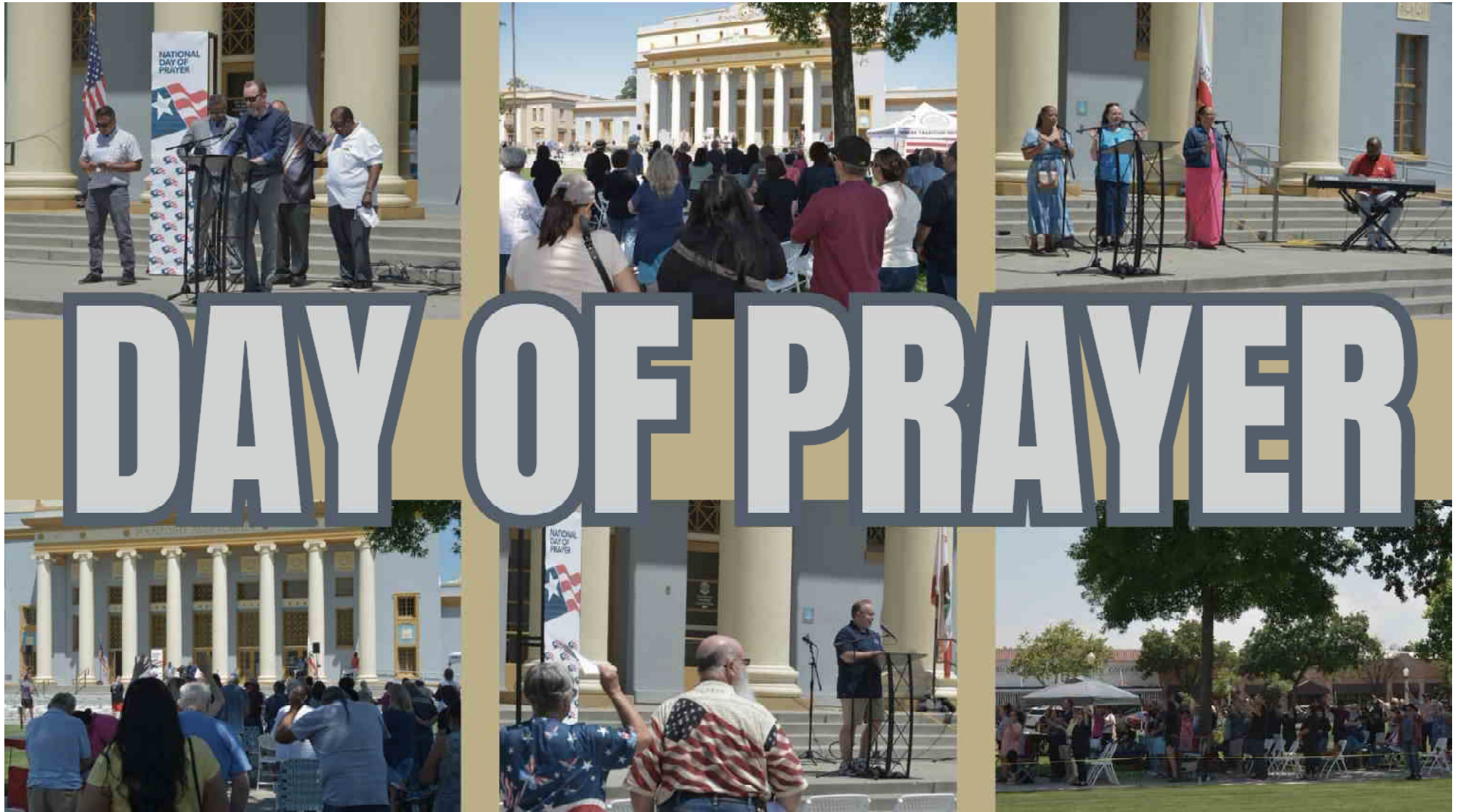


PET GUIDE



COMMUNITY





West Virginia Enacts Parental Rights and Student Protection Laws



BRAD DACUS

West Virginia – Staff attorney for West Virginia Gretchen Morrison and Policy Counsel Janice Lorrach recently sent letters to the West Virginia Legislature in favor of three bills. Two of those bills completed the legislative process and were subsequently signed by Governor Morrisey. PJI congratulates West Virginia for its efforts to protect students in public schools and to preserve the parental rights of its citizens to direct their children's lives as they see fit.

West Virginia passed HB 2129, a new “Parental Bill of Rights,” creating enumerated rights of parents in the

state. The new law confirms that parents may direct their children's medical care, religious and moral instruction, and educational program, and may access their minor child's school records. This law includes:

The right to direct the education and care of his or her minor child.

The right to direct the upbringing and the moral or religious training of his or her minor child.

The right to apply to enroll his or her minor child in a public school or, as an alternative to public education, a private school, including a school, a home education program, or other available options, as authorized by law.

The right to access and review all school records relating to his or her minor child.

The right to make health care decisions for his or her minor child, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Perhaps equally important, the new **Parental Bill of Rights** provides a private right of action for parents to sue for injunctive relief under the bill. It also provides a defense should the parents need to stand up for themselves in any court in the state. This stands in stark contrast to states like California, which have passed laws infringing on parents' rights to remain informed and make medical decisions for their minor children.

West Virginia has also passed SB 154 to prevent local school districts from mandating sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) instruction. In other states, such curriculum often results in students being forced to learn about the LGBTQ lifestyle and tends to promote those values as morally acceptable, often against the religious viewpoints of parents and students. Some states and school districts allow for parents to opt out of so called “Family Life Instruction” in health classes; other states, like Washington, have passed laws mandating ‘SOGI’ theories be taught without any opt-outs. The problem with these curriculum mandates is that they typically present only one side of controversial issues. Other states’ instruction on LGBTQ theories typically has a goal of changing the moral and religious views of students on human sexuality and gender identity to normalize an alternative lifestyle.

The new law also requires parents to be informed by a school administrator should their child make a request to alter his or her school records or request some sort of accommodation related to gender identity at the school. Unlike public schools in California, schools in West Virginia will not be hiding information related to a child's welfare from parents to further a political agenda. Pacific Justice Institute celebrates the West Virginia Legislature for working to pass common sense legislation banning instruction in classrooms designed to implement one controversial view on social theories. PJI also welcomes the state's instilling of parents' rights into its statutes, ensuring parents can raise their children as they best see fit.

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