

“THANKING GOD FOR ALL OUR MOMS ON MOTHERS DAY!”



Meet Pastor and Chaplain Stan Plooy of Lakeside Community Church, Hanford.

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God’s Call for Discernment



By T. M. Dinkins

Unity, Maturity, and Stability. Those were three stages of growth that pastor Scott Ardavanis encouraged believers to look for in local churches. Instead of getting on a cruise to nowhere, Ardavanis said believers need to be a part of putting God on display through the local church. He based his sermon on Ephesians 4:13, which says, “until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the

stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.” **Pastor Scott’s message was a fitting** way to begin a weekend full of encouraging hospitality and solid teaching from God’s word. Several churches from Kings County were represented at the inaugural For the Valley conference (April 19-20). Grace Baptist Church in Lemoore and Grace Bible Church in Hanford were two congregations that had members present at the Grace of the Valley campus in Kingsburg.

One of the highlights of the conference was listening to Dr. John MacArthur preach from God’s word on the topic of discernment. His more than fifty years of experience pastoring at the same church in Los Angeles has given him a unique vantage point to know how to effectively shepherd God’s people. **His first session focused on the need for discernment** in local churches. He emphasized how churches need to “examine all things; hold fast to that which is good;

abstain from every form of evil.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22) He said, “The culture is coming at us with a ferocity, in the media, that is unlike anything seen in history.” He mentioned that believers need to be like the apostle Paul who said, “Therefore we do not lose heart.” He explained that the original Greek term used for “do not lose heart” is actually one word which means “not giving into evil.” Christians today can resist evil by...

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Christ & Common Sense

Youth Sports: Four Questions to Ask



Pastor Tim Dinkins

In the last two months, youth sports have surged back to life. Parents have started their yearly tradition of driving kids to and from practices, games, and meetings. They are constantly asking questions, “When is the next practice?” “Why isn’t my son getting more playing time?” “What field is my daughter’s game at?”

These questions come fast and hard and many parents need to take the time to slow down and consider another group of questions that all Christian parents should ask when navigating the world of youth sports.

Question #1) How will youth sports affect our family?

It has become common for families to have multiple children in different sports, which means they are constantly on the go. If you find yourself driving frantically from practice to practice, eating fast food in the car, and microwaving pop-tarts to save time, then as the comedian Brian Reagan says, “You might need to loosen up your schedule!”

Ephesians 6:4 says, “Fathers do not provoke your children to anger.” It is very likely that your children will become tired, irritable, and be tempted to be disobedient if they are not getting time to sleep well, do their homework, and have one-on-one time with

their parents. Parents can make the mistake of thinking their kids will be angry if they don’t constantly do sports, but the reality is they may become frustrated by doing too many sports.

Question #2) Will this sport have any games or practices on Sundays?

My wife and I know, without a shadow of a doubt, that the spiritual growth of our children is always more important than their athletic development. The Bible makes it clear that the purpose of parenting is to raise their children in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord.” (Ephesians 6:4 ESV) This means Sunday mornings are reserved for spiritual training with our church family and we often find the rest of each Sunday is a great time to rest and reconnect with the family.

Question #3) Will this sport become an idol for me, my wife, or my children?

The apostle John’s closing words in his first letter are surprisingly simple, “My little children, keep yourself from idols.” An idol is anything that takes the place of worshipping God. Jesus told us the greatest commandment is to “Love the lord your God with all your heart, with all your might, and with all your strength and a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:38-39) This means that everything in life needs to be considered through the grid of whether it is adding to our love for God or distracting from it.

Question #4) What is motivating you as a parent to place your child in sports?

Is it because all his friends are in sports? Is it because you want him to get a college scholarship? Is it because you want bragging rights with your friends? God’s word tells us, “Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7) This is a good time for believers to think care-

fully about youth sports. We need to take a step back and realize that the rat race of the business world has infiltrated youth sports.

“ There is money to be made in the world of sports and many of those pushing sports in the culture have motives and goals that are in opposition to glorifying God and living according to God’s word. ”

Each family has to decide how to use the precious time given by God to raise their children. There is freedom to invest in different ways in youth sports, but each parent is responsible to ask Godly questions in order to raise their children in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Pastor Tim Dinkins serves at Grace Bible Church in Hanford. All his articles and many of his messages can be accessed at

christandcommonsense.com

Feel free to write him at

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AsktheExperts: FINANCIAL ADVISOR

As you know, interest rates have risen considerably over the past couple of years.

But what does this mean to you, as a consumer and as an investor?

From a consumer's standpoint, it's not hard to see the effects of higher interest rates. If you want to take out a mortgage or refinance an existing one, you'll find that it's considerably more costly, in terms of the interest you'll pay, than it

was a few years ago. And the same is true of car loans and credit cards. Paying these debts at higher rates can affect your cash flow, so while rates are high, you may need to make some important decisions about your overall budget and spending plans.

As an investor, though, you may find the effects of higher interest rates to be somewhat more complex. That's because higher rates can have a different impact on different types of investments, such as stocks and bonds.

When considering stocks, be aware that not all market sectors will respond the same way to higher interest rates. For example, the financial sector, which includes banks, insurance

companies and brokerage firms, may benefit from higher rates. On the other hand, smaller technology companies, which still must invest heavily in their businesses, may not do as well due to rising interest rates making it more expensive for them to borrow. And other sectors will respond differently to higher rates. Keep in mind, though, that there's great variance within sectors and among companies, so when you consider purchasing stocks, evaluate each choice on its merits and make sure it fits within your risk tolerance, time horizon and need for portfolio diversification. When you diversify your investment dollars, you can reduce the risk of market volatility affecting just one type

of asset, although diversification by itself can't protect against all losses.

With fixed-income investments, such as bonds, interest rate movements can have significant and direct impacts. When interest rates rise, the value of your current bonds will likely fall because new bonds can pay higher rates. However, you can also buy bonds at the new, higher rates and benefit from bigger interest payments.

Still, there's no guarantee that interest rates will stay elevated – in fact, the Federal Reserve has indicated that it might actually start cutting rates in 2024 – which is why it may be a good idea to build what's known as a "ladder" consisting of short-,

intermediate- and long-term bonds. Once you have your ladder in place, you'll have some protection from interest-rate movements. So, if rates were to keep rising, you could reinvest the proceeds of your short-term bonds in the new, higher-paying ones. But if rates level off, or even fall, you'll still benefit from your longer-term bonds, which typically (but not always) pay higher rates than short-term ones.

Of course, if you hold your bonds until maturity, you will continue to get the same interest payments, regardless of where market rates go.

In any case, it's useful to be aware of what's happening with interest rates – the more you know about the factors affecting your investments, the better off you'll be.

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Owners Kate Fox-Solis & Anyisia Tarin of Acai Bar Hanford

Q. How long have you and Anyisia been in business?

A. We launched the food truck in 2022. We started working on it in 2021. We originally wanted a brick and mortar store, but it wasn't in the budget. So we started going the mobile route and God really blessed our business. We had a great following and God helped make it happen.

Q. How did you see God's hand in making the move to Lacy and Irwin St.?

A. Anyisia found this location. The price was a little scary and I initially said "No." My mom always encouraged me to pray about things. I will ask her for advice and she will always tell me "Have you prayed about it?" So my husband and I started

praying and we felt like God pointed us in this direction. It's only been a few months and we're feeling very blessed and fortunate to be doing so well.

Q. How much work was needed to renovate the new location?

A. It took us about a year to do all the work. We started from scratch with an empty slate. It took a lot of patience. We had to put walls up and build a new bathroom. There was literally nothing here. We hired different contractors to put in the kitchen for us. We hired a local company to put in the cabinet and counter tops. Anyisia and I were super picky about the details. We wanted the space to stand out and feel like something different in Hanford.

Q. What does customer service mean to you?

A. I think it is huge. You can really change someone's day by being nice to our customers. I want our customers to be "wowed" when they come in. I want them to think that we have great customer service. I tell our staff we need to be consistent with the quality of the food and we need to have good attitudes as we serve people. We want people to feel relaxed and enjoy their experience here.

To me (Anyisia Tarin), customer service means ensuring that our customers have the most pleasant experience possible. Whether it's their first time or they've been here multiple times I want to make sure we are very attentive answering any questions they may have about any menu items.

Q. Is there a bible verse that inspires you in your job?

A. I really like Psalms 118:24. My mom would sing that day to me at the start of the day and it would make a huge difference. It would change the tone for the day. It means each day is a new day and comes with a promise that we have a new start. We need to wake up with a chance for a new day. We don't have to worry about the tomorrow. We can have peace and know that God will provide peace for us. He has done that. He has helped us get through day by day.

Q. What's one way you've seen God use your business to bless other people?

A. We've been able to create a space for people to enjoy. People have told us they love our product and love our staff. We also have a trailer and it has been great to go to schools and farmer's markets and churches and be able to connect with people and give back to them. We do a lot of donations.



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GOD'S CALL FOR DISCERNMENT From Front Page. By: T.M. Dinkins

keeping their focus on the gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:1-6).

Pastor MacArthur emphasized how Paul's strategy of resisting evil can help believers keep the standards of discernment intact. He taught that believers need to remember five things: 1) The superiority of the gospel, 2) The great mercy of God using imperfect people to accomplish his will, 3) the need for a pure heart, 4) the need to handle Scripture accurately, and 5) to give the results to God and not men.

Another highlight of the conference was listening to Pastor Costi Hinn's message on discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit. Costi's testimony provides ample evidence of someone who used to emphasize misguided approaches to hearing from God, instead of looking primarily to the word of God. His message included four examples of ways people lack discernment in discerning God's will. All of these strategies were done by pastor Costi before he realized that the Spirit of God primarily speaks through Scripture.

The first misguided approach is sitting in silence until God speaks audibly. Costi spoke from experience. He humorously said, "If you do this you may be sitting in silence for a very long time." Another misguided approach is waiting for "a still, small voice of God." This is when people

wait for an inner feeling to guide their decision. Instead of a subjective approach to seeking God's will, Costi would recommend searching Scripture and seeking wise counsel. A third approach is one he described as "reading the tea leaves." This is when someone looks for a special sign from God to make a decision. 1 Peter 1:9 says, "And we have as more sure the prophetic word, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place." Costi's point was that God's word provides greater clarity on issues than looking for a special event to take place.

The last misguided approach that pastor Costi mentioned was one he calls the "thumb game." This is when someone asks God to direct them by opening the Bible to a random page and claiming a promise or a blessing from God. This is not an approach that he recommends people take. Costi reminded those in attendance that the Spirit of God's guidance will not be split from God's word. So believers should carefully study God's word to know the spirit's leading.

The goal of the conference was so "the Word of God might be magnified and God may be glorified." Those who attended were moved towards this goal with invigorating times of worship, encouraging hospitality, and thought-provoking teaching from men whose lives have been changed by the love of God and by a careful study of Scripture.



Above: Dr. John MacArthur, Pastor Costi Hinn and Worship Team



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Faith in ACTION



Q. What is your role at the Refuge?

A. Director and CoFounder

Q. How did the Refuge start and get to where it is today?

A. Refuge started 11 years ago. My wife and I were both teaching in Armona and noticed that once our old students reached a certain age, they would begin to change. Their joy would dissipate, the color of their clothing would change, and they would often begin a lifestyle of drugs or gangs. One day after school, my wife was visiting with a former student after school. She noticed based on his clothes and demeanor that he had slipped into the gang lifestyle. She asked him, "Giovanni, why did you make that choice?". His response

was, "Mrs. Haley, there's nothing else for us here." This lit a fire in our hearts and through much prayer we sought to provide something for Armona's youth. We began opening up the middle school gym twice a month for sports activities, dinner, and to build relationships with the youth. Over the course of the next few years "open gym" became Refuge Youth ministry welcoming in upwards of 180 kids each night and preaching the gospel each night. In 2019, God placed new dreams on our hearts for a Refuge House, a safe place where kids could come after school and spend time with friends, receive homework help, mentorship, dinner, and hear a nightly gospel message of hope. In September of 2020, through many miracles and the generous support of individuals, businesses, and churches, Refuge House opened. Each day we welcome 40-70 students 4th grade and up and have seen the hearts of Armona's youth be turned to Jesus. We noticed a need to share Jesus with the "little ones" of Armona and in the fall of 2021, we launched Refuge Awanas, a free weekly Bible club for K-8th

grade students. This year we have over 130 students enrolled in the program and provide dinner, games, and Biblical teaching each and every week. We have future dreams of building a larger facility one day to provide more for the community, and are trusting in God's timing and faithfulness.

Q. What can you tell me about the Easter Egg Hunt?

A. The Easter Egg Hunt was on Saturday morning, 3/16, which is significant because John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him, shall not perish but have eternal life." We had the event at 10 am. That allowed all the eggs to be hidden and all the volunteers to get ready. It let them not have to wake up too early. We had all the eggs hidden. It took place at the Armona park. There were more than 7,000 eggs given away. We had more boxes than that and some showed up at the end. There were more than 500 people who came. People from all over Kings county came. There were people from Corcoran and some even came from Visalia and outlying areas.

Q. What were some of the reactions you had from the people who came?

A. The families were very apprecia-

tive. We gave away 20 bikes by some really generous givers. The kids were super excited. Redeemed Rides with Mr. Joe Cordero was a part of it. They were new bikes. The kids were really excited. I wasn't sure if they were more excited about the bikes or the eggs!

Q. How many years have you been doing the egg hunt?

A. This was our fourth year and we were helped out by the Armona Fire Department, Redeemed Rides, J&L's Bounce Houses and many amazing individual donors.

Q. Is there a theme verse that guides you in your ministry?

A. Psalm 46 is one of our theme verses. It says, "God is our refuge and our strength." That has been huge in terms of keeping God in the center. Mark 12 says we are to love the Lord the Lord our God with all our hearts and we are to love our neighbor as ourselves. That has been a guiding light to us. We want to be a refuge. We want to be a safe place, but we also want to make sure 1) we are loving God with all our heart and 2) We want to love others. If we keep our focus on that it will help us focus on that because when things get stressful we can remember why we are here.

For the King of Kings: Inaugural All-Star Basketball Tournament

Kings Christian School recently hosted its inaugural King of Kings All-Star Event, a celebration of the accomplishments of senior basketball players from 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 not only highlighted the exceptional basketball skills of senior student-athletes from Christian schools but also their Christian character. The festivities began with a professional photo shoot, where athletes wore their high school jerseys for one the last time, followed by a skills competition, a three-point contest, and the All-Star game.

Ronnie Roche of Kings Christian School and Obed Zuniga from Stone Ridge Christian School captivated the audience with their dribbling and shooting skills, with Obed clinching the skills competition

in a tightly contested head-to-head matchup. The three-point shootout was fiercely competitive as well, with Mikah Toplezninkas of Immanuel High School emerging victorious, narrowly defeating his teammate Jake Horn in the final round.

The event also honored 24 All-Star athletes—10 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: Ronnie Roche, Deonte Reynolds, Alexis Limon, Abigail Camp and Lael Jacobs from Kings Christian School, Tad Tibbett, Mikah Topezninkas, Jake Horn, Sidney Azua and Jade Laemmlen Immanuel High School, Obed Zuniga and Brock Richards from Stone Ridge Christian School, Mateo Borges and Justin Stroud from Central Valley Christian School, Bailey Miller from Clovis Christian.



The boys' All-Star game was the evening's highlight, featuring dynamic gameplay that enthralled the spectators. Whether it was acrobatic finishes from Ronnie and Brock, long distance shots from Mikah, Mateo, and Jake, dynamic drives from Bailey, Obed, and Deonte, or high flying dunks from Tad and Justin, the game delivered multiple memorable moments.

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."

Student Spotlight

Students Spotlight - Case Anker - Senior at Central Valley Christian



Student Spotlight - Case Anker - Senior at Central Valley Christian

“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.” These powerful words from Joshua 1:9 flooded the mind of Case Anker throughout the football season this year. General Joshua’s call for his men to have courage helped the Central Valley Christian senior as he battled through a grueling season, which ended with the Cavaliers claiming their first football state championship in the Division II school’s history.

When asked what it was like being on Coach Mason Hughes’ team this year Anker answered, “It was a once in a lifetime experience.” He said his favorite part of the game was “being around the guys. They say there is a brotherhood with football that you don’t get with other sports. You can’t replicate it.” Number 54 said his favorite sport is baseball, but he loves the team aspect of football, “It is something special.”

Anker has been attending Central Valley Christian (CVC) ever since pre-school. He played two years in middle school and this was his fourth year playing for the high school team. While playing on the defensive line in the tenth game against Reedley’s Immanuel High School, Anker was hit hard in the ribs. He had to sit out the next two games and after talking it over

with his parents, Case and Brooke Anker, he decided to come back and play the last four games of the season.

He learned an important lesson about the importance of teammates while he was sidelined. He watched while his teammates dug deep and filled his spot on the line. He said, “People stepped up and the guys performed even when I was out.”

Anker believes God answered his prayers to recover from his injury because he was cleared to play in the last four games of the season against Tulare Union, Lemoore, Simi Valley, and Los Gatos. He said, “I definitely believe God answered my prayer. I thought my season was over, but my ribs did get better. The last two games of the season were better. I prayed about it. I talked to my parents about it and. God answered my prayers to enable me to come back.”

The final game was played at Pasadena Community College with a nail-biting final score of 45-42. The Cavaliers were up by several touchdowns at half-time, but then Los Gatos slowly came back. CVC’s offense remained solid in the second half so they were able to keep the lead all the way to the final whistle.

When asked about his plans for the future, Case mentioned he wants to study Ag science and play baseball for a community college. His dream is to play division I baseball, like his brother Jack who is a starting pitcher for the Fresno State Bulldogs. Anker appreciates many things about living in Kings county. His father is a third generation dairy farmer. Case loves being in a good farming community. He has good neighbors



who are willing to help out. He also likes being able to take their camper to the coast and enjoy a weekend away.

Case attends Visalia Christian Reformed church and one of his favorite verses is Colossians 3:23, which says, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (English Standard Version)



Meet Pastor Stan Plooy and wife Jeany: Pastor and Chaplain in Kings County Lakeside Community Church, Hanford.

Pastor Stan and Wife Jeany Plooy

Q. How long have you been serving as a pastor here in Kings County?

A. I first started in full time ministry in Kings County as a youth director for the Christian Reformed Church in 1997. I Was on staff there for 10 years with my ministry role changing from youth ministry to adult ministry. In 2007, I served as an associate pastor at a church called The Gathering in Sacramento, CA until 2011. I then was called back to Hanford to serve as senior pastor for (LCC) Lakeside Community Church. I'm going on my thirteenth year serving at LCC. In 2016, I joined the clergy team as a chaplain for Hanford Adventist Health Hospital and the Complex Care Clinic, which is at the old Sacred Heart Hospital.

Q. Could you describe what it is like serving as a chaplain at Adventist Health Hospital?

A. Serving as a chaplain for Adventist Health has been a second calling for me. I love working with the Palliative Care Team and the Complex Care Clinic Team. As a chaplain, I listen carefully to the here and now needs of the patients and their family members and offer emotional and spiritual support. Often I am given the privilege of praying for patients and their families and through those prayers, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared.

Q. If you could choose one highlight from your ministry at Lakeside Community Church, what would it be?

A. I think the best part of serving at Lakeside Church is the freedom to be who God created me to be and the freedom to preach the pure Word of God with passion, conviction and a complete dependence on

the Holy Spirit. Lakeside Church also gives me the freedom to serve within the community and the opportunity to touch so many lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

Q. How has your wife helped you serve the Lord more effectively?

A. When God brought Eve to Adam to help him fulfill God's purpose for his life and to be the perfect helpmate for Adam, God knew what he was doing. The same is true for me in regards to my wife Jeany. She is the perfect wife for me and a very godly woman. I'm known as the pastor of Lakeside Community Church, but it's really a team ministry she shares with me. She is a great prayer warrior and there are times people within the church will seek her out before they seek me for pastoral care. I am so blessed to have her by my side, serving the Lord with me.

Q. What passages have you been preaching on recently and how have they helped your congregation serve the Lord?

A. For the past year, I have been leading my congregation through the book of Luke. We have been learning about the life, the teachings, and the miracles of Jesus. The

book of Luke is blessing to our congregation and is helping us carry out the hope of salvation to our family, friends and community.

Q. Is there a verse from the Bible that inspires you as a pastor?

A. The verse that speaks to me most is Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. These verses have served me well over the years. They keep things in perspective as I continue to serve the Lord.

Q. What advice do you have for Christians serving the Lord here in Kings County?

A. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. This means to put God first in your life, to fill your thoughts with his desires, to take his character for your pattern, and to serve and obey him in everything. When we as Christians do this on a daily basis, we will experience God do more than we can possibly imagine in our lives and we will be filled with tremendous joy.

Kings County Lakeside Community Church, Hanford.



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KINGS
COUNTY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<div>May 9</div> <div>CHRIST TOMLIN Will be performing at the Savemart Center in Fresno</div>	<div>May 12</div> <div>Muffins with Mom - Grace Bible Church Hanford - Come celebrate mom's and motherhood with a tasty treat</div>	<div>May 16</div> <div>Thursday Night Out- reach - Stop by the Grace Bible Church booth at the Thursday night market</div>	<div>May 17</div> <div>Kings Christian School Carnival - Students and Families are invited to this special event.</div>
<div>May 25</div> <div>God's Breadbox - Lemoore Nazarene Church - Come Saturday morning at 8 am for a free box of food for those in need living in Kings county</div>	<div>June 1</div> <div>Caruthers Car Show and BBQ Throwdown - Saturday 9:00 am at the Caruthers fair grounds</div>	<div>June 2</div> <div>Pops in the Park, Sunday at 6:30 pm in the Hanford Civic Park</div>	<div>June 8</div> <div>Carnegie Museum Car Show - Saturday from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm located at 109 E. 8th St. in Hanford</div>
<div>June 13-16</div> <div>June 13-16 Kings Fair will be hosting "Rides, Ribbons and Harvest Moons"</div>	<div>June 22</div> <div>God's Breadbox - Lemoore Nazarene Church - Come Saturday morning at 8 am for a free box of food for those in need living in Kings county</div>	<div>June 28-30</div> <div>Kings County Asian Experiences at the Carnegie Museum - Friday - Sunday 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm</div>	<div>August 3</div> <div>August 3 Cops in Cars in Lemoore - Saturday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm located at the Lemoore Sports Complex</div>

Saturday, May 11

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

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By: Dennis Cox
CEO of Planet Solar

Ask the Experts: SOLAR

Expert Insights: Choosing the Right Solar Installation Company

As someone who has dedicated over two decades to the solar industry, I've witnessed the incredible growth and potential of solar power firsthand.

However, with this growth comes a responsibility to navigate through a landscape sometimes clouded by deception and fraud. I want to share my expertise and guide you on how to choose the right solar installation company for your needs.

First and foremost, let's talk about vetting the company. When considering a solar installation project, it's crucial to thoroughly research the company you're planning to work with. Look for a track

record of successful installations, satisfied customers, and industry certifications. One common pitfall to avoid is falling prey to unsolicited door-to-door sales pitches. While legitimate companies may engage in direct marketing from time to time, it's essential to approach these encounters with caution. With being in the industry as long as I have, I've seen firsthand the deceptive tactics used by some individuals claiming to represent solar companies.



When engaging with a solar salesperson, be sure to ask the right questions. Inquire about the company's experience, credentials, and past projects. Request references and proof of licensing and insurance. Legitimate companies will be transparent and forthcoming with this information. You want to be sure the sales person you are speaking with not only works for the company they are representing but also the same one doing the installation and service. Don't be

pressured into making rushed decisions or signing contracts without due diligence.

Furthermore, verify the company's legitimacy by confirming the existence of a brick-and-mortar location. Having a physical office allows you to interact with the company in person, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of their operations. It also serves as a safeguard against fly-by-night operators who may dis-

appear once they've secured your payment.

As stated, in an industry plagued by fraud, it's essential to remain vigilant. As I always say, "Buyer beware." Educate yourself about solar installation, understand your options, and seek advice from trusted experts. By taking proactive steps to vet companies and asking the right questions, you can protect yourself against deceptive practices and ensure a smooth solar installation experience.

I believe in empowering customers with the information they need to make informed decisions about their energy future. As you embark on your solar journey, remember that the choice of installation company is critical. Trust your project to a reputable and established company, where expertise meets integrity. Together, let's harness the power of the sun and pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future.

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

We want to hear from you. Send your questions to:

Noelle@
ChristianNewsMagazine.com

Dear Noelle,

I have always wanted to feel beautiful, but there's no way I will ever be able to compete with the glamor girls around me. I usually try to hide under a lot of layers so no one will look at me, but on Sunday the pastor said something about inner beauty being more beautiful than outer beauty. What was he talking about?

~ "Plain Jane"

Dear Jane,

How beautiful you are depends on what God says; it's not based on what you look like or what other people think. The world tells us that beauty is external. It's what you wear; it's how you do your hair; it's the provocative way that you carry yourself and try to get attention. But the Bible says something very different in 1 Peter 3:3-4, which says, "Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear—but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious." I love that last phrase that the beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit is very precious in God's sight. This means that God is not only pleased with this kind of beauty, but it is this inner beauty that God wants us as women to pursue.

God's word instructs women to be gentle because gentleness is beautiful in God's sight. This is so different than the attitudes that the world applauds. Women of today are told that they have to compete with men, and so they have to be strong and loud and brash. At school, if you want to be popular, you have to "roast" other people and tear them down. But God says that's not beautiful; kindness is, gentleness is, a quiet and peaceful spirit is. And the best part is that this is imperishable beauty. That means it will never fade with time; if anything, it grows with the passing of time as you grow in godliness and grace.

Worldly beauty has to resort to all kinds of tricks to try to keep up the image that beauty isn't fading with time. So women spend a lot of money and time on make-up, salon visits, spa treatments, designer clothes, cosmetic surgery, and photo-shop or airbrushing their photos in order to hide the inevitable aging that is happening. This worldly beauty is fake. The Bible tells us it's deceptive in Prov. 31:30, which says, "Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised." Worldly beauty is not only fake, it's passing away. It's not worth your time.

So, how can you become a woman of imperishable, lasting beauty and gentleness? This verse in Prov. 31:30 tells us: it's by fearing the Lord and not man. Make it your aim to please the Lord, and you will not fall into the trap of pursuing worldly beauty. Make it your aim to please the Lord, and the result will be that you will become very beautiful in God's sight as you grow in godliness.

By His grace,

Noelle

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

SEND IN YOUR LETTER TO:

Noelle@
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CANCER. Nobody likes to talk about it, but when it touches you or someone you love, it's all you can think about.

It's a scary word, but it's one that's becoming more common. In fact, cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States. And it's not just older people who get it anymore. Young people are getting it too. So it's important to know the signs and symptoms of cancer, and to get it checked out as soon as possible. Because if you catch it early, you have a much better chance of beating it. And that's the good news. There's a lot of progress being made in the fight against cancer. New treatments are being developed all the time. And more people are surviving than ever before. So don't let the word scare you. Get the facts, and take control of your health.



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4945 W. Cypress Ave., Visalia, California
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Hanford Cancer Center Location
1443 W. 7th St., Hanford, California
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TheMarketPlace

Local Business Guide

KINGS COUNTY & THE CENTRAL VALLEY

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