

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Heb. 11:1



Meet Brad Dacus President of PJI (Pacific Justice Institute)

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# Christian

KINGS COUNTY NewsMagazine

DEAR NOELLE SEEKING AFTER God's wisdom



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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 9

"A Voice for the Christian Community"

www.ChristianNewsMagazine.com

## Believers in Business



Tim Koelewyn P6 Owner of Workingman's

## Student Spotlight



Daniel Gomez P9 QB at Hanford High

## Faith in Action



Rickey Dale P8 Serving in Lemoore

# Walk for Life, Pray for Change



T. M. Dinkins Kings County Publisher

Car horns were honking, people were waving, and even the sun seemed to be smiling down on us as we took part in this year's Walk for Life. Crossroads Pregnancy Center (CPC) hosted a joyful event filled with parents, volunteers, and a host of happy, energetic children who carried the banners and signs through the streets of Hanford supporting the sanctity of human life!

As usual, the fundraiser began with everyone meeting at Calvary Chapel in Hanford. The church is on

Douty Street, right across from Hanford High, which makes it easy to enjoy the walk to the Crossroads Pregnancy Center, which is located just over a mile away in downtown Hanford.

Many of the people in attendance on Saturday, October 19th, were grateful for the recent drop in temperature. One older man said he might not have been able to take part in the walk if it was still too hot. Thankfully, the weather was nice and cool so that people could enjoy a pleasant stroll and champion an important cause at the same time.

The Crossroads Pregnancy Center has been upholding the life of children and adults since even before it opened to the public in 1985. For almost forty years the organization has been able to pursue its mission of sharing the "love of Christ in word and deed with anyone experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, post abortion syndrome or lifestyle distress." Many of the people at the Walk for Life have either been involved with CPC or are currently taking part in some of the many volunteer opportunities that the center makes available. From counseling new mothers to providing

clothing for newborn infants, the center has found many ways to help those in need.

At this year's Walk for Life, Pastor Gene Pensiero Jr. opened up the pre-walk program with an encouraging explanation about CPC and the Walk for Life. He was followed by Kathryn Enloe, the current executive director for CPC and Pastor Frank Caudell. Kathryn shared some poignant passages from Scripture that refer to the importance of the sovereignty of God. Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (English Standard Version) Kathryn asked the question, "How does God use evil for good?" Her answer was that it can create godly sorrow as well as a desire for prayer. Both of those points were very applicable to the current situation regarding abortion in California.

Pastor Frank Caudell wrapped up the pre-walk festivities with a prayer for those in attendance and for the overall work of Cross-

CONTUNUED ON PAGE 4



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# KINGS COUNTY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**NOVEMBER 1**  
**Celebrate Recovery** - 4:30 pm - River of Life church Laton

**NOVEMBER 2**  
**Fall Craft Sale** - 8 am - 2 pm; Grace Baptist Church Lemoore - 946 Daphne Ln. Lemoore, CA

**NOVEMBER 2**  
**Family Carnival and BBQ Cook Off** - 12:00 pm - Melody of Praise Christian Center, Visalia

**NOVEMBER 2**  
**Discernment in Discipleship Conference** - Grace Church of the Valley in Kingsburg

**NOVEMBER 7**  
**SoCal Men's Camp** - 3:00 pm - Sugar Pine Christian Camp

**NOVEMBER 12**  
**Christmas Tree Walk** - Downtown Hanford

**NOVEMBER 15-16**  
**Every Woman Conference** - Koinonia Church

**NOVEMBER 17**  
**Family Game Night** - 5:30 pm - Grace Bible Church Hanford

**NOVEMBER 23**  
**Winter Wonderland opens in downtown Hanford**

**NOVEMBER 28**  
**20th Anniversary Race Against Hunger** - 8:00 am Downtown Garden Plaza, Visalia

**DECEMBER 8**  
**Christmas Pageant** - 6:00 pm - Grace Church of the Valley Kingsburg

**DECEMBER 15**  
**Christmas at the Fox Theater in Hanford** - 4:00 pm



## Valley Views

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Tim Koelewyn - 50 Years of Business

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**Kings County Publisher: Tim Dinkins**

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

**Tim@ChristianNewsMagazine.com**

**www.ChristianNewsMagazine.com**

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# Compassionate Parenting

## Christ & Common Sense



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

**Most of the time I love being a parent, but if I am honest, there have been times when it has felt like a labor of love.** This was especially true early on in my parenting career because that is when I realized that my attitude towards my kids was too focused on me and my desire to control them. This was driven home to me when my wife and I attended a parenting conference at a church in Santa Clarita. The conference was simply called "Parenting" and it featured a pastor named Paul Tripp. There were many helpful points made, but the one that had the most lasting impact on me was that Biblical parenting is not about having control. It is about having compassion.

**Pastor Tripp explained that many Christian parents** find themselves frustrated because they think they should be the ultimate authority in the life of their child. If a child disobeys, the parent often takes it personally and this can immediately cloud their judgement. The child can

also become frustrated because they know that their parents are not happy with them. When both the parents and children are frustrated it can lead to an unhealthy situation. The Bible actually gives a warning about this. Ephesians 6:4 says, "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord." (English Standard Version) I remember meditating on that passage many times because my children were not responding well to my instruction.

**It was during the parenting conference that I realized my attitude about parenting was wrong.** I was trying to control my children instead of showing them compassion. I was trying to be the ultimate authority in their lives instead of our heavenly Father. Pastor Tripp described the correct, Biblical attitude of parenting as that of an ambassador who points his children to the King of Kings instead of seeking ownership over the children's lives.

**The apostle Paul used the example of Christians acting as an ambassador of Christ in 2 Corinthians 5:19, when he wrote,** "So then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as God is pleading through us. We beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." An ambassador is someone who points others to a nation or kingdom. Christians are to be ambassadors of the heavenly kingdom of Jesus Christ.

**When this principle is applied to**

**parenting** it means that parents are to have a compassionate attitude towards their children by pointing them to God. If a child disobeys, the father should not think this is a poor reflection on him and his kingdom. He should see it as an opportunity to point the child to God and His kingdom. God is the one who makes the rules. He has made it clear in the Bible that children are to obey their parents because God says so, not because the parents say so (Ephesians 6:1-3).

**Understanding how to parent as an ambassador of Christ changed my entire outlook** on parenting. Instead of taking a child's disobedience personally, I saw it as a way to tell them about God. He is perfect and holy and he wants his children to obey him. That means they need to obey their parents. This is not supposed to be negative and depressing for the child. Ephesians 6:3-4 makes it clear that children will be rewarded if they obey their parents, "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

**When my outlook on parenting changed,** it had a significant impact on how our children responded. Instead of being upset that I was frustrated with them, they began to see that I was trying to point them to God. My attitude become more compassionate and they responded much better to this compassionate

atmosphere of parenting because they could tell I was not forcing my will on them. I was pointing them to God and his standards for living.

By the grace of God, I have continued to improve as a parent over the years. There are difficulties and trials in life, but they don't define our home or our parenting. God has worked on my heart and he has given me much more peace as a parent. And for that I am incredibly grateful.

**Pastor Tim serves at Grace Bible Church in Hanford. He can be reached with questions and comments at [timothydinkins@gmail.com](mailto:timothydinkins@gmail.com).**

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# Walk for Life, Pray for Change

Continued from front page:

roads Pregnancy Center. Once the prayer was done, different groups of walkers began the trek to downtown. Some people who couldn't make the walk were able to drive to CPC in order to see the counseling center and the office space. The atmosphere along the walk and in the center was upbeat and encouraging. People were excited to see what CPC is doing in the community.

**One of the highlights of the day was returning to Calvary Chapel for a taco lunch and Superior Dairy ice cream.** Tacos Pelavacas Catering was able to feed all in attendance with a delicious assortment of carne asada, al pastor, and pollo preparado meat. There was also an opportunity to support a coffee company called Seven Weeks Coffee, which donates a part of their income to pro-life causes.

**Several people in attendance were asked what they thought of the event.** One person said, "I thought it was great! It brings attention to the voiceless people in society." Another person said, "It is a good way to support life. Of all the ways that we could support life I enjoy this because it's good exercise, there is good food afterwards, and there are lots of fun things to do." One attendee said they have been to another walk for life event and they think this one is better. They said, "It is significant that we are able to walk from a church to a crisis pregnancy center. It is a great way to bring churches together to support an important cause."

**Even though the Walk for Life is done, the need for prayer continues.** Please join us in praying for CPC and other crisis pregnancy centers throughout the country as they work to protect life.





**Terry & Georgia Wild  
Founders/Publishers**

Encourage  
one another  
and build  
each other up,  
just as in fact  
you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

# We value your feedback

**Christian NewsMagazine and website wants to play a transformative role in strengthening Kings County Christian community by offering a shared platform for news, resources, encouragement, and connection.** In an age where digital communication often dominates, many local communities still lack dedicated media channels that address their unique spiritual and communal needs. Christian NewsMagazine and website is tailored to the community, we can foster unity, provide relevant information, and inspire individuals to deepen their faith and serve one another.

**The primary benefit of a Christian NewsMagazine and website is its ability to bring unity within the community by creating a shared space where individuals and churches can engage.** With this medium, members from different congregations can come together to celebrate events, ministries, and achievements, bridging the gaps between denominations. Local churches can share news on upcoming events, service opportunities, and worship gatherings, encouraging attendance and participation beyond their own members. By highlighting common values, the newspaper and website can reinforce the sense of belonging and shared purpose that strengthens the local body of Christ.

**Additionally, this publication can serve as an invaluable resource for both practical and spiritual needs. We offer feature articles on Christian living, Bible study insights, and inspirational stories of faith that uplift readers throughout the week.** Practical resources such as job postings, volunteer opportunities, and community aid initiatives could help those in need, encouraging Christians to actively serve each other in tangible ways. With sections dedicated to health, finances, and family, the paper promotes holistic well-being, addressing the diverse aspects of life that concern believers.

**Christian NewsMagazine and website also can inspire and equip individuals in their faith journey.** Testimonies from community members, devotional pieces, and interviews with local pastors could remind readers of God's presence in daily life and provide encouragement to persevere through challenges. Moreover, our goal for the website includes interactive features, such as forums for prayer requests and Bible study groups, allowing members to connect and support one another directly. Such engagement encourages a living faith, transforming the publication into an active instrument of spiritual growth. Give us your feedback at:

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# Believers in Business



## Tim Koelewyn

### Owner of Workingman's Store

**I have owned The Workingman's Store for 23 years. In the fall of 2001, shortly before 9/11, I bought the store from Bob Tos. At that time I had been working for Bob for 27 years. I began working at the store during my senior year of high school.** My future brother-in-law, Calvin Groenenberg, worked at Workingman's Store, and was leaving for college. He recommended I apply for the job. I began working after school and on Saturdays stocking and taking inventory. After getting my AA degree from COS I started working full time for Bob Tos and John Vandebek. Bob bought out John some time in the early 1980's. I was managing the store and when Bob's wife Jane was diagnosed with cancer Bob asked if I'd like to buy the store. Bob and Jane were able to spend many more years together, praise the Lord! And now it's been 50 years that I've worked/owned The Workingman's Store.

### **Many people have worked at your store over the years. Do you have any stories of your workers helping customers in a special way?**

I have seen our workers help by delivering merchandise to a customer's home, or taking items out to customers' cars in the parking lot. Some of our customers are handicapped and sometimes our employees would shop for them and take the merchandise to the car for them to pick out the items they liked. Most of the time the employee did this without any prompting from me. Their actions

always made me feel like they had the best interest of the customer in mind. Two of my employees adopted a young homeless man, giving him food and clothing. The young man would buy clothes from the store when his backpack was stolen on more than one occasion, and after a friendship evolved, he would even buy cookies for the store. After a while we didn't see him anymore. It was an eye opening experience.

### **When did you add suit rental? How did that impact the business in your store? What was it like being involved with the proms and special events?**

I took over Van Andel's tuxedo rental business when John Van Andel retired. There was so much to learn so I asked Bettina, who was in charge at Van Andel's, to work for us and teach some of my other employees how to measure, fit and order tuxedos. Bettina was an expert and soon we could handle 100 - 200 high school boys ordering and picking up their tuxedos in a 3-4 week period of time. It was a good business decision and I am thankful that John offered it to me. Financially it filled a gap as big box stores took some of our business. It brought new people into the store. Meeting the high school students gave me hope in the next generation as they were polite and responsible.

### **Working Man's has always been focused on the agricultural community. What are some things you appreciate about your customers?**

They know that quality workwear will last a long time so they don't mind paying a little more. They like Made in America products. I was told

many times that they liked to support my small business because they knew what it was like to own and operate a business.

### **What is it like having multi-generational customers?**

It's a blessing to hear the stories of young families come in and tell how they remembered coming here as a child to buy their jeans or boots and now they are buying them for their children. Multi-generational customers make me feel like they are family. We already have a bond and conversations are about family and how everyone is doing.

### **How have you seen styles change over the years?**

Polyester Leisure Suits and big bell jeans were very popular when I started working at the store. Now we sell distressed jeans and western shirts are popular with people who don't even live on a farm. Big bell jeans for women have now come back in style.

### **God's word says "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Corinthians 10:31). What are some ways you have been able to give glory to God in your business?**

First, I'd like to say that I had good business men who taught me how to run a business that was Christ centered, not for the praise of men. John VandeBeek was evangelistic and very involved in Gideons and Kiwanis. John's wife, Jo was very watchful and did all the financial books right by the checkout counter. She would find every mistake we made, and hear everything we said so we were sure to treat each customer with respect. Bob Tos was like a father figure and Christian friend so it was easy to learn the business from him and talk over all the problems or ideas we had. Being closed on Sunday for rest and worship was our standard and probably spoke the most about our commitment to put God first in our lives and business. I always figured out a schedule which allowed my employees to take time off for church events, such as weekend retreats or getting off early to lead Wednesday night youth groups.

### **What are some ways you have been able to serve the community through your business?**

I became active in Kiwanis for many years which was a good way to meet other businessmen. Workingman's



Store was able to donate to many fundraisers such as, 4-H, FFA, and school or community sports teams. We were also able to participate in downtown events which were fun for us and fun for the community.

### **How has your family played a role in your business?**

Both of my children have worked at the store during their high school and community college years. My wife had her own career in Christian education but always planned and helped when we participated in Main Street Hanford's social events. Now that my wife is retired, Dorinda is actively helping in closing up the store.

### **Now that you are retiring, what are your plans for retirement?**

As with most retirees, we would like to travel. There are so many National Parks to see and marvel at God's diverse creation. It will be nice to have the flexibility to spend time with our family. And there may be some volunteer work we can do too.

What advice do you have for Christian business owners in Kings County? My wife and I begin each day with prayer, asking for wisdom and strength for the day. We also pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Scripture commands us to love our neighbor. In our business our neighbors are our customers. We pray for strength to treat all customers with respect because they are made in God's image. Working and living according to what we read in the Bible is what all Christian business owners try to do.

# Church & Culture



**Brad Dacus**  
President of PJI (Pacific Justice Institute)



## Legal Earthquake: SF jury awards millions to workers denied religious accommodations

**24 Oct, 2024** PJI Press Release

**San Fransisco, CA. – A federal jury on Wednesday delivered a stunning blow to Bay Area officials who denied every religious accommodation requested by workers to its COVID-19 vaccine mandate.**

The 8-person jury deliberated for two days before unanimously awarding 6 former employees of San Francisco Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) more than \$1 million each, for a total of about \$7.8 million. The employees have been represented by Pacific Justice Institute since 2022.

**Last Friday, the jury first determined that BART failed to prove an undue hardship in denying any accommodations to the employees.** Yesterday, the jury further concluded that all of the employees had met their burden of showing a genuine conflict between their faith and the vaccine requirement, which was implemented in late 2021. The jury then accepted the numbers calculated by the plaintiffs’ economic expert for lost wages and added \$1 million to each of those figures.

**Brad Dacus, president of PJI, commented,** “These verdicts are seismic—a 7.8 San Francisco legal earthquake. This amazing outcome represents so much hard work by our team, perseverance by these clients, and fairness from our judicial system.”

**Kevin Snider, PJI’s Chief Counsel who served** as lead trial counsel, commented, “The rail employees chose to lose their livelihood rather than deny their faith. That in itself shows the sincerity and depth of

their convictions. After nearly three years of struggle, these essential workers feel they were heard and understood by the jury and are overjoyed and relieved by the verdict.”

**During the trial, jurors heard compelling testimony from dedicated employees.** One of the plaintiffs had worked for more than 30 years for BART, with a stretch of 10 years perfect attendance, before being unceremoniously dismissed. Another had been out on workers comp for months, with no scheduled return date, when she was fired. BART had also argued that several of the employees’ conflicts with taking the vaccine were more secular than religious. The jury disagreed.

**PJI’s trial attorneys in this case consisted of Kevin T. Snider, Matthew B. McReynolds, and Milton E. Matchak.** PJI was joined at trial by co-counsel Jessica R. Barsotti. Nationwide, PJI continues to represent hundreds of dedicated employees who lost their jobs after they sought and were denied religious accommodations to the COVID-19 vaccines. This week’s verdicts are expected to impact many of those pending cases.

*Pacific Justice Institute is a non-profit 501(c)(3) legal defense organization specializing in the defense of religious freedom, parental rights, and other civil liberties. Pacific Justice Institute works diligently, without charge, to provide its clients with all the legal support they need.*

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– Brad Dacus

**Media Contact: Lana Chea, 916-616-4126**



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# Faith in ACTION



**Rickey L. Dale  
Attends Last Days Apostolic Church**

**By: T.M. Dinkins**

**What is your full name and what is your wife's name?**

My full name is Rickey L. Dale and my wife's name is Diane Dale.

**How long have you been married and do you have any children?**

We have been married for ten years. I have one son from before we met and she has four children from before we met.

**Where did you grow up and how did you become a Christian?**

I grew up in Oakland, Ca. I wanted a change in my lifestyle. I had been involved with drugs and alcohol. They were running rampant in my life. A good friend of mine at the time offered me to come down here to stay. One day a lady named sister Karen rolled up to me in her wheel chair and asked me a question that changed my life. She asked me, "Aren't you tired?" From that time on my life began to change. I took one step toward Jesus and He took two steps towards me and the rest is Christian history.

Romans 10:9-10 says, "If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; 10 for with the heart a person believes, leading to righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, leading to salvation." What does it mean to you for Jesus to be the Lord of your life? It means having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Giving my life to God was the most important decision of my life. That was back in 96' and this is 2024. I am 70 years old. Best decision I ever made.

**What church are you attending and what role does the church have in your walk with God?**

My church is Last Days Apostolic Church here in Lemoore. The church is pastored by Pastor James R. Jones. Our Church has taught me how to love my neighbor as I love myself. The teaching there makes you feel so much better about yourself. There is true Love among the Saints of God there. My walk is not always easy, but with prayer and fasting it becomes a little easier. I attribute that to Last Days church.

**The Bible says, "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her." (Ephesians 5:25) How has your wife helped you to serve God more effectively?**

My wife has been an encouragement to me in this walk with Christ, good, bad, or indifferent. May God bless her.

**You like to play softball with the Kings County Christian Softball League. What are some reasons you enjoy being a part of that group?**

Softball is a great way to Fellowship with men from other Churches. It is also great exercise. God Bless

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# Student Spotlight

By: T.M. Dinkins

## Daniel Gomez Quarterback at Hanford High School



### What is it like playing football at Hanford High School?

Playing at Hanford High is what I always wanted to do since I was little. I remember watching them in the stands the day before pop Warner games. Seeing the rich history of quarterbacks before me like J. Brown play sparked that eagerness for me to want to play as the quarterback for this high school too. Its surreal and I'm thankful that I get to be the leader and QB of this team.

**God has given you a unique set of skills for playing football. How does your relationship with God help you in life and in sports?**

The first way is that He unveils His truth on the right way to live in life and that is through Jesus. He's unfolded the blindfold of sin that covered me and He has now allowed me to walk with Him in a new life and as a vessel for His Glory. My relationship with God helps me to understand that without Jesus I'd be running to the world for what I used to call fulfillment. Even when I do make mistakes (because I'm not perfect), I have the one who wants to help me get to His promise land. The way God has also formed my life in sports has shown me there is a lot of good that God can use out of this gigantic worldwide platform for His

Glory to shine. As a follower of Christ I can share His good news and help others that may not know Jesus or have the wrong idea see Jesus for who He truly is.

**You have some great coaches and teammates. How have your coaches helped you develop as a player?**

I have the best Coaches ever and I truly mean that. Coach Sanchez has been a blessing to me for sure. He has always believed in me when I feel like I can't go any further or feel down about my game. He always brings me up even when I say some crazy jokes that he makes fun of me today about. He has set me up for the future like no other and I'm grateful! Coach DJ would most definitely be #2 because he's been there since I was a freshman hyping me up and always having my back. During my sophomore year he helped me through my time of waiting and injury and I'm glad that he's apart of the program to this day even outside of coaching. He is still the same Coach DJ to me!

**You have had a great season already this year. What has been a highlight or one of your favorite games so far?**

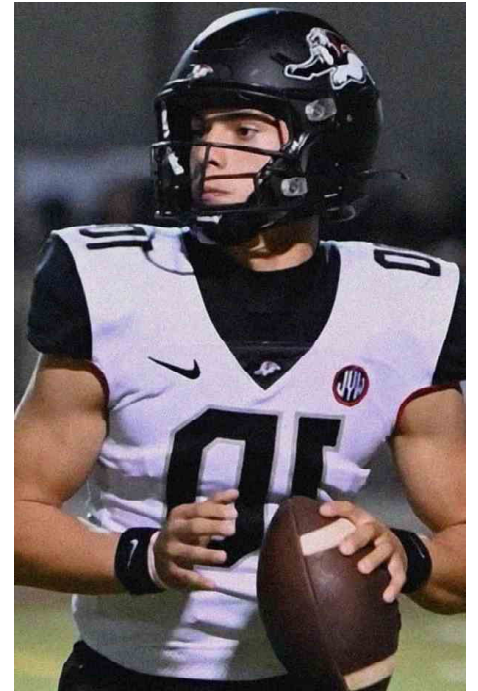
I guess a special moment that made a big impact on me was the halftime gathering of everyone listening to what I had to say about our first half performance vs Clovis West. I was able to block all the noise and focus on helping the team fight for a better 2nd half chance to win in the D1 first round playoffs and giving it everything I had.

**Since you are in your senior year, what are you hoping to do after graduating?**

I'm hoping to play at a college so the Lord can use me as a vessel. I want to show many more people that Jesus is the fulfillment that they're looking for. I want to see a difference be made! I also want to continue to find myself in God's plans. I want to get closer to Him and live out the dreams I've had as a child of being an NFL quarterback.

**You have a great family supporting you. How has your family helped you in life and in sports?**

My family is truly the best support group I have. I think they deserve more than what I give them honestly. What they've done for me is what many other kids my age would love to have and thats continuous support to early mornings and to late



nights and never-ending support. I know they're gonna be there for me no matter what.

**Do you have any words of advice to other Christian young athletes in Kings County?**

To all the other young Christian athletes that have surrendered their lives to Christ and are on this journey, I understand how hard it can get. I understand that sometimes you don't know what to do. I understand those who come from wanting to be perfect and always getting hard on yourselves. I too am the same and I am continuing on this journey with Christ to trust what He's doing even if their come mistakes and no understanding. One thing I'm learning to understand better is that God's word is truly what brings us life. Trust in what it says and hold onto it even if those thoughts tell you otherwise. Always hold onto the friends and Church body that influences you to go the right way, those are the people to surround yourselves with! May God bless you!





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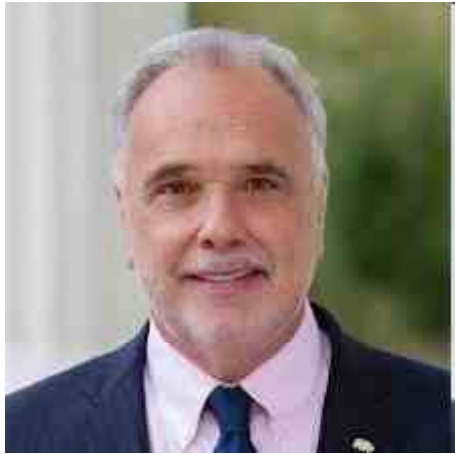
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By: Senator Mike Morrell (RET)

### For Chair of the CAGOP

*Today, we face a historic turning point. We can fight for a government that defends our freedoms, or we can turn a blind eye and descend into despotism. Already, there is a fierce assault on our liberties. We can feel the tides of aggression towards both people of faith and the free market.*

Our Constitution was purposely established to limit the size of government. Article I, Section 8, empowers Congress to do only seventeen things— eight concerning national defense, six with respect to commerce (securing the

# DEFENDING FREEDOM

*We are just beginning to fight for our Rights under God!*

rights of citizens and businesses), and the remainder about territories. Anything else is government overreach. In addition, the Ninth Amendment clarifies: “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.” Have our elected representatives and appointed judges forgotten that government exists to protect, not to grant, our rights?

In securing a limited government, the founders expected that state and local governments would hold a broad range of responsibilities. In this spirit, early Americans entrusted parents, teachers, and school boards to run our education system. Before digital classrooms, standardized tests, and bureaucratic K-12 masterplans were ever conceived, our great nation produced some of the brightest minds in history. The federalist approach to education nourished hearts and minds, formed habits and principles, and created good citizens. This kind of education was not only the duty of parents: it was their right.

Today, however, a behemoth government infringes on almost every area of our lives. Consider how the Carter Administration established a one-size-fits-all Department of Education. Since then, America’s academic rankings and outcomes have been in steep decline.

As the Old Testament reminds us, “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge.” Even with advances in business, transportation, and technology, we can not compensate for a lack of reasoning skills and moral knowledge.

In the face of these challenges, we must educate voters about the principles of limited, constitutional government. We must contend for the return of decision-making power back to the states and local districts. We must protect a delicate system of checks and balances, and refute the claims that the Constitution is an evolving or “living document.” Truth does not change. We can not reinterpret the Constitution to mean whatever we want it to mean.

Consider the first paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, with its reference to the “Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God.” To acknowledge “Nature’s God” is to affirm that God has written the moral law on every human heart, on every page of Scripture, and in the Natural Law visible all throughout history. This same Creator God, the Declaration continues, has made humankind equal and endowed us with “certain inalienable rights.” Our most precious rights— Life, Liberty, the pursuit of Happiness— are endowed by the Creator, not by the government. This idea is the source of our greatness.

In our words, morals, and actions, we must remind politicians that we are a self-governing people. It’s a tremendous responsibility, but I believe that great-hearted men and women can restore this nation. Our families and our country are worth the effort and sacrifice. I am reminded of the closing phrase in the Declaration of Independence, in which fifty-six signers “mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.” The alternative, in the flaming words of Samuel Adams, is almost unthinkable: “If you love wealth better than liberty— Crouch down and lick the hands which feed you. May your chains set lightly upon you! .”

All power of government comes by our consent. No bureaucrat, czar, or official can revoke our freedom of religion, freedom of speech, or freedom to educate our children as self-governed citizens. These and other rights are our hard-won heritage, enshrined in our brilliant, enduring Constitution.

**Mike Morrell is a husband, father, and grandfather. His experiences as a businessman and a California State Senator are reflected in his memoir, The Road to Restoring the Family, now available on Amazon.**

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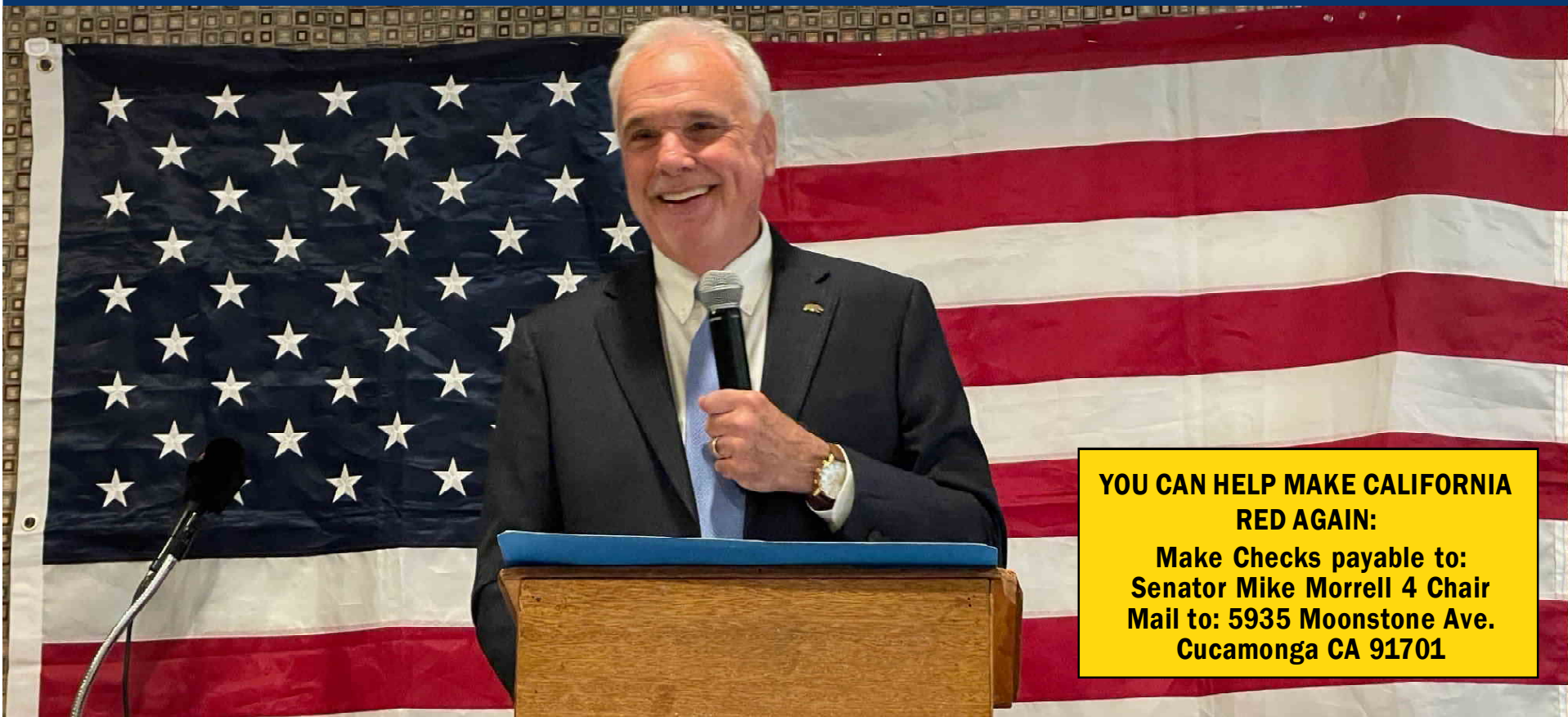
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# DEAR NOELLE

SEEKING AFTER  
*God's wisdom*



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## DEAR NOELLE by Noelle B. Nightingale

### Biblical Counsel for Christian Women

Dear Noelle,

**My boyfriend is everything I thought I wanted in a guy. He says he's a Christian,** but lately he's been pressuring me to do things that make me uncomfortable. He keeps wanting to spend time alone and he doesn't want to hang out with my friends. He says that if I love him, then I'll do what he wants. I feel guilty, but I'm afraid if I don't do what he says, I'll lose him. What should I do?

~ Giving In

Dear Giving In,

**This season of dating and getting to know a potential spouse can be a very exciting and special time in your life...** when you follow the instructions that God gives in His Word. And it sounds like you might have entered the relationship thinking that you were doing things God's way, and everything was going well. But now there are some clear warning signs. As a mom, I can tell you that alarm bells are going off in my head about the danger you are in right now. Take it from me: a guy who pressures you to do something that you're not comfortable with is going to hurt you and make you do things you will regret.

So what should you do? My advice may sound different than what your friends are telling you because I will always start by asking, "What does the Bible say about this situation?" First of all, what does the Bible say about love? We have an excellent definition of love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, and it clearly tells us that "love is patient and kind.... It does not insist on its own way." (English Standard Version) By this definition, your boyfriend is not showing you love. If he loved you, he would not insist on getting his own way. And he is twisting the definition of love to guilt-trip you into doing what he wants. That's not love. That's manipulation.

**Secondly, your boyfriend doesn't own you and has no claim to you.** But if you are a Christian, you belong to someone else; you belong to Christ. Your boyfriend doesn't have the right to say, "If you love me, you'll do this for me." But Jesus does because he bought you with a price (1 Cor. 6:20) by purchasing you with his own blood. And Jesus says in John 14:15, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." This makes it very clear what you should do. Christ's word tells you to abstain from sexual immorality (1 Thess. 4:3). If this is one of the things your boyfriend is asking for, you clearly must refuse. The Bible also says not to be "unequally yoked with unbelievers" (2 Cor. 6:14). That means that a believer should not date or marry an unbeliever. Is your boyfriend a believer? There is certainly room to doubt that he is a believer, given your description of him. If he is not a believer and you are a believer, then you need to end the relationship. I know you are afraid of losing him, but believe me, you will never regret giving up something that God's word clearly forbids. Instead, it is so freeing to walk in obedience to Christ and to have his blessing upon your life.

**It sounds to me like you know what you should do because you have a guilty conscience,** but you're struggling with giving up a relationship that has meant a lot to you. The question is, will you choose to follow your boyfriend or to follow Christ? Pray and ask God to give you the strength that you need to give up your boyfriend. I would also really encourage you to talk to a godly older woman and ask for help. You will need a lot of support from others and determination to walk away from a guy who is trying to control you, but believe me, there are better guys out there who will treat you with honor and truly care for you. Choosing to put God first in your life over your boyfriend will feel hard now, but it will save you from a lot of pain and regret down the road. And the best part is that you will have the peace of the Lord in choosing to do what is pleasing to Him.

**SEND IN YOUR LETTER TO:**

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*Thank you Pastor Ricky, Our Readers & Modern Farmhouse Cookies!*



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