



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Orange County

"A Voice for the Christian Community"

Christian

Orange County NewsMagazine

Thank God for His Blessing on America. Things are looking up!



Volume 1 Issue 2

"Fiercely Local and Independent"

www.CountyNewsMagazine.com

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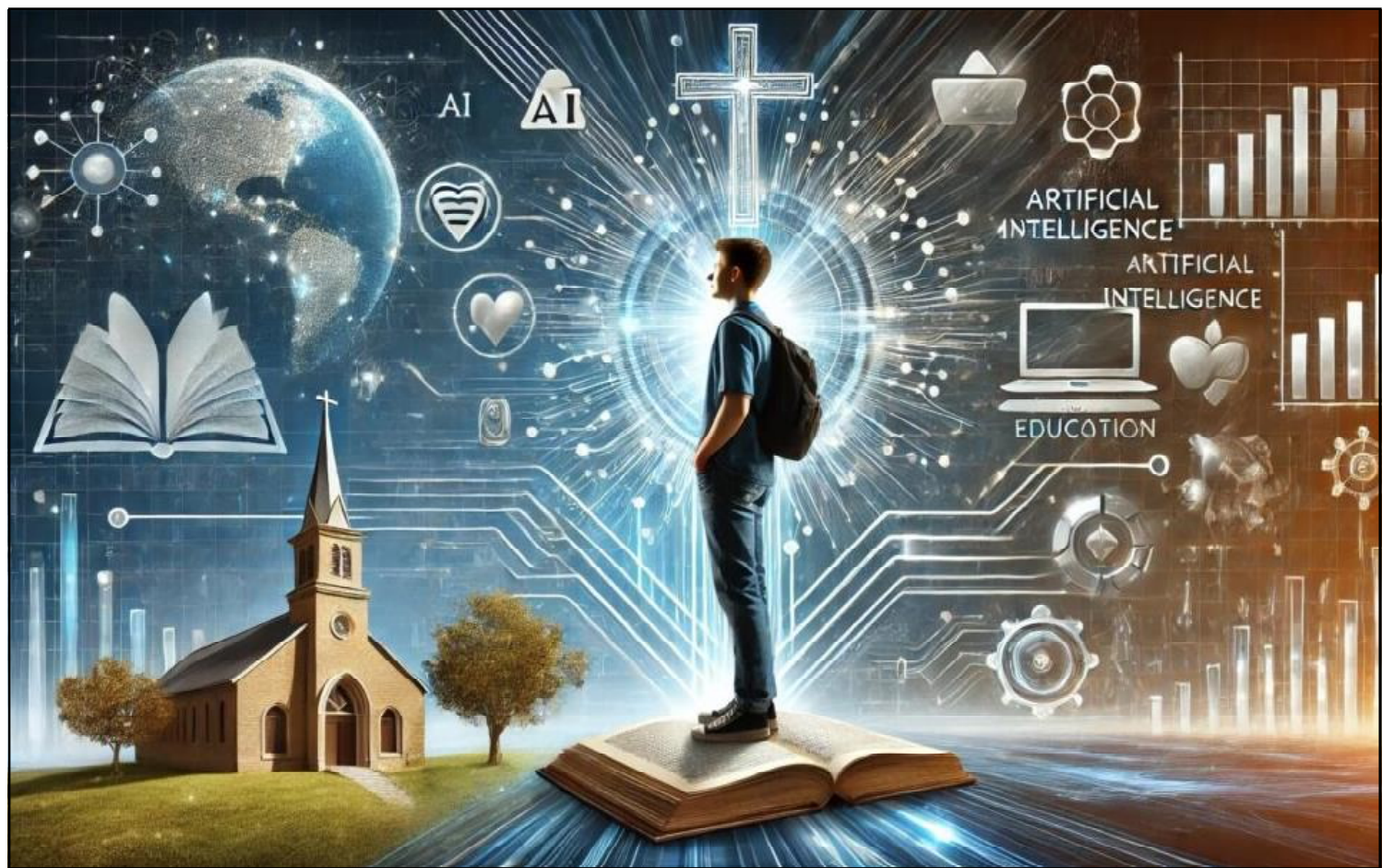


Artificial intelligence is no longer a futuristic P7 concept; it's a reality!
Stefan Jungmichel - AI Lab - Biola University



I'm Senator Mike Morrell (ret.) and I'm running for Chair of the CAGOP and I need your prayers and support P13

AI for God's Kingdom: Transforming Christian Ministry



In an era where technology continually redefines the way we live and work, artificial intelligence (AI) is emerging as a transformative tool for Christian organizations, offering new ways

to enhance ministry and outreach. The question now is not whether AI has the potential to change the landscape of ministry—but how Christian organizations can embrace it to further their mission. P7

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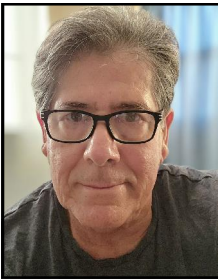
Our mission is to protect black life from conception to death by confronting injustice and...

Neil Mammen



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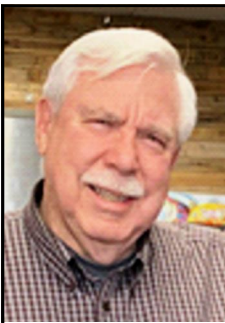
Man vs Satan: The Eternal Struggle

Our greatest and only hope is for a revival.

P10

By Robert Garcia

Rethinking
Thanksgiving
and Christmas



It is the holiday season again and I often ponder the question of who are we, as a nation, giving "thanks" to?

R. Ellington Smith **P16**

County Views

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A POWERFUL STORY OF FAITH AND DEFIANCE

Director Todd Komarnicki's Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin. (2024) masterfully brings Dietrich Bonhoeffer's remarkable story to the screen, portraying his courageous stand against Adolf Hitler with emotional depth and historical precision.

The film follows Bonhoeffer (Jonas Dassler), a German pastor grappling with the rise of Nazism and the Church's complicity. His evolution from theologian to conspirator in the plot to assassinate Hitler is explored with sensitivity, highlighting his moral dilemmas and enduring faith. Dassler delivers a riveting performance, portraying Bonhoeffer's intellectual passion and human vulnerability.

Komarnicki weaves historical drama with the tension of a wartime thriller, balancing theological introspection with the urgency of resistance. Stunning cinematography contrasts the oppression of Nazi Germany with moments of hope.

At its core, the film examines faith as a catalyst for justice. Bonhoeffer's "costly grace" inspires viewers to consider the moral courage required to confront oppression, making this timely and thought-provoking drama unforgettable.



Empowering Businesses and Strengthening Communities: Meet Stacey Hyatt of Salem Surround

In today's media landscape, where the right exposure can make all the difference, Salem Surround stands out as a powerhouse for conservative and Christian radio. With over 120 stations across the country, Salem Surround offers unmatched reach and influence. At the forefront of this dynamic organization is Stacey Hyatt, a dedicated media technician whose expertise is transforming how businesses grow and connect with their communities.

Salem Surround operates a robust network that includes notable stations like The Answer San Diego (<https://theanswersandiego.com/>) and KPRZ (<https://kprz.com/>), serving the San Diego market with a clear and impactful voice. However, the influence of Salem Surround is not confined to a single region; it spans the entire United States, providing clients with a nationwide platform to amplify their messages and tailored strategy that reflects their unique needs and objectives.

Stacey Hyatt can be reached at 619-733-2736



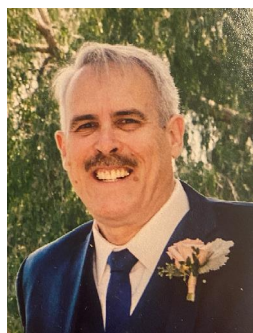
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Informed Parents capability to deliver an OPT OUT Notice prepared by Pacific Justice Institute for a parent having a child in every public school in California.

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The Birth of Christ and the Birth of America



By Larry McMillan

One of our most extraordinary founding fathers was John Quincy Adams.

At eight, he was drilling with the Massachusetts Minutemen. At ten, he was in Europe with our diplomats. At 14, he was secretary/translator for our Ambassador to Russia. At 16, he was part of negotiations to end the Revolutionary War. He attended Harvard and graduated in two years. He served as U.S. Minister to Holland, Prussia, Russia and Great Britain. He negotiated the treaty which ended the War of 1812. While secretary of state he authored the Monroe Doctrine. He acquired Florida and settled the border dispute in Oregon Country.

He was one of the most accomplished and successful secretaries of state in American history. After serving one term as president he went on to serve two decades in the House of Representatives. In 1841, he argued the Amistad case before the Supreme Court and won the release of enslaved African captives. His entire life was devoted to public service. On July 4, 1837, John Quincy Adams spoke these words: Why is it that, next to the birth day of the Savior of the world, your most joyous and most venerated festival turns on this day? . . . Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is indissolubly linked with the birthday of the Savior?

That it forms a leading event in the progress of the Gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer's mission upon earth? That it laid the cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity, and gave to the world the first irrevocable

pledge of the fulfillment of the prophecies announced directly from Heaven at the birth of the Savior and predicted by the greatest of the Hebrew prophets six hundred years before? John Quincy Adams was right. The birth of Christ and the birth of America are indissolubly linked. From the Mayflower Compact to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and beyond, the story of America is the story of the outworking of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in culture, society and the world.

The founders took seriously Christ's Great Commission to disciple the nations and to teach them to observe all things Christ commands (see Matt. 28:18-20). America put the Great Commission into effect. At this special time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, let us recommit ourselves to both our nation's founding principles as well as Christ's Gospel. In the words of John Quincy Adams, "Duty is ours, results are God's." Merry Christmas and may God Make America Born Again!



**DRAN REESE President
Salt & Light Council**

WHO IS THE SALT & LIGHT COUNCIL?

We are a non-political, non-partisan 501c3, dedicated to promoting biblical moral values in the public sector. Further, we are a coalition of cross-denominational churches with active Salt & Light Biblical Citizenship Ministries working to rebuild our

Judeo-Christian heritage in America.

We mobilize Christians at the grassroots level, helping them to live out their responsibility to influence government and civic affairs for good. History has clearly shown that without a strong, godly influence to overcome the natural tendency toward evil, governmental authority will destroy God-given rights, including the right to hear and speak His truth.

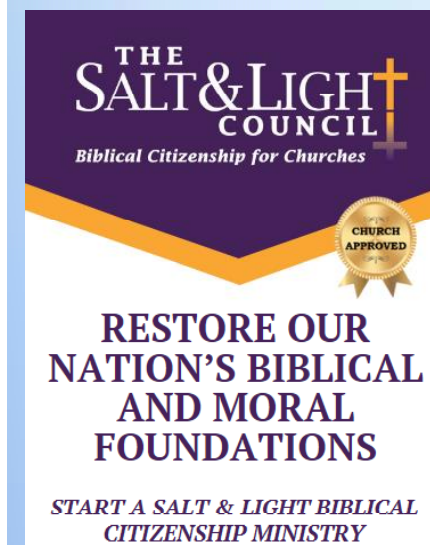
We seek to love and care for all of God's people, transforming hearts and minds through prayer, education and action.

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LARRY PEGRAM

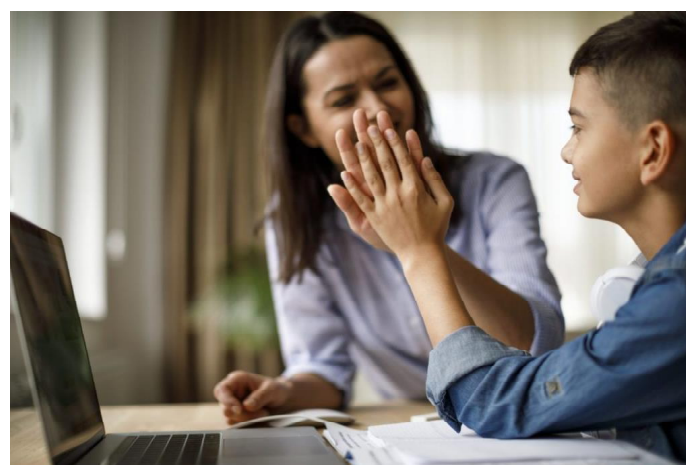
Informed Parents Launches OPT OUT Statewide! www.ip-ca.org

OPT OUT is now available to every parent of a public school child in California!

Parents rights activists are heralding the Informed Parents capability to deliver an OPT OUT Notice prepared by Pacific Justice Institute for a parent having a child in every public school in California. Now every parent of a public school child may OPT OUT his/her child from non-family friendly sex education, intrusive surveys, and non-parent approved counseling.

When a parent visits the Informed Parents website, www.ip-ca.org, completes the Registration form, the powerful and unique OPT OUT Notice created by Justice Institute will be sent by email to the child's school principal and the superintendent of the child's school district. . .all in less than two minutes.

Literally, all a parent need do is visit the Informed Parents website, www.ip-ca.org, click on the Green OPT OUT button In the upper left corner of the site, scroll down to the Registration form, fill in the necessary information,



DocuSign at the bottom, and click submit. That is all it takes! Spread the word! Forward this article to parents of children in the California public schools. Help parents protect their children from inappropriate teaching and practices. After all, parents should determine what their children are taught and exposed to in school.

BUSINESSMATTERS



**THE
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VERY
HOPEFUL**

Truth Always Percolates to the Top (Ultimately)

**By: Steve Austin, MBA, CPA,
Swenson Advisors Managing
Partner and Save America Now
PAC Founder**

. . . the notion that America is a global nation without borders and national sovereignty is a thing of the past. Well, after several months, and then years, the falsehood of that idea brought down the Biden and Harris team and handed them a solid defeat in 2024.

The truth about the criminals and thousands of unvetted others came to the surface in the case of deaths to Americans, e.g. the loss of life at my alma mater, University of Georgia, of a precious nursing student out for a run. Athens, Georgia, once a conservative town when I was working towards my MBA, turned into a sanctuary city, and effectively welcomed a vile murderer from Venezuela. Ultimately, the responsibility for these types of tragedies lies in the hands of a president, vice president and homeland security chief.

When Biden took over in January of 2021, inflation was not a “thing”. Within 10 months or more and several presidential directives to shut down or reduce our energy supply, we doubled the price of gasoline and fuel. The effect on citizens across the country was to spend \$100 dollars to fill their tanks once

or twice a week and work overtime at second or third jobs to afford going to work.

“ The US ended up buying oil from countries at war with our core principles, e.g. Venezuela. High energy prices drove many of the other costs of living such as food on the table and almost everything that required transportation to get to the consumer. ”

Finally, Americans realized that the insane decisions of the Biden and Harris administration were the core reasons for such an impact on our economy and lifestyle. Furthermore, the underlying falsehoods of climate change are percolating to the surface, with many scientists and Nobel Prize winners pointing out that the underlying assumptions are weak and unsustainable.

The Trump administration and its planned changes with the SEC Director will unwind most of the proposed carbon-related measurements and disclosures in the Form 10Ks and 10Qs due to lack of substance and cost benefit. The electric vehicles mandate will morph into an option for the consumer, and gas-powered vehicles and trucks will still be a significant part of our transportation system and the related 2 fuel distribution system. Planning a cross-country trip in an EV will not be needed, and its 25-30 stops to recharge in limited locations will be a fear of the past.

In additional articles we will explore more of the insanity as it relates to abortion and transgender mutilation of our children, all based on falsehoods and a lack of respect for God’s design.

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The Importance of Choosing a Local Plumber During Winter

As the winter months approach, plumbing issues can become increasingly common and urgent. Water heater breakdowns and unexpected leaks are just a few challenges that can arise during colder weather. When these problems occur, relying on a local plumber offers several distinct advantages that can save you time, money, and stress.



Local plumbers are deeply rooted in the communities they serve, making them much more accessible and responsive during emergencies. Unlike large, nationwide companies, a local plumber is often just a phone call away and can arrive quickly to address issues before they escalate. This proximity is especially crucial in winter when plumbing problems, like burst pipes, need immediate attention to prevent extensive water damage.

Another benefit of using a local plumber is their familiarity with the specific needs of homes in your area. They understand the unique climate challenges and infrastructure characteristics, allowing them to provide tailored solutions. For instance, a local plumber knows which pipes are more susceptible to freezing and can offer proactive measures, such as insulating vulnerable areas, to help you avoid costly repairs later.

Choosing a local plumber also supports the community. By hiring a trusted professional from your area, you contribute to the local economy and foster relationships with businesses that prioritize personalized service and customer satisfaction. Unlike larger companies that may cycle through employees, local plumbers often build long-term relationships with their clients, which translates into a higher level of trust and accountability.

During the winter months, reliability and honesty are essential in a plumber. Local plumbers often have a reputation to uphold in their communities, ensuring they deliver quality work at fair prices. You can rest assured that their goal is to solve your problem effectively, not upsell unnecessary services.

In summary, choosing a local plumber during the winter months ensures timely, knowledgeable, and trustworthy service. Whether it's a minor fix or an urgent repair, a local professional will help you keep your home safe and comfortable all season long.

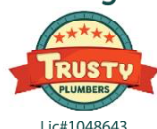
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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1: AI for God's Kingdom: Transforming Christian Ministry



AI has already demonstrated its ability to revolutionize industries. Amazon, for example, has used AI to save an astounding 4,500 years of developer work, while The Chosen, the popular TV series based on the life of Jesus, is now the most translated show in history, with plans to reach 600 languages through AI-assisted technology.

“ For Christian ministries, these advancements offer a glimpse into how AI could be harnessed to amplify impact and streamline operations. ”

At Biola University, this vision has led to the creation of two major initiatives: the AI Lab and the AI Studio. The AI Lab focuses on the ethical use of AI, conducting research and offering educational resources to ensure Christian organizations can adopt AI in alignment with biblical values. Meanwhile, the AI Studio provides practical, hands-on support to help

ministries and nonprofits develop AI-driven solutions that meet their specific needs. These initiatives reflect Biola’s commitment to helping Christians leverage AI to further God’s Kingdom.

The benefits of AI for Christian organizations are clear. AI can handle time-consuming administrative tasks such as scheduling, data processing, and content generation, freeing up staff to focus on building relationships and community. It can also be used to brainstorm innovative outreach strategies, target specific audiences more effectively, and manage donations with greater precision.

However, the adoption of AI is not without its challenges. Many within the Christian community have expressed concerns about whether AI could replace human creativity or detract from the personal nature of ministry. Biola University takes these concerns seriously, continuing to research and explore the ethical implications of AI’s role in the church.

While these are valid considerations, Biola’s experts believe AI can enhance, rather than diminish, our God-given abilities to serve others.

This transformation is already underway, and the opportunities it offers for Christian organizations are profound. By embracing AI, ministries can expand their reach and impact, helping more people while remaining true to their core values.

For those interested in learning how to bring this technology into their ministry, the AI Lab at Biola University is hosting a 1.5-hour workshop on Saturday February 8th at 10 AM. This will explore how AI can empower Christian organizations. The event will showcase practical ways to excel in creating custom AI projects, content creation, enhance donation management, and more. Gain insights into how AI can support your mission, giving you more time to focus on relationships and community-building while letting AI handle the background tasks.

STEFAN JUNGMICHEL
Biola University
AI Lab at Biola



My name is Stefan Jungmichel. I’m 27 years old, born in Germany, a former track and field athlete, and co-founder of the AI Lab at Biola University. I have been in the U.S. for six years and work full-time as the Associate Director in the AI Lab. My interest in AI was sparked by the launch of ChatGPT 3, and my goal is to position Biola University as the leading Christian institution in AI. I feel a strong calling from God to help align the vast powers of AI with biblical values such as transparency, integrity, and honesty.



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Contact Paul for more information:
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HOPE HOWELL
Orange County
Publisher

Common Sense prevails on Voter ID!

In a significant legal development, Orange County Superior Court Judge Nico Dourbetas has dismissed California’s lawsuit against Huntington Beach, thereby permitting the city to implement its voter identification (ID) law for

municipal elections starting in 2026. This decision marks a pivotal moment over election integrity and voter access within the state.

in March 2024, Huntington Beach voters approved Measure 1, a charter amendment authorizing the city to require voter ID at polling places for local elections beginning in 2026. The measure also allows for an increase in in-person voting locations and the monitoring of ballot drop boxes. Proponents, including Mayor Tony Strickland, argued that such measures are essential to bolster public confidence in election outcomes. Strickland emphasized, “Our democracy does not work if people do not have faith in the election results.”

The approval of Measure 1 prompted swift opposition from state officials. Attorney General Rob Bonta and Secretary of State Shirley Weber contended that the measure conflicted with state election laws and could suppress voter participation, particularly among low-income and minority groups. In April 2024, the state filed a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the measure, arguing that it imposed unnecessary barriers to voting and was preempted by existing state law.

Further intensifying the dispute, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 1174 in September 2024, prohibiting local governments from enacting voter ID requirements unless mandated by state or federal law. This legislation, effective January 1, 2025, was a direct response to Huntington Beach’s Measure 1, aiming to maintain uniform election laws across California.

On November 15, 2024, Judge Dourbetas ruled that existing state law does not preclude Huntington Beach’s voter ID measure, allowing the city to proceed with its implementation. City Attorney Michael Gates hailed the decision as a

victory for local governance, stating, “Huntington Beach is not going to be intimidated or deterred.”

However, the Attorney General’s office noted that the court’s decision did not address the merits of the case and reaffirmed its stance that the city’s voter ID policy conflicts with state law. The state is expected to continue its legal efforts to challenge the measure.

As the legal proceedings continue, the outcome will have significant implications not only for Huntington Beach but also for other California municipalities considering similar measures. The case highlights the groundswell of demand for election integrity, protecting voters’ right to have their vote assuredly counted with accuracy. This issue resonates across the nation.

Share Your Voice with Orange County Christian NewsMagazine

Orange County Christian NewsMagazine is excited to begin monthly publications starting in January 2025, offering both a Print and 24/7 Online Digital Edition. As we prepare to grow and serve our community, we’re inviting volunteer writers, columnists, and Op-Ed contributors to join our team.

This is your chance to make a difference by sharing your insights, stories, and perspectives on faith, culture, and community. Whether you enjoy diving into current events, crafting thought-provoking essays, or writing about personal faith journeys, your contributions can inspire and encourage others.

By volunteering your talents, you’ll become part of a dynamic platform committed to uplifting voices and fostering meaningful conversations. Together, we can provide a source of hope, inspiration, and guidance to readers in Orange County and beyond.

If you’re ready to make an impact through your writing, we’d love to hear from you. Join us in spreading faith and encouragement!

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Client Review

“

Buying and selling a home in this current...market could have been a disaster if it wasn't for our agent, Hope Serena Howell. Because Hope is known for her hard work ethic and has a reputation for being trustworthy, she could call on an accountant, attorney and loan officer who dropped what they were working on and helped achieve our needs. This is the kind of person one wants working for them. Hope's marketing skills and expertise helped us to receive an unbelievable \$285,000 over our asking price. Both buyer and seller were delighted with this outcome. When you have an agent who is passionate about her career you will become the beneficiary. Marketing strategy that brings several hundred people to your open house, which fields dozens and dozens of offers leaves you with an assurance you will have the best possible outcome. I have the utmost confidence in Hope and would highly recommend her to anyone entering a real estate transaction.

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PROFILES IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Larry and Lupe Gonzales are a remarkable couple who have dedicated their lives to helping others.



Celebrating their 11th wedding anniversary on May 11th, Larry and Lupe do everything together, demonstrating their deep love and support for each other and their community. Larry, a veteran who served from 1972 to 1975, was involved in the evacuation of Saigon in April 1975. With firsthand experience of the challenges veterans face, Larry tirelessly supports them. As Lupe became more involved in community service, Larry joined her, often with a dry sense of humor. He once joked, "I knew if I didn't get involved, somebody's going to swoop in and sweep her away!" Larry advocates for better resources and support systems for veterans with passion and commitment.

The couple also holds a special place in their hearts for children, believing that every child, born and pre-born, deserves life and an opportunity to grow up feeling loved and safe. This belief was a major factor in Lupe's decision to leave the Democrt Party. Initially influenced by figures like Dr. James Dobson from Focus on the Family and Rush Limbaugh, Lupe realized her values aligned more with the Republican Party. Despite initially being a registered Democrat, she voted Republican until she felt marginalized, unable to vote for her preferred presidential candidate in the primaries.

This was a turning point, and she re-registered as a Republican. Through her influence, she convinced many family members and friends to do the same. Larry and Lupe are known for their involvement in various campaigns, organizing events, fundraisers, placing yard signs, knocking on doors, and encouraging people to vote. Their dedication has made a significant impact on campaigns such as Mitch Clemmons for Senate, Raul Ortiz for Assembly, Paul Jones for Assembly, Jessica Martinez for Assembly and Eric Ching for Congress.

They bring enthusiasm and create a positive atmosphere wherever they go. Active members of the California Republican Assembly (CRA) Fullerton chapter, Lupe serves as Treasurer and Larry as Sergeant-at-Arms. "I'm probably one of the happiest people because at the CRA meetings, the sweetest people are there, and I have made great friendships," Larry said. Both are voting delegates to the CRA

Convention and the California Republican Party. Lupe reflected, "I didn't previously recognize the connection of elected leaders, how they impact ME. They seemed like distant celebrities that didn't really affect me on a personal level. But Reagan's 'trickle-down economics' is a real thing." She became involved with Sheriff Villanueva's campaign through her volunteerism at the Los Angeles Hispanic Republican Club. She was also involved with the recall campaigns of Newsom and Gascon every Saturday and most Fridays for many months.

Despite initial hesitation, Lupe embraced her role, circulating her first petition in 2005 and becoming a point of contact at her church to educate others. Larry and Lupe's efforts are characterized by humility and a focus on serving others, finding joy in making a positive impact. They do not seek recognition or praise, aiming instead for a higher purpose and eternal "Well Done." Their unwavering commitment to helping others is a true testament to their character and faith. Larry and Lupe Gonzales exemplify committed civic engagement and courage. Their dedication to supporting veterans, caring for children and families, and helping elect great candidates is inspiring. They teach the importance of love, kindness, and community, showing that selfless dedication can transform an organization's culture and effectiveness. As they continue their journey of service, Larry and Lupe remain a beacon of hope, inspiration, and courage to all they meet.



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VERITAS CLASSICAL ACADEMY

Vision
To raise up Gospel culture shapers transformed by the grace and truth of Christ. The ultimate vision of Veritas is the building up of Christ-centered communities, who enjoy and honor God in their worship, work, and leisure. This is accomplished as parents transfer a way of life to their children with the support of a classical education and of local churches that share the same vision, thus unifying home education, school education, and church education.

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Raising up Gospel Culture Shapers



by Robert Garcia

*In olden days, a
glimpse of stocking
Was looked on as
something shocking
But now, God knows
anything goes
Good authors, too,
who once knew better
words Now only use
four-letter words
Writing prose
Anything goes
Anything Goes
—Cole Porter*

1934 American songwriter Cole Porter captured the changing times of the late 1920's and 1930's in his classic song "Anything Goes".

Changing cultural morals and permissive attitudes were sweeping the nation with the effects of prohibition, organized crime (Al Capone), Midwest criminal gangs lead by John Dillinger, Bonnie and Clyde and others, gained

Man vs Satan: The Eternal Struggle

notoriety during the Great Depression. The bad guys were often idolized as heros. At the same time Hollywood is quickly becoming the primary vehicle for spreading cultural change for the better and the worst.

Film producers can now promote themes of their choice with free interpretation. Socialism and Marxism begin to take over American universities. Secularism is suddenly replacing Judeo-Christian principles. Cold War Communism seeks to capture the minds of our children in our schools and universities and Hollywood. By 1962 and 1963, prayer and the Bible are removed from American public schools by Supreme Court rulings. In 1980, the 10 Commandments are removed from public schools. And in 1973 abortion is legalized nationally by the ruling of 9 unelected individuals on the US Supreme Court. God and Christianity are systematically being removed from American life and institutions. Fast forward to current times, America is in the grips of Satanic forces in control of our government as never before. Lying is an accepted form of argument. Feelings carry greater importance than reason. There are as many truths as stars in the sky.

The Liberal Marxist movement in America seeks to cancel and overthrow every aspect of American values and traditions dating back to our Founding Fathers who were deeply influenced by Judeo-Christian principles dating back to Biblical times. The 10 Commandments given to Moses on Mt. Sinai have been replaced by Wokism and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) indoctrination. Homosexual relationships are now able to legally enter into marriage. Suddenly there are countless genders.

The liberal Left cannot define what is a woman or a man. Transgenderism is promoted in our elementary schools. In other words, going back to Cole Porter's lyrics, "Anything Goes". America is divided as never before in our nation's history.

Antisemitism is rampant with our university students and their professors. How did all this happen? What does it mean? The Apostle Paul boldly and clearly tells us in the Book of Ephesians 6:12 that, [12] Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Paul is referring to Satan and how he operates in the temporal world, the world of the Flesh. The problem is not the Bidens, the Pelosi's, the Obamas, or the Harris's of the world who deny the authority of God over governments, but it's Satan and his demons. 1 Peter 5:8 NIV [8] Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Our greatest and only hope is for a revival and return to the One who is the Author of our Christian faith, to

the Lord and Savior who paid for mankind's sin debt at the Cross and conquered death by His glorious resurrection. John 3:16 ESV For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. What is salvation? Salvation is a free gift of God's Grace that redeems human beings to live in the right relationship with God and with their fellow man. We cannot earn this free gift by works. Jesus did it all! Scripture teaches us that the rapture can come at any time. This world is passing.


We believe that these are the end times. When the rapture happens God's Church will be taken up to heaven at a blink of an eye followed by the seven year tribulation then the millennium reign of Jesus Christ and the final judgment. America and the world's answer to our degenerate spiritual condition lies in God's Promise to King Solomon; [14] if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV



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The Holidays and Seniors: A Time for Reflection and Joy

By Rex Ledesma

Administrative CORE Specialist
memorycaresupport.com (949)
287-8927

The holiday season is a special time for people of all ages, but it holds unique significance for seniors. It is a season filled with opportunities to reflect on cherished memories, connect with loved ones, and celebrate traditions that have shaped their lives. However, the holidays can also bring challenges, making it essential to ensure that seniors feel supported, valued, and included during this time.

The holiday season represents time with family, football and eating a lot of food! For the senior population, this can be a scary or lonely time, even when surrounded by family, especially if facing memory impairment conditions like Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia.

When a loved one with dementia is experiencing the holidays, it's important for us to "enter their world" and try to understand what they are feeling and going through. Here are some issues to consider when including your loved one during this season, along with some solutions that can help:

■ **Disruption of Routine** – Gathering together during the holidays involves big changes in routing, which can be

disorienting, and be extremely stressful for seniors, especially those living with dementia. The sensory overload can lead to confusion, anxiety, agitation, or unwanted behaviors. Remember, your loved one may not be able to articulate their thoughts, so they may communicate their feelings through action. It is important to be aware of these behaviors, and not dismiss these actions as defiance or being difficult.

■ **Overstimulation** – large family gatherings can be overwhelming. There is a lot of noise, crowded gatherings and activity that is 'out of the ordinary'. Offer a quieter, less crowded alternative (while not isolating them) during family gatherings. This is a common and effective strategy to reduce sensory overload, which is often a trigger for distress. This approach is supported by caregiving guidelines and recommendations from dementia care specialists.

■ **Dietary Changes** – This can be particularly difficult. The holidays is a time when the family eats a lot of rich, comfort food. However, seniors with health issues may have dietary restrictions that can make preparing a holiday meal difficult. Rich or unfamiliar foods can lead to digestive problems, allergies, or bad interactions with medications. Seniors with dementia may also forget about their dietary needs or have trouble communicating them. Remember to check

with their doctor, for any special food needs.

■ **Social Isolation** – As much as overstimulation is an issue, you also want to avoid under-stimulation. Thanksgiving can give some people feelings of loneliness. If a senior has lost a loved one, or has limited social networks, they may find it difficult to be in a family gathering where there is more extended family. Try assigning a family member or close friend to stay with the senior throughout the gathering. This "buddy" will provide the social connection or engage them in simple activities that are not stressful. Encouraging a senior to do a small task to help prepare the food is helpful in providing purpose and combat any isolation.

■ **Memory and Cognitive Issues** – Seniors with dementia may have difficulty remembering family members or understand the significance of the holiday. They may also find it difficult to follow conversations. This can lead to disconnection. If a senior is having a cognitive issue, don't make them feel bad by correcting them. Enter their reality and redirect their attention. For example, if a senior says that he needs to pick up his mother (who has long since passed away) to get her to the family event, simply tell them that his mother called and said she will be coming by in a couple hours. Do not correct him and say his mother passed away years ago. This will prevent the person with dementia from experiencing that pain of loss.

You will then be able to redirect their attention to something happier in the present moment.

■ **Physical Limitations** – There may be physical limitations for a senior that need to be considered for a Thanksgiving gathering. As seniors age, they may face mobility issues, pay, or fatigue that makes it difficult for them to enjoy the festivities or take part in the activities. Simple things like preparing meals or sitting for long meals is difficult. Adjust the environment and activities to accommodate their needs while still involving them in the celebration. You may need to use adaptive tools or assistive devices like easy-grip utensils and jar openers. Or it may be as simple as encouraging shorter, more frequent breaks from the festivities.

Above all, give your senior loved one choice. Know their needs if they like social gatherings or not, or if they can eat certain foods or not and give them options. Being mindful of these challenges and making accommodations, like maintaining routines, offering quiet spaces, providing assistance with meals, or keeping the gathering smaller and more manageable, can help seniors have a more enjoyable holiday season.

Rex Ledesma is the Administrative CORE Specialist at Memory Care Support. He has worked in senior living for over 10 years. For more information, visit www.memorycaresupport.com.



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Brad Dacus
President of PJI
(Pacific Justice
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PJI Press Release



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Defending Religious Freedom, Parental Rights, And Other Civil Liberties Without Charge

PJI Partners With Informed
Parents-CA: A Strategic Move to
Advance Parental Rights

Media Contact: Brad Dacus, (916) 857-6900

Los Angeles, CA – As public schools increasingly incorporate radical gender and "woke" ideologies into their curricula, it is essential for parents to have viable options. That’s why PJI is excited to announce a unique partnership with Informed Parents of California (IPCA), a nonprofit organization dedicated to child-centered education. Together, PJI and IPCA are launching an initiative to reclaim parental rights and empower parents to raise their children according to their values.

With PJI's specialized public school opt-out forms and IPCA's advanced technology, parents can easily and efficiently submit opt-out requests to their children's school's, ensuring their children are exempt from harmful indoctrination.

To discover how you can directly reach out to your child’s school representative and issue opt-out forms in a legal and secure manner, visit www.ip-ca.org. There, you will find comprehensive guidance to help you navigate the process effectively and regain control over your child’s educational experience.

President and Founder of PJI, Brad Dacus, expresses his enthusiasm about the new initiative, saying, “The integration of Informed Parents’ comprehensive database—encompassing every city, county, and school official—with PJI’s school opt-out forms creates an unprecedented tool in our fight against 'wokeness' in education. This powerful combination allows us to pinpoint problematic school districts and enables parents to formally notify their child’s school representative of their intent to unenroll. Coupled with our opt-out forms, this approach ensures that parents can legally and effectively remove their children from these programs without undue interference from the state. We are excited to take this stand and push back!” Dacus said. Informed Parents Founder and President, Larry Pegram, shared his excitement for this unique partnership. “We have combined the strengths of two dynamic organizations to help parents protect their children, maintain their rights and control, and foster transparency between the schools and home...We urge every parent in California to take advantage of this unique capability. After all, if we don’t protect our children, who will?”

Visit the Informed Parents website, www.ip-ca.org to learn more.

Court Reopens Case: Firefighters
Stand for Religious Rights

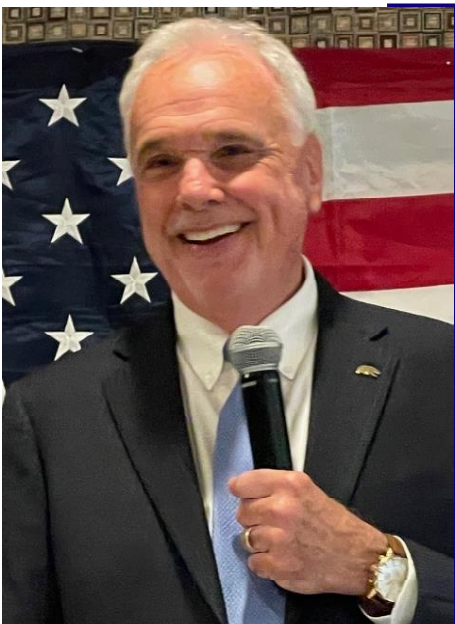
San Jose, CA – Firefighters working for the City of San Jose were placed on unpaid leave for over a month because they declined to be vaccinated for COVID-19 per a public health order. Due to religious convictions, these employees were not able to comply with the mandate.

The firefighters reached out to PJI for representation. A lawsuit was filed in the Santa Clara superior court where the employees claimed that unpaid and indefinite leave was an adverse employment action. The City disagreed. The trial court dismissed the case and the firefighters appealed. “This is a clear example of how municipalities disregard the religious rights of faith based individuals who solely want to be able to live by their Christian beliefs.

PJI is committed to the protection of those rights and we will not stop fighting” stated PJI Founder and President Brad Dacus. In a unanimous decision the California Court of Appeal reversed the lower court and awarded costs. “Public safety requires that all first responders be available for service. The City exercised poor judgment by keeping firefighters sidelined,” said Kevin Snider of PJI who argued the case.

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. “Through our dedicated attorneys and supporters, we defend the rights of countless individuals, families and churches...without charge.”

Media Contact: Lana Chea, 916-616-4126
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By Pastor K. Bruce Brown

We are thrilled to introduce Godly Civics - a new paradigm inspired by our Holy Spirit for One Nation Under God. It is a self-actuating strategy to spread across the Body of Christ, not speaking for God but acting in glory to Him. Nowhere does Scripture say, "glorify Me, except in our civics" (Isaiah 43:7). The Body should (must?) engage; YOU are the voters. We pulpit leaders will engage

as the Holy Spirit leads. God designed our USA to get many souls into Heaven for as long as possible, which requires passing liberty on to the next generations. He designed our USA with Him in our hearts to image others in liberty and be governed by His Laws of Nature, the inviolate forces that control the universe, never human whims, ideologies, political factions, or despots.

Our representatives are to be stewards and seekers of the Laws of Nature, not slaves to political factions that destroy our right to consent to our government. The Body is the only group large enough to lead the restoration of our USA back to God's original design of liberty, justice, and prosperity for all. Our civics power can only be felt and exercised with that one Holy Spirit-inspired message. Where everyone goes from there is liberty itself, but a thousand points of view have failed us. The Body of

Christ with Godly Civics must restore our USA to its founding in the 2026 midterms. Only then can we sort our conflicts between God and our society for all by 2028.

Jesus will return before Christians unite in worship. However, there is one unifying force for everyone, Religious Liberty, that can only exist inside Social Liberty. Every denomination must have Religious Liberty. That is precisely what the thirteen colonies created with God's hand. Having fought to the death for both liberties, our founders knew both fights merged into one; this is where our pulpit leaders have failed since the 1960's rebellion against everything, including religious liberty. Look at Old Testament Israel. God destroyed it with enemy attacks when the people turned away from Him.

Just praying for God to fix our disobedient failures is not the answer; obedience is, and Godly Civics is obedience in glory to Him. Then, we have a righteous prayer. Our unifying battle cry is Yahweh-Nissi (or Jehovah-Nissi), "God is Our Banner." Moses spoke it after Israel defeated the Amalekites. The first missing link is our pulpit leaders' failure to see God's hand in His 1787 Creation. If we don't see God, we don't see the devil's war against Jesus promulgated through nations and people. Red vs. Blue is the devil's theatre, not God's. The second missing link is God's call to believers in Eph. 6, "Stand against the wiles of the devil." There is only one place to stand against the devil for our USA: at the ballot box! In His glory, we add to Jesus' last words to the eleven (Mat.28:17), "Go and make godly citizens."

Trustworthy Elections

By: Urson Russell

What if there was an election with such simplicity, transparency, and accountability that there was almost nothing left to trust?

That is the type of election systems that all Americans deserve. In California, we use election systems that have so many processes and people in between the Citizens casting their ballot and it being counted, that much is left to trust.

We must trust that the staff is non-partisan, honest, and well-trained, especially during the signature verification process of more than 1,000,000 vote-by-mail ballots in Orange County for the 2024 General election.

Is the ballot duplication of close to 75,000 ballots in Orange County being done correctly? Unless we are observing and policing this, it leaves us with nothing but trust. This includes digital duplications of ballots received in envelopes, and hand duplications of people voting from home or those that received the wrong ballot.

There were over 13,000 ballots mailed to overseas citizens including military personnel and of those, 6,000 were returned. They all must be duplicated because they can be received by fax or email in a format that cannot be scanned. That ex-patriot in France with no plans to return to our local neighborhood, can have an impact in our local elections.

Are ballots being adjudicated or "changed" correctly? When voters make a mistake on their ballot, we must trust that someone is going to understand our true intended choice, and we must observe that process for thousands of votes cast.

The election process in California has become a high-tech, cyber-security, data-management system and most people are not experts in those fields, leaving the Citizens to trust the people running them.



Is the software up to date including operating systems, anti-virus, and election management? Are cyber-security measures in place? The DoD, SSA, Target, and Verizon are all multibillion-dollar institutions who have all been hacked. Should we trust that any bios-level forensic computer analysis is being done?

This does not mean that the people running our election systems are untrustworthy. It just means that anything in life that we are not managing ourselves is left to trust.

So, is there an election system with nothing left to trust or one without fraud? The unfortunate answer is NO! Every system has something to trust, and fraud can only be reduced.

The good news is that we CAN have an election system with only one thing to trust. When we return to neighborhood voting, which is the current trend in America, we can return to voting with confidence and knowing the results the next day.

We only vote with our neighbors, on one day, show ID, sign a paper poll book, vote, and most importantly, we return to count our neighborhood ballots together. The only thing to trust is that our neighborhood tallies were recorded correctly at the County.

That is a trustworthy election system that a 95-year-old grandmother who has never been on the internet could understand in a few short minutes.



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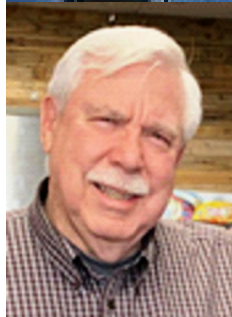
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Rethinking Thanksgiving and Christmas



R. Ellington Smith

It is the holiday season again and I often ponder the question of who are we, as a nation, giving “thanks” to? Our forefathers formed this Nation based on religious principles of “God” and knew who to thank based on their faith. My “thanks,” without faith, seems empty because there is no recipient.

Thanking one another helps show gratitude within family and friends, but we are a nation that was formed by many sacrifices, all so we can enjoy freedom within the boundaries of constitutional law.

This is driven home by my visit after the local Veterans’ Home and trips to the Veterans’ Hospital. There, I see lives impacted forever by their service for this country. Thanking them for their service doesn’t seem to be enough. On Thanksgiving and Christmas Day many eat in the dining room alone, no family, no visitors except for brother veterans.

As I sat there with Dave, a veteran friend, we noticed another vet sitting at a table. Dave told me to watch him. He positioned himself and began tightly folding his paper napkin. David asked me if I knew what he was doing, I didn’t. He was making a fuse for explosives. He did that at every meal. He never spoke to anyone, a soul lost to his existence.

When I think of this season, I reflect back to grammar school where we learned about the Pilgrims, the American Revolution and the Thirteen Colonies. But there is a whole history that has never been taught and that is the “Black Robe Regiment.”

The first move toward American democracy was instituted by ministers.

Early settlers, who arrived in Williamsburg in 1619 included a group of ministers who helped form the first representative government, the Virginia House of Burgesses. They met in a church in Jamestown and were lead by Revs. Burke, Mease, Whitaker, Wickham and Hunt. From there, they elected representatives for the people.

Massachusetts was established as a colony in 1620 by pastor John Robinson. He had a radical departure from the role of civic leaders in that he eliminated special privileged status between the governing leadership and the governed, leading to a representative government. In 1636 they formed the first American citizens’ Bill of Rights. In 1641 the Massachusetts Bay Colony established their Bill of Rights under the direction of Rev. Nathaniel Ward. In 1636 Rhode Island Colony did the same under the direction of Rev. Roger Williams with Connecticut following suit under the direction of Revs. Thomas Hooker, Samuel Stone, John Davenport and Theophilus Eason. These reverends founded Connecticut on three Biblical principles.

In 1636, the Rev. Roger Williams established the Rhode Island Colony and its representative form of government, explaining that “the sovereign, original, and foundation of civil power lies in the people.”

That same year, the Rev. Thomas Hooker (along with the Revs. Samuel Stone, John Davenport, and Theophilus Eaton) founded Connecticut. They not only established an elective form of government but in a 1638 sermon based on Deuteronomy 1:13 and Exodus 18:21, the Rev. Hooker explained the three Biblical principles that had guided the plan of government in Connecticut.

These ministers led their men into battle against the British Redcoats and the British feared them naming them the “Black Robe Regiment.” They spoke courageously about liberty and the rebirth of patriotism from the pulpit.

Driven by the overreach of government to shut down churches during the Covid-19 scare, along with government sponsored anti-Christian culture (Christian Nationalist classified as a terrorist group by the Southern Poverty Law Center), a new National Black Robe Regiment has formed. Its purpose is to equip and empower pastors to engage in their historical Biblical role to stand righteously and transform society through spiritual and cultural engagement.

Much of today’s struggle for the heart and soul of America is due to the fact many pastors have not taken a stand from their pulpits. They have allowed wokeness and passivity to replace America’s moral culture in their churches. Attendance and finances have replaced actions from messages/sermons. The expansion of socialist/communist ideologies have set in motion a few hundred pastors taking a stand from their pulpits resulting in the “New Black Robe Regiment” to reclaim America.

As for Christmas, we put the greatest gift to mankind on the back burner which is God’s Son. We exchange gifts without the thought of committing our lives back to God through His Son Jesus Christ, which is an experience and not an exchange of objects. Additional gifts given to believers are the “gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

The gifts of the Holy Spirit (found in Corinthians) are to the individual believers while other gifts are given to the Church for service like teachers and pastors. The Holy Spirit empowers the believer in ways that enrich the witness of a Christian walk. Many churches/denominations have convoluted the message and works of the Holy Spirit within churches as well as works within believers resulting in diluted witness of the “Truth” of faith and gift of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.

The second greatest gift to mankind is “life.” This has been brought home by my two experiences with death.

The last experience happened in 2009 when I collapsed working out at Inshape in Porterville, CA. No vital signs in the ambulance all the way to hospital.

While I came out of it in Emergency, the ambulance medic came in and said he never had seen anything like it. Five doctors stood around me asking each other if they have ever seen anything like it. Answers were no, but the cardiologist on duty (Dr. Reedy) thought it was the vagus nerve shutting down for which there are no drugs that work with the vagus nerve. The important thing was, I met and experienced God firsthand.

This experience put a whole new meaning on faith and God’s gift of His Son we celebrate at Christmas. For me, church denomination pettiness in differences in Biblical principles vanished because the basics became reality. To experience “Love” to an unexplainable level and intensity solidified the purpose of God’s gift of His Son Jesus. Yet, I fall short of living the full experience that was revealed to me.

I can only try and convey to both churchgoers and un-believers/atheists to seek a relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ, the greatest gift to mankind—and keep to the basics.

Remember! Social powers, government and elites celebrate Christmas as a time when merchants reap huge sales while the definition and purpose of Christmas faded into the twilight zone, materialism grasps a hold on society. These powers to be are extracting Christ from the purpose of Christmas when He was the “First Gift” to mankind that formed a time set aside to celebrate Him.

My thanks is to God for giving us men who sacrificed so much taking a stand against evils. We must not let evil overtake our nation founded on good Biblical principles. May the Black Robe Regiment really take hold and our Christmas celebration be a deeper spiritual experience.