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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

"News From a Christian Perspective"

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**COMES TO
SELMA...
DISCOVER
THE JOY AND
PRIVILEGE
OF BIBLICAL
CITIZENSHIP**

**Lynne
Petersdorf:**

"Salt and Light Affiliate." Selma CA

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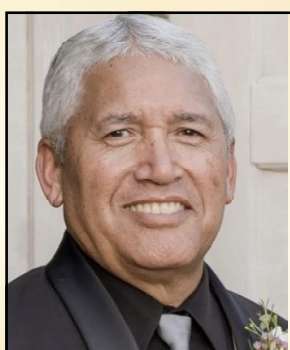
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Lynch Kaolelopono
Christ Driven
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The Need to Take a Step Back From the World

*As a minister of the Gospel with over 30 years of
experience, I continually remind myself to step back
from the world we live in and gain a deeper under-
standing of the situations we are currently facing.*

It has become necessary to
view morality through the lens
of what the world dictates, and
sometimes we need to distance
ourselves to truly grasp what is
happening today. We are
witnessing a movement where

not only the world but also
churches are drifting away
from the Gospel and the truth.
Ministries are forsaking the
truth of the gospel of Jesus
Christ in favor of self-induced,
people-pleasing doctrines.

Scripture warns us that in the
last days, people will be drawn
to doctrines of demons and
create their own understand-
ing based on what feels good
to them. Similarly, Paul
mentions in 2 Timothy 4 that
people will abandon sound
doctrine and flock to organi-
zations and churches that
cater to their desires. In light
of these **CONTINUED PAGE 7**



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DRAN REESE President
Salt & Light Council **P14**



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BRIAN JOHNSTON

Dr. Brian Johnston is a
physician and a member of
the Salt & Light Council. He
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Council.



Classifieds
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LocalNews



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GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Page 5

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Protecting your immune system is crucial because it plays a vital role in safeguarding your overall health and well-being. Here are a few reasons why protecting your immune system ultimately protects your life:

1. Disease prevention: A robust immune system is better equipped to fend off pathogens,

YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM—KEY TO GOOD HEALTH

reducing the risk of infections and diseases. By protecting your immune system, you decrease the likelihood of falling ill and experiencing the associated complications.

2. Enhanced defense against infections: When your immune system is strong, it can effectively recognize and combat harmful microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. By doing so, it helps prevent infections from taking hold and spreading throughout your body.

3. Quicker recovery: If you do happen to get sick or injured, a healthy immune system aids in a faster recovery. It mounts a swift and targeted response to neutralize the invading pathogens or repair damaged tissues, enabling you to bounce back more rapidly.

4. Reduced severity of illnesses: Even if you do

“We can enhance the function of the immune system by cleaning the body inside, cleaning the cells of Heavy Metals, Chemical, pesticides and toxins that we are subject to every day.”

contract an infection or illness, a well-functioning immune system can mitigate the severity of the symptoms. It helps to control the spread of the pathogens and limit the damage they cause, resulting in milder illness and faster resolution.

5. Protection against chronic diseases: A strong immune system also contributes to the prevention and management of chronic conditions such as autoimmune

disorders, allergies, and certain types of cancer. By maintaining a healthy immune system, you reduce the risk and impact of these long-term health challenges.

6. Improved quality of life: When your immune system is functioning optimally, you are less likely to experience frequent illnesses and their associated discomforts. This leads to an improved quality of life, allowing you to engage fully in daily activities, work, relationships, and hobbies without the burden of constant illness.

By taking proactive measures to protect and support your immune system, such as adopting a healthy lifestyle, managing stress, getting adequate sleep, maintaining a balanced diet, staying physically active, and avoiding harmful habits, you can enhance your body’s natural defense mechanisms and promote a longer, healthier life.



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The Need to Take a Step Back From the World-from page 1

developments, it is crucial to compare ourselves with the scriptures and ask ourselves what the scripture actually says. Our primary purpose is to give glory to God and exalt the name of Jesus Christ at all costs. Sadly, even the church today has become entangled in various controversies and conspiracy theories, often teaching a watered-down gospel or deviating from it altogether. We must recognize that a lie remains a lie, regardless of how loudly or frequently it is proclaimed. The truth will always be the truth, even if it offends us.

The degree of decadence and moral decay we witness today seems to have no limits. We see major sporting events honoring individuals who degrade entire religions. Immoral actions are now celebrated, and the most honorable thing one can do is to be immoral. Society teaches our children that they can discard their birthright as male or female and choose their desired gender at a young age. However, the term "trans-female" is contradictory in its definition. To transfer from something implies that one must have been something else to begin with. Therefore, by identifying as trans-female, one acknowledges being a male who wants to be called a female.

In Jesus' teachings on the seven churches, He mentions the church in Laodicea, admonishing them for being lukewarm. He urges us to be on fire for Him or to step away, as being in the middle dilutes and pollutes the entire system. Conversely, the world today embraces this middle ground. When we detach ourselves and reflect on it, we witness the degradation and disintegration of our world. It is evident that moral issues in our country are not improving. While technology, transportation, and other areas may advance, morality remains a grave concern. For instance, the Dodgers organization celebrates men who dress as trans-women and mock Catholicism, causing outrage

among Catholics and Christians. Interestingly, the LGBTQ community refrains from mocking Islam because they fear the consequences. Christians are seen as an easy target because they are expected to respond with love and acceptance. As ministers, we preach inclusiveness, loving the sinner while hating the sin. However, the false narrative projected by some is that we hate homosexuals. This is far from the truth, as many of us have family members who have adopted that lifestyle, and we love them dearly while disagreeing with their choices. We also disagree with lifestyles characterized by abuse, unforgiveness, and bitterness. Our opposition lies with sin itself.

Although we live in a fallen nature and fall short daily, we have a risen Savior who went to the cross, died for our sins, and promised eternal life to those who follow Him and believe in His sacrifice. I encourage you to step back from the world, observe the moral decline, and ask yourself if this is what God intended. He gave humanity free will, and through His prophetic Word, we were warned that these events would occur (1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Matthew 24, Romans 1). While it is disheartening to witness, we can also celebrate the fact that this generation will witness the return of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. May God bless you abundantly.

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Valley Life Community Church: A Beacon of Restoration and Renewal

Nestled in the heart of Selma, California, Valley Life Community Church has been a steadfast presence in the community for many years.

When the magnificent building and campus were first completed, it was christened with a name that evoked its purpose as the “Cathedral of Light.” Over time, the church has undergone changes in its name, but one constant has remained: the transformative power of the Lord Jesus Christ, bringing life and light to those once dead in trespasses and sin. As the years have passed, the wear and tear of time has taken a toll on this

once thriving and dynamic complex. The roof calls for repairs, and the parking lot yearns for tender care. Similar to the people who have faithfully served throughout the years and witnessed the process of decline, new life and hope are taking hold of the facility that was originally built with a greater purpose in mind – restoration. Enter Pastor Jesse Alvarez and his family, who assumed leadership of Valley Life Community

Church five years ago. They came to Selma with a message of hope, love, and new life, and it didn’t take long for them to recognize the impact of time on the facility. With unwavering determination, they set out to rebuild the essence of LIFE AND LIGHT not only within the physical structure but, more importantly, within the hearts and lives of the people of Selma. Valley Life Community Church stands as a testament to the power of restoration – a beacon of hope that shines brightly in Selma. It serves as a reminder that the purpose of the church extends far

beyond brick and mortar; it is about breathing life back into the community, revitalizing faith, and bringing about lasting change. As the community of Selma embraces this journey of restoration, Valley Life Community Church remains committed to its calling. Through their unwavering faith, passion, and dedication, Pastor Jesse Alvarez his wife Norma, and their two daughters exemplify the transformative power of the Lord in their own lives, inspiring others to join them on this path of renewal.■



AN INTERVIEW WITH PASTOR JESSE ALVAREZ



Christian NewsMagazine: Pastor Jesse Alvarez, you arrived at Valley Life Community Church in Selma, California during a challenging time for churches across the country due to the COVID pandemic. The statistics show that many people are not returning to their former congregations. Could you share your vision for this remarkable church campus and the people of Selma, California?

Pastor Jesse Alvarez: To understand my vision, it’s important to recognize how God speaks to people, especially to pastors and shepherds like myself. It begins with a call from

God that resonates deep within our spirits. Initially, it may be a still, small voice that gradually grows louder and more intense.

“We often question this inner prompting and ask, “Is that you, Lord?”

But as we seek guidance through prayer and consultation with others, the answer becomes clear. In my case, God called me to shepherd the flock at Valley Life Community Church in Selma, California, and to share His Word, love, and provisions with them. God reveals Himself to

us, He speaks, and we can speak and be heard by the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

Christian NewsMagazine: Can you tell us more about yourself, Pastor Jesse Alvarez, and where you come from?

Pastor Jesse Alvarez: I was born in Michoacán Mexico and immigrated to the United States in 1977 when I was nine years old. I grew up in Fresno, California, where I received my education. In 1986, I heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and placed my trust in Him as my Lord and Savior. I come from a family of six siblings, one of whom is a police officer in Fresno, and others who are teachers residing throughout California.

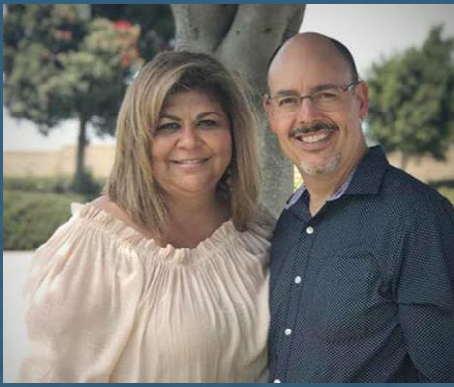
In 1987, I joined the staff at Cornerstone Assembly of God in Fresno and became involved in ministry. Over the years, God has been gracious to me and my family. Like everyone else, I had to develop my personal relationship with Jesus Christ and learn to become the new version of myself. The old Jesse is buried at the bottom of the river

where I was baptized, along with the sins of my past, and that’s where they should remain. I serve a God who can free us from our sins and grant us a new beginning, an eternal future as sons and daughters of God, co-heirs with Christ Jesus, and rulers alongside Him for all eternity.

My message to the people of Selma is, “You won’t believe all the wonderful things God has in store for you.” I desire to see each person in Selma embrace the person God intended them to be when He created humanity.

God has abundant blessings to offer the people of Selma, and my aim is to share this precious Gospel. However, I am not the only one in Selma; there are other faithful pastors, parachurch leaders, and civic figures who are also striving to communicate God’s goodness.

I want to come alongside these ministers of Christ and work together in every possible way to spread the message that Jesus Christ loves them and will set them free to become the individuals they were destined to be. ■



**JESSE & NORMA ALVAREZ
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Community Leaders oppose new Planned Parenthood clinic in Tulare, California.

As religious, civic, and nonprofit leaders in our community, we wish to express our opposition to the proposed establishment of a new Planned Parenthood clinic in Tulare, California.

We want to highlight this issue to the public and urge opposition to this business being established in the South Valley. One should take into account the mission statement of the City of Tulare when considering allowing an abortion clinic in the city limits which is: "To promote a quality of life making Tulare the most desirable community in which to live, learn, play, work, worship, and prosper".

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (PPMM), the regional Planned Parenthood affiliate with clinics in northern California, central California, and the Reno area, is nearing an agreement to buy a 36,000 square-foot property in Tulare, CA. The property is currently owned by a farming and real estate investment company called the Lagomarsino Group.

Planned Parenthood and Lagomarsino Group are currently going through zoning processes with the City of Tulare. The plan is for Planned Parenthood to develop a massive, 6,000 square foot clinic on the currently vacant site.

We do not object to efforts to bring prenatal health care resources to the San Joaquin Valley, and in particular to Tulare County, which is in desperate need of healthcare resources.

But it is abortion, not prenatal care, on which Planned Parenthood is focused. Abortion is the cornerstone of their business model, with providers receiving \$400-\$700 in Medi-Cal reimbursements for each abortion, far more than they receive for prenatal care visits or their other, less controversial

services. Their commitment to abortion is also the obvious key to their philanthropic and governmental revenue streams, their very reason for existing.

“ In spite of their nonprofit status, Planned Parenthood clearly adapts its patient offerings based on what will make them the most money, not always on what the community needs. ”

Planned Parenthood's Medi-Cal-heavy clinic on Fulton Street in Fresno, which offers both the abortion pill and

surgical abortions, does not even offer prenatal care services—though their clinic on Shaw near Fresno State, with a wealthier patient base and more private insurance beneficiaries, does offer prenatal care.

The reason is obvious: prenatal care, particularly for Medi-Cal patients, is a financial loser. It takes up exam room space and provider time, and it reimburses poorly. One wonders whether a Tulare clinic will offer prenatal care services at all, given that its patient base will likely closely resemble that of their Fulton Street clinic.

Lastly, PPMM was one of the entities implicated by Congress as being involved in the unlawful sale of the bodies of aborted children to researchers from 2010-2015.

California and federal law prohibit the selling of aborted fetal tissue for profit. Both the House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee found

significant evidence of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte selling fetal tissue to Stem Express (a middle-man company that would procure tissue from abortion clinics and sell it to researchers. Both committees submitted criminal referrals against Planned Parenthood Mar Monte to the FBI and Department of Justice due to its findings.

Abortion consistently correlates with higher levels of poverty, lack of education, and lack of access to healthcare resources. Women often choose abortion because they feel they have no other choices. The alleged "need" for abortion is, in fact, a need for community support for those in need. We can do better than abortion, and we should.

John Gerardi
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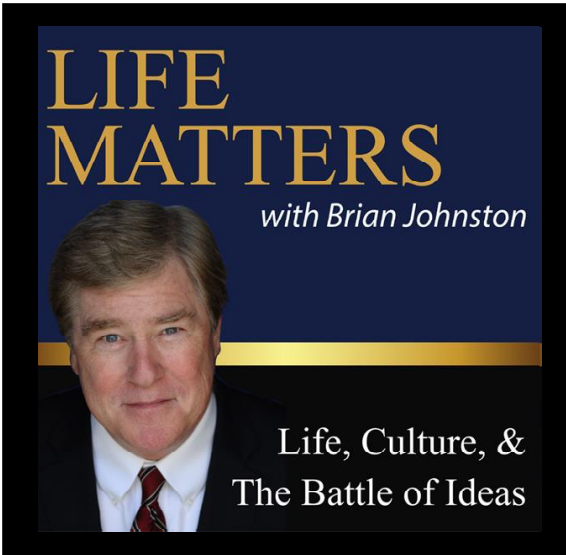
Louis and Elisa Quintana
grew up in Selma, CA where they met in church. They married in 1997 and have two young daughters. Louis earned his degree in nursing from CSU, Fresno and has used his voca-



Louis and Elisa Quintana
PASTORS

tion to support his family, as well as, travel internationally on short term missions. Elisa is a Licensed Cosmetologist and crafted her skill at one of Fresno's leading hair salon and day spa's. She is a homemaker and is investing her time and energy in raising their daughters.

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Are there two ‘choices?’

Public opinion polls will state with implied authority that the majority of Americans and the majority of Californians are pro-choice. But is that really true? What’s really going on with the abortion issue in the post-Dobbs environment?

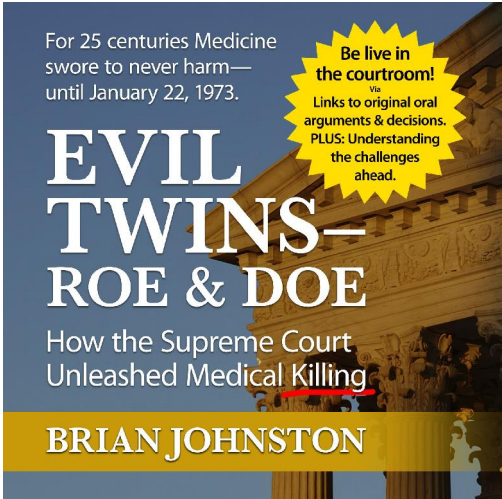
What are the real facts about abortion law, right now? What are the real facts about Americans' and Californians' public opinion? What should you do about it?

On August 18 in Clovis, California Brian Johnston, author and syndicated radio host, will be explaining the real post-

Dobbs environment. He will explore the objective facts - not the media version - but the objective facts regarding abortion policy and public opinion sentiment.

Brian will also be offering signed copies of his book that explores the deeper, and unresolved implications of Roe v. Wade. Evil Twins: Roe and Doe – How the Supreme Court Unleashed Medical Killing. He will also be introducing his forthcoming book, Unlimited Abortion, an essential premise for Marxist revolution.

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The Connector Lynne Petersdorf Selma, California



Lynne Petersdorf: “Salt and Light Affiliate.” Selma CA

In January 2019, I found myself seeking God’s guidance for my next assignment as His servant, particularly in relation to my role as a citizen of the United States. It was during this time that I started receiving hints and messages about the importance of “connections” and being a “connector.” While my interest

in U.S. government and politics had developed over the past decade, the focus of my story today is on that specific moment in January 2019.

I firmly believe that God desires to communicate with us, to guide and direct us. When we genuinely seek His wisdom and listen attentively, He will speak to us in ways that we can recognize as His voice. After all, He is our loving Father who longs to have a relationship with us. In January 2019, God revealed to me that I had the gift of connecting people, even though I hadn’t fully realized it before. Since then, He has been teaching me how to utilize this gift, enabling me to recognize individuals I am meant to connect with. Interestingly, I have also encountered others in

recent years who have received a similar calling from the Lord to be connectors. It’s truly remarkable!

Allow me to introduce you to some of the remarkable individuals I have connected with in the past six or seven years—people who are making a significant impact in their respective spheres.

In January 2019, I was led to an organization founded by Dran Reese called the Salt and Light Council, located in Solana Beach, California.

During a meeting in Fresno in 2018, I had the pleasure of encountering Dran—a delightful, intelligent, and passionately devoted individual. She introduced the Salt and Light Council to an audience of

Tea Party members and guests. Intrigued, I picked up pamphlets and literature, finding myself increasingly drawn to conservative Christian individuals and organizations that boldly spoke up for Biblical values in our culture and government. It was in January 2019, as I sought further guidance, that I felt compelled to visit the Salt and Light Council’s website (www.saltandlightcouncil.org) for answers to my questions. To my astonishment, the phrases that had been resonating with me were echoed on their website.

I soon realized that all the phrases I had been hearing aligned perfectly with the mission of this remarkable organization. I felt a strong urge to reach out to them and pursue training to become a “Salt and Light Affiliate.” In January 2019, I underwent the training and discovered that Dran and her team were exceptional leaders. They were trustworthy, supportive, and had a remarkable ability to connect, influence, and encourage like-minded individuals. It was clear that we shared the same goals and values, making them reliable partners in the pursuit of our mission.



DRAN REESE President Salt & Light Council

In this brief article, I cannot fully capture the depth and breadth of Dran’s work and the impact of the Salt and Light Council. There is simply too much to cover. However, what I can say is that they represent a community of kindred spirits bound by the love of Jesus and a shared mission to spread the Gospel. Dran and the Salt and Light Council affiliates help pave the way for us to fulfill our purpose.

Just as fellow soldiers become invaluable friends, allies, and trusted companions in times of war, Dran exemplifies a leader and soldier dedicated to preserving our heritage. If you are interested in learning more, please feel free to contact me, Lynne, at: vsaltandlight@valleylifeccselma.com

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Tom Sommers

Our History

Tom Sommers has served God, his family and Fresno County now for over sixty years and he is still faithfully serving. He truly exemplifies what the Bible describes as an “Elder at the Gate” for our community. As one of our longest serving local leaders, Tom has seen many ups and down in our county, and he has been part of the solution, and solved some of the most serious ones. Fresno County and the country are facing a crisis now and we need a solution that can only come if the Christian leadership unites to defeat it. Let’s learn the lessons of the past and unite to make Fresno County a Godly, beautiful and pleasant place to live in now and for the future.

The group gathered together. They prayed and they talked. Yes, we will continue to pray, but what else should we be doing? They finally came up with the idea of bringing Christian Men & Women together – every month – from many churches to discuss openly the “good & the not so good” of what is occurring in our community.

They also came up with the idea of an organized group of men & women meeting each month to report to our “community” the encouraging things that are happening as we “attempt” to move forward in serving The Lord and taking our community from the crime capital to one of Californias & one of

It was 1994 – Fresno County is going thru some tough days. Our community was declared the “Crime Capital” of America. More cars being stolen. Lots of hubcaps being ripped off. Fresno’s two Key Christian Leaders – Pastor Bufo Karraker from Northwest Church & Pastor G.L. Johnson from People’s Church gathered many of our local Pastors together to meet up in the mountains for a weekend of prayer.

Americas Key Christian Cities. My desire was to see Fresno become the “Godliest” city in the U.S.A.

The committee didn’t want this “new organization” to sound too official – so they called it “The No Name Fellowship” Gordon Donoho became the Key Leader. H. Spees was the leader of “One By One Leadership” – another key collection of Christian Leaders in our community.

Both of these groups came together to pray, but also to communicate openly what needs to be done to change our community. Little by little, things began to improve. Do you remember, right after the 9/11 attack, we had Billy Graham in Fresno at Bulldog Stadium in 2001?

More & more Key Leaders began to come into play. Police Chief Jerry Dyer became one of Fresno’s Key Christian Leaders. Numerous Pastors became more involved. Pastor Jim Franklin of Cornerstone Church; Pastor Paul Binion of Westside Church of God; Pastor Eli Loera of Family Christian Assembly; Pastor D.J. Criner of St. Rest Community Church; Pastor Jim Cecy of Campus Bible Church; Pastor Tim Rolan of New Hope Community Church; Pastor Jymme Foote of Breaking Free Revival Church; Pastor Chester McGensy of Family Community Church; Pastor Bruce McAlister of Saints Community Church; Pastor Brad Bell of The Well Church; Pastor Johnny Mendez of Cross Point Church; Pastor Scott Borman of New Covenant Church; Father John Supine of St. Paul Newman Center; Pastor J.R. Coleman of The Word Community Church; Pastor Dale Oquist of People’s Church; Pastor Jim Parks of West Fresno Christian Center; Father Jim Pappas of Greek Orthodox Church; and many, many others. Key Christian Leaders like Mitch Ribera, Jim Westgate, Martha Kistler, Marvel French, Liz Harrison Allen, District

Attorney Lisa Smittcamp, former Sheriff Margaret Mims, Pat Ogle of The Bulldog Foundation & The Neuman Center. CBMC’ers of the likes of John Gossett, John Moseley, Gary Sells, Don Neufeld, Bob Myers, Lyman Ehlich, Don Eskes, Bill Smittcamp, Paul Loeffler, Jim Booze, Steve Hosey and many others. Key Ministry people like Alan Doswald, Bob Duncan, Richard Shehadey of Producers Dairy; Gary McDonald - Home Builder, Larry Powell working in Education, Pup Nelson with FCA working in our schools. Brent Lindquist working locally & oversees with many Ministries. Pastor Gilbert Montelongo & his family with their close relationship with Pastor Sammy Rodriguez, one of America’s Key Pastors and we have been privileged to have Pastor Sammy in Fresno several times.

Women Leaders like Connie Clendenan, Cheryl Martin who has led more women to Christ thru “Operation Timothy” than any other woman in our community history.

Politically, Mayor Alan Autry, a Key Christian Leader and now Jerry Dyer as our Mayor and Paco Balderama as our new Police Chief and Matthew Grundy & Chris Montelongo as Dyer’s Assistants. The best Cowboy singer in the world - Jack Hannah. We have had Key Families like Randy White & his son Jameson White – the head of the Youth For Christ. That is why the very special H.Spees started with YFC to become one of Fresno’s all time great Christian Leaders.

We have been Blessed to have Businessmen like Lou Herwaldt, Bud Richter, Dick Johanson, & now his son Larry, Deny Stubblefield, Dick Caglia, Bob Mazmanian, Rodger Glaspey, Bill Tatham, Harry Markus, Gene Sperling, Mike der Manouel Jr., Jim Martin, Robert Watts, Butch Hanlin, Judge Bob Oliver, and the late Sid Cox and many others in recent years. KC Dickie is a

real mover & shaker. CBWC – Women Leaders like Joan Sandlin, Sylvia Plumb, Rosa Losey, Kathy Salinas, Linda Duncan, Vikki Luna, Gena Behrens, Marvel French, Martha Kistler.

A special ministry for women came along a few years ago – Breaking The Chains – headed up by Tiffany Apodaca & Debra Woods Rush and also Steve & Debbie Hergenroeder doing a big job with Break The Barriers.

Fresno also came into the spotlight with some Key Christian athletes like Derek Carr & his brother David Carr and now Aaron Judge in Baseball. Noel Felix a former Basketball Star & his wife Shauna doing big work with their ministry “Give Culture” – to give Hope, Encouragement, Love to others. Former Major League Pitcher Jim Maloney & Dick Ellsworth working in many men’s lives.

And then about 10 years ago, Steve Dick, the owner of Inspiration Cruises, became involved with our Fresno/Clovis Prayer Breakfast. Because of Steve’s close friendship with many of Americas Key Christian Leaders – we have gone from 500 people at our annual event to as much as 2,200 people. They tell us Fresno/Clovis is one of the biggest – maybe even the biggest Prayer Breakfast in our Nation.

Our Speakers have been David Jeremiah, Chuck Swindoll, Sammy Rodriguez, Greg Laurie, Tony Evans, Jonathan Evans, Alister Begg, Ann Graham Lotz and next year we are privileged to have former NFL Player & Head Coach Tony Dungy. Wow!! All thru Steve Dick & his special relationship with these individuals.

Fresno has come a long ways since 1994. We have been called The Bible Belt of California, but we also hear from many leaders – Fresno is The Bible Belt of America. Our community is not perfect. We still have many problem, but not near the problems of other cities.

We have now and have had many Christian Leaders in our local government. Our churches work well together with each other and also with our community & business leaders.

I vote for Fresno as the “Godliest City” in America!

Tom Sommers



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