Treasure Valley Christian News

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Do You Know How Much God Loves You?



If you feel loneliness, pain, and melancholy when Christmas rolls around, don't count yourself out of the celebration.

You might be closer to the true meaning of the event than you think.

Those who find this to be an emotionally difficult time of year, often wish Christmas would go away as soon and swiftly as possible.

The grief over the loss of a loved one, a memory of a Christmas gone bad, or strain caused by financial or personal troubles can make this a blue season for many people.

Having to face all the festiveness that seems to be around every corner only accentuates the pain.



If Christmas is about presents, family, and decorations, then it is true, Christmas is a bother for the hurting soul.

But if Christmas is about Jesus Christ, then consider Who it is we celebrate:

He was born to poor, peasant parents – Joseph and Mary – who had to run for their lives and for their son's life because King Herod felt threatened, and launched a slaughter upon all the children in Bethlehem two years and under.

He said things like "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

The ancient words of the prophet Isaiah apply to Jesus, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me. He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to comfort all those who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit."

He was rejected by his very own people, and despised by many. Some accused him of being of the devil. He had nowhere to lay his head. He was betrayed by one of his closest followers and was denied by another. His life ended on a Roman cross between two thieves, as if he were a common criminal.

Jesus' life wasn't particularly pain or problem free.

C.S. Lewis wrote of Jesus, "He was not at all like the psychologist's picture of the integrated, balanced, adjusted, happily married, employed, popular citizen. You can't really be very well 'adjusted' to your world if it says you 'have a devil' and ends by nailing you up naked to a stake of wood."

But this Jewish carpenter from Nazareth was God in the flesh.

One of his names is Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Through the person of Jesus, God came fully and intimately into this world, experiencing all the pain, grief, disappointment, sadness, and sorrow we can feel.

God did not fence himself off from the miseries of human life. He did not keep distance so as not to get involved. Christmas, in its truest form, is the recognition of this.

"Those who are well have no need of a physician," Jesus said, "but those who are sick."

If you are lonely, depressed, or hurting, then Christmas is for you.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who was killed for his opposition to the Nazi's, put it, "If Jesus Christ is not true God, how could he help us? If he is not true man, how could he help us?

Take hope in the fact that God is not far from you, but is near to you in the person of Jesus Christ. He knows rejection. He has tasted loneliness. He is acquainted with grief and sorrow.

He came for such as these. And it is for such as these – even you, friend – that He longs to be with.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." KJV John 3:16

By Pastor Philip Hughes
Sterry Memorial Presbyterian Church
Roswell, Idaho

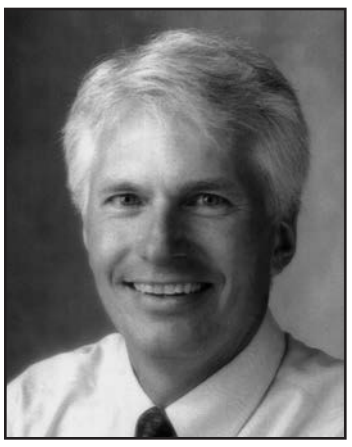
Wisdom:

"Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

– Luke 2:10-11

Treasure Valley Christian News
2309 N. Mountain View Drive, #220
Boise, Idaho 83706

Pastor Profile



Bryan Fischer,
Community Church
of the Valley
by Amy Brueggemann

Proverbs 28:1 reads, "The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion." (NIV) Bryan Fischer serves as an example to the church of what it means to live out the boldness spoken of in Scripture.

Seemingly he has been preparing for such all his life. Raised in a strong Christian home, Fischer accepted Christ at the tender age of 5, kneeling alongside his father, a Baptist minister – a gift he would later pass on to his own children.

Their church being too small for a baptistery, he waited with others the customary six-month period before traveling to a neighboring Baptist church some 25 miles away to be baptized.

The grounding received in youth served him well while attending a secular college. In fact, Fischer admits his college years to be a time of great spiritual growth. As with most secular college settings, the atmosphere for Christians was hostile. Fortunately, the Christians chose to stand with one another in support. So strong was their support for one another they were actually accused of trying to create a "Christian theme house" in the fraternity where Fischer co-led Bible study.

No doubt teaching the Word to peers perked the interest he began to have midway through undergraduate studies for ministry. And where teaching Bible study left off, Peninsula Bible Church continued. There Fischer found "masculine Christianity", Christianity where strong, intelligent men of integrity actively participate in church leadership. For two years he received ministry training under such men. Peninsula was also where Fischer was to meet David Roper, the man responsible for bringing him and his family to Boise after graduation from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Thirteen years Fischer served on staff at Cole Community, all the while continuing his ministry education through participation and observation. Then, with the blessing of the pastors and elders, Fischer began the journey of finding a place to call his own, and in 1993 Community Church of the Valley was born.

Today Fischer enjoys spending time with his wife Debbie and their two children Jana and J.D., reading, talking history or politics with friends. But sometimes his name finds itself bruised and dirtied, after being the focal point of a major debate. Because somewhere along the way Fischer recognized the need to speak out, to be a Christian voice. As many Christians realize, most of us tend to be a group of talkers – disgruntled about some moral insanity or another, but never willing to actually step out and do something, say something, be different.

But, as Fischer learned coaching little league, "if you don't show up you forfeit and it goes into the books as a loss." And he refuses to accept a loss on his account, encouraging others to do the same. He does not pretend it will be easy.

Following in the footsteps of Jesus is fulfilling; you get the chance to touch the lives of others, to minister to the needy, to be loved and respected. Yet, it is also difficult, for you must be willing to upset those in power, to be abandoned in your time of need by those you call friend, to be crucified. That is why the Scripture says the righteous must be as bold as a lion.

True Christianity is not for the faint of heart. Thankfully, thus far, Bryan Fischer continues to stand strong.

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Send letters to: *Treasure Valley Christian News*, 2309 N. Mountain View Drive, #220, Boise, ID 83706 or Email tvcnews@characterlink.net. Writers must give their full name, address and phone number.

Truck Driver Credits Prayer After Helping to Capture Sniper Suspects

FREDERICK, MD (EP)
The truck driver who alerted police to the whereabouts of two men later arrested in the "Beltway Sniper" case said he and a group of truck drivers had prayed about the case just prior to his spotting the suspects' car in a rest stop.

Ron Lantz, 61, of Ludlow, KY, called authorities after seeing a car sought by police in the string of shootings that left 10 dead and three wounded since October 2. The two suspects, John Allen Muhammad, 41, and a 17-year-old traveling companion, were arrested at the Maryland rest stop where Lantz spotted their blue Chevrolet Caprice
with New Jersey tags.

Lantz, who is just weeks from retirement after 35 years as an over-the-road driver, told the Associated Press, "Who would have thought that all this would happen just when I'm fixing to retire. I just thank God that I was where I was and that I was able to help. I now know that God answers prayers."

After calling 911 to report the suspicious car, Lantz was directed by police to block the vehicle from leaving the rest stop until police could arrive. He told reporters he spent several tense minutes waiting for police to arrive. "I just sat there and waited... it was a long 15 minutes," he said.

He recalled that at one point he started walking to the restroom, but turned around and went back to his truck when he noticed two people in the car.

As to his part in ending the weeks-long case that terrorized residents of the area surrounding Washington, D.C., he told Reuters News Service, "I'm no hero. I don't even want to be classified as a hero. Just let it go like it is. I did my job."

Lantz was willing to give credit where credit is due, however. "You don't think the Lord works in mysterious ways?" Lantz was quoted by the Cincinnati Enquirer.

As to the possibility of his receiving any of the $500,000 reward offered for the arrest of the sniper, Lantz said, "I'll probably take it right back to the families that all this happened to."

Statement of Faith

Treasure Valley Christian News, Inc. is nondenominational in attitude and emphasis.

We believe the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons, – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the virgin birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, His sinless life, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of God the Father, and His personal return in power and glory.

We believe our salvation is by grace through faith, in His shed blood, which is evident through our works.

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The *Treasure Valley Christian News* has an ongoing need for distributors to deliver the paper to various zoned areas in our circulation area. We provide $1 per "drop" in gasoline mileage reimbursement. If you are reliable, have a vehicle and can assist in this way, please call us at 377-3568 and leave a message. We will distribute the first Friday and Saturday of the month in most cases.

It's Christmas Time!



Pastor David Hardesty
Crane Creek Baptist Church,
Boise, Idaho

Christmas is fast approaching, and I've been thinking about the traditions we carry on around our house, and in our community. Do you ever stop to think of why we do the things we do?

People smarter than me (and there are millions of them) can tell us a lot about how Jesus wasn't born: the first Christmas probably was not in December, probably not in a snowstorm, probably not anywhere near a radio playing "The Barking Dogs Sing Jingle Bells". There's a good chance there was no Christmas tree around, and most scholars are convinced fruitcake was not served (What? You don't like fruitcake? You need to taste my Aunt Lois's - mmmmm, GOOD!)

So why do we celebrate Christmas when and as we do?

Before the 4th century, Jesus' birth was observed at different times in different places. Since no one knew exactly when He was born, it didn't really matter which day was chosen to specially honor Him. But in the 300s, Liberius, Bishop of Rome, set December 25th as the "official" date. This wasn't because he'd found Jesus' birth certificate but because the Romans had a feast for one of their major gods on that day. Liberius hoped that by giving the sun god some competition he could reach out to unbelieving Romans (and maybe keep his own church members from going to their parties!). It wasn't long before December 25th was accepted by the church everywhere, and while it may not be the "correct" day, it works pretty well in these parts.

Of course, not everyone celebrates Christmas on December 25th. Several hundred years after Liberius, a pope named Gregory noticed the calendar needed some adjustments and added time to make the human year coincide more closely with the solar year. By then the Roman church was claiming the pope to be Christ's representative on earth and churches in the east (Greece, Turkey, Russia) didn't agree; instead of going along with Gregory, the eastern churches kept the old calendar, and still observe Christmas in January.

So now you know why most Americans celebrate Christmas on December 25th. What about the other traditions that go along with Christmas? It turns out America has a wider variety of Christmas customs than any other country on earth, because America has welcomed people and traditions from every nation on the planet!

For example, most homes have a nativity scene, but did you know the first was set up in Italy? Francis of Assisi used live actors to illustrate the story of Christ's birth. After that, Italian craftsmen and children carved figures of wood and put them in their homes.

Your Christmas tree and its trimmings, plus the carol Silent Night, all came from the forests of Germany. Most carols are French or English, and mistletoe, holly, and the Christmas goose are English as well. The good ol' USA was the first country to send Christmas cards, and we can also take the credit for turning August-December 26th into the "Shopping Season". (Note to the manager of Shopko – I DON'T need to hear "Jingle Bells" while I'm buying flip-flops.)

And could it be that more than any other country we have learned and then forgotten the true meaning of Christmas? Take Saint Nicholas, for example. He wasn't a chubby, reindeer-driving North Pole resident. He was a SAINT, a Turkish man noted by all the church for his devotion to Christ and the work of the Lord. He was a good man who expressed the love of God by secretly giving money to poor families.

In my family we struggle with the morality of stacking boxes of presents around the tree while many facing poverty would be blessed with trifles. That's why, like Saint Nicholas, we try to include gifts for people who need them. While we're out shopping, we try to spend part of our budget on things for the Boise Rescue Mission, the Agape Light food pantry, the missions fund at our church, or other organizations that show the love of Christ.

And speaking of Christ... didn't all this start with His birthday? On her 5th birthday I went to see my niece, who met me at her door and said (without a hello or a kiss on the cheek!) "It's my birthday and I'm 5!" She expected to be treated like a princess, and she was. She got presents, balloons, cupcakes, more presents... all because it was "her" day.

So where's Jesus on your December 25th agenda? You're going to make time for your spouse; are you going to make time for Him? You're going to buy presents for the kids; are you going to give Him anything? If we – and by "we" I mean myself and anyone reading this article, especially Christians – don't truly honor Jesus on December 25th, then we might as well let them – and by "them" I mean anyone who wants to – rename it "X-mas", "Winter Holiday", or "Santy Claus Day". If "we" don't make Christ the Guest of Honor, why should "they"?

It's up to "us", because in spite of our different traditions, "we" know Jesus is Who it's all about.

I remember Christmases growing up in Arizona, and how the Mexican-American community would light their homes with beautiful luminarias. Their children would parade in the streets dressed like Mary and Joseph seeking shelter and the Wise Men seeking the Baby. There were special little Christmas cookies, and they opened presents in early January – not Christmas morning! – and sang songs that sounded much different from the English and French carols we heard in my house.

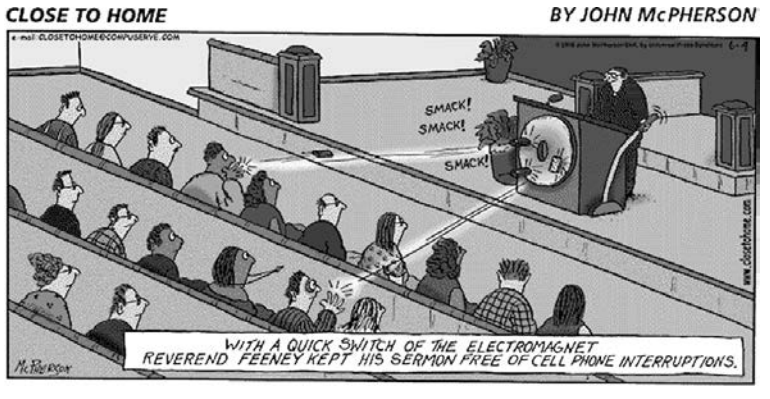
You see, my family came over from England in the early 1900s. Our traditions involved thick cakes and puddings filled with currents and nuts, caroling around the piano or at friends' homes (but never dressed as shepherds!), a fir tree groaning under the weight of decorations, and lights bought down at K-Mart. Hey, I'm sure the tradition of finding the "bad" bulbs AFTER the tree is trimmed is one that still persists in Hardesty houses everywhere!

But one thing I knew about those little children, with skin darker than mine and words different from mine, is that they were remembering a silent night, a Holy night, just as I was. The tradition wasn't the point; neither was the culture, the color, or the calendar.

From the beginning, Christmas has been and still is about Jesus, and Jesus is all about the love the Father had and has for the people of earth. What kind of love? A love that gives God's only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

That's something to sing about. That's Someone to sing about! And whether we sing "Venid, adoremos", or "O come, let us adore Him", He is still Christ, the Lord. I pray you'll keep Him in the front of your mind, as you celebrate your own traditions and have a very Merry Christmas.

Pastor David Hardesty, Crane Creek Baptist Church
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You can send a letter to the Editor via the Internet by going to:
www.tvcnews.org

Disabilities

By Daniel J. Vance



Perhaps you thought a disabled child's biggest struggle in life would be in trying to overcome or at least compensate for his or her disability. However, U.S. government statistics now suggest that a disabled child's biggest struggle could be with depression.

The federal government's Healthy People 2010 report has revealed that nearly one-third of disabled children ages 4-11 describe themselves as "sad, unhappy, or depressed." (Among children without disabilities, it's about one-sixth.)

Healthy People 2010 is an ongoing project of the U.S. Dept of Education and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One of its goals is to promote "the health of people with disabilities, prevent secondary conditions, and eliminate disparities between people with and without disabilities in the U.S. population."

The report states that twelve years after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), disabled children still face environmental barriers that limit their participation in society. For instance, thousands of churches lack ramps and elevators, the homes of a disabled child's neighbors often aren't accessible, and thousands of playgrounds aren't either.

In addition to environmental barriers, Healthy People 2010 claims that disabled children are "sad, unhappy or depressed" because of the unavailability of "assistive" technologies, such as talking word processors, arm and wrist supports, screen magnifiers, special keyboards and communication devices.

"Mainstreaming" in public education is mentioned as yet another means to help disabled children conquer their blue moods.

All in all, the glaring weakness of Healthy People 2010 is that it does not advocate any real-life emotional solutions.

Spending billions of federal dollars to further improve the environment for disabled children may indeed significantly bolster a great number of spirits. However, the root causes of being "sad, unhappy or depressed" are usually not so external. While severe depression can be a biochemical illness, being "sad, unhappy or depressed" is more often a matter of the heart.

The federal government simply can't wrap its arms around the nation's disabled children and consistently love them all day. That important job must be yours and mine: treating disabled children (and adults) as fully human equals, with admiration, dignity, and love.

For "sad, unhappy or depressed" children – with disabilities ranging from cerebral palsy to dyslexia – often grow up to be sad, unhappy and depressed disabled adults. A little love today can act as a catalyst to help a disabled child attain all of his or her potential tomorrow.

More than 54 million Americans have some kind of disability.

Daniel J. Vance is editor of *Connect Business Magazine* (www.connectbiz.com), the father of a 7-year-old girl with spina bifida, and an associate with *Joni and Friends*, a disabilities outreach ministry. He holds an MA in communication arts, and has completed graduate work at Johns Hopkins University in counseling. Mr. Vance's email is djv@mnic.net.

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Time is Right to Build Nation's First Biblically-Based Mental Health Care Hospital in Nampa

Sponsors, Donations & Volunteers Needed

by Kris Long



Dr. Anthony Harper, Ph.D., Founder

The Children of Hope Family Hospital, Inc. needs sponsors, donations and volunteers to build and staff the nation's first fully-accredited, Biblically-based mental heath care hospital for seriously emotionally disturbed (SED) children.

Hospital founder Dr. Anthony Harper, Ph.D. said there is a growing number of Christian parents with SED children who are looking for alternatives to secular counseling practices and bureaucratic insurance policies.

"I believe the time is right to proceed with plans for building a hospital that will provide the quality care these parents want for their children."

The hospital, founded in 1997, is in the development stage, and treatment will be provided almost entirely by volunteers. It grew out of the need for inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services for children with drug abuse and other serious emotional problems from families who cannot afford the high cost of mental health care.

When completed, the hospital will employ a staff of about 40, including licensed psychiatrists, physicians, nurses, psychologists, counselors, social workers and other salaried or volunteer staff. It will be a 125,000 square foot facility with 72 beds. The building site is located in Nampa, Idaho, between Mercy Medical Center and AIM International.

What makes the Children of Hope Family Hospital unique is its Biblically-based approach to counseling. "There are good treatment centers in Idaho and the country, but none are based on Biblical principles of Christianity," Dr. Harper said. "Our hospital follows the ethical guidelines of the International Association of Biblical Counselors."

Another feature of the hospital is that patients will be able to stay as long as necessary to promote a full recovery.

"The children of parents who can't afford treatment too often get lost in the cracks of Idaho's mental health care program," according to Dr. Harper. Untreated, SED children grow up with increased risk of committing serious crimes, becoming addicted to drugs or tragically ending their lives by suicide.

"Many psychiatric hospitals rely on insurance payments to fund their services, and when the payments stop, the treatments must also stop," Dr. Harper explained. An important distinction about the Children of Hope Family Hospital treatment is that it isn't primarily funded by insurance. "We don't want finances to be a hindrance to a person's health care at our Hospital."

Dr. Harper has been providing free counseling services for those who can't afford it since 1981. He is listed in the 1999/2000 edition of *Who's Who in Medicine and Healthcare*, and he is a national guest lecturer on drug abuse and suicide.

Currently in Idaho, adolescents with SED are often committed by the State to the Blackfoot, Intermountain or Orofino treatment centers. The Children of Hope Family Hospital will give parents with a Christian preference a choice for a faith-based treatment center, and Dr. Anthony is convinced there are many parents who would prefer this choice for their children.

"I believe the State of Idaho will commit to providing parents this referral choice," Dr. Harper said. "In which case, there would be a charge to State and counties for our services."

Well-respected psychiatrists Dr. Peter Breggin, M.D. and Dr. Gary Almy, M.D. believe that in many cases there is excessive and unwarranted use of psychiatric drugs in secular treatment. "The Children of Hope Family Hospital will use medications only when absolutely necessary," Dr. Harper said.

What Christian parents will appreciate about the hospital is that it promotes a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and participation in Bible studies. Dr. Harper maintains that this personal relationship with Jesus Christ brings about a hope and healing that secular counseling simply can not provide.

The Children of Hope Family Hospital needs your prayers and your financial assistance. Dr. Harper is appealing to concerned Christians, churches and local communities to get involved in making the Hospital a reality. "We want the Hospital to become a model for Christian mental health care in our nation and one that is nationally recognized as a leader in providing quality treatment for those with serious mental illness," he said.

In addition to one-time financial donations, the hospital needs sponsors who will commit to long-term monthly donations.

"For the construction of the facility, we need as much donated labor and building materials as possible," Dr. Harper said. "We also need social work interns, counselor interns and others who are willing to volunteer their time."

Dr. Harper believes the timing of the construction will depend largely on the acquisition of the land. "We need people to help purchase the land," he said. "I am convinced that once we have the ground-breaking ceremony, we will get the donations and contributions needed to make the rest happen."

The hospital is incorporated as a nonprofit organization under the laws of the State of Idaho, and donations are tax deductible. It is governed by a board of directors and officers as required by its Articles of Incorporation, with board meetings being held on a monthly basis.

To make a donation or learn more about The Children of Hope Family Hospital, visit their website at: http://chfhosp.dmi.net. For those churches with an interest in sponsoring the hospital, Dr. Harper is available to present the hospital plans and answer questions with local congregations or its concerned members.

Your church or local community organization may schedule a personal visit from Dr. Harper by calling (208) 377-3568 (ext.2). You may also request further information by E-mail: aharper@characterlink.net



Ministry of Justice for Idaho Founded

Attorney Pamela Boucher

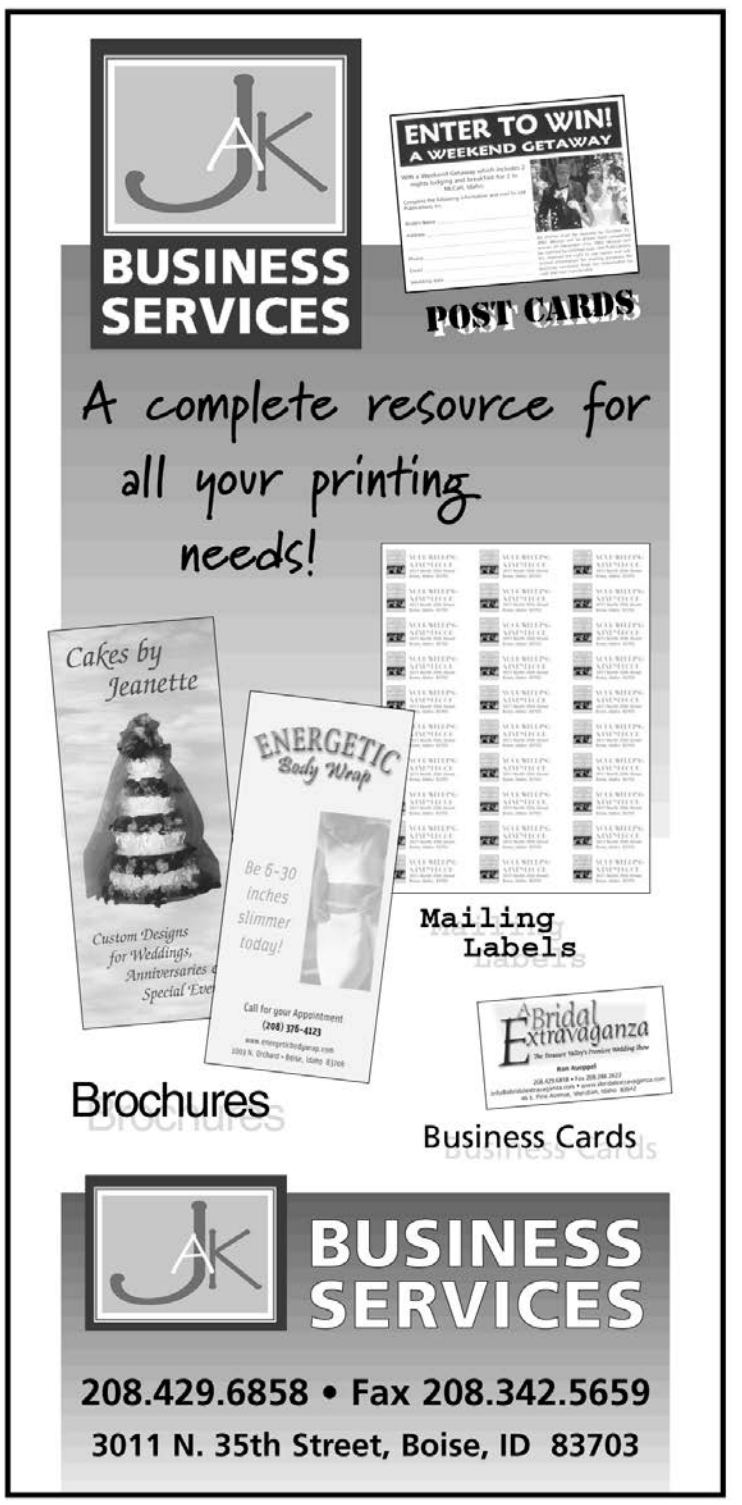
A call to seek justice, love and mercy is the basis for the Ministry of Justice for Idaho (MJI), founded by the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Boise. The ministry provides legal services to less fortunate people in the area including those served by the Boise Rescue Mission Ministries.

Attorney Pamela Boucher is seeking other Christian attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants and legal secretaries who would volunteer a small amount of their time to help disadvantaged citizens in the Treasure Valley. Legal advice and counseling is given in a safe, kind, confidential and non-threatening professional atmosphere.

Volunteers are also needed at MJI who do not have a legal background. Areas where help is needed is to screen applicants, produce newsletters, write grants, organize special events, make people feel welcome, and do general office work. Services are available to anyone who meets the need criteria. It is not based upon religious beliefs.

The Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Garden City has given the ministry an office, computer, and other equipment and supplies to get started. Boucher realized there was a need before the office opened, but has been "overwhelmed by the calls received at the ministry."

Future plans for MJI include a mobile law office that will spend time at the rescue missions in the Treasure Valley. If you can help with the Ministry of Justice for Idaho in any way, please contact Pamela Boucher at (208) 377-1477 or email pamelaboucher@vineyardboise.org. You may also write to: Ministry of Justice for Idaho, 4950 N. Bradley Street, Boise, Idaho 83714.





A New Creation?

Rev. Bill Roscoe
Director, Boise Rescue Mission

"If anyone is in Christ he is a new creature. Old things have passed away, behold all things become new" 2 Cor. 5:17

Twenty-six years ago an old Pastor visited our home and told Sandra and I that God loved us. For my wife, this wasn't news. Raised in the Catholic church, she was persuaded that God loved her and most everybody else too.

But for me, this was not only news, but very probably untrue. My first thought was, "Why on earth would God love ME?"

At twenty-five years of age, I had been on a pathway to destruction most of my life. Having my first beer at 14 years old, trying liquor and other drugs by 16, I had been running amuck and into the chains of addiction ever since.

I joined the Army at 18 and a year later found myself in Vietnam. Being the youngest of the four boys in my family to serve there, I had some idea of what war would be like. But until you experience war, you can't really know what to expect. I was fortunate to escape the horrors that two of my brothers saw, but I did see enough to become very bitter and angry at "God" and to really doubt the existence of "God".

The worst was yet to come. The very day I was to leave Vietnam, the day we all looked towards with fear and trembling, I received a Red Cross message for emergency leave, as my dad was dying of lung cancer. I was home in 26 hours with salty boots, a confused mind, and chip on my shoulder.

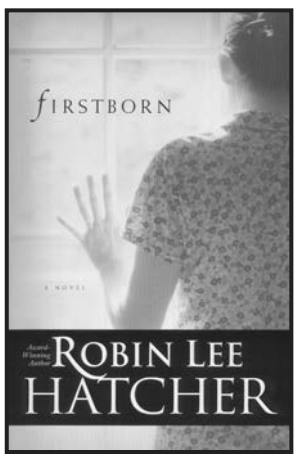
Married a year later, the father of two beautiful kids, and buying a house on the G.I. bill, most people thought I really "had it going on." But in my heart and in my soul, I was dying a slow death of fear, anger, and depression. Nothing that I did brought happiness. The more I drank the worse life got. My wife left me several times and returned mostly from desperation with no where to go. My friends were afraid of me too and really only came around to get high. Sin was at every turn for me. And now I'm told God loves me. Oh, how I wished it were true!

This godly pastor continued to visit with us and in the course of time, I decided that if he were right, perhaps this God could change my life. In the simplest of faith and in serious desperation, I prayed a prayer asking for forgiveness and asking for help. There was a strong sense of peace in that moment the like of which I had never known. I accepted that as an indication that not only was God real, but that He did love me, had heard my prayer and was indeed now in my life.

Twenty-six years later, I can testify that this is the truth: "Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners" (1 Timothy 1:15) "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13)

Christ is alive and well and present in the Treasure Valley, seeking to save, that which is lost. He has and continues to change my life. He would love to do the same for you!

BOOK REVIEW



Firstbord
By Robin Lee Hatcher
(Tyndale House Publishers; 2002)

Reviewer: Diana L. James

In her latest novel, *Firstborn*, Robin Lee Hatcher weaves a tale that clutches the reader's heart – traveling with the characters through dramatic and challenging situations to an ultimate affirmation of God's mercy, forgiveness and grace.

The people in this riveting story are so familiar, so natural, one gets the feeling they live just up the street from us, or that we have seen them every Sunday in church. The puzzles and problems faced by Erika, Steven, Dallas and Ethan – and the, oh, so human reactions they displayed – caused this reader to wonder in almost every chapter," What would I have done if I were in that person's shoes?"

Of added interest for Treasure Valley residents is the Idaho setting, with frequent mentions of Boise and Nampa landmarks and businesses, as well as descriptions of the Lucky Peak scenery. This author has a talent for creating verbal visuals – vivid descriptions that transport you right into the scene.

The plot and action move fluidly, captivating the reader in ways that make the old cliche' "I couldn't put it down" a statement of fact. While the plot is not new, it is presented with ample finesse and creativity to hold the reader's interest and arouse strong emotional reactions to what is happening among the characters.

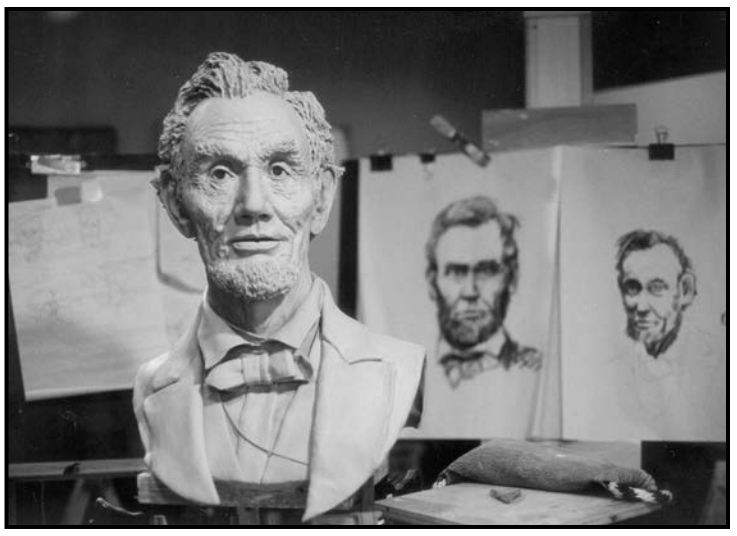
Firstborn is likely to become another favorite among the long list of popular and outstanding books by one of Idaho's most prolific writers.

Robin Lee Hatcher has written over thirty-five contemporary and historical novels and novellas and has been published in fourteen countries. She has more than five million copies of her novels in print. She is the winner of the Christy Award of Excellence in Christian Fiction and the RITA Award for best Inspirational Romance. She is a past president/CEO of Romance Writers of America, a professional organization with over eight thousand members world-wide. Robin and her husband, Jerry, live in Boise.

Diana L. James is a Meridian, ID, author, public speaker and radio program co-host. She currently has four books in print in her *Bounce Back* series: *Bounce Back, You Can Bounce Back Too, Teens Can Bounce Back* and *Families Can Bounce Bac*k. Her fifth book (not in the *Bounce Back* series) is scheduled for publication in 2003. All five books are published by Christian Publications Inc./Horizon Books. Diana is a radio program co-host with Dr. Vincent Kituku on KBOI, AM 670 on Saturdays from 7 to 8 a.m.

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Dean Estes: Sculptor of Clay, Sculptor of Souls

by Amy Brueggemann

The book of Exodus introduces readers to a man by the name of Bezalel, a man filled "with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts – to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood and to engage in all kinds of artistic craftsmanship." (Exodus 35:31-33, NIV). He was also a teacher. He taught others the artistry trade so together they might build the Tabernacle as instructed by the Lord.

Dean Estes may very well be a modern day Bezalel. Big shoes to fill for a boy raised in a small farming community, and often called the "stupid little kid." But God saw the potential. And though Estes lived in a Christian home, God chose a non-believer to speak life and hope into his life.

Being dyslexic, Estes learned more through pictures, therefore it is no surprise he took to art. Appropriately, it was a high school art teacher who gave him the key to success – he believed in him, and urged him to do something with his life. Not just something, but something big, and he insisted it began with going to college. At first Estes argued, along with nearly everyone he knew, that he wasn't intelligent enough for college. But the teacher persisted.

Before long Estes began to believe as well, even to the point of pleading a chance to prove himself when college admissions said he was more suited for a vocational school rather than college. Prove himself he did, and he ended up being one of the first two Fine Arts majors to walk.

Amidst it all Estes' relationship with the Lord was changing and growing. After spending a bit of time away from church, he and his wife Judi rededicated their lives to the Lord, and began the journey of blending "church stuff" with "life stuff." For both, it meant committing themselves to the encouragement of others.

For Dean, personally, encouragement consists of replacing the fear and doubt in the life of another, with hope and faith. He seems especially committed to other artists, and finds art to be a springboard into greater, more spiritual issues. With another in his studio he finds "sometimes you're working in clay, sculpting and molding; and sometimes you are working on [each other] sculpting and molding."

Thus, as stated earlier, Dean Estes may very well be a modern day Bezalel. For just like Bezalel, he is an artist who creates magnificent displays with whatever tools lie before him – clay, bronze, glass, watercolors, wood. And as Bezalel taught others the artistry trade so they could perform their part in building the tabernacle, so Estes teaches others the value of their talents, so they may perform their part in building God's kingdom.

If readers would wish to contact Dean for more information on his artwork: D. Long Estes Sculpture & Design, deanestes@email.com or call (208) 375-7402 in Boise.



Luis Palau in Boise, August 2001

Does God Really Know You?

by Luis Palau

How individual is God? Can he meet you where you are, speaking to you in a way you can understand?

Absolutely!

God loves you that much. Enough to die not just for the world, but to die for you. Enough to speak not just from heaven, but to your heart. How do I know? I've seen it happen time and again.

Our festivals around the world give me a front row seat to these life-changing miracles. God brings many types of people to the festivals-and meets them all quite differently.

Mateo came to Treasure Valley Festival last year looking for guidance, having not found what he was looking for in alcohol, friends, parties, and religion. Saturday night at the festival, the teenager heard something brand-new to him: God desired a personal relationship with him, not submission to a list of rules. With his whole heart, Mateo committed his life to Jesus Christ.

Garreth is a 31-year-old Englishman who drove three hours to attend the Puget Sound Festival. "I enjoyed Mercy Me, Tait, and tobyMac," he e-mailed to me, "but the testimony of the guy in the wheelchair really reached my heart."

The guy in the wheelchair is Bob Mortimer, who also told his story at Treasure Valley Festival. He's a man who used to be into parties and alcohol – until a drunken stupor, car wreck, and downed electric wire resulted in the loss of three limbs. All he has left is one arm – one arm and the power of God in his life.

"My brother was murdered nearly three years ago," Garreth wrote, "and since then my inner life has been in turmoil and my relationship with God has been broken. I decided that if God can fix the life of that guy in the wheelchair, I should let him fix mine. So during your talk, I recommitted my heart to Christ and washed away the past three years of anger and grief. On Monday morning I have to go back to my work life with all the problems I face, but I am not worried anymore. I really want to use that experience I had last night as a starting point for a new life in Christ."

God reached 16-year-old Anna in a very different way. She showed up at the festival skate park. Her red cotton, sleeveless dress and stylish haircut didn't fit the grunge scene filling and spilling over the bleachers, but that didn't matter.

Anna had been in search of the truth for a while, convinced that truth must exist. She got on the Internet and checked out different religions. "There are so many choices," she said. "It's such a big thing. There's got to be something out there."

She watched the professional skateboarders do their stunts, and then listened to Paul Anderson, our skate pastor. He tells it like it is – and teenagers appreciate that. "No matter what people have told you Jesus and Christianity is like, this is what he's really like," Anna heard Paul say. "He went down and he loved people. He cared about people, and he hung out with the people that were messed up."

That was the good news. But Paul told them the bad news, too, and he didn't pull any punches. "Why would we spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to come in and do kick flips, and then take this whole skate park apart?" Paul asked. "These guys are doing this to tell you about God because your soul is going to live forever. And when you die, that soul is either going to live forever with God in Heaven, or forever in Hell, where the devil's gonna be.

"And the reason why that is – I want it to be understood – is that the Bible says every person here has sinned. God made us so we can know and love him. But all these people just turn their back on the Lord. They say, 'Forget you, God.' And they go out and they pursue money and sex, and they kill each other and they hurt each other.

"And then, because God is God and he had never sinned, he decided that instead of us dying, 'I'm going to pay the price so those dudes don't have to die.'"

God gave us a second chance, Paul said. He gave it by coming to earth and showing us, through Jesus Christ. He spoke in a way people could understand. Anna understood. She decided her search was over; she had found the truth. Where are you hurting? How do you need to hear God speak?

Won't you be honest with him? God knows your deepest pain. He knows your biggest questions. And he's not afraid of any of it.

In the Bible, in Isaiah 30, a man named Isaiah warns people not to run stubbornly from God – it won't get them anywhere. But then Isaiah says God is waiting for you, not to beat you up, but to "show you his love and compassion" (Isaiah 30:18). But we have to stop running. We have to admit we can't make it through life on our own, that we need God.

Here is what Paul Anderson prayed with people at the skate park. You can pray it, to:

"Dear Jesus, I know that I have done bad things. I know I'm a sinner. I'm sorry; please forgive me. Jesus, I believe in you. I believe you died on the cross to take away my sin, rose from the dead, and are alive right now. And right now, Jesus, I want you to come into my life; I want you to be my leader. I want to do what you say. I want to follow you, Jesus, and live forever with you in heaven. Thank you, Jesus, for loving me. In your name I pray, Lord Jesus, Amen."

Mark of the Beast?

DALLAS, TX (EP)

The maker of an implantable human identification chip is offering a $50 discount to the first 100,000 people to register for a chip implantation. The $200 chip is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted under the skin of the subject.

The company is marketing the device, which can hold a sizeable amount of important personal data, for such uses as: controlling access to buildings and offices (the chip would replace a "smart" card key); financial transactions (the chip would replace an ATM card); identification (the chip would replace the old-fashioned identification card).

The chip has alarmed both privacy advocates, who see the potential of controlling populations through forced implantation, and some evangelical Christians, who see eerie parallels between the chip and the biblical "Mark of the Beast" which will ultimately be required of all non-believers in a post-Christian dispensation.

Not in my Post Office!

HOUSTON, TX (EP)

A Texas postmistress has steadfastly refused to remove an "In God We Trust" poster displayed in her post office. U.S. Postal Service officials had ordered her to take it down because it was in violation of postal regulations.

But according to the Houston Chronicle, Ida Miera declared that the poster, which still hangs in her post office as well as two others in Montgomery County, Texas, would only come down "over my dead body."

A Beach Party in Boise!

Luis Palau's next festival is **Beachfest** in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 22-23, 2003. That's spring break for thousands of students, and you're invited to come to help share the Good News of Jesus Christ. For more information, visit the Beachfest website: www.BeachfestUSA.org. You can also help bring Beachfest to the Treasure Valley. Plans are in the works for a huge Beachfest **"Beach Party"** featuring live music, local celebrities, food, and fun built around a Gospel presentation from Luis Palau. Call Rich McGovert, Treasure Valley Youth Alliance coordinator, at (208) 344-9098 for more information. A planning meeting is scheduled for November 21 at Cornerstone Community Church, 1023 S. Curtis Road in Boise.

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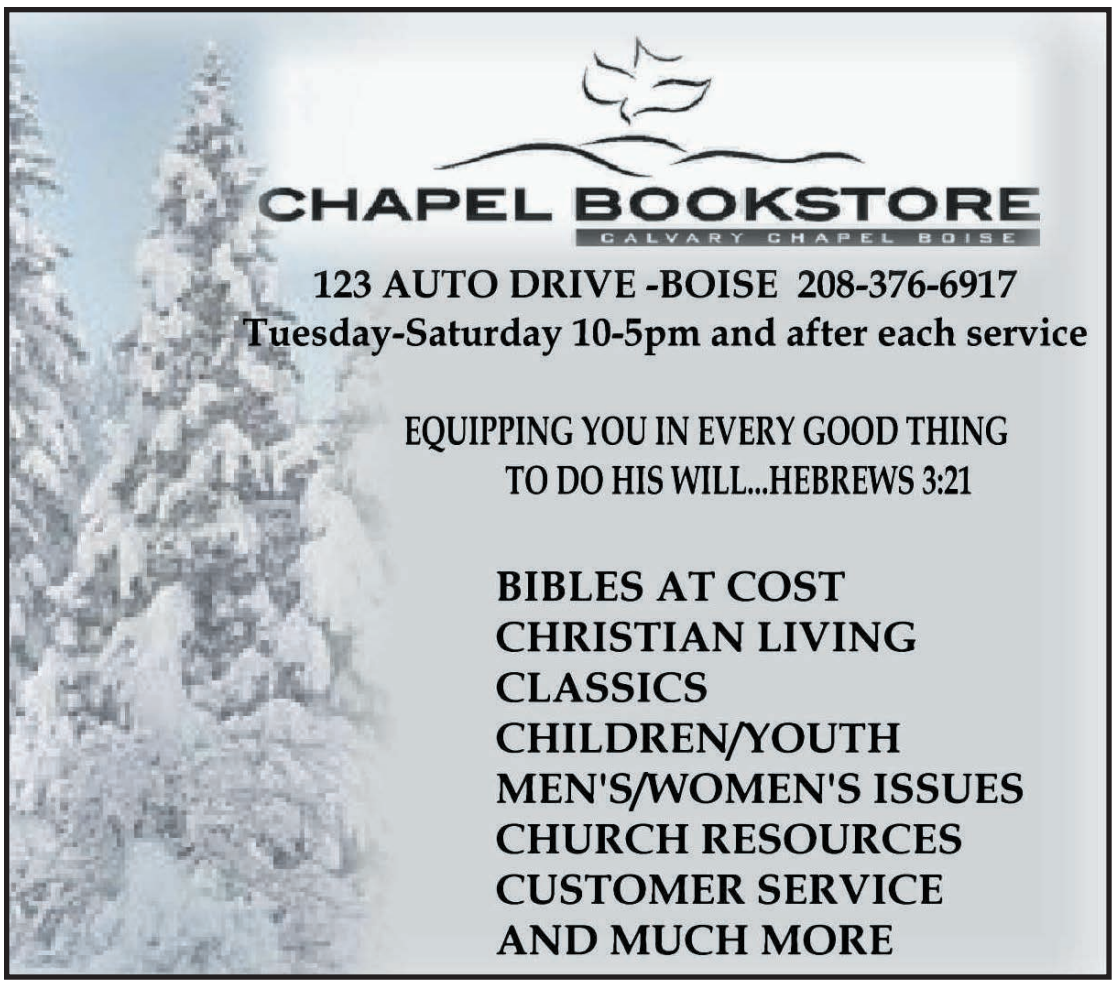


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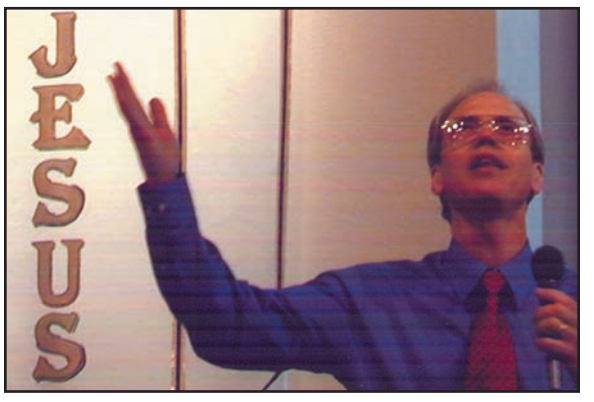
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Born in 1952 in Clarksville, Tennessee, Anthony has lived in Idaho most of his life. He grew up in Nampa and Idaho Falls, and was involved in singing at the North Nampa Nazarene Church (now called Lakeview Nazarene) in Nampa and the First Church of the Nazarene in Idaho Falls. He has attended Idaho State University and Boise State University as a Music Major in vocal performance.

A demo tape and CD are available upon request. Areas served are Idaho and Oregon. Anthony is available to churches for gospel concerts on a freewill offering basis.

Contact Anthony Harper now for all your vocal music needs.

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Boise Rescue Mission Ministries

(208) 343-2389 • 520 Front Street, Boise, Idaho 83702

Serving the Treasure Valley for Forty-four Years!



Boise Rescue Mission, Front Street, Boise



City Light Home for Women and Children, Boise

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Lighthouse Rescue Mission, Nampa





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Why Am I Here?
How Do I Beat This Loneliness?
What Makes My Life So Hard?
Where is That One Special Relationship?

Are You Caught on the Performance Treadmill?

Many religious systems have a set of dos and don'ts on how to get to Heaven. Some say we must follow the Ten Commandments, others that we must be baptized, while others insist that we must worship in a certain way. The age old question is, "What are the works that God requires?" Jesus was asked this very question in John chapter 6.

Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent" (John 6:28-29).

Note that Jesus' response was not to give some formula we must follow to enter Heaven, instead, he said, the only work God requires is to believe in the Son! The works of God are defined as a single work: to believe in Jesus, the One he has sent.

The people asking this question to Jesus 2000 years ago had the same mindset of people asking this same question today: What work must I do to make myself right before God?

People then and now mistakenly think they can please God and thus obtain eternal life by doing good works (Romans 10:2-4). But there is a single work for you to do if you are to be accepted by God, but this one great work is not something that you perform by your actions: instead, it's something that you believe.

What must we believe to do the works God requires? Jesus said the Father wants you "to believe in the one he has sent." In other words, the works God requires is to "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). Scripture also tells us about our belief in Jesus, "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). The works that God requires of you is to believe that Jesus, the one he sent, is your Lord and Savior.

Why did God send Jesus? "He loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10) "that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Do you believe this? Jesus said this is the work God requires of you, to believe that he sent his Son to die on the cross for your sins.

Without this belief, you cannot receive forgiveness of your sins (John 3:18, 36); you will die in your sins (John 8:24); you cannot be a child of God (John 1:12), because a rejection of Jesus is a rejection of the Father (Luke 10:16). Without having this belief – the work that God requires – you cannot please God (Hebrews 11:6); you cannot overcome the world (1 John 5:5); his word does not dwell in you (John 5:38), nor can it be at work in you (Hebrews 4:2).

With this belief, you will no longer be under the curse of the law (Galatians 3:10) for "Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes" (Romans 10:4). You will also be justified (Acts 13:39) and become righteous in God's eyes (Romans 3:22; 4:24). Your sins will be forgiven (John 3:16; Acts 10:43); you will become a child of God (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:5), and be given a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17) by being baptized into Christ Jesus – baptized into his death (Romans 6:3). By doing the work that God requires – believing on his Son – you will be marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13). You will also, overcome the world (John 16:33); have his word dwell in you (John 17:17); have his Word at work in you (1 Thessalonians 2:13); become a child of Abraham (Galatians 3:7); be promised eternal life (John 3:36; 5:24); will live, even though you die (John 11:25). and see the glory of God (John 11:40).

Since the Bible says that salvation is "not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9), it's important to understand that believing is not a work in that God affected your choice to believe. Jesus said: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" (John 6:44). Believing is granted to us "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him" (Philippians 1:29). So the very fact you believe is because God moved on your heart, and God promises to move in the hearts of people who "seek me with all your heart, [for] I will be found by you" (Jeremiah 29:13-14). And "he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Are you ready to seek after God with all your heart? Then ask God to draw you to his Son and grant you the faith to believe in the One he has sent. Remember that Scripture tells us that God "loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10). For you to believe in the One he has sent means that you believe you are a sinner in need of a Savior to cover your sins.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring this conviction to you, for Jesus said: "When he [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me" (John 16:8-9). The world doesn't believe in Jesus because the thought of a Savior to cover their sin is "foolishness to those who are perishing" (1 Corinthians 1:18).

Do you have a conviction in your heart that you are a sinner in need of a Savior, or is the thought of the cross foolishness to you? Are you trying to make yourself right before God by a set of dos and don'ts on how to get to Heaven? The work that God requires for you is to believe in the one he has sent to cover your sins.

If believing in Jesus Christ is the one work that God requires of us, we should put our whole effort into it. Jesus makes it easy for he said "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:29-30).

The work that God requires is to find rest for your souls by believing in and receiving salvation through Jesus Christ. If you desire to believe in the one he has sent, may we suggest you pray this prayer:

"Heavenly Father, I realize that I am a sinner separated from you.
I can't save myself by the law or any amount of good works.
I repent of my sins.
I believe that you sent your Son as an atoning sacrifice for my sins.
I believe that Christ died for my sins.
I believe with all my heart that Jesus rose from the dead and you will also raise me.
I accept through faith alone your free gift of salvation.
In Jesus name I pray, Amen."

If you would like to talk to someone further about how to begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, please call 1-888-NeedHim and view the web site: www.needhim.org.

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by Patrick Foss of NeedHim.org:
E-mail: patrickfoss@yahoo.com

ABORTION – THE DEMONIC DIMENSION

GOD's Word describes the devil both as the god of this world and as the prince of this world. As god, he creates spiritual wickedness, establishing religious contrary to the precepts of the Scripture, resulting in numerous cults world wide. As a prince he deceives nations, using ungodly men to make rulings and pass laws that uphold evil and reject GOD's moral boundaries. Satan is called "the father of lies." John 8:44

Pro Abortion Favorite Lie

The unborn has been declared a non-person by our high court in 1972, and not worthy of protection. In 1857, the black race was ruled to be non persons and had no protection by the Constitution and could be enslaved or killed. In 1937, Nazi Germany judged the Jewish people could be killed because they were non persons. The non person argument is still a mainstay for pro-abortion people.

Strange Contradiction

When the bald eagle was declared endangered, it was a crime to disturb the nest and a severe fine or imprisonment to break an eagle egg. It was clearly understood that inside that egg was a little eagle. By strange contrast the pro abortion people declare "we didn't know it was a baby."

The patron saint of abortionists is Margaret Sanger, who is the founder of Planned Parenthood. In Margaret Sanger's book, "The Pivot of Civilization," written in 1920, she calls unwanted babies "human weeds" to be plucked from the garden of humanity. Also, in her magazine "Birth Control Review," 1930, she commends the infanticide of Nazi Germany to cleanse the race. Much more documentation is available in the book "Killer Angel" by George Grant. It reveals the truth about Planned Parenthood's founder.

By Contrast, The LORD recognized the personhood of the unborn; Jeremiah 1-5; Luke 1:42-43.

History of Child Killing

When the adversary controls a government, tyranny soon follows. As William Penn stated, "Men must be governed by GOD or they will be ruled by tyrants." As we slip into the control of satanic powers, unbelievable cruelty follows the first objects of his hatred are women and children. Both Scripture and history record the testimony of his bloody sacrifices.

The Old Testament reveals the demonic religion of Molech, that burned little boys and girls alive; History books tell of the Mayan and Aztec religions that sacrificed thousands of virgins and children in an attempt to appease demonic gods.

History Repeats

Tragically, over 50 million babies have been sacrificed to the twin gods of convenience and economics, paralleling the strategy of demon gods of old. When reverence and fear of GOD were influences in our government, we would have been outraged by the bloodshed of legalized abortion.

American Holocaust

The abortion industry is blind to the fact that it serves the purpose of the ancient adversary of God and men. Every day over 4,000 mothers are coaxed and gently led to the abortion tables so more and more babies may be sacrificed.

The one issue that the practitioners and pro choice supporters will not discuss is the coming day when they must give account to God. In that day, their deceit will not avail. The Bible declares, "It is appointed unto man, once to die and after this the judgement." We also read, "So then every one of us shall give account to GOD."

As surely as GOD is righteous and just, abortion supporters will answer to GOD. The bloody hands of the killers, and those who promote and support, will find no hiding place and will tremble in fear before the judgment of the LORD. Rev. 6:10-17, "the blood of innocents cry out to GOD." Genesis 4:10, He will avenge their blood.

Good News!

Yet there is forgiveness, even of the terrible crime of shedding innocent blood. The moment the sinner receives JESUS CHRIST as personal Savior, GOD blots out every sin. "The blood of JESUS CHRIST cleanses us from all sin."

Pastor Corbett Lynn
Collister Community Church
4709 State Street
P.O. Box 3640
Boise, Idaho 83702
Phone: 389-4771

EVENTS CALENDAR

This is a guide to Christian-oriented concerts, plays, youth activies, entertainment, speakers and ministry events. If you would like your event listed at no cost, submit your events online at our web site www.tvcnews.org/evsubmit.asp, E-mail to tvcnews@characterlink.net, phone (208) 377-3568, fax to (561) 258-3188, or by mail at P.O. Box 1829, Boise, ID 83701
*Information may have changed since the receipt of this event calendar information. Please confirm with the contact name about the event you are interested in attending.

NOVEMBER 2002

November 9th
THRIVE Becoming a Woman of Influence
SIMULCAST
Eagle Christian Church
100 S Short Road, Eagle, Idaho 83616
Phone (208) 286-0879
November 15th
Friday Night Jam
Eagle Christian Church
100 S Short Road, Eagle, Idaho 83616
Phone (208) 286-0879
November 15th-17th
Women's Fall Retreat
For more info call the church office.
Contact: Calvary Chapel Office (Boise)
Tel: (208) 321-7440
office@calvarychapelboise.org
November 16 - 6:00 p.m.
Melodies of Joy Music Concert
(Fundraiser for the Boise Rescue Mission)
A great evening of Holiday and Gospel music
Boise First Nazarene Community Center
3852 N. Eagle Road, Boise, Idaho
Phone: 375-0322
November 17th - 5:00 p.m.
Nampa Christian Choir
Valley Shepherd Church of The Nazarene
831 Main Street, Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone 888-2141
November 17 - 6:00 pm
God's Call Thanksgiving Prayer Service
For details, call the church office at 344-7809.
Intended Audience: Everyone
Location: First Baptist Church of Boise
Main Church Building
607 N. 13th Street, Boise ID
November 17th - 7:00 pm
"The Darkwood Consort" an Organ Fund Benefit Concert
Telephone (208) 344-3011
Immanuel Lutheran Church
707 West Fort St., Boise, ID 83702
November 24th - 7:30pm
Worship Generation Concert
Featured bands Str8nNarrow, Smithsfield and Grand*Prize. All welcome.
Contact: Calvary Chapel Office (Boise)
Phone: (208) 321-7440

DECEMBER 2002

December 7th
Ladies Christmas Tea
Contact: Lori Liebenau at 362-6571
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
4950 N. Bradley, Boise, Idaho
Living Christmas Tree
(a Christmas music concert)
December 4 - 7:30 p.m.
December 7 - 4:00 p.m.
December 8 - 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
December 9 - 7:30 p.m.
Tickets required - no cost for tickets
College Church of The Nazarene
504 E. Dewey Ave., Nampa, Idaho
Phone: 466-8421
December 8th - 6:00 pm
The Greens in concert
A freewill love offering will be taken call 326-4102 before traveling!
First Baptist Church, Caldwell, Idaho

JANUARY 2003

Marriage Without Regrets Study
A 17-week inductive study annually, beginning in early January of each year.
Open to couples and singles from all churches.
Contact: Hal and Diane Anderson
Trinity Fellowship
300 N Latah, Boise, ID
Phone: 384-1941
'How to get through the holidays when you've lost a loved one'
upcoming Grief Share 13-week class that begins in January of 2003.
Contact: Joe Ingrao
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
4950 N. Bradley, Boise, Idaho
Phone: 377-1477

FEBRUARY 2003

Mission trip to Thailand together the first two weeks of February 2003.
Contact: Verlyn Brower at 887-3462
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
4950 N. Bradley, Boise, Idaho

ONGOING EVENTS

SUNDAYS
New discipleship group for musicians - 7:00 pm
Contact: Peter and Alison Steven's
Phone: 331-0676.
MONDAYS
Men's Ministry Group - 6:00 a.m.
Starbucks in Eagle
Contact: Jamie Boudreaux for more info at 947-6728
Girl's Youth Bible Studies - 6:30 p.m.
Contact: Denise Engebrecht
Spring Valley Bible Church
1400 Cole Road, Boise, ID
Phone: 321-0322
College & Career Bible Study - 8:00 p.m.
Spring Valley Bible Church
1400 Cole Road, Boise, ID
Phone: 321-0322
Power Lunch Group (Men Only) - 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Bob Richmond at 429-1511 for more information
Women's Bible Study & Fellowship - 6:00 pm for Prayer, 7:00 pm for Study
Contact Mindy Wilhelm at 367-0678 for more information.
Men's Interactive Work Fellowships/Prayer and Bible Study - 11:45 a.m.
Contact: Marshall Major
Location: US Bank Bldg.
101 S. Capitol Blvd., Boise, Idaho
Call for exact location in the building.
Phone: 385-5456
Men's Interactive Fellowships - 7 p.m.
Learn to deal with life challenging issues.
Leader: Kelly Link
Host: John White
Location: 11708 W. Freedom Dr.
Phone: 658-5683
Divorce Recovery Group - 7:00 p.m.
Leader: Jeff & Joanne Brown, 887-3988
Host: Vonita Reavis, 376-6262
Location: 490 S. Browning Ave., Boise
Pure Word Meeting Schedule - 7:00 p.m.
Substance Abuse Support Group
Contact: Bob & Terry Grimm
Phone: (208) 462-5035
782 Middlefork Rd., Garden Valley, Idaho
Pure Word Meeting - 7 p.m.
Substance Abuse Support Group
Contact: Tim Kruck (208) 452-5851
1775 Alameda Dr. Ontario, Oregon 97914
Phone: (541) 889-2260
TUESDAYS
Men's Ministry Group - 7:00 a.m.
Sunrise Café in Meridian
Contact Trent Martin for more info at 342-3832
Ladies' Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.
Valley Shepherd Church of The Nazarene
831 Main Street, Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone 888-2141
Ladies Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Meridian Assembly of God
1830 N. Linder Rd., Meridian, Idaho
Phone 888-0063
Men's Group - 11:30 to 12:30
(at HP in the West end of the Cafeteria)
Contact: Thom Ives at 938-9357
Men's Bible Study & Breakfast - 6:30-7:30 a.m.
Honker's Café
Ladies Bible Study - 9:15-10:45 a.m.
"Lord, Is It Warfare? Teach Me to Stand"
Leader: Sara Winkelman, Kay Arthur Study
For more information call (208) 467-7479
Senior Adult Bible Study - 2:00-3:30 p.m.
(Room 104 Main Building)
Karcher Church of The Nazarene
2515 W. Karcher Ave., Nampa, ID 83651
Phone 467-7479
3rd Tuesday of Each Month - Out to Lunch Bunch
Contact: Jane Coones at 323-6795
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Boise, Idaho 83713
Power Lunch Group (Men only) - 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship, Life through the Word Bible Study, Prayer; Fellowship, For Men Only.
Call Craig Sarton at 331-2831 or 433-0950
Singles Fellowship - 7:15 p.m.
Open for single adults. Bible Study, fellowship and prayer.
Call Rick Bruemmer at 703-1294
Women's Bible Study & Fellowship - 7:15 pm
A Women's-only Bible Study currently doing a Beth Moore Study "Breaking Free", fellowship and prayer.
Contact Debbie Brizee at 853-2319
Men's College Age Fellowship - 5:30 p.m.
Leader: Reggie Etheridge
Location: 1718 Euclid Ave.
Phone: 321-7440
Aerobics Class - 6:00 p.m.
Leader: Julie Fadden
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
Phone: 854-1447
Men's Interactive Work Fellowships - 6:15 am
Contact: Greg Whipple
Location: Deli George, 5602 Fairview
Phone: 377-3825
Men's Interactive Fellowships - 5:30 p.m.
Learning how to deal with challenging life issues
Leader: David Marsey
Host: Brian Conroy
Location: 2947 S. Garden St.
Phone: 939-5426
Alpha (Practical Introduction to the Christian Faith) 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
~ Includes Dinner~
Spring Valley Bible Church
1400 North Cole Road, Boise, ID 83704
Call: 321-0322
Young Newly Married - 7:00 p.m.
Leader: Rex & Deanna Winn, 378-8925
Host: Robb & Amy Oberst, 938-4073
Location: 14498 Elmsprings, Boise
Support Group/Fellowship - 7:00 p.m.
Leader: David & Molly Benton, 468-0335
Location: 7325 Saratoga Dr., Nampa
Single Men's Interactive Fellowship - 7:00 pm
Leader: Mark Gehrett
Location: 11163 W. Netherland Dr.
Phone: 870-0442
Men's Interactive Fellowships - 7:00 p.m.
Learning how to deal with challenging life issues
Leader: Tom Durham
Location: Calvary Chapel Boise, Bldg. 2
Phone: 375-8699
Healed & Set Free In-Depth Groups - 7:00 pm
(New Groups Forming!)
Discover freedom form the shackles of a painful past and lingering hurts from: rejection; sexual abuse; bitterness' divorce; anger; physical abuse; depression.
Leader: Bill Gray
Location: Calvary Chapel Boise, BLDG. 2
Phone: 571-6036
Men's 12-Step Workbook Group - 7-9 p.m.
Drop-ins welcome!
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
4950 N. Bradley, Boise, Idaho
Phone: 377-1477

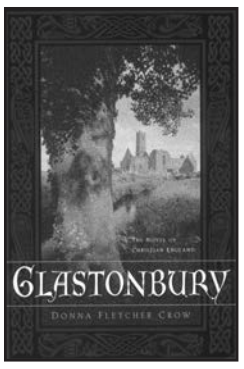
EVENTS CALENDAR

Pure Word Meeting Schedule - 7:00 p.m.
Substance Abuse Support Group
Contact: Jeff & RoxAne Cundiff (208) 465-0753
Calvary Chapel, 1210 North Middleton Rd.
Phone: (208) 467-7116
WEDNESDAYS
Bible Study Fellowship - 9:00 a.m.
Valley Shepherd Church of The Nazarene
831 Main Street, Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone 888-2141
Ladies Bible Study - 9:15-11:30 a.m.
Call Laurie at 888-2272
Valley Shepherd Church of The Nazarene
831 Main Street, Meridian, Idaho
Men's Breakfast/Bible Study - 6:00-7:30 a.m.
At the Muffin Break on Maple Grove & Emerald
First timers... get a free breakfast!!
Call Jim Bean at 345-6962.
Sponsored by Spring Valley Bible Church, Boise
Seniors Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Spring Valley Bible Church
1400 Cole Road, Boise, Idaho
Phone 321-0322
Body & Soul Wednesday Evenings - 6-8 p.m.
Low cost donation dinner and dessert,
$2 per person or $8 max for family.
6:00 p.m. for all families or individuals followed by informational sessions
7:00 to 8:00 p.m. every Wednesday at the Eagle Nazarene Church
Phone: 939-0661 for more information.
Alzheimer's Faith Based support group - 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Meets the first Wednesday of each month
First Presbyterian Church
950 West State St. in room 501
Phone: JoAnn at 344-3441
Power Lunch Group (Men Only) - 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship, Life through the Word Bible Study, Prayer; Fellowship, For Men Only.
Contact Steve Halvorson at 713-1765
Support/Recovery Groups - 5:45-6:45 p.m.
Cherry Lane Christian Church
2511 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone 888-3101
Seniors' Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Cherry Lane Christian Church
2511 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone 888-3101
Men's Interactive Work Fellowships - 6:45 am
Experience encouragement, support and accountability through relevant Bible discussions and prayer.
Leader: David Marsey
Location: IHOP 3522 E. Fairview
Phone: 939-5426
THURSDAYS
Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church
3100 S. Five Mile Road, Boise, Idaho
Phone 362-1112
Ladies Lunch/Bible Study & Fellowship - 12 noon
Meeting the first Thursday of each month
Meridian Assembly of God
1830 N. Linder Road, Meridian Idaho
Phone 888-0063
Power Breakfast Group (Men Only) - 6:30 a.m.
Fellowship, Life through the Word Bible Study, Prayer; Fellowship, For Men Only.
Location: McDonalds on Glenwood & Chinden
Call Rick Schell at 938-3223
Women's Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Cherry Lane Christian Church
2511 W. Cherry Lane, Meridian, Idaho
Phone 888-3101
Men's Interactive Work Fellowships - 6:00 am
Experience encouragement, support and accountability through relevant Bible discussions and prayer.
Leader: Jon LeMay
Location: Calvary Chapel Boise, Bldg. 4
Phone: 362-1146
Aerobics Class - 6:00 p.m.
Leader: Julie Fadden
Location: Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (call Julie for directions)
Phone: 854-1447
Women's 12 Step Support Group - 7:00 p.m.
For more information:
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
4950 N. Bradley, Boise, Idaho
Phone: 377-1477
Young Newly Married Group - 7:00 p.m.
Leader: Troy & Chelsea Drake, 895-8721
Host: Scott & Kristi Williams, 938-4674
Location: 12136 W. DeMeyer, Boise
Pure Word Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Substance Abuse Support Group
Contact: Randy & Tamie Nurmi
(208) 321-0123
Calvary Chapel, 123 Auto Drive - Lobby
Boise, Idaho 83704
Or phone: (208) 321-7440
FRIDAYS
Men's Prayer Time - 6:30 a.m.
Valley Shepherd Church of The Nazarene
831 Main Street, Meridian, Idaho 83642
Phone 888-2141
Business Persons Fellowship - 6:30 a.m.
sponsored by Meridian Assembly of God
1st and 3rd Fridays at 6:30 a.m.
JB's Restaurant in Meridian
Singles With Christ
Contact: Steve Koppes
Phone 286-0879
Divorce Care
Contact: Steve & Leslie Eyton
Eagle Christian Church
Eagle, Idaho 83616
Phone 286-0879
Over 50's Fellowship - 7:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Friday of the month
Leader: John & Betty Mallon
Location: 9059 W. Vallejo Lane
Phone: 362-4553
Pure Word Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
Substance Abuse Support Group
Contact: Scott Vassar (208) 899-0171
Address: 803 Main Street
Phone: (208) 453-9653
Healed & Set Free In-Depth Groups - 7:00 pm
For Men (New Groups Forming!)
Learn how to break free from: rejection; sexual abuse; bitterness' divorce; anger; physical abuse; and depression.
Leader: Ed McCarthy
Location: 2280 W. Rainfall, Meridian, Idaho
Phone: 336-4023
SATURDAYS
Prayer Walk - The last Saturday of the month
For more information and current meeting locations, contact Pastor Floyd Seamans
Boise Christian Church at 336-3019
United Methodist Men - 8:00 a.m.
A pancake breakfast and Bible study. This group is open to men regardless of marital status.
Contact: John Heimer
Phone: 333-0003

CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

Vineyard Boise Counseling Center
Fees are based on a sliding scale and some insurance companies are accepted.
For an appointment, contact Joe Ingrao at the church office.
Vineyard Christian Fellowship
4950 N. Bradley, Boise, Idaho
Phone: 377-1477
Free Indeed (a Christian support group for women who are dealing with sexual abuse issues - a confidential "closed" group)
For more information contact:
Trinity Fellowship, 300 N Latah, Boise, ID
Phone: 384-1941
Biblical/Spiritual Counseling
Counselors are available to pray with men, women, and couples in need.
Appointments can be made through the church office at: Grace Chapel
1422 N. Eldorado, Boise, Idaho
Phone: 208-375-5515
Church History Study Group
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Mission of Boise
9915 University Dr. (meet at St. Paul's Catholic Student Center)
Contact: Patrick O'Grady Phone: 375-9630
Women's Professional Support/Educational Meeting
Aglow International
Contact: Darcy Ambum Phone: 342-2988
Christian Sexual Dysfunction Support Group
Bellwether Ministries
Contact: Bill Edwards Phone: 433-8443
P.O. Box 15766, Boise, ID
Campus Ministry
Contact: Howard Jones
Biblical Studies Center
1025 Belmont, Boise, Idaho
Phone: 342-2182
Child Evangelism Fellowship of Idaho
Contact: Bob Smith
P.O. Box 427, Nampa, Idaho
Phone: (208) 465-9842
www.gospelcom.net/cef/worldwide/usa/id.php
Family Life - A Ministry of Campus Crusade For Christ
Contact: Leland and Peggy Cantrell
or John and Candy Gibson
Boise, Idaho Phone: 377-2723
Homebuilders Couples Series
(A ministry of Family Life)
Contact: Leo and Norma Hellyer
Boise, Idaho Phone: 344-1357
Pro Life Support
(Idaho Chooses Life)
Contact: David Ripley
Boise, Idaho Phone: 344-8709
Lifeline Pregnancy Care Center
Contact: Diann Huter and Linda Stradley
Nampa, Idaho Phone: 466-4000
Minister Support
Praise, Inc.
Contact: Ron Warren Phone: 454-1377
P.O. Box 1377, Caldwell, Idaho
Prison Fellowship (serving Idaho)
Contact: Mark Hubbell
Salem, Oregon
Phone: (503) 363-8491
Substance Abuse and Life Controlling Problems Support for Teenagers
Teen Challenge of Idaho
Contact: Alice Ware
11826 Fairview Ave., Boise, Idaho
Phone: 375-4636
Ministry To The Elderly
Twilight Hope Ministry
Twilight Hope Ministry is a ministry to the elderly in facilities in our community or at home.
Calvary Chapel, 123 Auto Drive, Boise, ID
Contact: Chris Johnson at 321-7440.
Email: cjohnson@calvarychapelboise.org
Shelter For Men:
Boise Rescue Mission, 520 Front Street, Boise
Phone (208) 343-2189
Website: www.boiserescuemission.org
Shelter For Men:
Lighthouse Rescue Mission
472 Caldwell Boulevard, Nampa, ID
Phone: (208) 461-5030
Shelter For Women:
City Light Home for Women and Children
1404 W. Jefferson, Boise, Idaho
Phone (208) 368-9901
General Assistance Referral
Love, Inc.
Phone: (208) 466-7810
www.worldvision.org/worldvision/wvususfo.nsf/stable/loveinc
Family and Individual Emergency and Seasonal Food Assistance
Salvation Army, 403 12th Ave. S., Nampa, ID
Phone: (208) 467-6586

BOOK REVIEW



"GLASTONBURY The Novel of Christian England"
by Donna Fletcher Crow
(Crossway Books; 1992, 2000)
Reviewer: Max James

This epic novel (859 pages) won its author the 1993 First Place Award in Historical Fiction by the National Federation of Press Women. It was the first of three such awards for the Boise author's epic novels about Christianity in the British Isles, the others being "The Fields of Bannockburn" (Scotland) in 1997 and "The Banks of the Boyne" (Ireland), in 1998.

Curious about the 2000 reissue of "Glastonbury," this reviewer asked the author if there were any changes. "Oh, yes!" she replied. "I completely re-edited it. The publisher was very kind to me in that respect."

That's Donna Fletcher Crow for you. Her inclination as an indefatigable researcher to get the facts straight and her author's desire to "make it better" drove her to improve upon a work already acclaimed as the best in its field!

The archaeological ruins of Glastonbury, the abbey, are located in southwest England in the Somerset town of Glastonbury. They remain to this day a pilgrims' shrine drawing thousands of visitors each year. Worship services are held there the year round. Other names for this British heart of Christian evangelism have been Ynis Wytrin (Celtic period) and Avalon (Arthurian period.) "Glastonbury," the novel, traces the evangelization of the British Isles through six periods, ending with the monastery's destruction in 1539 A.D. by order of King Henry VIII.

Those periods are: Celtic Britain, Roman Britain, Arthurian Britain, Anglo-Saxon England, Norman England, and Tudor England. The cast of characters, of course, changes with each era. Along the way, beginning with Joseph of Arimathea, who brings Christianity to England in the first century, A.D., we meet in depth such notables as St. George, St. Patrick, St. Augustine, King Arthur, Merlin, and King Alfred, to name a few.

But the cast doesn't end there. "Glastonbury" is, after all, a novel; and it is replete with romance and action (including graphic and sometimes gory battles whose realism has impressed male readers, especially those in the military) plus life occurrences, conversations and interactions that bring everyday reality to the manuscript.

"Glastonbury" is not an easy read. Arcane words and expressions tend to slow one down. The author includes a glossary in the back of the book, but it doesn't begin to cover all the bases. The surprise, though, is that it's a compelling read; it's hard to put the book down, as several reviewers on the web – plus this reviewer – attest. As one goes along, the meanings of archaic words become clearer and the action seems to go smoother.

The take-away value of "Glastonbury," though, is its model of Christian evangelism. It tells of how, in loving outreach through the power of the Holy Spirit and reliance on Holy scripture, our forebearers were able to bring the message of God's grace through Jesus Christ to bear in a dark age. It's something we, as present-day missionaries – whether in foreign fields or right here at home – could well emulate.

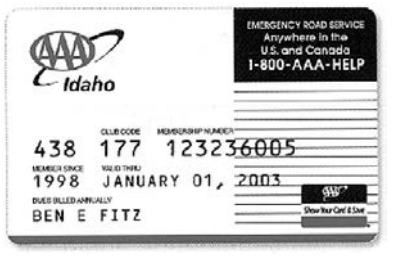
Donna Fletcher Crow is an award-winning novelist with more than thirty books to her credit, primarily historical novels of British and Irish Christianity. In addition to her novels, she writes plays, poetry, screen plays and articles.

In addition to the awards mentioned above, she was Idaho Writer of the Year in 1998, and is listed in several "Who's Who" editions, including "International Authors and Writers Who's Who". "Glastonbury "and other books by Donna Fletcher Crow are available at local secular and Christian bookstores and at online bookstores.

Max James is president of Christian Writers of Idaho, a fellowship of seasoned and beginning writers that meets monthly in Boise.

For information about CWI, contact Max at ChrWritersIdaho@aol.com or phone 288-0983.

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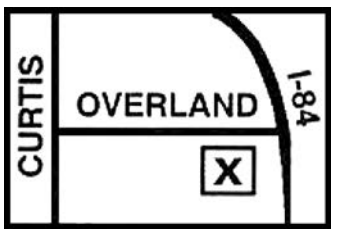
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- ✔ Leg Pain
- ✔ Foot Pain



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National News Shorts

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (EP)

An employee with 23 years of service to the Eastman Kodak Co. was fired by the film and camera giant after objecting to a memo promoting "Coming Out Day," a homosexual activist event promoting the gay lifestyle.

The employee, Rolf Szabo, was terminated after sending a reply to a supervisor's e-mail about the event. According to WorldNetDaily (WND) Szabo sent the simple e-mail reply: "Please do not send this type of information to me anymore, as I find it disgusting and offensive. Thank you, Rolf Szabo."

Szabo's response was sent to some 1,000 Kodak employees who had received the original e-mail regarding the event. His manager sent apologies to employees for Szabo's remarks, and the company gave Szabo an ultimatum: either sign an employee commitment plan apologizing for what he had written and promising that it would not happen again, or be terminated from his job.

Szabo chose the latter. Jim Blamphin, Kodak's manager of corporate media relations, told WND, "The whole thing is true. This chap was asked to take part in a program that fosters inclusion, and he refused." Blamphin added, "Every possible definition of diversity is embraced by Kodak." Apparently not.

AUGUSTA, Maine (EP)

Two groups of parents in Maine are suing the state's education department, charging that it discriminates against religious institutions in its school-choice program.

The parents, whose children attend private religious schools in Maine, are hoping a federal court will rule Maine's program unconstitutional in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's recent ruling in Zelman v. Simmons-Harris, which makes school vouchers legal for religious schools. "The Supreme Court made it clear that religious schools must be treated in the same manner as other schools with respect to tuition funding," said Vincent McCarthy, an attorney with the American Center for Law and Justice, which is representing the parents. He added, "Maine discriminates against religious education in favor of non-religious education. The Supreme Court held in the Zelman case that it is in violation of the Establishment Clause [of the Constitution] to discriminate against religious education."

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COUNSELOR

Dr. Anthony Harper - Counselor
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GRAPHIC ARTIST

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KBXL	FM 94.1	Boise	(208) 377-3790
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Chevrolet Presents: "Come Together and Worship" Tour

DETROIT, MI (EP)

Some religious observers are criticizing carmaker Chevrolet's sponsorship of a worship music tour that features, among other artists, Michael W. Smith. The tour, entitled "Chevrolet Presents: Come Together and Worship," also features contemporary Christian band Third Day. It opens November 1 in Atlanta, and will conclude with a November 23 concert in Detroit, the heart of America's auto industry.

The tour will be a multimedia worship production in venues with seating averaging 14,000. In addition to Smith and Third Day, popular Christian author Max Lucado will be speaking.

In an article appearing in the Detroit Free Press, religion reporter David Crumm wrote that Chevy, a General Motors subsidiary, "is hitching cars to faith in Christ," and quoted Rabbi James Rudin of the American Jewish Committee in New York, who said, "This may be a sign of the times, but it's not a good sign. America is increasingly multiethnic and multireligious. So, for an American icon like Chevrolet to link itself to one religion, Christianity, and then one specific group within Christianity is divisive."

Putting an economic spin on the marketing campaign, Rudin noted that the majority of Americans are not evangelical Christians, so it is "very bad business for Chevrolet to put the idea into people's minds that they're the evangelical brand."

But Steve Betz, a marketing manager for Chevrolet, argued that the tour will both give a positive message to concert-goers and boost Chevy dealers' sales efforts – particularly among church-going carbuyers.

In some the southern U.S., Chevrolet is going as far as offering church-going customers a bonus: a free worship CD with the test-drive of a Chevrolet vehicle. "It's important that we get the message out there with regards to Chevrolet and how we're so family oriented and have great values," Betz told the Free Press.

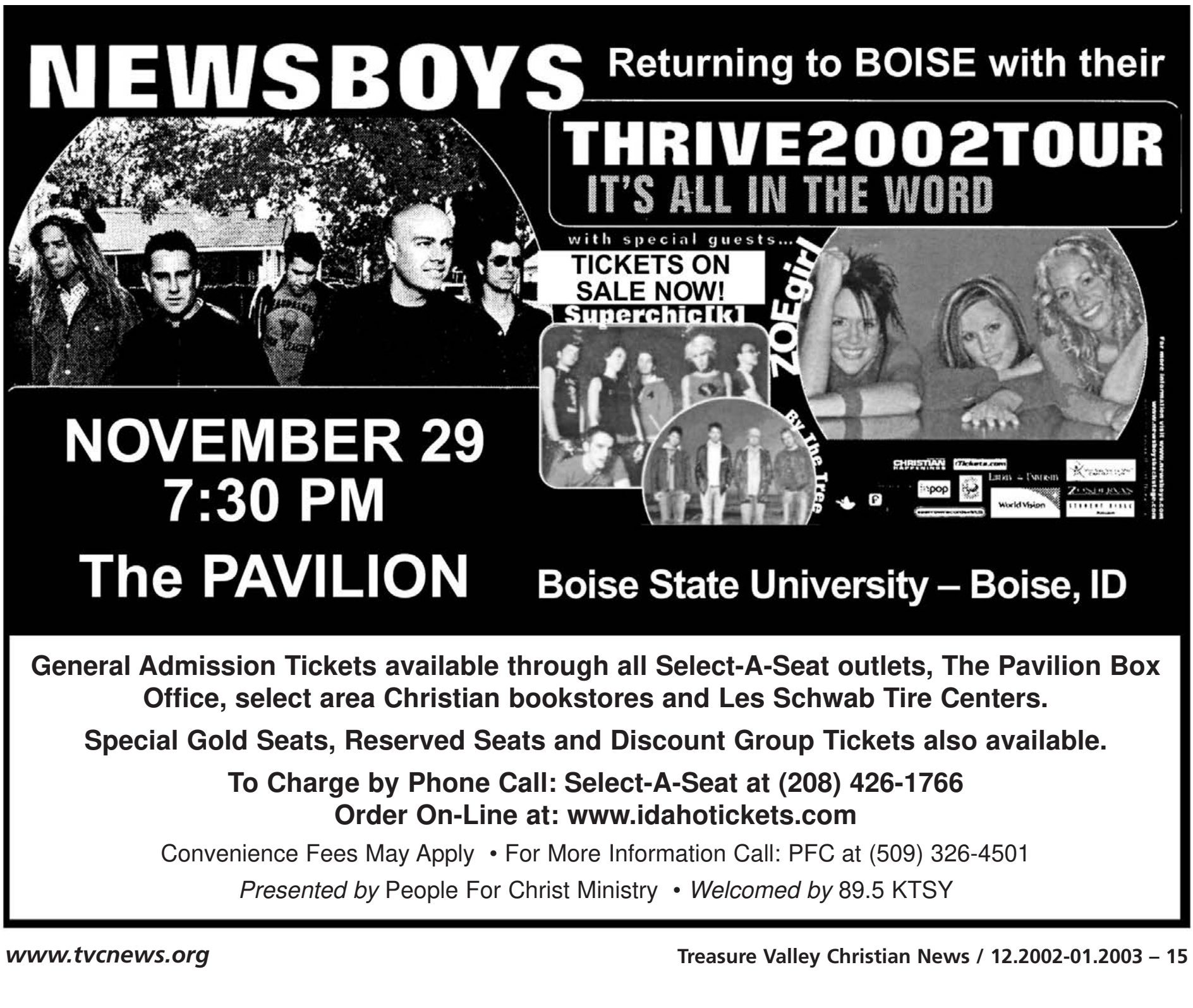
Betz said that no restriction had been placed on the worship team, and the musicians and Lucado plan to use that freedom "to turn these concerts into full-scale worship experiences," according to Jeff Gregg, a Nashville talent agent who is helping to coordinate the tour. Gregg told the Free Press, "This is not necessarily an entertainment experience. It's really a vertical experience between believers and God. When you add someone like Max Lucado, you've got both the praise experience and the teaching experience combined, much like a church service."

This is not the first time a major corporation has used Christian entertainers in marketing ventures. "A decade ago, Target hired singer Amy Grant as a national spokeswoman, but only at the point in her career when she was crossing from Christian into pop music," wrote Crumm. More recently, Coca-Cola has employed Christian entertainers to sing in some of its ads.

But Chevrolet's marketing experts seem to have found the makings of a market largely untapped by secular companies – evangelical Christians. This summer Betz's marketing team observed solid response to a Chevy promotion at a Charlotte, N.C. amusement park where some 8,000 people attended a Christian music festival. Those attending were mainly young families with disposable income, who clearly responded to marketing campaigns tied to their faith.

But Phyllis Tickle, an expert on religious marketing for Publishers Weekly magazine, noted the obvious conflict that has led some to criticize Chevrolet's partnership with overtly Christian musicians.

"This is surprising – a real blurring of the lines between the commercial and the sacred," she told the Free Press. "And it's unfortunate, because it compromises both sides. We know that church and state are never supposed to meet, and I think it's also a bad idea for church and Wall Street to be meeting like this."



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