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"Give them a reason not to kill you
before you try to convert them."

FLORIDA STATE REPRESENTATIVE
SCOTT PLAKON

2010 Elections
Guest Editor



Volume 16
ISSUE 9

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Cornerstone Connection is a monthly magazine with the purpose of serving those in the body of Christ in the Central Florida area. It is also our desire that those who do not know Christ may be inspired by the content of the magazine.

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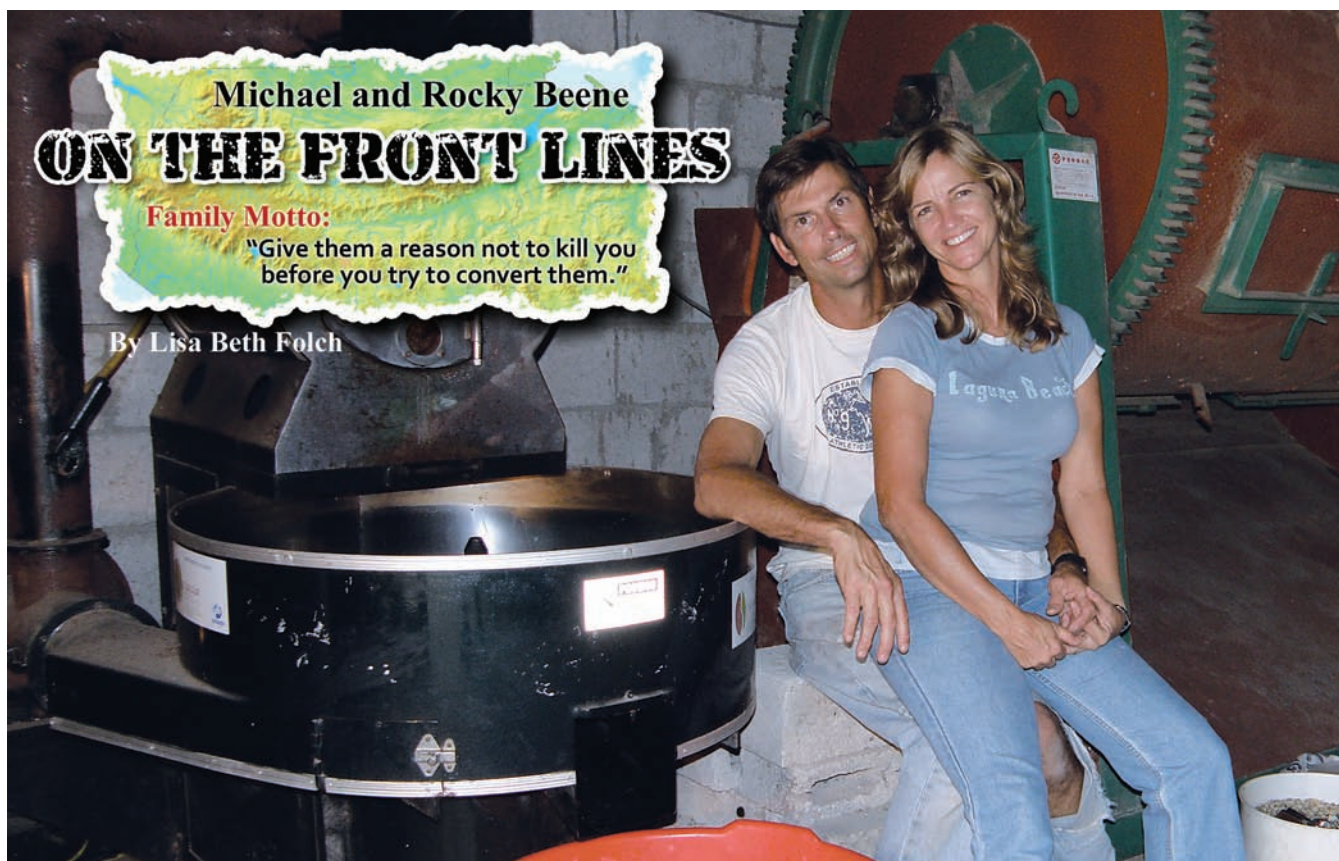
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Employee Spotlight



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Graphic Artist



In the remote hills of Guatemala, Michael and Rocky Beene have lived for over 20 years right alongside the villagers, embracing them as their own family. Witnessing starvation and sickness, they began a program that fed over 150 village children, but from one day to the next, the children stopped coming. “Why?” the Beenes asked. Finally one of the children spoke up. ‘There’s a rumor going around that you’re fattening us up to eat us.’ NO, the Beenes replied. “We’re just trying to help you!” Overcoming many cultural

“The destiny of where we go as a country will directly be related to how we, as the church, respond to God’s call now.”

obstacles, this family has spent 27 years reaching out to people who were on the list of extinction and have been long forgotten by the civilized world. Now, they’re back in the United States for a season with a new purpose.

Some may call them courageous. The Beene’s just consider themselves a willing vessel.

From the beginning of their journey initially in El Salvador, then Guatemala, these missionaries sought out people groups that were “falling through the cracks.” Villagers were dying from the secondary effects of plagues like cholera and measles. When pneumonia and

dehydration set in, Michael and Rocky would put the sick on IV’s, hydrate them and they would rebound. Medical and dental teams were brought in as well, and as practical needs were met, individual hearts would be open, asking, “Why?” They would say, all of those night as you came out of your huts and looked up into heaven praying, “If there is a God in heaven, please help my children.” God sent us to serve you. Upon realizing God was reaching down to them, they turned toward the Gospel in response to His goodness.

“Give them a reason not to kill you, before you try to convert them,” was the family motto. As the Beenes were helping villagers, they knew their lives could be in danger. Years after establishing churches, schools, feeding programs and medical clinics in the villages, they were evangelizing in another area. Locals from the first village came to testify at the next village. They explained how they thought the missionaries were going ‘to steal their land and their children, so they dedicated and committed themselves



Chelsea helping with dental work.



We Have To Push

This could very well be one of the most important elections in history, one that may have a detrimental impact on our generations to come. We need to consider our choices, as we go to the polls. We should consider all that we say and do in life, especially when we are making decisions for our children's future. Like in a game of chess, you never move without considering the consequences. We must be very careful of our choices. Know your candidates. Please do not listen to the media's rederic, get the facts, or choose people of integrity, that have done the research and let them help you.

Scott Plakon, Florida State Representative District 37 and my dear friend for almost 30 years, has risen to the call taking time out of his busy schedule to give us a guide for who and what amendments to vote for to encourage

Godly leadership in our community and protect our children's future. See page 7.

Scott mentored me when I first came to Christ in 1981. He is one of the great men in leadership who walks the talk. A man who will fight for what is right and walk it out with integrity. We are thankful that he heard the call, as I requested this vital information. Many of us are on the run and have no time to do the research, please make time to get to the voting polls and or get your absentee ballots and make a stand.

We can no longer complain and pass the blame onto our political leaders, pastors, and those in authority. We must do our part and stand, as it states in Ephesians 6:13, "when you have done all to stand: STAND!"

We must base our votes on the Word of God. There in lies the wisdom our forefathers placed the foundation of our country on over 200 years ago, giving strength, faith, and hope, to withstand all obstacles and circumstances that may come our way.

Be aware of your choices.

- You can choose to do something now.
- You can choose to procrastinate once again.

¹"All that is required for evil to prevail, is for good men to do nothing."

On September 16th I was awakened with an urgency, and felt an absolute call by the Lord for a corporate fast and prayer. I had this book for over a year sitting in my room, by Jentezen Franklin titled "Fasting." As the Lord inspired me He drew me to this book, reminding me of the scripture that states, "in some things it takes fasting and prayer."

At the same time I heard these words. The body of Christ is in labor, but we are not pushing, we have become to busy or too lazy, expecting others to take care of our slack. He said, "It is time to push, press into Him with all our heart in humility, with fasting and prayer, and He will heal our land.

Don't miss this opportunity to be a part of this pivotal turning point for our nation for Good! Vote Nov. 2.

Sincerely,
LuAnne Anderson
Publisher

¹Quote by Edmund Burke





Vote on or before November 2nd - Protect our Children's Future!

It is hard to imagine a more important time than now for Christians to make their voices heard at the ballot box. We are blessed to be living in the most free and prosperous nation in the history of mankind. Great sacrifices were made by generations before us so we and our families can live in liberty and peace.

It is now possible that we may be the first generation to leave a diminished America to our children. Our culture has coarsened and politicians in Washington have put our children's children in debt. But there is something that we can do!

We've all heard the passage from Luke: "To whom much has been given, from him much will be required". We have been given a lot. I would suggest at minimum we should take time out to vote for leaders that reflect our values who will govern responsibly not just for the next election cycle but who will act with the next generation in mind as they cast their votes.

Below is a list of candidates who I believe will stand for traditional American values as they serve us as elected officials. Most are known to me personally and I believe that they will represent us well in their decision and policy making. If you have any questions, you can refer to the web site listed or call 407-417-3358. Please make sure your friends vote too!

Statewide Offices

U.S. Senator - Marco Rubio - marcorubio.com

Lieutenant Governor - Jennifer Carroll - rickscottforflorida.com

Chief Financial Officer - Jeff Atwater - jeffatwater.com

Governor - Rick Scott - rickscottforflorida.com

Attorney General - Pam Bondi - pambondi.com

Agriculture Comm - Adam Putnam - adamputnam.com

United States Representative

Dist 3 - Michael "Mike" Yost - yost2010.com

Dist 7 - John L. Mica - micaforcongress.com

Dist 8 - Daniel Webster - electwebster.com

Dist 24 - Sandra "Sandy" Adams - sandyadams.com

State Senator

Dist 20 - Alan Hays - electalanhays.com

Dist 24 - Thad Altman - thadaltman.com

State Representative

Dist 25 - Larry Metz - larrymetz2010.com

Dist 34 - Chris Dorworth - chrisdorworth.com

Dist 38 - Bryan Nelson - votebnelson.com

Dist 41 - Steve Precourt - steveprecourt.com

Dist 33 - Jason Brodeur - jasonbrodeur.com

Dist 35 - Dean Cannon - deancannon.com

Dist 40 - Eric Eisnagle - electeric.org

Dist 79 - Mike Horner - gohorner.com

County Mayor and Commissioners

Orange County Mayor - Teresa Jacobs - teresaformayor.com

Orange, Dist 2 - Fred Brummer - fredbrummer.com

Seminole, Dist 2 - John Horan - johnhoranforseminole.com

Osceola, Dist 2 - John "Q" Quiñones - johnqforthepeople.org

Orange, Dist 4 - Jennifer Thompson - jenniferthompson.net

Seminole, Dist 4 - Carlton Henley - carltonhenley.com

Osceola, Dist 4 - Frank Attkisson - frankattkisson.com

Florida Supreme Court

Jorge Labarga - NO

James E. C. Perry - NO

Charles T. Canady - YES

Ricky L. Polston - YES

Constitutional Amendments

1 - YES

2 - YES

4 - NO

5 - NO

6 - NO

8 - YES

Nonbinding Referendum

U.S. Constitution Amended to require balanced budget without raising taxes? YES

Scott Plakon is a member of the Florida House of Representatives. He and his wife Suzanne have six children and reside in Longwood.



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FRONT LINES • PAGE 5

to defend their village by killing them,' Michael retold. For three years, they plotted to kill the missionaries, but every time they had a plan, God intervened! One of their wives or children would become sick, and they had to go to the missionaries for help as a last resort. After three years, the villagers met and decided maybe we shouldn't kill the missionaries. Maybe these outsiders really want to help. "Rocky and I are listening to this, sweating, thanking God we didn't know you were trying to kill us all that time," he said. These same leaders today are carrying the gospel further into the dense jungle, from village to village.

Miracles have happened all along the way. One sweet

woman was bitten by a deadly snake. Her daughter ran to the Beenes for help. "She wants to talk to you before she dies" the daughter said. They ran to her side and prayed for her. The signs of death were imminent. This woman had been through a lot, previously another daughter had been taken from her by force. "The devil has been hard against me and taken my daughter and now the devil is taking my life too, but I want to stand here and testify to you that no matter what the enemy does to me, I will never ever turn my heart away from Jesus." The effects of the venom went away! "God restored her life and gave her daughter back," Rocky shared.

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Beene children, LtR Travis, Chelsea, Tiffany & Kayla

Chelsea & village children

Kayla with village children



Christ Centered Homes

The panel first suggested that newlyweds should establish and maintain a Christ-centered home. Everything rests on that foundation. If a young husband and wife are deeply committed to Jesus Christ, they enjoy enormous advantages over a family with no spiritual dimension.

A meaningful prayer life is essential in maintaining a Christ-centered home. Of course, some people use prayer the way they follow their horoscopes, attempting to manipulate an unidentified "higher power." One of my friends teasingly admits that he utters a prayer each morning on the way to work when he passes the doughnut shop. He knows it is unhealthy to eat the greasy pastries, but he loves them dearly. Therefore, he asks the Lord for permission to indulge himself each day.

He'll say, "If it is Your will that I have a doughnut this morning, let there be a parking space available as I circle the block." If no spot can be found for his car, he circles the block and prays again.

Shirley and I have taken our prayer life a bit more seriously. In fact, this communication between man, woman, and God has been the stabilizing factor throughout our forty-plus years of married life. In good times, in hard times, in moments of anxiety, and in periods of praise, we have shared this wonderful privilege of talking directly to our heavenly Father. What a concept. No appointment is needed to enter into His presence. We don't have to go through His subordinates or bribe His secretaries. He is simply there, whenever we bow before Him. Some of the highlights of my life have occurred in these quiet sessions with the Lord.

At one point, shortly after Danae earned her driver's license, Shirley and I covenanted between us to pray for our son and daughter at the close of each day. Not only were we concerned about the risk of an automobile accident, but we were also aware of so many other dangers that lurk out there in a city like Los Angeles, where we lived at the time. That part of the world is known for its weirdos, ding-a-lings, and fruitcakes. That's one reason we found ourselves on our knees each evening, asking for divine protection for the teenagers we loved so much.

One night we were particularly tired and collapsed into bed without our benedictory prayer. We were almost asleep before Shirley's voice pierced the night. "Jim," she

said. "We haven't prayed for our kids yet today. Don't you think we should talk to the Lord?"

I admit it was very difficult for me to pull my six-foot two-inch frame out of the warm bed that night. Nevertheless, we got on our knees and offered a prayer for our children's safety, placing them in the hands of the Father once more.

Later, we learned that Danae and a girlfriend had gone to a fast-food establishment and bought hamburgers and Cokes. They had driven up the road a few miles and were sitting in the car eating the meal when a city policeman drove by, shining his spotlight in all directions. He was obviously looking for someone, but gradually went past.

A few minutes later, Danae and her friend heard a clunk from under the car. They looked at one another nervously and felt a sharp bump. Before they could leave, a man crawled out from under the car and emerged on the passenger side. He was very hairy and looked like he had

FOCUS • PAGE 10

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to the door and attempted to open it. Thank God, it was locked. Danae quickly started the car and drove off ... no doubt at record speed.

When we checked the timing of this incident, we realized that Shirley and I had been on our knees at the precise moment of danger. Our prayers were answered. Our daughter and her friend were safe!

It is impossible for me to overstate the need for prayer in the fabric of family life. Not simply as a shield against danger, of course. A personal relationship with Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of marriage, giving meaning and purpose to every dimension of living. Being able to bow in prayer as the day begins or ends gives expression to frustrations and concerns, which might not otherwise be ventilated. On the other end of that prayer line is a loving heavenly Father who has promised to hear and answer our petitions. In this day, when families are disintegrating on every side, we dare not try to make it on our own.

Couples who have not found a common faith are often left in a vulnerable position. One such lady wrote the following letter to me after her husband had left her:

Dear Dr. Dobson:

My husband recently left me after fifteen years of marriage. We had a great physical, emotional, and intellectual relationship, but something was missing ... we had no spiritual bond between us.

Please tell young couples that there will always be a void in their lives together without Christ. A good marriage must have its foundation in Him in order to experience lasting love, peace, and joy.

Since my husband walked out on me, I have tried to rebuild my relationship with God. I am now growing steadily in my walk with the Lord, but I am alone.

There is a great truth in this sad letter. The couple that depends on Scripture for solutions to the stresses of living has a distinct advantage over the family with no faith.



The Bible they love is the world's most incredible text. It was written by thirty-nine authors who spoke three separate languages and lived in a time frame spanning fifteen hundred years. How miraculous is the work of those inspired writers! If two or three individuals today were to witness a bank robbery, they would probably give conflicting accounts of the incident. Human perception is simply that flawed. Yet those thirty-nine contributors to Scripture, most of whom never even met each other, prepared sixty-six separate books that fit together with perfect continuity and symmetry. The entire Old Testament makes a single statement: "Jesus is coming." And the New Testament declares: "Jesus is here!"

By reading these Holy Scriptures, we are given a window into the mind of the Father. What an incredible resource! The creator, who began with nothingness and made beautiful mountains and streams and clouds and cuddly little babies, has elected to give us the inside story of the family. Marriage and parenthood were His ideas, and He tells us in His Word how to live together in peace and harmony. Everything from handling money to sexual attitudes is discussed in Scripture, with each prescription bearing the personal endorsement of the King of the universe. Why would anyone disregard this ultimate resource?

Finally, the Christian way of life lends stability to marriage because its principles and values naturally produce harmony. When put into action, Christian teaching emphasizes giving to others, self-discipline, obedience to divine commandments, conformity to the laws of man, and love and fidelity between husband and wife. It is a shield against addictions to alcohol, pornography, gambling, materialism, and other behaviors that could be damaging to the relationship. Is it any wonder that a Christ-centered relationship is the best ground floor for a marriage?

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, that great Soviet dissident, once wrote, "If I were called upon to identify briefly the principal trait of the entire twentieth century, here too I would be unable to find anything more precise and pithy than to repeat once again: Men have forgotten God."

Don't let this happen in your home. You probably knelt together and sent a prayer to the Lord during your wedding ceremony. Return to that source daily for strength and stability. †

The entire Complete Marriage and Family Home Reference Guide is available at Focus on the Family's Online Resource Center. Dr. James Dobson is the founder of Focus on the Family. This article was written by James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copyright secured.



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FRONT LINES • PAGE 8

The Beene's story has a fairytale beginning, love at first sight. It was Rocky's first mission trip as a young woman, beginning in a small town in Guatemala. When she heard about a village that was dying of sickness; she went on a bush plane to help. Rocky was putting rubber shoes on the native children when she looked up and saw a man with a rain poncho riding a mule. "Something stirred in my heart and I said 'God, is this my husband?'" Michael got off that mule, and something in his heart stirred. As Rocky walked toward him, he said "that's my wife." Six months later they

were married. They moved back to Guatemala and have raised four children who now range in age from 22 to 10.

Just like the villagers, the Beene family washed their clothes on a rock, cooked over an open fire for the first year and assimilated to the primitive lifestyle of the natives. In bringing up their family, these parents



Beene family: Rocky, Kayla, Chelsea, Michael, Tiffany, Travis

wanted their own children to understand the American culture, too. So, once a year they would all come back. The transition wasn't always easy. As they prayed, "God showed us that (He) can be in the poorest of the poor or in the mansions and palaces," Rocky said. God gave them His eyes for people regardless of environment and a burden for souls no matter the circumstance. "It's amazing how flexible our lives have become to walk in and out of different cultures between prosperity and poverty and have total comfort wherever we are."

For almost three decades, this family has invested in the

FRONT LINES • PAGE 14



COMING EVENTS

JOIN PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH for Rally Day on Sept. 12. "Free Will" breakfast from 7-9:15 a.m. in our Family Life Center, with activities following. We offer 3 worship services at 8:15, 10:45, including a Hispanic service at 11 a.m.. We're located at 1515 S. Semoran Blvd., Orlando, (407) 277-3945.

ON NOVEMBER 10, 2010 FROM 12NOON-4PM. Meet your next employer at Central Florida's Job Fair located at Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando. Over 50 companies offering hundreds of jobs. Free admission and Parking. Visit CFEC.org or call 407-834-4022. (5/6)

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ABORTION RECOVERY HEALING GROUP — Daytime or evening groups available in Lake Mary. Call Reville Ministries for confidential location. (407) 333-0404 or e-mail: info@callforhope.org.

HAVEN OF HOPE MINISTRIES is available to equip churches and individuals that are infected or affected with HIV/AIDS. If you are HIV/AIDS infected, we offer services. Call Roxanne at (407) 298-2056. Support groups available.

MONDAY

JOY RECOVERY GROUP — Recovering from stress, addictions, trauma, abuse? Classes on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at Panera Bread, Heathrow, off Lake Mary Blvd. Please contact Marlene Hoenig, Class instructor at (407) 272-7797. www.cinderellareleased.blogspot.com.

TUESDAY

WEST ORANGE CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER TEEN GROUP — Bring your friends and enjoy an evening of movies, activities and discussions at 300 W. Franklin Street, Ocoee, on Tuesdays from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Call Melissa at (407) 921-0525.

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JOB FAIR — On September 8, 2010 from 12noon-4pm. Meet your next employer at The Governor's Job Fair located at Central Florida Fairgrounds, Orlando. Over 50 companies offering hundreds of jobs. Free admission and Parking. Visit CFE.org or call 407-834-4022

NIGHT PRAYER — Come for an exciting evening of prayer. This event is held the first Wednesday of every month, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m., at Church in the Son, located on 4484 N. John Young Pkwy., Orlando. For information, call (407) 246-0001.

THURSDAY

FREE GRIEF SUPPORT — You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. Call for specific schedule. Meeting at Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, 5200 W. South St., Orlando, on Thursday evenings, (407) 860-7927 or (407) 299-8820. Interpreters for the Deaf provided.

CENTRAL FL DISPENSATIONAL BIBLE STUDY — Thursdays at 6:30pm in Cassleberry! Studying the Word of God in the King James Bible, line by line, and word for word. Call 321-202-0751 today!

FRIDAY

GO DEEPER — Join us every Friday night for an intimate time of prayer and worship from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Meetings are at Resound Church on 7303 Monetary Dr., Orlando. For more info, see www.resound247.com or call (407) 340-0204.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT — Want to move your marriage from bland to grand? Join us for Marriage Enrichment sessions — first Friday of each month. Details: First Baptist Markham Woods, 5400 Markham Woods Road, Lake Mary; (407) 333-2085.

EXERCISE YOUR FAITH — WALK FOR JESUS!!! Come and join us on the 1st, 3rd and 5th (if it applies) Friday for a Night of Fun, Fellowship and Exercise around Cranes Roost in Altamonte Springs. Meet @ 7:30 p.m. Contact Valerie: (407) 920-2070 or e-mail at valeriejms@msn.com.

CPR CENTER POINTE RECOVERY — A Christ-centered recovery ministry that takes challenges of life head on while providing biblical answers. EVERY Friday night 7-8:30pm @ 9580 Curry Ford Road, Orlando, FL 32825. ?s: Tiffany 407-556-5320. (5/6)

SATURDAY

GATHERING FOR AUTHORS, WRITERS AND BOOK LOVERS — Meet and greet new authors. Book displays, free books and

other printed materials. Learn computer skills and effective communication, publishing tips and more. Every 4th Saturday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Casselberry Library, 215 N. Oxford Road, (407) 551-0734.

ADVENTURES IN CHRISTIAN WRITING meets the 3rd Saturday of every month at 9:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando. Contact Pat Elston, (407) 834-5396 or e-mail: poetpat@cfl.rr.com.

NEW DAY NOW — Addiction recovery, Tuesdays, 7 p.m., at Church In The Son, 4484 N. John Young Pkwy. Connecting people with substance abuse and addiction issues for support and accountability. For info, contact Ed Jordan at addictionrecovery4u@yahoo.com or (407) 470-2153; Gerri Jordan at (407) 718-0744.

WINTER PARK AGLOW — A group of women who reach out with God's love to all women in the area. Meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at Aloma U. Methodist Church. Call Pearl at (407) 538-7984.


If your church or ministry has an announcement of an upcoming event we will place it for three (3) months FREE of charge. E-mail cornerstone-ads@cfl.rr.com or fax to (407) 872-1417. Please send it by the first of the month for the next months issue. Please limit your announcement to 35 words or less. Because of space limitations regular Sunday services, school start-ups, etc. cannot be placed.

FRONT LINES • PAGE 11


people of Guatemala. Churches have been planted, schools built, agriculture programs added and life breathed back into dying villages. Local villagers have taken the reign and become pastors, teachers and farmers. Back on furlough last February, Michael was driving a local highway and he began to be burdened about his own country. The economy, the housing market crash, political scene and stock market were all weighing heavy. In that moment, he knew this was more than a furlough trip. The Lord was calling him home to the United States to share a message.

While concerned about the circumstances, God was telling Michael to look beyond that to spiritual revival. God






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



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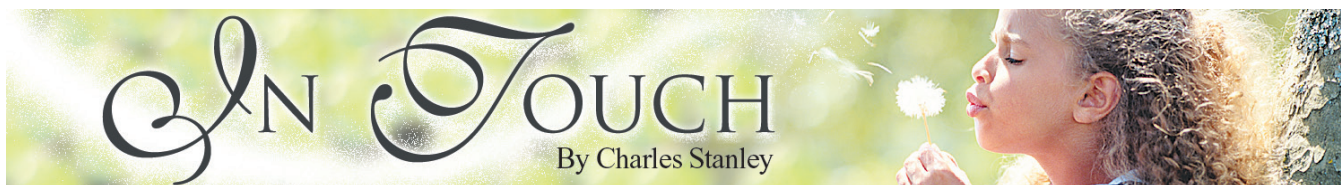





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was calling these missionaries to share II Chronicles 7:14 with their homeland: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

So a new season of ministry has begun. The Beenes stated, "We believe the Lord spoke to us and told us that the destiny of the nation depends on the church. The destiny of where we go as a country will directly be related to how we as the church respond to God's call now." With the crucial election this year, this family has turned their focus to the revival of America. As they have traveled around the country, many pastors and churches are embracing the vision. Prayer groups have sprung up as others are compelled to take action for their country. "I don't believe this generation should be lost," said Michael. "I believe if we pray for revival for this generation of young people, they will rise up and feel the anointing and embrace the call the Lord has put on their shoulders to fight for their generation. This is a radical call to a radical generation."

A big part of their new homeland



A Lesson from an Old Boat

I recently went to Point Reyes, California, to photograph lighthouses. When I got there, a fog settled in and I couldn't see anything, so I figured God had something better for me. As I was walking away, I saw an old abandoned boat lying in the sand (the one pictured on the cover).

My first thought was that the boat had probably been very expensive—either a fishing boat or a recreational vessel. She had given a lot of people pleasure over the years. But somewhere along the way, the boat's owner took her out of the channel and forgot about her, or something like that. Somebody made a mistake. Somebody wasn't watching what he was doing; something happened that left her neglected. I could tell it had been a good while since she had been properly cared for, because she was dirty and unkempt. There were signs of distress and wear all over her.

I thought of all the people who drive by this boat every day and pay no attention whatsoever. They don't realize that she's a perfect picture of what becomes of people who fall away from the will of God. A beautiful and productive life — happy, peaceful, and full of joy — can turn around

in no time at all. When a follower of God gets out of the channel and drifts off course, he runs against rocks or becomes stuck somewhere far from home. As the hours and days go by, as the months and years pass, he becomes scarred and worn like the boat, barely recognizable to those who love him.

None of us want to end up looking like that. In fact, the next time you look in the mirror, think about that old boat. Do you know what ages people most? Not years, but sin. Disobedience, neglect, indulgence, and lack of discipline. I've met 90-year-olds with more energy and charisma than 60-year-old people I know. A lot of Christians have drifted from God's will and don't even realize they're in deep trouble. The Lord desires our success and wants us to live happy and fulfilled lives. But we won't unless we chart our course with His. †

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Chicken Soup for the Single's Soul

A-Head of the Game

By Katie Mauro

A friend of mine had been suffering from a lack of self-confidence after a particularly difficult breakup. He was a bit wary of returning to the dating world, worried that he had “lost his touch” with women.

Unfortunately, soon after ending his previous relationship, he began to lose his hair, and he saw this as a sign from above that he was doomed to be alone forever. “Who the heck is going to want to date some bald guy?” he said to me one night as we commiserated over large yummy cups of cappuccino. The eternal wit, he was convinced that good hair was the ticket to a successful relationship. “What will she run her fingers through now?” he exclaimed discouragingly. “My scalp?”

As he started asking women out, he only took them to locations where a baseball cap was acceptable - playing

Frisbee in the park, walking the dog, a baseball game or any other faintly sporty event where he could successfully hide his thinning top. This worked out fine for a while, but there are only so many sporting events to go to, and only so many sunny days to toss the Frisbee and walk the dog.

Also, one huge aspect of my friend’s personality was that he absolutely loved going out for a nice dinner. We had enjoyed many nights in college spending too much money on hors d’oeuvres and warm chocolatey desserts at the most upscale restaurants. Unfortunately, none of these restaurants would allow a baseball cap, no matter how nice it may be. This started to discourage him and again his spirits dropped, until he received notification in the mail that he had won a free dinner for two at an exclusive restaurant downtown.

“Congratulations!” the letter read. “You and a guest have been chosen to sample and savor our elegant cuisine and ambiance. Please find the enclosed gift certificate for fifty dollars!” He was thrilled. Jumping up and down with enthusiasm, he thought out loud about what to wear, what to order, when to go, and ... uh oh ... who to take. He couldn’t wear a hat into this new restaurant. But who could he take who wouldn’t be shocked by his barely covered head? His brow furrowed in disappointment and he collapsed on the nearby couch. After a few minutes of silence, he shouted out, “Aw, phooey. I’m going .” Leaping from his seat, his face took on that all-too-familiar glow and he quickly breezed through his index of possible dates, finally landing on Sarah, the woman whom he had been admiring from afar for months. He sat down in his favorite chair, dialed her number confidently and asked her to accompany him - and she gratefully accepted. A few nights later, dressed to the nines and beautifully bareheaded, he and Sarah shared a perfect evening and have been wonderfully in love ever since.

And I’ll tell you this: That was the best fifty dollars I’ve spent in a long time. †

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MONDAY

THE HEART OF FLORIDA CIVITAN CLUB — Meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 6 p.m., at the Marks Street Senior Recreation Complex, 99 E. Marks St. For information, contact Ruthe Kurtz at (407) 896-7201.

TUESDAY

E.S.T.H.E.R. Single Mother's Outreach-Dedicated to the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of single mothers and their children. Bible study group meets every Tuesday from 7-9pm at Church In The Son; child care provided. Contact Marci Wild at (407)331-6436 www.esthersmo.com

FRIDAY

EXPERIENCE GOD, CONNECT WITH OTHER SINGLES and find a new way of living in an Orlando Christian Singles

home group near you! For more details, go to our website at OrlandoChristianSingles.org or call Matt at (407) 782-2159.

SINGLES GAME NIGHT — 2nd and 4th Friday's at The First Baptist Church of Forest City (721 W. Lake Brantley Road). Come join us for a night of Fun, Fellowship and GAMES. Starts at 8:15 p.m. Contact Ginny: (407) 767-6500.

SUNDAY

NORTHLAND'S SAM — Single Adult Ministry meets the 4th Sunday of each month, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., Room 4206. Join for worship, prayer, classes and fellowship. Sundays, gather at Nature's Table Café before the 6 p.m. worship service. Call (407) 949-7172 or visit christiansocial.meetup.com/189/.

If your church or ministry has an announcement about an upcoming single's event we will place it FREE of charge. E-mail your announcement to cornerstone-ads@cfl.rr.com or fax to (407) 872-1417. Please send it by the first of the month for the next months issue. Please limit your announcement to 35 words or less.

FRONT LINES • PAGE 14

ministry is the website, www.BUTifmypeople.org. Find a local prayer group or go online to pray with a group of like-minded individuals across the country. Billboards are going up all over and a fresh vision for our nation is taking off. It's a prayer movement designed to wake us up from the apathy in America. At a recent pastor's conference, the Beenes had a chance to talk to a Slavic immigrant pastor who came from Russia, a communist country. "We need to fight for this nation," the pastor told them. "We need



to pray that God would protect this nation from falling into communism, slavery and bondage." The perspective is different when you come from a front-line country where declaring Christian faith could be a death sentence. "The only reason we're safe in America is not because of our great military," noted the

Beenes. "It's because God has chosen to give us safety and protection. We take so much for granted and we're so easily distracted that we become impotent and ineffective with reaching out, touching people's lives and helping to steer our nation."

Beyond the prayer movement is a call to put wings to the vision. Michael and Rocky want to preserve the foundational principles and encourage other believers to be educated on candidates, then vote. "We believe this generation, more than ever, needs to realize that now is the time to NOT have self-preservation, but to be radical," the Beenes said. "Remember the need we have for Him and remember where we were founded as a nation, on biblical principles. Turn back to God. God's heart for America is not destruction, but restoration. However, it is contingent to our turning back to Him is humility and prayer."

For more information, go to: www.fiaministries.org and www.BUTifmypeople.org. †

Do you know, if you died today, that you would go to heaven? If not, please pray this simple prayer: *Father, please forgive me of my sins. Thank You for sending your Son to die on the cross for me. I give You my life today. Please give me Your wisdom to understand Your word and help me find a church that speaks life through Your Word and help me to desire to be with those who will help me grow in my passion for You. I ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Chicken Soup for the Golden Soul

These Things I Wish for You

by Lee Pitts

"You cannot teach children to take care of themselves unless you let them try. They will make mistakes; out of these mistakes comes wisdom."

H. W. Beecher

We tried so hard to make things better for our kids that we made them worse. For my grandchildren, I'd know better. I'd really like for them to know about hand-me-down clothes and homemade ice cream and leftover meat loaf. I really would.

My cherished grandson, I hope you learn humility by surviving failure and that you learn to be honest even when no one is looking.

I hope you learn to make your bed and mow the lawn and wash the car — and I hope nobody gives you a brand-new car when you are sixteen.

It will be good if at least one time you can see a baby calf born and you have a good friend to be with you if you ever have to put your old dog to sleep.

I hope you get a black eye fighting for someone you believe in.

I hope you have to share a bedroom with your youngest brother. And it is all right to draw a line down the middle of the room, but when he wants to crawl under the covers with you because he's scared, I hope you'll let him.

And when you want to see a Disney movie and your kid brother wants to tag along, I hope you take him.

I hope you have to walk uphill with your friends and that you live in a town where you can do it safely.

If you want a slingshot, I hope your father teaches you how to make one instead of buying one. I hope you learn to dig in the dirt and read books, and when you learn to use computers, you also learn how to add and subtract in your head.

I hope you get razzed by friends when you have your first crush on a girl, and that when you talk back to your mother you learn what Ivory soap tastes like.

May you skin your knee climbing a mountain, burn your hand on the stove and stick your tongue on a frozen flagpole.

I hope you get sick when someone blows smoke in your face. I don't care if you try beer once, but I hope you won't like it. And if a friend offers you a joint or any drugs, I hope you are smart enough to realize that person is not your friend.

I sure hope you make time to sit on a porch with your grandpa or go fishing with your uncle.

I hope your mother punishes you when you throw a baseball through a neighbor's window, and that she hugs you and kisses you when you give her a plaster of paris mold of your hand.

These things I wish for you — tough times and disappointment, hard work and happiness. †



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SUNDAY

ORLANDO BAPTIST CHURCH – Senior Bible study, Sundays at 9 a.m., followed by a Senior Adult worship service at 10:30 a.m. For more information, call (407) 277-8671.

SENIOR ADULT FELLOWSHIP – Meets every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. Includes music, message, meal and fellowship. Call (407) 277-8671 for additional information.

TUESDAY

OFMI SENIORS FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY – Trailblazers for tomorrow's generation welcomes you to come fellowship with us. Our meetings are held every 4th Tuesday night at 7 p.m. 2791 N. Pine Hills Road, Orlando 32808. Call (407) 291-2030.

THURSDAY

LOCKHART SENSATIONAL SENIORS – Meets every Thursday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.: a time of music, fellowship, and great food!

You'll have barrels of fun! Lockhart Baptist Church, 7601 Edgewater Drive, Orlando. For more information, call (407) 295-1135.

YOUNG @ HEART – Meets every fourth Thursday through October at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for ages 50+. Meets the third Thursday at the same time in Nov. and Dec. There is always great entertainment, good food, fun and fellowship for all. Call (407) 277-8671.

SATURDAY

BABY BOOMERS – Men and Women in their (50's and 60's) with no family who would like to become a family of friends. We are starting a Saturday Night Dinner Club. If you are interested, please call Holly at (407) 275-7277.

If your church or ministry has an announcement about an upcoming senior's event, e-mail it to cornerstone-ads@cfl.rr.com or fax to (407) 872-1417. Please send it by the first of the month for the next months issue. Please limit your announcement to 35 words or less.

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How to Live a Simple Life

Life is complicated these days. And you can see it in even the practical side of daily life. For example, when I was a kid, there was one kind of medicine for sinus problems. You didn't have to think about what to buy or what you would do to treat it; you just used that medicine. As an adult, I remember a time when I stood in the store looking at the various kinds of medicine for about forty-five minutes, trying to decide which one I really needed. Did I want a non-drowsy formula or one that would help me sleep? And which brand should I get?

We call this progress! But in many ways, more choices or more activities or more things just make life harder and actually keep us from enjoying life. We need to learn how to live balanced lives of simplicity.

One definition I found of complication is "to make complex, intricate or bewildering, or to twist." Things that are complicated are often hard to understand and they bewilder or frustrate us. Simple, on the other hand, means "composed of one thing; readily understood or performed." Living simply makes life more enjoyable.

John 10:10 says, "...I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)" (The Amplified Bible). This scripture makes it clear that God wants us to enjoy our lives. And I have found that simplifying my life in several areas has helped me to be able to enjoy my life each day.

Four Ways to Simplify Your Life

Break up your daily routine by adding a few simple things you enjoy. Take a walk or go for a drive. I like to go get

coffee, or sometimes I ask Dave to take me for a relaxing drive. It's a nice, simple break in my day.

We need to keep prayer simple. A few simple words spoken in faith are more powerful than a million eloquent ones spoken to impress God. I remember a time when God challenged me not to talk so much during my prayer time but instead, ask Him for what I wanted with as few words as possible. I realized that a lot of my faith was based on my ability to talk enough so I sounded eloquent and thought I could convince God to give me what I wanted.

I've learned to keep it simple and just say what I need to say. If I need help, I can pray, "God, I need Your help today and I'm asking You to be with me in this situation." In the beginning it may feel that you're not doing enough, but God will answer as you put your faith in Him, not in how you're praying.

Get the clutter out of your life. Living with lots of clutter creates complication and keeps us from having order. It makes people feel overwhelmed and confused and can be draining. If you have lots of clutter in your home, you may not even know what you have or where to find things when you need them. It's helpful to get rid of things you don't use. Either throw them away or give them to someone you know who can use them.

Stop multitasking! We tend to think of multitasking as a strength, but it's actually more of a hindrance. We need to focus on what we're doing and do one thing at a time. Don't put your makeup on while you're driving or talk on the phone while you're balancing your checkbook. I have really grown in this area and am still learning to give myself completely to the thing I'm doing rather than thinking about what I've been doing or plan to do next. My goal is to enjoy the moment I'm in, and I believe God wants us to slow down and possibly do less with better quality.

It's important to God that we enjoy our lives. We can have the life Jesus died to give us when we focus on Him and choose to simply follow Him. †



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ULTIMATE *AutoSports Inc.*

Are you led by the Spirit?

By David Mercedes, Owner of Ultimate Auto Sports, Inc.



I have always liked the phrase "Dare to Dream", powerful thoughts that allow us to envision a desired future. In business, a dream combined with an effective plan can inspire and ignite energy from within. It is also important to note the difference between chasing a dream and seeking God's vision as only He can reveal His will for our lives. *"Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires".* (Romans 8:5)

This month I joined a group of Christian Businessmen (C12) to help my company pursue a vision of excellence while staying on track with God's plan. The first meeting ended asking all to read a book "SHINE" by Kris Den Besten whose message encourages me daily to kick it up a notch.

September 1st, a campaign called "I am Second" rolls out in Orlando with a simple yet powerful message, God is First... I was blessed in getting to know the founders of this group a few years back and thus the seed was planted for my Dream to share my company with God. We have made great strides through difficult times and this month plans to initiate the legal structure of a Non Profit division of our dealership are in the works. *"Then the godly will shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand* (Mathew 13:43)"

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Additional donations will be accepted through THE VINE Community Bible Church, www.thevinecbc.org (The Attic Ministry) with food and clothing donations going to the West Orange Coalition (www.feedtheneedy.net). God Bless and I am Second..

Romans 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

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IN MEMORY OF

David Bradford Wright Remembered as the absolutely nicest guy, he always gave of himself, serving as an exceptional role model to the young and not so young around him. A Mayflower descendant born in Plymouth, MA, Dave's Winter Park childhood was filled with Boy Scouts (where he earned the rank of Eagle), choir and youth activities at First Congregational Church, and football at Edgewater High School. He continued Scouting for many years as a leader. For 20 years he served on Orlando's Fiesta In the Park Committee, helping to organize art festivals, upgrade Lake Eola Park, and provide downtown Orlando with Fourth of July fireworks. Dave loved radio and rock music, and after graduating from U.C.F. he worked for 14 years at WOMX(BJ105) as Announcer, Music Director and Promotions Manager. For the next 22 years he worked around the country in attractions management for Six Flags and Wet 'n Wild, where he was a Sales and Marketing Director. Dave leaves behind his loving wife of 23 years, Cynthia; sons Daniel (Michelle) and Adam; parents Herbert and Barbara; sister Susan; grandchildren Braeden and Olivia. Dave loved to travel and explore with his family. He shared his love of sports with his boys and strongly supported his extended family.



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Rev. Howard S. Russell, Christian Healthcare Ministries

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God gave us the blueprint some 2,000 years ago on the right way to approach this problem, including how Christians can support other Christians in meeting healthcare costs.

This plan is documented in the book of Acts, chapters 2 and 4. Christians joined together to make sure that everyone's needs were met.

Christian Healthcare Ministries (CHM) is the modern-day answer for Christians. CHM is a faith-based, Bible-based, affordable alternative to health insurance that allows you to take control of your healthcare decisions.

There are several ways our ministry helps. First, it has a biblical model that has Christians sharing financially to meet each other's needs and pray for each other. We bring the needs of fellow Christians to the throne of grace. God does intervene for His children. Secondly, the program emphasizes personal responsibility in

making healthcare decisions.

Christian Healthcare Ministries is effectively making it possible for people to afford their healthcare costs. In the last 15 years alone, CHM members have voluntarily shared more than \$450 million in medical costs.

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Deep Dark Water

If somebody told you that the water at the end of a boat dock on a lake was only five feet deep, you probably wouldn't hesitate to jump in, but if they told you it was a million feet deep you would probably run back to dry land. In essence that is what is happening in America right now. We are approaching the end of our fiscal pier and being told that the water is not deep enough to worry about, when in reality, it is deep enough to sink the entire United States of America. Economists are warning the government that in a very few years our debt will equal or exceed our economic output and that in as little as two years the world will stop buying America's debt. Just stop and think about what that will do to an already weak dollar as the government prints more and more of them to service our crushing financial commitments. The Washington establishment is drunk on the money of its taxpayers, and absolutely refuses to stop its devastating


and unnecessary extravagance. Obama continues to view the treasury as his private piggy bank that he can dip into any time he wants to buy votes. Does anybody think that the automotive bailouts were anything less than a multibillion-dollar favor to the United Auto Workers, and that the requirement that all the federally funded TARP infrastructure projects have to employ union workers is anything less, even though it will add billions of dollars to the cost of the construction? And the rot in our nation goes much deeper than Capitol Hill and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Look at the public employees who do mundane jobs but are paid hundreds of thousands of dollars a year in bankrupt states like California. Look at the banks that took government bailout money and refused to loan it to the small businesses who desperately needed it to stay afloat. And how about the Democrats adjourning Congress before voting on whether or not to extend the tax cuts? What are small businesses supposed to do? How can they know what plans to make for next year, not even knowing the rate they'll be taxed? The lame duck Congress could well come back and vote not to extend the tax cuts, and the sad part is that if the cuts are not extended the extra tax money will be spent by the Obama Administration as fast as it comes in, it will not go to reduce the deficit if he has his way. A lot of people are pinning their hopes on the outcome of the midterm elections and though I'm hopeful, I'm still dubious. You see, I just don't trust politicians whether they have a "D" or an "R" beside their names. I've seen both sides sell "We The People" out for personal gain. To tell you the truth I'm sick and tired of liars, cheats and charlatans who say one thing and do another. I'm going to vote for whoever I feel will start pulling America back from the edge of that pier we're about to walk off of because America simply can't swim in water that deep. Why are there still so many people in this nation that don't realize what's happening here? It is far beyond my comprehension, and it's a sad, sad state of affairs. What do you think? †

Pray for our troops, and for our country.

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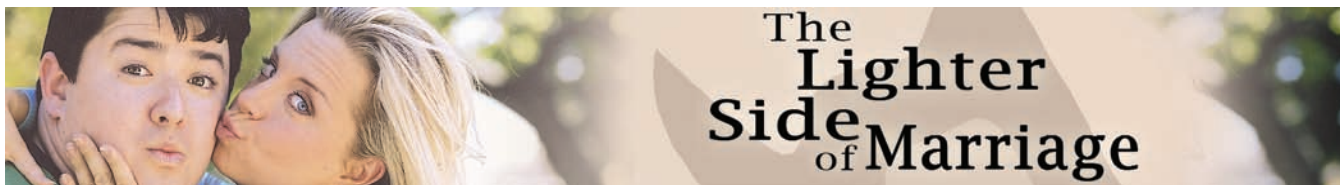
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Online Dating Tips

By Kerri Pomarelli

- Never sign on any dating site
 - after running into your ex and his/her new fiancée
 - after the hour of 1:00am
 - after watching any film starring Meg Ryan, Julia Roberts or anything, I repeat, anything on Lifetime Television for Women.
- Do not put in your profile that your interests include "Long Walks on the Beach" if you reside in Ohio or other such states.
- Men if you list your favorite movie as "Fried Green Tomatoes" to appear more in touch with your feminine side it would be a good idea to actually have seen the movie "Fried Green Tomatoes" or at least know one of the stars.
- Never use your high school senior picture on your profile especially if you graduated before 1994. Also "Glamour headshots with feather boa and halo lighting do not make you look more like an angel! You may get such a response as 'Nice headshot..are you missing an arm?'"
- If asked what you are looking for in a mate, a good response is to be honest, such as "Someone who is willing to lie about how we met." Honesty is so important. Or if asked what you'd like to do on a first date an appropriate response might be "Well we met online so I'd like to go to the police station to get fingerprinted." Remember, be open. Someone may be in prison now but think how much time they have to read their Bible and other great works of literature?
- Everyone from Canada automatically seems more attractive in that imagery, "I met her in Canada, over summer break, and she's a model," kind of way, but think about it — do you ever actually see them in person? Try to stay within your own country. †

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Answers for
crossword puzzle
on page 38



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Inspiration:

Christ's Global Mission by David Hunt

It's only after reading the whole Bible that one can truly understand God's global plan for us. Even God's old testament saint's were in the dark when it came to understanding what God was up to as He created the heavens and the earth. (See 1 Peter 1:10-12) As a matter of fact, even Jesus' apostles didn't know that the scriptures foretold His death and resurrection until after He rose from the dead. (John 20:9)

In Genesis we read that God saw that everything He made was "very good", but when Adam and Eve sinned against Him the earth came under a curse. (Gen. 3:17) But God had a plan of salvation for man and for the earth, and that's where Christ's Global Mission comes in. Christ, the creator, was to become a man and atone for the sins of all people, rise from the dead, and restore the earth to it's original state. (John 3:16) Sin would be dealt with once for all, and mankind would once again live for the glory and honor of their Creator.

The Bible is a history book first, but it is also a book of prophesies that foretell of God's plan for this planet. The New Testament pages contain a complete explanation of God's intentions from the very beginning of time. As we read the whole Bible and make the Lord our favorite teacher, He promises to direct us into His Kingdom of love, peace, and joy and free us from the "curse" that sin has caused. Then He will get what He

wants; our continuous sincere appreciation (worship), and we will get what we really want; rest from the curse of sin that has spoiled us and the atmosphere in which we live. I heard Him say that as we trust in Him, He will heal the very atmosphere we breathe. Hallelujah!

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by Dave Ramsey

Buy a house while in student loan debt?

Dear Dave,

I'm 31, single, and I have two college degrees. I have no money to speak of, having just come through a rough patch of unemployment, but I recently landed a job that will pay me \$20,000 to start. There's the added possibility of an increase to \$40,000 in the first year. I'm thinking about buying a house, but I've also got \$50,000 in student loan debt. The good news is that I have no other debt. What are your thoughts on buying a home in this situation?

Trevor

Dear Trevor,

Man, you're broke! There's no other way to describe being \$50,000 in debt with a job making \$20,000. You don't need to get wrapped up in buying a place right now. At this point, a house would end up being a curse instead of a blessing.

You've been through the valley, and now I want you to come up into the sunlight. I want you to start building a future on something solid, and that solid ground means being debt-free. If I woke up in your shoes, I'd get unbelievably aggressive about paying off this debt. I'm talking about rice and beans and living in a cheap little apartment for the next two or three years while you kill it off.

Whatever you do, Trevor, please don't get complacent about this debt. Lots of times, people will play around with student loans. They don't take them seriously, because they have low payments or really low interest rates. The next thing you know, it's still sitting there 10 years later staring at you like some kind of big, dumb pet!

Having a bunch of mortgage payments hanging over your head would completely destroy the foundation of your new financial life. Save up \$1,000 for a small emergency fund. Go crazy about paying off the loan.

DAVE SAYS • PAGE 37



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Then, get your emergency fund of three to six months of expenses in the bank. If you get used to living on \$20,000 a year, and your income rises like you mentioned, you'll be able to get rid of your student loan fast. After that's done, you can save enough for a 20 percent down payment on a house in no time!

—Dave

In debt to mom

Dear Dave,

We want to go into the mission field, and we're following your plan trying to get out of debt before we do this. We've got about \$16,000 in credit card debt. My mother doesn't want this to stand in our way, and she's offered to pay off our debt and let us pay her back over time at half of the interest rate we're paying now. My husband likes the idea, but what would you say?

Teresa

Dear Teresa,

I'd say no, thank you. There's no way I'd be in debt to my mother.

She's obviously a kind, sweet person, but it's a bad plan. I'm sure your husband is a great guy, too. But he's overlooking the spiritual and relationship implications

of all this. Proverbs 22:7 says the borrower is slave to the lender. If you do this, you're going to change the way Thanksgiving dinner tastes, because you'll be eating with your master instead of your mom.

Money has a way of changing the family dynamic, and it's almost never for the good. All of a sudden you're getting raised eyebrows if you buy something for yourself, because even the nicest, gentlest person has opinions. You'd be giving her a say in your lives in a different way and at a completely different level than ever before. You just don't need that in your life!

Now, if she wants to make paying off your debt a gift—one that will facilitate you guys hitting the mission field earlier—I'm okay with that. I'd be honored, and I'd accept the gift. But I would never tell you to go into debt—especially to a parent. I'm sure she's coming from the perspective that she'd make a better "creditor" than the credit card company. If it were me, I'd tell her that I love her, but I just don't want to take a chance on doing anything that might come between us later.

—Dave

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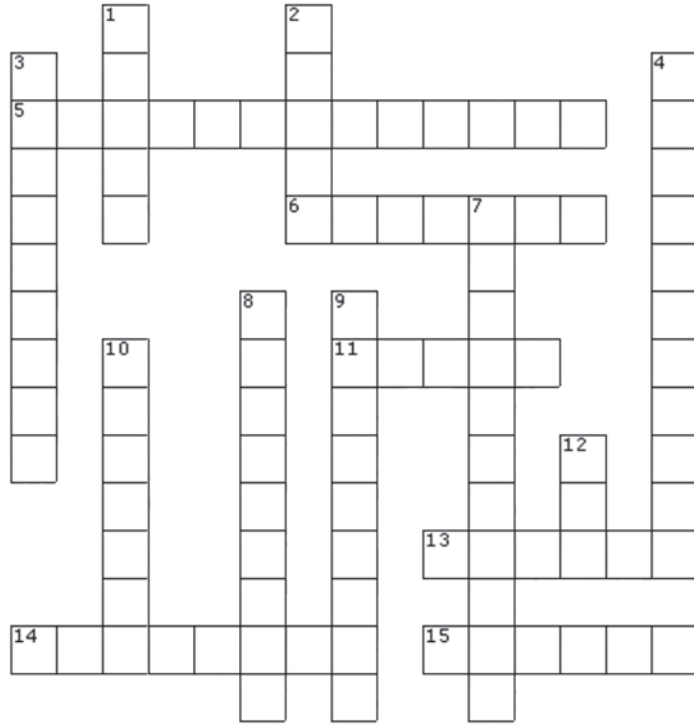
Crossword Puzzle: The Sermon on the Mount

ACROSS

- 5 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for _____, for they will be filled
 6 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the _____ of heaven
 11 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the _____
 13 So in everything, do to _____ what you would have them do to you
 14 But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to _____
 15 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to _____ from you.

DOWN

- 1 You are the _____ of the world
 2 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; _____ and the door will be opened to you
 3 Do not store up for yourselves _____ on earth
 4 Blessed are the _____, for they will be called children of God
 7 Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to _____
 8 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be _____
 9 Love your enemies and pray for those who _____ you
 10 _____ are the merciful, for they will receive mercy
 12 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will _____ God



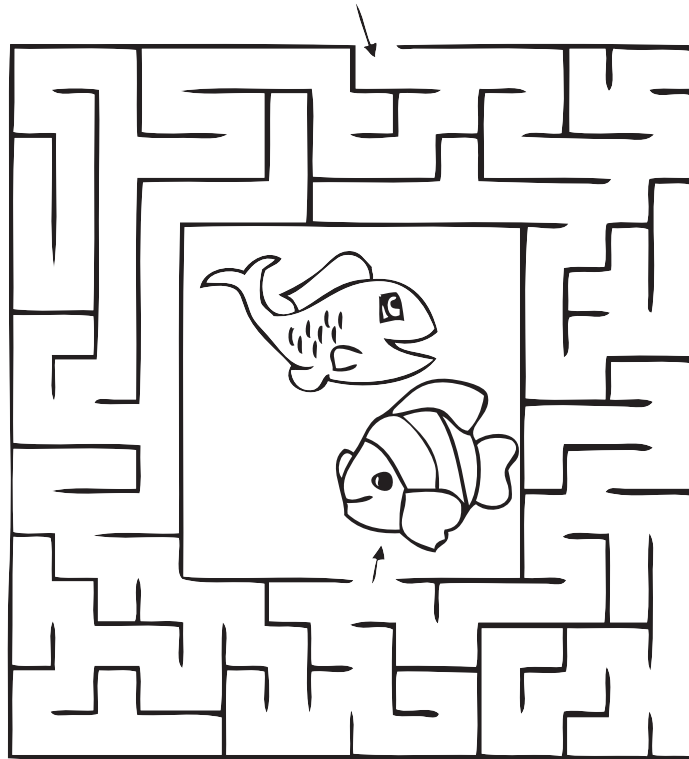
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Answers on page 26

Twelve Disciples Maze



Help the Disciples find
the fish they caught.



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