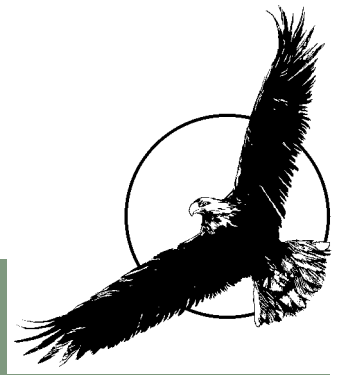


The Messenger



MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Volume 25 Issue 1

January 2012

“The LORD, The Mighty One, Is God, And He Has Spoken” Psalm 50:1

Confusing friends and enemies can be devastating and even deadly. This was seen clearly last week when a Marine Corps Lieutenant Colonel returned home to ‘friendly’ Bakersfield after serving our country with tours of duty in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Needing some extra cash for Christmas, he sold a gold chain on Craig’s List. Upon delivering the chain to the buyer, his gold chain was stolen and he was hit by three bullets fired as the robber sought to escape.

Clearly, being in the ‘friendly zone’ of his home town, he wasn’t prepared for a gun battle. Fortunately, this man’s wounds were not fatal but the scars will remain the rest of his earthly life.

I can’t help thinking that if the robber would engage his cunning and skill against our country’s enemies, instead of friends, his life would have had significance. Now all he has is the ugly prominence of being the one who at-

tempted to murder one of our nation’s brave heroes.

The ‘one man’ engaged his life in the battle for a better world and a safer America. The ‘other man’ engaged his life in a very different sort of battle. His battle allowed him to attempt to murder the very man who put his life in harm’s way while protecting the robber’s right to own the very gun he used in the shooting!

If all of us engage our enemies in battle and seek to rescue our wounded; we’ll have little strength or time to engage our friends in battle.

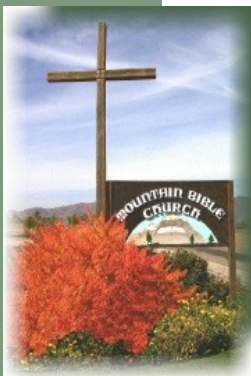
‘Connecting’ with God’s call, ‘engaging’ in His great commission, allowing His great commandment to gain ‘traction’ in our life; are all necessary if we desire to be Christ’s light in this world. We are called to be Christ’s ambassadors to a world in darkness. People love the darkness and hate the light because they don’t want the evil they do to be exposed.

The problem is accentuated when the ones who call evil, good; and good, evil;

become the voice of our nation. **God has spoken** about this so we’d best make sure each of us is engaging our real enemies in battle.

“Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who change darkness into light and light into darkness, who change bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter! ²¹ Woe to those seeing themselves as wise, esteeming themselves as clever. ²² Woe to those who are heroes at drinking wine, men whose power goes to mixing strong drinks, ²³ who acquit the guilty for bribes but deny justice to the righteous! ²⁴ Therefore, as fire licks up the stubble, and the chaff is consumed in the flame; so their root will rot . . . they have despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.”
Isaiah 5:20-24 (CJB)

“The eye is the lamp of the body. . . . If, then, the light in you is



The LORD, The Mighty God continued...

GROWING BOY
LIKE ALL GROWING
BOYS, MY TEENAGE
GRANDSON WAS
CONSTANTLY
HUNGRY. I WENT TO
THE REFRIGERATOR TO
FIND SOMETHING HE
MIGHT LIKE. AFTER
POKING AROUND A
BIT AND MOVING THE
MILK AND JUICE
CARTONS, I SPOTTED
A BOWL OF LEFTOVER
CHILI.
I CALLED OUT TO HIM
EXCITEDLY. HE CAME
RUNNING INTO THE
KITCHEN.
"LOOK! I FOUND
SOME CHILI."
STRUGGLING TO BE
POLITE, HE SAID, "IF
YOU'RE THAT
SURPRISED, I'M NOT
REALLY SURE I WANT
IT."

darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matthew 6:22-23 (CJB)

"He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous — both alike are an abomination to the Lord." Proverbs 17:15 (CJB)

"The Mighty One, God, the Lord, is speaking, summoning the world from east to west. ² Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God is shining forth. ³ Our God is coming and not staying silent. . . . ⁵

"Gather to me my faithful, those who made a covenant with me by sacrifice." ⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness, for God himself is judge. (Selah) Psalm 50:1-6 (CJB)

A 'winner's smile' is one of life's most easily identifiable expressions. King David was wearing a winner's smile as he wrote this

prayer of Psalm 20. The battle referenced was in the future but victory sure. This prayer was set to music and sung by the very congregants he intended to instruct and inspire.

This Psalm also expresses my prayer for each of you especially as we start another New Year.

"In times of trouble, may the LORD answer your cry. May the name of the God of Jacob keep you safe from all harm . . .

⁴ May he grant your heart's desires and make all your plans succeed. ⁵ May we shout for joy when we hear of your victory and raise a victory banner in the name of our

God. May the LORD answer all your prayers. . . . ⁷ Some nations boast of their chariots and horses, but we boast in the name of the LORD our God. ⁸ Those nations

will fall down and collapse, but we will rise up and stand firm. ⁹ Give victory to our King, O LORD! Answer our cry for help." Psalm 20:1, 4-5, 7-9 (NLT) cf Genesis 35:3

"The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe." Proverbs 18:10 (NLT)

Christians are the light of God to this world; dispelling the darkness around you and exposing the evil and malevolence of wickedness. A light shines upon both good and evil. In the spirit of Psalm 20; Christians must begin to pray and sing together; "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!"

It is always important to be reminded that; God remains on His throne, He's still sovereign over all creation, and all will be well with our soul no matter what happens. Perhaps not well with our world, but well with our soul.

The Lord, He is God, He is the Mighty one and HE HAS SPOKEN. Let's **listen** so we can **learn** and thereby live in His light.

Your Pastor, Marv



Kid Happenings

December was a rather busy month for the children in the Sunday School Department. We started the month off building a float for the Tehachapi Christmas Parade. It was an awesome float! The theme of the parade was "The Magic of Christmas" and so we chose to draw attention to 'Operation Christmas Child' the shoebox ministry that Mountain Bible Church supports.

We made a huge shoebox with the Operation Christmas Child logo painted on the side. We filled it with toys and kids. It was wonderful and the judges thought so too because we won the first place trophy for our category. A lot of work went into the float and so big

thank you to Dennis Collins, Cheryl and Amy Gusbeth, and Linda Lichtenwaldt. They did the bulk of the work. Thank you to Bob Garcia for loaning us his trailer and thanks to Michael and Heather White for driving in the parade. Thank you to the Mason crew for painting.

Sunday, the 18th, was also a special day. The children presented their Christmas program entitled, *Away in a Manger*. We had several rehearsals throughout the month and I wasn't too sure how we were going to pull it off. Two days before we had our dress rehearsal and it was rough. Kings arguing over where to stand, baby sheep crying, Joseph and Mary couldn't,

or wouldn't, look at each other, and angels spinning until they were dizzy. I was a little concerned. But, it went beautifully. The children presented such a lovely picture and I am very proud of them. Thank you to all the families that committed to our schedule. Thank you especially to the following people: Linda Lichtenwaldt (stage manager), Heather White (children manager), Dennis Collins (set builder as well as sound and lights), Christy (Youth Choir organizer, black fabric hanger), Christine Rohe (baby angel manager), Youth Choir, Dot Gillies, Tom Lichtenwaldt, and Brandie Johnson (baby sheep manager).

Children's Bible Studies

Remember that beginning January 10, M&M's and Xtreme Kids will resume.

These are Bible studies for children ages 4yrs. through 6th grade. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 6-7pm. At the same time there is an adult Bible study led by Christy Boyd. We encourage families to take advantage of this time to study the Bible a little deeper.

Super Attendance Winners!

Congrats to the following children for their attendance on Sunday mornings: Sarah Bantilan, Isabel Cruz, Aminah Fogle, Cali and Micah Mason, and Jack Pepaj. We realize that a big part of their attendance is due to the families that bring them. So, thank you for making Sunday school a priority for your children.

Lori Henry

Children's Director

Ministry Or Job

By Anna Sandberg

Some people have a job in the church. Others invite themselves in a ministry. What's the difference?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a job.

If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.

If you quit because somebody criticized you, it's a job.

If you keep on serving, it's a ministry

If you'll do it only as long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it's a job.

If you are committed to staying with it even if it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.

If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it's a job.

If you stay with it even though nobody recognized your efforts, it's a ministry.

It's hard to get excited about a job.

It's almost impossible not to be excited about a ministry.

If our concern is success, it's a job.

If our concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry.

An average church is filled with people doing jobs.

A great and growing church is filled with people involved in ministry.

Where do you fit in?
What about us?

If God calls you to a ministry, don't treat it like a job.

If you have a job, give it up and find a ministry.

God doesn't want us feeling stuck with a job, but excited and faithful to Him in a ministry.

Bought With Blood Money!

I admit it! I went on a \$500 spending spree with blood money.

Houchin Blood Bank travels to Tehachapi every 6-8 weeks. My husband and I try to give when we can. We started doing this the summer 2010, when Houchin's bus was in front of Home Depot. Home Depot was hosting a drawing for those who donated. I got a call from Home Depot a few weeks later that I had won a new gas barbecue. Cool! If that does not encourage you to give, maybe the next part will.

Since then I have put my name in for Dodger tickets and a trip to New York. Keep in mind, I would donate blood despite the random drawings, but if they are going to give away free stuff, why not!

This latest one was in Bear Valley. Houchin's bus was in front of the Whiting Center until 6pm. I got there at 5:30pm, after work. I wrote my name on a small slip of paper truly not knowing about any drawing. A week later a nice lady from Houchin calls me at work.

"Hi, this Debbie from Houchin Blood Bank."

I hesitantly said, "Hello" not sure what was coming next, they might want to use the church parking lot for the next collection, my blood was denied, I don't know.

Debbie says, "I'm wondering if your have a Target store in your town."

"No ma'am" *Stupid woman!*

She says, "Well we have one in Bakersfield" *Duh!*

I reply, "I know"

"Do you plan on shopping there soon?"

"No" *Why would I? My Christmas shopping is done, we're going out of town...*

She says, "If you had \$500 to spend would you then shop at Target?"

"Maybe" *I am still not sure where she is going with this. Dense I know!*

She says, "Congratulations, you are the winner of the Target \$500 gift card drawing."

"No Way! \$500?"

She laughs and says, "I love making these calls."

All I had to do to collect my winnings was make a trip to Houchin, get my picture taken with the card for their

web site, and I was on my way to Target. I can honestly say it was all spent on things I had been wanting a long time. Amazing how good it feels to spend blood money.

You should donate! I know this will weaken my chances of winning this year, but I have won something each year, and I am willing to share. It is for a good cause.

Heather Rose-White just text messaged that Houchin called her, she won a \$100 gas card. Donate!

As my husband said, "This blood thing is really working out for you."

Donna Eastham

Houchin will be in Tehachapi:

Saturday, January 21st at St. Malachy's parking lot from 9am to 1pm

Tuesday, January 31st in Bear Valley at the Whiting Center from 1pm to 6pm

Tuesday, February 21st at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church from 1pm to 6pm



PSYCHIATRY STUDENTS WERE IN THEIR EMOTIONAL EXTREMES CLASS. "LET'S SET SOME PARAMETERS," THE PROFESSOR SAID. "WHAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF JOY?" HE ASKED ONE STUDENT. "SADNESS," HE REPLIED. "THE OPPOSITE OF DEPRESSION?" HE ASKED ANOTHER STUDENT. "ELATION," HE REPLIED. "THE OPPOSITE OF WOE?" THE PROF ASKED A YOUNG WOMAN FROM TEXAS. THE TEXAN REPLIED, "SIR, I BELIEVE THAT WOULD BE GIDDYUP."

An Old Fashioned Christmas

It was sixty-five years ago, but I remember it well. "We won't have much for Christmas," said mom. "It's been a difficult year and dad hasn't been able to work."

A large part of Pennsylvania is made up of tree covered hills and picturesque valleys with streams or rivers flowing year round. In the northern counties small dairy farms provide a means for many families to eke out a living, but it was a harsh and demanding life.

We had a small farm where we raised vegetables like corn, green beans and peas that mom canned, along with wild black berries gathered during the late summer.

It was now December and we were snowed in for the winter. Potatoes had been boxed up and placed in a cold cellar, and with our handful of chickens and two cows we would have enough food. An abundance of wild game meant that we would have a variety of meat for the table, but without work for my father there would not be any extra money for gifts.

The song *White Christmas* has a different meaning when several inches of snow cover the ground from November to March. I am sure it was a beautiful sight but I remember having cold feet a good part of every day as the wool socks I wore inside my rubber boots would get wet with sweat when I walked to

school and then they failed to provide any protection from the cold.

We accepted the fact that there wouldn't be gifts, but it didn't seem to matter to my older brother and my sisters. Jim went up on the hill in back of our house and brought back a Christmas tree. Ruth and Mary made strings of popcorn, and mom dug out the box of decorations with its string of lights and Christmas bulbs.

We were just as excited as we waited for Christmas morning to arrive as we had been for any previous Christmas. We knew that mom would make it a special day with a baked chicken dinner and the usual side dishes of

mashed potatoes, stuffing and a fruit pie.

I was surprised when mom had us hang up stockings on Christmas Eve, and even more surprised in the morning when I found it bulging with goodies. I had some hard Christmas candy, an orange, mixed nuts, a new pair of wool socks and a small pocket knife. I couldn't have been happier as I waited for Christmas dinner which was now filling the house with mouth watering aromas.

May your Christmas be filled with God's richest blessings.

Dr. Sam and Betsy Conklin

Warning

Just last weekend on Friday night we parked in a public parking area. As we drove away I noticed a sticker on the rear window of our car. I took it off after I got home it was a receipt for gas. Luckily my friend told me not to stop as it could be someone waiting for me to get out of the car. Then we received this email yesterday:

BEWARE OF PAPER ON THE BACK WINDOW OF YOUR VEHICLE--NEW

WAY TO DO CARJACKINGS

You walk across the parking lot, unlock your car and get inside. You start the engine and shift into reverse.

When you look into the rearview mirror to back out of your parking space, you notice a piece of paper stuck to the middle of the rear window. So, you shift into Park, unlock your doors, and jump out of your car to remove that paper (or whatever it is) that is

obstructing your view. When you reach the back of your car that is when the carjacker appear out of nowhere, jump into your car and take off. They practically mow you down as they speed off in your car.

And guess what, ladies? I bet your purse is still in the car. So now the carjacker has your car, your home address, your money, and your keys. Your home and your whole identity are now compromised!

FAULTS

JUST THINK: IF IT WEREN'T FOR MARRIAGE, MEN WOULD GO THROUGH LIFE THINKING THEY HAD NO FAULTS AT ALL.

10 Things You Should Never Do With A Cell Phone

The National Transportation Safety Board is making headlines, saying that it wants a nationwide ban on drivers using a cell phone while a vehicle is in motion. The organization says that it's a major cause of vehicular deaths, and could be one of the key ways in which people can improve their safety while traveling.

The fact is, driving while talking on a mobile phone is dangerous. But it's not the only thing that people should never do with mobile devices. In fact, there is a wide range of activities that mobile devices owners engage in each day that can both cause them bodily harm or greatly impact their privacy and security.

Read on to find out the top things that people should never do with their mobile devices:

1. Drive while talking

Let's just get this out of the way: driving and talking on a cell phone is dangerous. As numerous studies have shown, in some cases, talking while driving can be as dangerous as driving drunk. Quite often, people who talk on the phone while driving will find that they sometimes forget where they are and what they're doing. It's a serious issue, and it shouldn't be taken lightly.

2. Losing a smartphone without password protection

Too often, smartphone owners leave their devices in a public place without pass-

word-protecting them. Therefore, anyone can walk over the handset, access its software, and start looking through e-mails, browsing history, and more. All smartphones must be password-protected.

3. Access banking information

Although most banks now allow users to access their accounts from a smartphone via downloadable applications, it's not always the best idea. Earlier this year, a survey showed that in many cases, banking applications lack security features needed to make using them safe. It's best to access banking sites at home.

4. Download applications from unknown sources

Android handset owners have gotten into trouble for downloading programs created by unreliable sources. Upon doing so, the applications installed malware on their devices and all kinds of trouble ensued. Never download applications from unknown sources. Those who do typically find it's more trouble than it's worth.

5. Share personal information over unsecured networks

Since smartphones aren't running Windows, many people believe that the operating systems on their devices are secure. But that's simply not the case. What's worse, because they can connect to any Wi-Fi net-

work, there's no telling if data transmitted over that connection is secure. Therefore, it's best to never share personal information over unsecured networks; it's too easy for that data to be stolen and used against users.

6. Text while driving

If mobile phone owners aren't calling while driving, they certainly shouldn't be allowed to text message others while driving. In the age of touch screens, texting while driving requires a person's attention to be on the phone, so they can see which characters they're pressing. And when doing so, they aren't focusing on the road. That's practically suicidal.

7. Forgo standard security practices readily followed on desktops

If someone was on a Windows PC, they wouldn't click on a dangerous link from a social network and wouldn't browse to unsafe sites. They also wouldn't try to open e-mails from people they don't know. Yet, because mobile operating systems are widely viewed as "secure," they do just that on smartphones. They shouldn't.

8. Access corporate e-mail from unsecured networks

Earlier, we said that users shouldn't try to share personal information over unsecured networks. But it goes beyond that. Corporate e-mail is accessible from mo-

bile devices nowadays, and in many cases, it includes important enterprise data. Because of that, cybercriminals are always spying on unsecured networks if they can steal that data. Beware.

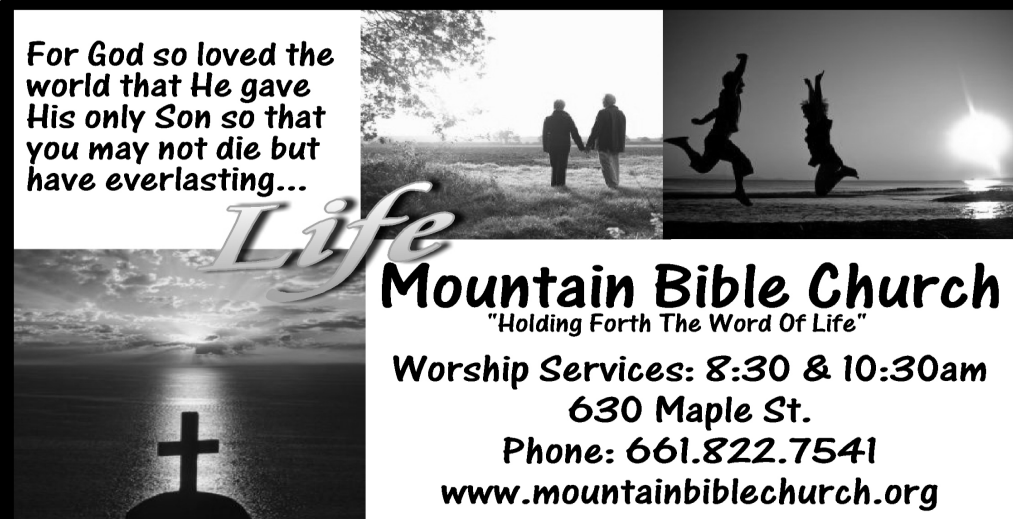
9. Share location information when away from home

With services like Four-square and Facebook, sites becoming quite popular this year, more and more people share their location information from their mobile devices. All too often, though, they end up telling people when they are not at home. If the wrong person sees that, those folks might come home to a ransacked house. Location services are great, but they shouldn't be used so often.

10. Choose the wrong service plan

Too often, people get into service plans with carriers and pay too much. Some folks think they won't use their smartphones nearly as much as they actually do and pay huge sums when they exceed plan limits. Other times, they think they're going to use them more than they do, and end up paying more than they would if they had a lesser plan. Carriers construct service plans to cost users money, but that doesn't mean customers have to fall for the trap.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son so that you may not die but have everlasting...



Life

Mountain Bible Church

"Holding Forth The Word Of Life"

Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:30am

630 Maple St.

Phone: 661.822.7541

www.mountainbiblechurch.org

PONDERISM:

- HEALTH NUTS ARE GOING TO FEEL STUPID SOMEDAY, LYING IN HOSPITALS DYING OF NOTHING.
- IF JIMMY CRACKS CORN AND NO ONE CARES, WHY IS THERE A SONG ABOUT HIM?

Summary Of Life

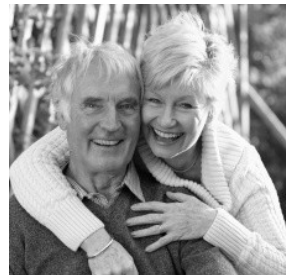
GREAT TRUTHS THAT LITTLE CHILDREN HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- 2) When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- 3) If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- 4) Never ask your 3-year old brother to hold a tomato.
- 5) You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- 6) Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.
- 7) Never hold a Dust-Buster and a cat at the same time.
- 8) You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- 9) Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.
- 10) The best place to be when you're

sad is Grandma's lap.

GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED:

- 1) Raising teenagers is like nailing jello to a tree.
- 2) Wrinkles don't hurt.
- 3) Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts
- 4) Today's mighty oak is just yesterday's nut that held its ground.
- 5) Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.
- 6) Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.



GREAT TRUTHS ABOUT GROWING OLD

- 1) Growing old is mandatory;

growing up is optional.

- 2) Forget the health food. I need all the preservatives I can get.
- 3) When you fall down, you wonder what else you can do while you're down there.
- 4) You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair that you once got from a roller coaster.
- 5) It is frustrating when you know all the answers but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.
- 6) Time may be a great healer, but it's a lousy beautician
- 7) Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

For Help and Answers

Call the church office-----822-7541
 Crisis Prayer requests-----Call Christine, 822-8849
 Change address or phone-----822-7541
 Doctrinal questions-----822-7541
 Wedding questions-----822-7541

Hospital visits-----822-7541
 Counseling Information-----822-7541
 Child dedication Service-----822-7541
 Student Ministries (Junior High to College)-----822-7541
 Membership/Baptism-----822-7541

The Messenger of Mountain Bible Church

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Contributing Writers: Lori Henry, Donna Eastham, Dr. Sam Conklin, and Pastor Slifer.

Distribution: Neya Kuithe

Sunday Morning Services at Mountain Bible Church: 8:30 and 10:30

Children's Programs are available at the same times.

Infant care (0-2 years) is available in the nursery.

Senior Pastor: Dr. Marvin D. Slifer

Children's Ministries Director: Lori Henry

Youth Ministries Director: Christy Boyd

Human Resource Director: Christy Boyd

Trustees for 2012: Dennis Birks, Robert Garcia, David Lange, Ron Rohe, Paul Smith, Michael White, and Ron Williams.

Elders for 2012: Dennis Collins, Sam Conklin, Ed Dunlap, Dae Lantz, Dave Lawrence, Tom Lichtenwaldt, Darrin Mason, and Andy Ohmit.

The Messenger is published monthly. All submissions to *The Messenger* are due the twentieth (20th) of each month. We would like contributions of news articles, photos and other information from the Youth Group, Men's and Ladies Bible Studies, Missions Team, Let's

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