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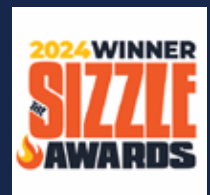
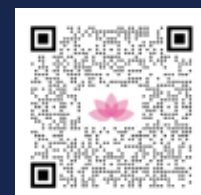
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OUR MISSION



Nashville Christian Family® exists to provide Christians and the community at large with ways to strengthen and grow as a part of the Middle Tennessee Christian Family. This local monthly publication is designed to promote positive living by sharing with readers of all ages relevant and timely news and information related to health, faith, parenting, youth, finances, Christian entertainment, missions, church leaders, and much more GOOD NEWS!

FROM THE PUBLISHER

Happy Thanksgiving

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. — John 3:16 NKJV

As we approach Thanksgiving, it's easy to get wrapped up in traditions—family gatherings, delicious feasts, and the familiar rhythms of fall festivities. Yet, amid the celebrations, it's vital to pause and remember the deeper meaning of this season: a time of heartfelt gratitude to our Creator.

Thanksgiving is a unique opportunity for Christians to remember the generosity of God, a generosity that surpasses the gifts on our tables. In the spirit of John 3:16, we remember that God's greatest gift to humanity is His Son, Jesus Christ. This gift of salvation is the ultimate expression of God's love, offering us eternal life and forgiveness. As we prepare our meals and set our tables, let's also prepare our hearts to give thanks for this priceless gift.

More than just a holiday, Thanksgiving is a call to marvel at God's creation. The world around us—the changing leaves, the beauty of nature, the laughter of loved ones—is a reflection of God's handiwork. He fashioned everything with purpose, love, and wisdom. Let this season remind us of His infinite care, not only for creation but also for each of us personally.

Thanksgiving also brings an opportunity for us to reflect on sacrifice. As we gather with family and friends, let's remember the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. His love broke the barrier of sin, offering us a pathway to eternal life and a life filled with hope. This is a gift beyond any material blessing, and it calls us to a deeper, more genuine gratitude.

In the midst of our celebrations, let's pause to offer our thanks to God for His mercy, grace, and the incredible gift of His Son. Let's allow this time of Thanksgiving to anchor our faith, redirecting our hearts toward a gratitude that goes beyond the material and into the spiritual.

This season, let's also remember those in need—the lonely, the suffering, and the less fortunate. Extending the love of Christ to others through acts of kindness and generosity embodies the spirit of Thanksgiving. By sharing what we have, we reflect God's love, reminding ourselves and others of the true essence of this season. As you gather this Thanksgiving, may your heart be filled with joy, your spirit renewed, and your gratitude deepened by the immeasurable grace and love of God.

May this Thanksgiving be more than a day; may it be a reflection of God's goodness and an outpouring of genuine thankfulness.

Robert Stringfellow, Publisher, 615-815-8765
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Saharan Trees: Christians in our Culture

In 2014, a French-led team of scientists using radar from satellite imagery located a vast, ancient river system beneath the West Saharan desert. At least one of the river systems was estimated to have been 100 km wide. These rivers once carried water for hundreds of miles all the way to the sea. This discovery confirmed the archeological theory that 130,000 years ago, the Saharan desert was a primeval jungle and a lush, verdant thriving forest. Today, there are still sparse remnants of this forest. There are great Saharan trees that exist surrounded by miles of sand. How is this possible, especially given the fact there is never rarely any rain in the Sahara?



Today, many of these churches are museums; empty shells that are but faint shadows of their once glory. Places where tourists go to catch a glimpse of the past, and to admire the trappings of Christianity, but see only rows of empty pews and the traces of what once was centuries ago a vibrant place of worship. Like a vast Saharan desert, churches like these are scattered all across Europe.

C.S. Lewis said Christians are the Saharan trees in our culture. They should be like an oasis to a thirsty world of skeptics who have never sipped the living water of God. Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: “Your life as a

Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God.”

C.S. Lewis, in his famous book *Chronicles of Narnia*, refers to these Saharan trees as “the deep magic”. He calls them signatures, remnants of a once rich, thriving eco-system. Somehow, these trees have survived the intense pressures, sandstorms and the demands of the external desert until their roots sank deep below to ancient rivers bathing them in rich minerals and nutrients. To borrow from C.S. Lewis’ metaphor, the post-Christian culture we live in today has become like a vast Saharan desert. Travel outside the Bible belt, visit our renowned universities, listen carefully to modern lyrics from celebrities like Taylor Swift, and you will see this sad, unmistakable reality unfolding.

Lee Strobel, the Atheist-turned-Christian writer and journalist said it best. “You cannot build your life with a consistent world view that is based on the shifting sands of moral relativism”. *Shifting sands of moral relativism – the Saharan desert.*

My wife, Flo is from France. One of our favorite things to do is to travel to France, rent a car, get out of the city, and just meander to small towns throughout rural, southern France. And in virtually every town you come to, there is a beautiful, majestic cathedral built back in the 1100s. We make a point to go inside these churches in every town we visit, and we marvel at the Gothic architecture, the spires reaching toward heaven, the colorful stained-glass windows and enormous pipe organs. I have noticed that in each village that we visit these cathedrals are situated in the very center of town. Why is this? The reason is for centuries, in these towns, the church was the center of human activity.

As a lawyer defending religious liberty claims, I often am privileged to represent individuals who are living testaments to the power of faith. I’ve witnessed miracles take place in court rooms as prosecutors stutter and stumble when cross-examining my client. I am often asked to pray with them before a trial and I see the tears they shed, not that they would be vindicated, but that God would be glorified. Saharan trees who are not sustained by the mere chance of a surface rain, but whose roots sink deep to rivers of living water.

(Borrowed from a presentation to the Tennessee Christian Chamber of Commerce, September 24, 2024.)

— Larry Crain, www.crainlaw.legal



SENIOR SCENE

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Medicare Open Enrollment Ends Soon

Ok folks, we have just a few more weeks until the AEP for Medicare ends (Dec. 7). So, let’s take a look at what the Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) is all about. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or a prescription drug plan (PDP) this is the time of year you get to review how those plans have done for you. You will be receiving from your plan’s carrier toward the end of September a letter called the ANOC letter (annual notice of change). It will tell you what the changes in your plan will be for 2025. Remember to open this letter from your carrier and not put it in file 13!

If you don’t do mail, then hop on your computer beginning October 1st; you will be able to log on

to Medicare.gov and check out your plan there. You may also see your plans info in the 2025 Medicare&You that will be mailed to you. It’s available on their website but does not have local information on plans/carriers.

The open enrollment signing period is October 15th through December 7th. If you decide to make any changes, your new plan will start January 1, 2025. If you don’t make any changes then your current plan will roll into 2025, and you don’t have to do a thing! Suggestion – call your Medicare Rep and discuss next year’s plan with him or her! Every year we must get recertified with Medicare and the Carriers to be able to offer suggestions as

to what would be the best route for you in 2025. We are blessed to have such a great healthcare system in middle TN and that attracts many companies that want to do business here.

Remember this is about your healthcare coverage for next year. It’s worth taking a look! And this time next year – we get to do it all over again!

— H. Ben Davis, III CSA *SelectPointe, LLC*

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Home for the Holidays

The changing color on the trees, the cool crispness in the air and holidays with loved ones are all my favorite things. It is also one of the busiest times for families and senior advisors. As we gather together to celebrate and see our family during the holiday season, it is a good opportunity to take a moment to assess any changes in our loved ones that have gone overlooked. We live very busy lives and it is difficult to pay attention to subtle changes in a senior's condition day to day or detect growing needs over the phone. I advise families to take a moment around the kitchen table and check in with your parents on any challenges that they be facing. It is important to be sensitive and show respect, and in a loving manner, express your desire to help with any problems while visiting.



Here are some areas of concerns:

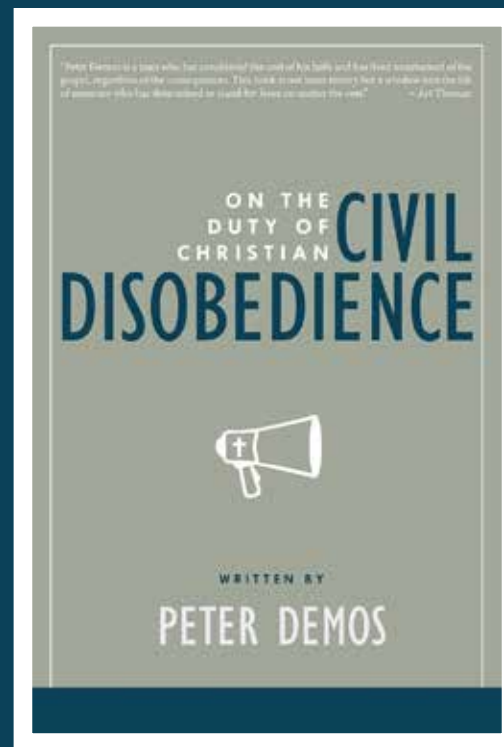
- Changes in eating habits or weight loss?
- Neglected personal hygiene, dirty clothes, and unkempt hair?
- Home is not as clean as usual or spoiled food in the refrigerator?
- Exhibiting forgetfulness, unopened mail, medication not taken, or bills unpaid?
- More quiet than usual, easily overwhelmed or tired by company?

It is very tempting and easy to go online and search for help and advice, but be very careful about online registrations. Unlike, regulated healthcare providers, online placement agencies and senior care communities are not obligated or legally bound to protect your privacy. In fact, more and more clients are telling us that they are being inundated with sales calls and emails after mistakenly giving out their contact information. Avoid filling out any and all forms! Senior Provisions promises to never share contact information without your knowledge or permission!

The holidays are a great time to reconnect and enjoy being a family, but it is also a good time to slow down and see if you or the senior around you is having any struggles. Be observant and if you see any warning signs, please reach out to us for help and advice. Senior Provisions wishes everyone a joyful and safe holiday season!

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MISSION MAKERS

A Season of Smiles: Solace Oral Surgery's "Smile for Christmas"

The holiday season is often filled with joy and celebration, but for many, it can also serve as a reminder of heartache and loss. At Solace Oral Surgery and Implant Center in Nashville, we recognize that a smile is more than just an expression—it's a symbol of hope, resilience, and the courage to embrace a new beginning. This belief drives our annual *Smile for Christmas* initiative, where we give the gift of a life-changing smile through dental implants and the All-on-4 procedure to someone who truly needs a fresh start.

Each year, we invite people to share their stories with us, describing how a new smile could transform their lives. These stories of perseverance and strength inspire us, and none more so than the remarkable story of Katrina Robertson, one of our *Smile for Christmas* recipients a few years ago.

Katrina's Story: A Journey of Transformation and Hope

Katrina Robertson's life has been a testament to the power of healing, hope, and resilience. Growing up in Nashville, Katrina faced unimaginable challenges from a young age. Abuse at the hands of a family member led to a devastating cycle of addiction and prostitution that consumed her teenage years and extended into adulthood. For 22 years, Katrina struggled on the streets, battling addiction and ultimately contracting HIV.

But Katrina's story didn't end there. She found a lifeline at The Magdalene House, a program that provides a nurturing environment for women who have experienced violence, addiction, and exploitation. Surrounded by others facing similar challenges, Katrina began to rebuild her life. With the support and encouragement she found at Magdalene, she has now been clean from crack cocaine for over five years.

Katrina's transformation didn't stop at overcoming addiction. Today, she has a beautiful daughter and is married to the love of her life, Barry. As the National Sales Director for Thistle Farms, a social enterprise run by the women of Magdalene, Katrina now works to uplift other women who have faced lives of violence and addiction. Thistle Farms produces natural bath and body products, which are handcrafted by the women on staff. Each purchase directly benefits the women who made them, helping to break the cycle of exploitation and poverty.

Katrina's remarkable journey from despair to hope is not just a story of survival—it's a story of thriving. She now speaks life into other women, helping them find their own paths to healing and empowerment.

A Smile for Christmas

When Katrina came across the *Smile for Christmas* giveaway at Solace Oral Surgery, she knew this was the final piece in her transformational journey. Years of hardship had taken a toll on her body, including her teeth. The damage from her years of addiction had severely compromised her oral health, affecting her confidence and well-being.

Through the *Smile for Christmas* gift, Katrina was able to receive dental implants and undergo the All-on-4 procedure. This not only restored her oral health but also gave her the gift of a smile that reflected the radiant woman she had become inside. For Katrina, this new smile wasn't just cosmetic—it was a symbol of the hope, love, and second chances that had shaped her journey.

The Power of a Smile

At Solace Oral Surgery, we believe in the profound impact that a healthy, confident smile can have on a person's life. A smile isn't just about appearance—it's about how we feel about ourselves, how we engage with the world, and how we approach life's challenges. For those like Katrina, who have faced

unimaginable adversity, a new smile can represent a fresh start and a brighter future.

Our *Smile for Christmas* initiative allows us to use our expertise in dental implants and reconstructive surgery to give the gift of hope to those who need it most.

The All-on-4 procedure, which involves placing four dental implants to support a full arch of teeth, provides a permanent, natural-looking solution for individuals with missing or damaged teeth. This procedure has changed the lives of many, restoring their ability to eat, speak, and smile with confidence.

How You Can Apply

We invite those in need of a life-changing smile to share their stories with us for this year's *Smile for Christmas* giveaway. If you or someone you know could benefit from this opportunity, we encourage you to submit your personal story, explaining how receiving a new smile could change your life. We're looking for stories of resilience, hope, and the determination to overcome adversity.

Please send your stories to:

Attn: Smile for Christmas

1707 State St, Nashville, TN 37203

or Email: evaangelina@solacesmile.com

Our team carefully reviews each submission, and we select a recipient whose story embodies the spirit of healing and new beginnings. We want to hear about your journey—your challenges, your victories, and why this opportunity would make a difference in your life.

A Season of Renewal

The holiday season is a time for renewal, hope, and giving. At Solace Oral Surgery, we are honored to be able to give back to our community through the *Smile for Christmas* initiative. We believe that everyone deserves the chance to smile with confidence, and we're proud to be part of a journey that transforms not just smiles, but lives.

Whether you've experienced a lifetime of challenges like Katrina, or you're seeking the opportunity to embrace a new chapter in your life, we encourage you to share your story. Together, let's make this a season of healing, hope, and of course, smiles.

To learn more about the *Smile for Christmas* giveaway or to submit your story, please contact us at evaangelina@solacesmile.com or visit our office at 1707 State St, Nashville, TN 37203.

— Eva Angelina Romero, Co-Owner/Operations
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TEACHABLE MOMENTS

“Any Story Sounds True until Someone Sets the Record Straight”

Proverbs 18:17 (TLB)

We are surrounded by constant voices, information, fake news, so on and so on. It is difficult to discern truth from lies, especially when it involves emotions. However, feelings are not a good indicator because feelings are subjective. By believing everything one hears or reads, makes it that much more simple to be lead astray. Everyone has an opinion, and as we know, nowadays, opinions are much easier to share and seemingly quick to be offered. We must keep in mind though, they are just that, an opinion and not always fact.

There is a story that exemplifies this well. A group of people are sitting in a theater and arguing about the height of the stage. One states quite adamantly, “Five feet!”. Another chimes in, “No way! Six feet!”. A third person offers his best opinion, “You are both wrong, it is only two feet?”. Finally, a child stands up with a tape measure and settles the argument. The tape measure in this story represents truth. No matter how much each person unequivocally believed his/her opinion and furthermore, offered it as fact, it failed in comparison to the truth. There is only one truth.

Proverbs 4:24 reminds us to, “Put away from you a deceitful (lying, misleading) mouth, And put devious lips far from you.” A half-truth is a lie. Satan is the father of lies. Misrepresenting the truth is a lie. Deceiving the facts is



lying. If the truth is not being represented, it is a lie. There are no gray areas.

With so many competing voices, how are we to know what is true and what is a lie? There are some practical applications we can foster to guide us with our perception. Take responsibility for what we focus on. The Bible reminds us to guard our hearts. Don't be quick to believe everything you hear. By guarding our hearts and the help of the Holy Spirit, we are better able to discern what we are being exposed to. In today's climate, media bias is a real thing, algorithms most certainly have an agenda. It is important to always consider the source.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends His disciples out into a hostile environment. In verse 16, He tells them, “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.”

What represents truth in your life? As Christians, The Bible is our tape measurer. Opinions fall short in comparison. God is ready to set the record straight.

— Rhonda Smart, rhondasmart@gmail.com

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Real Faith Stories from 'Small Town Testimonies' and Choose Different Media

When Christy Neal sponsored a competition for teenagers to submit ideas for a new television show, she had no idea how inspiring the result would be. Neal, the founder and CEO of Choose Different Media, asked young Christian creatives (aged 11-21) to submit a 3-minute video of what their own television show would look like if they could produce their own show. "We partnered with Christian Television Network to create The Shakedown, our contest for youth to get involved in Christian faith-based media," Neal said.



Blain Poynor on the set of *Small Town Testimonies* while filming an interview at local venue, Magnolia Farms.

The result? Blain Poynor and his idea for a show called "Small Town Testimonies." Poynor, a 15 year-old from Eagleville, won the contest with his idea to tell stories from his small hometown that give evidence of faith, miracles, and God's grace. The show runs every Monday night from Oct. 6 to Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. ET on Christian Television Network; the episodes can also be watched on the "Choose Different TV" channel on YouTube.

Poynor won \$20,000 toward production costs from Choose Different Media, and was also awarded a college scholarship from WHTN/CTN in Nashville. Neal said that Poynor—who she describes as "so composed and talented at his age"—has a passion to share "large God stories from his small town."

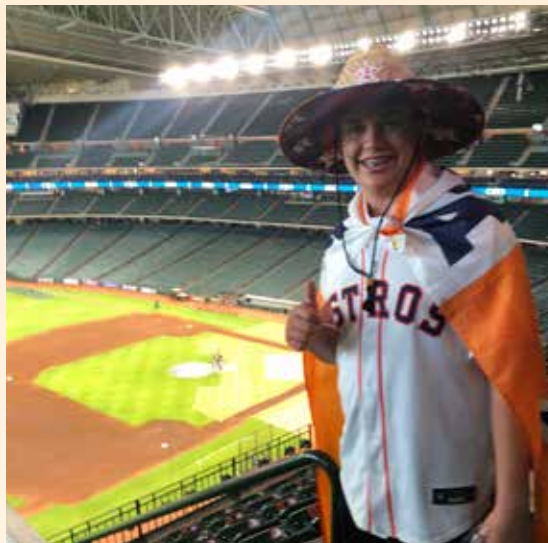
"He's from Eagleville, which is about 900 in population, and he loves his town," she said. "He thought that people needed to know about Eagleville, and they need to know about God. He wanted to do interviews in different parts of the town, and we thought it would be cool since he's a teenager interviewing adults. He wants to spread the message of the Good News."

Poynor said that his idea came originally from a strong testimony he shared with his uncle and cousin—and from knowing the importance of sharing testimonies. "I was taught about sharing testimonies at a young age, through those being shared at church," Poynor said. "When I heard about the contest, I just thought 'what is something interesting to me that would interest other people?' And the answer was testimonies."



Blain Poynor stands with guest, Craig Davis; following an emotional interview about Craig's near-death testimonies.

Poynor clarified that it's not just any testimony—it's the good ones that never get told. "It's neat to think about living in a small town where you seem to know everyone, but maybe you don't quite know their faith story," he said.



Superfan, Blain Poynor, at Minute Maid Park to cheer on his favorite MLB team, the Houston Astros.

Neal said that Choose Different Media was excited to not just share the "Small Town Testimonies" stories, but also to introduce viewers to Blain. "There's so much negativity about younger generations, especially in the faith realm and our current media is like a magnifying glass (only highlighting negativity). But we wanted to put a spotlight on Blain and let people meet him," she said. "There are so many wonderful things out there, including kids with big hearts who love God. He's charming and refreshing, and he feels like God wants him to reach millions of people for God."

According to Neal, Poynor and his show fit in perfectly with the mission of Choose Different Media. Her company was founded in 2016 in Nashville with its first foray into media being the book *Don't Ever Tell* (a book for women about hope and healing after adultery). An audio book followed and then the podcast "Everyone Has a Voice" was started in 2019. The podcast currently has more than 120 episodes, featuring "inspiring comeback stories with a faith overtone." (The podcast is available on all podcast platforms.) Choose Different Media also supports other media ministries, and encourages Christian creators in all avenues.

Neal said that she and her husband then felt a nudge from God to enter another area—television. "Small Town Testimonies is our first foray into television, but we also were crazy enough to film another show at the same time," Neal said.

That show, "LIT86," is aimed toward men and hosted by her husband, Kevin Burke; the five episodes will air at 6 pm CST from Nov. 18 to Dec. 16 on CTN



Blain Poynor ready for his final year of middle school and sporting the jersey of his favorite MLB team.



Blain Poynor waiting, anxiously, to conduct his first interview with car accident survivor Christini McMillan.



Jeremiah Mooney, Blain Poynor, and Carter Warbritton pose, on set, for a picture together during a filming break at local coffee house and music venue, Grindstone Cowboy.



Blain Poynor interviews his church youth leader, Sam Champlin; at the popular small-town golf course, Champion's Run.



Testimony-sharing survivor, Christini McMillan, stands with *Small Town Testimonies* producer and host, Blain Poynor.



Scan this code to watch *Small Town Testimonies* on YouTube

workers are few,” she said. “We give God all the glory, and we continue to learn and pray that this inspires other people.”

She encourages interested Christians to support the work of Choose Different Media and other Christian media outlets. “If you wonder why Christian media is so antiquated, it’s because it’s not funded,” she explained.



A young Blain Poynor stands in front of his small town church, Eagleville Community Church. On this day, Blain hands out free bibles to students heading to Eagleville School, on National Bring Your Bible to School Day. Blain had worried that some students may not own a Bible and proposed to his pastor that the church purchase and offer Bibles to children on the way to school.

and “Choose Different TV” on YouTube.

The show takes the podcast’s most popular guests and takes them into a field where they blow up something (“we 86 it”) that represents their shame, negative memories, and other issues holding them back.

Neal said that much of the inspiration for LIT86 evolved from her own family’s consumption of television. They got to a point where they couldn’t find shows that didn’t have violence, nudity, and cursing. And that got them asking questions like: Where are the Christian creatives? Where are the Christian reality shows? Where are the high quality Christian shows? Her family canceled their Netflix subscription, and took an inventory of their other streaming services and subscriptions; she challenges Christians to take a similar inventory of their habits. “What are you supporting?” she challenges others to ask. “We decided to start supporting God-honoring media.”

Neal is dedicated to helping other creative Christian individuals—artists, writers, influences, actors, etc.—find their voice. “The harvest is great, and the

Supporters can partner with Choose Different Media (now a non-profit) by donating on a regular basis as a “Hope Warrior” at www.ChooseDifferent.org. The company is currently working to crowdfund a second season of “Small Town Testimonies” and to then work on other projects.

“We have a long list of show ideas,” Neal said. “If all of us would take a stand, our vision would be to turn the table on the media and to have Christian creatives be abundant in the industry.”

— Cheryl Wray is a freelance writer, former sports reporter, book author, and coordinator of the Southern Christian Writers Conference. She also writes about Southern sports, travel, and culture at www.cherylwray.substack.com.

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Eight Decades of Family & Memories

In 1944, Leon Lee founded Lee Refrigeration Company to serve the Middle Tennessee community. During that time, the average gallon of gas was twenty-one cents, and the population of Nashville was around 168,000 people. Fast forward to 2024: Nashville’s population sits at 692,000+, and Lee Company has 15 different offices with 1,600+ team members.

Much has changed throughout the last 80 years. But then again, much has stayed the same. Family ties have been a common thread throughout Lee Company’s 80-year history. It all started with Leon Lee, and four generations of the Lee family continue his legacy.

Those family ties are present throughout our team, as there are numerous second and third-generation Lee Company employees: Fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, ... even siblings, grandchildren, and grandparents!

The family environment created in 1944 by Leon Lee is truly that: a family. A close-knit, supportive group of people where trust and collaboration flourish. It wasn’t accomplished overnight, and success has not always been linear. Rough economic and financial hardships, and a worldwide pandemic, are just a few of the roadblocks we’ve endured. Our people and resilient leadership never wavered, and all steered us to growth and expansion.

As we look towards the next 80 years of Lee Company, history tells us there will be many more firsts, and much will change. How much larger can Nashville’s population grow? *What will the latest innovations in technology look like?*

In addition, our history tells us that generations of families will contribute to our mission to create a workplace where our employees can thrive, and to our vision, to be the professional provider of comprehensive solutions and services for facilities and homes.

Family is a source of togetherness, love, and above all, a blessing.

Thank you to all our communities, partners, employees, and customers for believing in our work and ethos for eight decades. We look forward to many more years of serving our friends in Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, and Georgia, who have become part of our family.

— *Drew Joiner, Digital Marketing Coordinator, is a second-generation Lee Company employee, www.leecompany.com*



Wallace Lee and Lee Company founder, Leon Lee (standing)



Left to right: Zach Curtis, VDC Project Manager, Angela Curtis, Receptionist, and W.A. Curtis, Former Engineer & Director



Left to right: Taylor Scott, FM² Business Development and Steve Scott, Senior Vice President FM² Business Development



Lana Joiner (Benefits Administration Manager) and Drew Joiner (Marketing Coordinator)



Former Lee Company President, Wallace Lee.



Trevecca Hosts Health and Wellness Fair at Napier Elementary

Trevecca hosted a back-to-school health fair at Napier Elementary on Friday, September 27, offering a variety of interactive stations focused on health and holistic well-being. Made possible by the Nashville Predators' Helper Grant program, the event was designed to provide a wide range of resources at various stations hosted by different departments from Trevecca, including the exercise science, nursing and counseling programs.



Trevecca's Urban Farm also provided a station to provide information about food scarcity, gardening and the concept of food deserts, and to educate students about growing their own food in urban environments. Dr. Aaron Hall, head of Trevecca's Exercise Science Department, explained that the health fair was a collaborative effort aimed at strengthening ties and addressing urgent needs for neighbors in South Nashville. The Napier neighborhood has one of the highest poverty rates in the area, with 94.8% of students in Napier Elementary being economically disadvantaged, according to the Tennessee Department of Education. "We were really excited when this opportunity presented itself," Hall said. "We saw it as a great chance to engage Trevecca students with the local community."

According to Hall, in addition to benefiting Napier's students and staff, the fair provided opportunities for Trevecca students to apply classroom learning in a practical way and to build leadership skills through service. "We really wanted our students to put their education and faith into practice," Hall said. "This health fair allowed them to do that in a way that directly impacted the lives of kids in our community."

The nursing students who took part were from a class on community health, taught by Christy Twining, who understood the value of students getting out of the classroom and into the field. "It is important for our students to be aware of issues in the community so that as they graduate into professional practice, they can understand and advocate for improvements that will improve health outcomes," Twining said. "Our students said that this experience gave them joy and hope. It was a fun time for them to interact with children in the community and it built their confidence in their ability to educate and build rapport with clients in a safe environment."

Hall hopes that this event will be the first of many collaborations between Trevecca and other local organizations. "Our goal is to continue building these partnerships and expand our outreach efforts," Hall said. "This was just the beginning of what we hope will be a sustained relationship between Trevecca and the neighborhoods around our campus."

— Rebekah Warren, Senior Copywriter Office of Marketing and Communications, Trevecca Nazarene University
www.trevecca.edu



Is It Unusual I Carry a Bible When I'm Not a Pastor?

I'm often surprised by how frequently people assume I'm a minister, pastor or preacher when they see me carrying my Bible. Just recently, while walking to a park, I was approached by someone involved in a recovery program who made this assumption based solely on the fact that I had a Bible with me.



Similarly, when my wife and I travel, I often step out of our hotel room to read in the lobby so as not to disturb her. This simple act frequently prompts questions about my profession. Even in hospitals, places where spiritual support might be expected, the sight of my Bible often leads to inquiries about whether I'm a minister.

This recurring curiosity raises an interesting question: Why do people associate carrying a Bible with being a minister? The assumption seems to be that only clergy offer prayer or biblically-based spiritual support. However, it's important to remember that prayer and communication with God are not reserved for ordained ministers — they are accessible to all believers through the Holy Spirit, regardless of one's occupation.

What concerns me is that when I'm not carrying my Bible, no one assumes I'm a Christ-follower or asks for prayer. This discrepancy highlights a broader issue: the rarity of seeing Bibles in public has led to the misconception that carrying one signifies a professional role rather than a personal practice. It seems we've become so accustomed to viewing the Bible as a symbol of clergy that its presence is more closely tied to formal ministry than to personal faith. There are many people in the world who may not want us to read the Bible, but we don't have to be bound by their rules or commands. By engaging regularly with the Bible, we can continue our spiritual practice, even if others attempt to obstruct us. Our relationship with God, nurtured through His Word, remains within our hearts regardless of external circumstances.

For me, the Bible represents my relationship with my Heavenly Father, not my profession. Just as wearing a badge identifies a police officer, carrying a Bible should reflect one's commitment to a personal relationship with God, not a formal title. I dream of a day when carrying a Bible in public is as commonplace and accepted as wearing shoes and shirts in a restaurant.

A Message from CP Insider

While it may not be practical to carry a Bible everywhere, it can be beneficial to bring it to places where it's feasible, like work, parks, hospitals, the neighborhood pool or schools. This practice not only fosters personal reflection and connection with God, but also helps normalize the presence of the Bible in everyday life.

I hope that by integrating our faith more visibly into our daily routines, we can create a greater understanding that carrying a Bible is a testament to one's relationship with God, rather than a sign of professional ministry.

— Peter Demos is the author of *On the Duty of Christian Civil Disobedience* and the host of "Uncommon Sense in Current Times." A Christian business leader from Tennessee, Demos uses his biblical perspective and insight gained from his own struggles to lead others to truth and authenticity in a broken world. To learn more, visit peterdemos.org.

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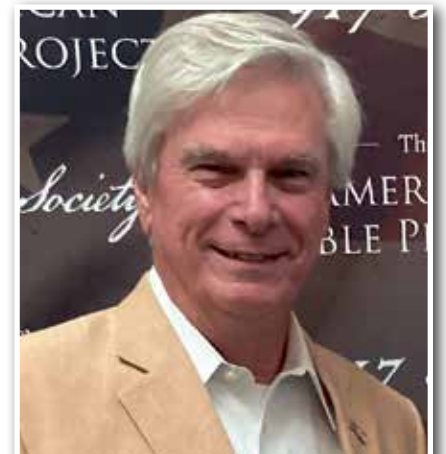
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Cultivate a Habit of Gratitude

Between Halloween and Christmas lies the peaceful and quiet Thanksgiving, pausing the holiday chaos for one day. By intentionally and actively giving thanks during this season, we can cultivate a habit of gratitude.



Model thanksgiving. Whether you receive flowers or weeds from your child, give thanks.

Whether it's a sunny day or rain ruins your outdoor plans, give thanks. When you have a flat tire in the grocery parking lot, give thanks. You're showing your kids that giving thanks may not always look like what they think.

Create a thankful jar. Each day, have every family member add a picture, word, or sentence of one thing they are grateful for. Read all the papers on Thanksgiving Day or the end of the month. Consider keeping this habit throughout the year.

Volunteer at a homeless shelter. Make pumpkin bread, soup, or a pie and give it to a neighbor, slipping in a note thanking them for being good neighbors. Make blessing bags for the homeless, including packaged snacks, toiletries, gloves, and a water bottle. Adopt a charity or give to Samaritan's Purse. Generosity always goes hand in hand with gratitude.

Encourage your child to write a letter to a teacher, pastor, or coach. After every soccer season or piano recital, thank those who helped. Don't forget the crossing guard, the bus driver, or the janitor. So many people pour into your child's life. Help your child to watch and observe others around you and find ways to serve them. Of course, let's not forget to send thank you notes to grandparents for gifts received at Christmas. They love those pictures or handwritten notes (even with spelling errors).

Adapt thankful rituals into your family routines. Begin your day with thanksgiving. At the table, thank God for the food and pray for those who served or cooked it. Recall the day's activities at bedtime and thank God for all the moments when He was present.

Replace grumbling with gratitude. Sometimes, we don't feel grateful, or something seems unfair. In those cases, we have to choose to be thankful even when we don't feel like it. Help your kids see that there is always something to be thankful for. Show them the abundance and blessings they do have.

Say to your kids, "I love you." Let your kids know you're grateful for them and value them not for what they do but for who they are. Tell them you're glad God gave them to you.

Gratitude is like a muscle. Your family will need to exercise it. The more we do, the more it will seem genuine and natural, not just at Thanksgiving but throughout the year.

— Sally Cressman is the author of "The Dance of Easter." She writes about faith, family, and home on her website, www.sallycressman.com. She offers family conversation starters on Instagram and Facebook.



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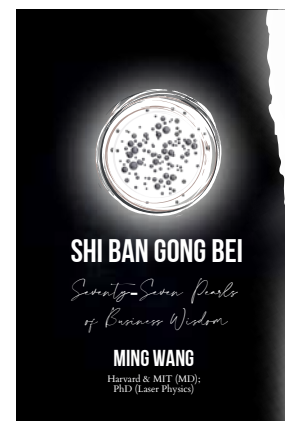
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Dr. Ming Wang's Book on "Shi Ban Gong Bei (How To Accomplish Double In Half of the Time) – 77 Pearls of Business Wisdom" Published!

Dr. Ming Wang (the subject of the movie "Sight" (www.angel.com/sight)) has just published his 23rd book, *Shi Ban Gong Bei (How to accomplish double in half of the time!) – 77 Pearls of Business Wisdom*.

The publisher stated: "Drawing from ancient Chinese philosophy and a lifetime of personal and professional achievements, Dr. Wang reveals the transformative power of Shi Ban Gong Bei, which translates to "accomplishing twice the work in half the time." This time-tested approach to maximizing efficiency and minimizing wasted effort has guided successful leaders for centuries— and now, Dr. Wang brings its wisdom to readers worldwide in this captivating and practical guide. Through seventy-seven essential pearls of wisdom, Dr. Wang guides readers on a journey of self-discovery, time management, and strategic decision-making. Each lesson is designed to help entrepreneurs, executives, and aspiring leaders achieve their goals with greater speed and precision, all while staying true to the principles of personal integrity and authenticity."



About Dr. Ming Wang, MD, PhD

Dr. Ming Wang, Harvard & MIT (MD, magna cum laude); PhD (laser physics), is a world-renowned laser eye surgeon, philanthropist, and a co-founder of the Common Ground Network.

As a teenager, Ming fought valiantly to escape China's Cultural Revolution – during which millions of innocent youth were deported to remote areas to face a life sentence of hard labor and poverty. He came to America with only \$50 and earned two doctorate degrees, one in laser physics and one in medicine, and graduated with the highest honors from Harvard Medical School and MIT.

The amniotic membrane contact lens, which Dr. Wang has invented (and holds two U.S. patents), has been used by tens of thousands of eye doctors throughout the world in nearly every nation, and millions have had their eyesight restored.

Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration has helped patients from over 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries, with all sight restoration surgeries performed free-of-charge. Dr. Wang was named the Kiwanis Nashvillian of the Year for his lifelong dedication to help blind orphaned children from around the world.

The film "Sight" is based on Dr. Wang's autobiography "From Darkness to Sight" and co-stars Greg Kinnear.

To reach Dr. Ming Wang: drwang@wangvisioninstitute.com, www.drmingwang.com.

— Leona Walthorn

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The Salvation Army: Stories of Hope for the Holiday Season



Trina's Story of Hope

Trina came to The Salvation Army after leaving a domestic violence situation with her spouse in Ohio. "Unfortunately for me, my significant other became more or less mentally and emotionally abusive. I had to have open heart surgery and while I laid in the hospital with these tubes draining fluid from around my heart for a pericardial window, the man that I thought I married to be forever, stole my wallet and spent every cent of my savings. When I was discharged to the hospital, I had to walk to the nearest homeless shelter, which thank God, wasn't far. So yes, I wanted to die. And that was my lowest point."

Finding herself in this new situation and moving to a new city to try to rebuild wasn't easy. "You know, I was distraught. I was discouraged. I cried a lot." But then came the glimmer of hope. "I got in contact with a young man named Corey Ellis. And he in turn, blessed me with this place. The Salvation Army here in Nashville and that's when my story changed."

Trina entered our Supportive Housing program which provides for not only the basic needs of safe shelter and meals, but also a dedicated case manager to help her process where she is and what lead her there, and then develop the goals and find the resources to lead her back out into a permanent home and self-sustainability.

"Once I got to The Salvation Army, I saw how the people here were friendly they're happy to be here. The place was immaculately clean. I had my own bed, and there was a door for privacy. All these things that people take for granted, you know. Being able to see, you know, people constantly rotating successfully out of the program, you know as I moved in, they were moving out, and I was like, wow, this really works."

One of the most important things for Trina was the sense of security that she was able to achieve shortly after entering the program. "Not knowing where your next meal is coming from or not knowing where you gonna sleep that



"I am no longer a victim."

night. I mean, those are huge amounts of stress that are on your shoulders. After about two weeks though, I was settling in. I'm like, oh, wow, I feel like I'm at home. I'm able to see my children because you're allowed visitors. Most importantly, and I don't ever want to forget it. That is, place made me feel safe."

Then the moment of success came for Trina, an exit from the Supportive Housing program into her own apartment. "The day that I received my keys to my apartment where my stuff will be. That I can call my home by myself. I was so elated. All I could do was just hug the staff and thank them for being who they were. While at The Salvation Army, I've learned empathy. I've learned sympathy. I've learned compassion, but the staff there possess those things and more."

Trina wants those in the community to know that The Salvation Army Supportive Housing program is so much more than a safe place to sleep. “It’s a new level of caregiving, and I totally appreciate it because it was everything that I needed and that I have been seeking for so long wrapped up in this one place. This place is full of so many resources.”

Today, Trina is still thriving in her new home as she continues to build her new life. “I’m a totally different person. I had no confidence. I was very vulnerable. It was hard to make decisions for myself. Things I’m doing now

I never would have thought I could. Even my doctor said you can’t do these things. But I’m going to the gym. I’m working out. I’m able to see my mother once a month. I’m better handling my finances. I am ever so grateful to The Salvation Army and it’s because they allowed me the steppingstone I needed to have a new life. I had lost my way and I’m so, so, so grateful that they had the resources to help me get back on track. I came here with nothing, and I was survivor and a victim. And now I’m still surviving, but I am no longer a victim.”

Karen's Story of Hope



“I am grateful that they gave me the motivation to keep going.”

Karen came to The Salvation Army after finding that mold in her apartment was making her sick.

“One of my health issues is that I have is COPD. So, when we found out that it was mold in the apartment. I had to leave immediately.” She had nowhere to go except for her car.

That’s when she came into The Salvation Army Supportive housing program to begin her journey back to permanent housing. “With so much going on and with health issues, I didn’t have anywhere to live. I felt hopeless and they just welcomed me with open arms. That meant world to me, because again, I was hopeless. I was helpless. They did for me that I couldn’t do for myself at that time.”

During her time in the program, she also found not only safe shelter, but so much more. “When I got here, they were so nice and so kind to me and so loving and so helpful. Anything that I needed, they were there. Whether it was a place to stay, something to eat, or transportation, I mean, they’re just here for you. They gave me hope. They gave me structure. I was restored. They made me feel like a person. They treated me like family.”

While in the program she was able to have not only her earthly needs, but her spiritual needs met as well. “I would go up here to the Salvation Army Church, and then, after church, they feed you. I mean, it’s just, it’s wonderful.”

Towards the end of her stay, she had to undergo surgery which required a hospitalization, but the work of her case manager continued. “When I was discharged from the hospital after a hip replacement... while I was in the hospital, they were still working on my behalf. The day that I was discharged, I moved into my new apartment.”

Today, Karen is continuing her journey in her new home. “I am grateful that they gave me the motivation to keep going. And despite my downfalls and the obstacles in my way, they were right there every step of the way encouraging me. The Salvation Army gave me a lot of hope. They restored my dignity. The keyword here is salvation. For me, it was salvation, and that’s what I got.”

—Misty Ratcliff, Development and Communications Manager
Misty Ratcliff, Development and Communications Manager, The Salvation Army Nashville Area Command, uss.salvationarmy.org Army Nashville Area Command, uss.salvationarmy.org

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Men, Transform Your Journey with the Lord

Across the nation, men's lives are being profoundly transformed through The First Hour for Men, a 30-day journey designed to bring them closer to God. Remarkable changes are happening in the lives of men who are committing their first hour each day to prayer, study, and a deepened relationship with Him.

Scripture assures us that God longs to bless us in unimaginable ways. He has a vision—His dream—for each of our lives. Yet, we often miss out on God's best simply because we don't consistently invite Him to guide and direct us each day. This 30-day study guide provides men with practical tools on how to pray, what to focus on in prayer, and how to spiritually safeguard themselves and their families. It includes a straightforward plan to help men structure and measure their daily time with God. By prioritizing God each morning, we open the door for Him to fulfill His purpose in our lives.

The First Hour has the potential to transform your life and positively impact those around you. Embrace this journey and experience the power of starting each day with God.

Here are a few Testimonials from men who have taken the 30-day Journey:

Wish I had this earlier. – Larry K.

I saw Mark Koch on the Huckabee show, and immediately ordered my free book. On beginning the first day, I woke up at 5:55 AM exactly! I love all the prayers and was wishing I had this when I was still working and when my children were still in my home. I wanted to share with my adult children, so ordered a case of books. After mailing out books to my children, one of my sons phoned me, all choked up and with tears and expressed his thanks and that this had changed his life. He had been struggling with loss of income due to Covid 19. He was so thankful and said he would be ordering more books to share with other men. It has been a blessing to share this book with others. Thank you all so much. God bless, grace and peace.

Changed my life. – Julio H.

I just finished the entire 30-day study today July 5th, 2020, and I can truthfully say that it has already changed my life. God is currently working miracles in my life and molding me into the man HE wants me to become. The First Hour for Men has helped me through this transformation that God is doing in me. Through this book, I have learned to give my first hour to God every single day! It also has helped me build a stronger relationship with the Lord through prayer. This book is a blessing and I am proud to help with this mis-



sion in giving this book to other men that I know who need it. This book came into my life at God's perfect timing and I say thank you Jesus Christ!

Just what the Dr. ordered. – Stephen L.

The least of these. How is it that God would use a TV show with a movie producer to reach out to a Semi retired boat mechanic on the side of a mountain in Gales creek Oregon? But he did. I'm on day 28 of the first hour and as they say it's been just what the DR ordered. As a 62-year old and accepting the Lord into my life in 1988, The First Hour book has been "wake up call" for me. After the first week reading the First Hour, Mark had a message of those that could buy a case of books. I had just received my "Free book" should I buy a case? God spoke to my spirit, if you just spent \$350.00 on a Ping Driver, you can surely buy a case of books to share my word with other lost men, or as I call these books, a case of "Priceless Eternal Seeds" Amazing Grace! Mark I thank God that he used you to reach out to this 62-year old semi-retired stuttering mechanic so I can reach out to those that God puts in my path. My motto has always been, "Every Day is a Gift". Now more than ever "The First Hour" each morning with my Father is my gift. Thank you Mark!

Winning my battle with alcohol. – Willie V.

I'm a lifelong Musician (and unfortunately an alcoholic). I'm 13 days into the book and I am so happy to say, I'm winning my battle with alcohol thanks to Mark and this wonderful book! The first 3 prayers and the prayer for our Government and the American people are just amazing. I tear up every day! Thank you Mark Koch for listening to God to share this 30-Day Journey! I'm a partner for life!

— Mark W. Koch is an Author, inspirational speaker, and Hollywood Film Producer. To order a Free Copy of, "The First Hour" for Men 30-Day Journey, Visit www.thefirsthour.com and use promo code NCF.



SPECIAL FEATURE

Williamson County Public Library Launches New Reading Programs for Kids

The Williamson County Public Library System (WCPLS) is excited to introduce two new year-round reading programs designed to spark a lifelong love of reading in children: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten and 500 Books Before Middle School.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program encourages parents and caregivers to read 1,000 books with their children before they start school, promoting early literacy and language development. Families can track progress, earn rewards, and access book recommendations.

For elementary-aged readers, 500 Books Before Middle School inspires independent reading and helps kids build reading skills as they prepare for the academic challenges of middle school. The



program emphasizes the importance of maintaining a regular reading habit, even with busy schedules.

Both programs aim to foster a love of books while offering academic and personal growth benefits. WCPLS will kick off the initiatives on Saturday, November 9 at the Main Library in Franklin, in partnership with United Way of Greater Nashville and local author Jeff Crossan.

To learn more about the resources at the Williamson County Public Library System, visit wcpltn.org. The Williamson County Public Library System's Main Library is located in downtown Franklin at 1314 Columbia Avenue. For more information about library programs or services, call 615-595-1243 or visit wcpltn.org. Sign up to receive library events and announcements via email by visiting: <https://bit.ly/WCPLSenews>. The library can also be found on Facebook, Instagram, and X via @wcpltn.

— Jessica Jeffers, Director of Libraries
Williamson County Public Library System

WHTN welcomes new station manager

ADONIS LENZY

MONICA SCHMELTER
Dir. of Station Managers

www.ctntv.org

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Invisible Signs Every Homeowner Should Watch Out For

Owning a home is a dream for many. Yet, beyond the visible maintenance issues—like cracked foundations or chipped paint—there are often invisible dangers that can quietly escalate into significant problems if ignored. These subtle but critical factors can “haunt” your home, leading to costly repairs or even health hazards down the line. Let’s uncover the hidden signs that may be affecting your home in unexpected ways.

1. Poor Ventilation

Though it’s not something you can see, poor ventilation will definitely make its presence felt. Stuffy air, condensation on windows, and persistent odors are all signals that your home isn’t properly ventilated. This can lead to mold growth, trapped moisture, and structural damage over time. Additionally, poor air quality can impact your health, potentially triggering allergies and respiratory problems.

How to Spot It: Watch for stale air, windows that frequently fog up, or overly humid rooms, especially in bathrooms and basements.

2. Hidden Water Leaks

Major leaks often leave visible damage, but minor leaks can sneak under the radar, causing damage over months or even years. Hidden leaks from pipes, roofs, or appliances can promote mold, mildew, wood rot, and even foundation damage. Water can seep into unseen areas like crawl spaces or basements, compromising the home’s structure gradually.

How to Spot It: Be alert to musty smells, slight discoloration on walls or ceilings, or sudden spikes in your water bill.

3. Unseen Electrical Issues

Faulty wiring and overloaded circuits are silent dangers. Though they may not show visible signs at first, these issues can cause flickering lights, buzzing sounds, and even unexpected power outages. Even worse, they pose a serious fire risk if left unaddressed. Older homes are especially vulnerable to outdated wiring systems that aren’t built to handle modern power needs.

How to Spot It: Look for lights that dim or flicker, outlets that feel warm to the touch, or frequent breaker trips.

4. Subtle Foundation Shifts

Foundation problems may develop subtly. Even slight movements in the soil beneath your home can lead to uneven floors, wall cracks, and doors that don’t close properly. Ignoring foundation issues can lead to costly repairs and threaten the stability of your home.

How to Spot It: Check for small cracks around windows and door frames, doors that stick, or gaps between floors and baseboards.

5. Pest Infestations

Pests like termites and rodents can cause extensive, invisible damage, harming your home’s structure, insulation, and even electrical wiring. Termite damage, in particular, often goes unnoticed until the infestation has become severe.

How to Spot It: Signs include droppings, chewed wiring, hollow-sounding wood when tapped, or scratching sounds in the walls or attic.

6. Radon and Other Invisible Gases

Radon, a colorless, odorless radioactive gas, can seep into your home through cracks in the foundation. Long-term exposure to radon is a significant health risk, being the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. Carbon monoxide is another invisible gas that can accumulate in poorly ventilated areas, posing serious health threats.

How to Spot It: Regular radon and carbon monoxide testing is essential, as



these gases are undetectable without special equipment.

7. High Humidity Levels

Humidity levels that are either too high or too low can cause a range of problems. Excessive moisture can lead to mold and mildew, while low humidity can cause wood to crack and paint to peel. High humidity, in particular, can make your home uncomfortable and trigger allergies or asthma.

How to Spot It: Use a hygrometer to monitor indoor humidity. Ideally, it should be below 55 percent. Look for window condensation and persistent dampness as signs of high humidity.

8. Old Insulation

Insulation might not show visible signs of wear, but as it ages, it can lose its effectiveness. This can lead to higher energy bills as your home struggles to retain heat. Additionally, old insulation can trap dust, allergens, and even pests.

How to Spot It: Signs of old insulation include sudden energy cost increases, noticeable temperature differences between rooms, and drafts near doors and windows.

— Hannah Moulton, Content Marketing Specialist, Frontier Foundation and Crawl Space Repair, www.trustfrontier.com

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Our National Thanksgiving Day Proclamations

How far have we come as a Nation?

The original Thanksgiving holiday was all about giving thanks to our single Creator. With words to paper, our government clearly proclaimed the benefits of having God remain America's protector and the Ruler of Nations.

Once you read and understand our history, you will find it odd for any American politician to "preach" the government's intent was the separation of Church and State. One must question, "Are they not aware that our Founding Fathers believed and lived just the opposite?"



As we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this year, enjoying the company of family and friends of all races, creeds and cultures, let us remember how it all started with the first informal Thanksgiving meal held with Pilgrims and Native Americans in the early 1600s. Wishing this beautiful tradition to continue, our founding leaders thought it was of national importance for them to proclaim, understand, and respected the authority of God. I hope everyone takes the time to read these historic proclamations of public record below.

Taken directly from the Annals of the Congress, *The Debates and Proceedings in the Congress of the United States*:

On Thursday, September 24, 1789, the first House of Representatives voted to recommend the First Amendment of the newly drafted Constitution to the states for ratification. The next day, Congressman Elias Boudinot from New Jersey proposed that the House and Senate jointly request of President Washington to proclaim a day of thanksgiving for "the many signal favors of Almighty God". Boudinot said that he "could not think of letting the session pass over without offering an opportunity to all the citizens of the United States of joining, with one voice, in returning to Almighty God their sincere thanks for the many blessings he had poured down upon them."

As President, on October 3, 1789, George Washington made the following proclamation and created the first Thanksgiving Day designated by the national government of the United States of America:

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor, and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me "to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be. That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks, for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation, for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his providence, which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late

war, for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed, for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted, for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us. And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to

pardon our national and other transgressions, to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually, to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed, to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shown kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord. To promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us, and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

It wasn't until October 3, 1863, building on the foundation of the first amendment, Abraham Lincoln would formally declare that the last Thursday of November 1863 would be set aside as a nationwide celebration of thanksgiving. His proclamation stated that:

"No human counsel hath devised, nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the most high God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy.... I do, therefore, invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday in November next as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent father who dwelleth in heaven."

It was Franklin D. Roosevelt who changed the celebration to the third Thursday in November "to give more shopping time between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Gary DeMar's bestselling book, *America's Christian History: The Untold Story*

Our history as a Country and the relationship forged with our Holy Protector was and should be forever intertwined. So, the next time a political representatives states otherwise, boldly remind them that we were and still are one Nation under God. That status will only cease once the unjust men and women reach the majority of the population. Thank God, we are not to that point yet.

— Anthony "Tony" Boquet, the author of *"The Bloodline of Wisdom, The Awakening of a Modern Solutionary"*



You Can't Make Everyone Happy

I think we all know that we can't make everyone happy.

However, this knowledge does not always stop us from trying. I've lost count of how many Bridges interviews that I've done over 27 years -but I do remember that one commonly repeated theme is people pleasing and the trouble it causes. People pleasers are individuals who consistently prioritize the needs of others over their own. While people pleasers usually appear to be kind and agreeable outwardly, many of them are suffering internally due to their own self-neglect. Many people pleasers find themselves exhausted and resentful over their compulsive need for approval to sustain relationships. I confess I am a recovering people pleaser.

So how do you know if you are a people pleaser? Ask yourself these questions:

- Do you have trouble saying no?
- Do you have trouble advocating for yourself?
- Are you so keenly aware of others' needs that you put yourself last on the list?
- Do you worry about what others think?

If you answered yes to those questions, then you

may be a people pleaser. Here's what the Bible says about fearing the opinions of people. *"The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in GOD protects you from that."* Proverbs 29:25 TMB

On the Bridges set I've heard stories about people going into significant debt out of fear of what others will think. There have also been cases where people compromise their faith over the fear of losing a relationship. People pleasing can take on many shapes and the consequences are unique to the situation.

What to do if you know you need to give up people pleasing? One of my Bridges guests offered this helpful and practical advice. Pause. You can say things like I will need to get back with you on that. Another helpful practical tip is to ask yourself this question: Will I regret this later? Of course, life situations vary dramatically, but making a commitment to pause may give you the time you need to better evaluate the situation/decision.

Am I helping out of fear of what others will think? Changing longstanding habits and patterns of thinking takes time, and prayer. It can be hard at times to recognize the difference between pleasing people and being kind and helpful. As believer in

Christ, we want to be kind of helpful. We just don't want our desire to be kind of helpful to become a trap.

How can you tell if you are being kind and helpful or falling into the people pleasing trap? Asking yourself these questions may be helpful:

Am I saying yes because I genuinely want to do so? Am I lending a helping hand out of fear of what others might think? It may take some time and effort to overcome people pleasing. However, when we make trusting God our main priority our lives will be more enjoyable and peaceful.

Today's Secret from the Studio: When people pleasing isn't your goal – inner peace is sure to follow.

— *Monica Schmelter is the host of Bridges aired on the Christian Television Network in over 50 million homes. You can also watch Bridges on ROKU and the CTN APP on demand. Monica and her husband Joseph have one adult son. They recently welcomed a daughter in-love into their family.*



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It's the Holiday Season! Is Your Home Ready?

Once the decorations are up, it's time to start planning for holiday entertaining. Getting your home prepared for holiday visitors who are ready to deck the halls and trim the tree is fun and exciting. However, it can also be overwhelming and stressful if you feel like you're unprepared to host such holiday festivities. We've compiled a holiday hosting checklist to guide you through getting each room of your home holiday-ready so you can relax, entertain, and enjoy the holidays. Let's dive right in!



Kitchen

- Declutter and clean and disinfect countertops.
- Clean cooktop (soak stove grates and knobs in sink to remove cooking residue).
- Replace kitchen hand towels (have plenty of paper towels available).
- Make room in the refrigerator for your guests favorite snacks and leftovers.

Bathroom

Clean and declutter any bathrooms your guests will use. For overnight guests, stock the bath-

room with extra towels and toiletries. Here are some more tips to get your bathrooms guest-ready:

room with extra towels and toiletries. Here are some more tips to get your bathrooms guest-ready:

- Clear personal products from the vanity and cabinets.
- Supply fresh bath and hand towels.
- Refill the soap dispenser and set out extra toiletries.
- Make sure toilet tissue is well-stocked.
- Provide overnight guests with a blowdryer (or access to one).
- Place a nightlight in the bathroom.
- Clean the cabinets and countertops.

Start by decluttering: To make your holiday cleaning more efficient and thorough, get rid of those odds and ends cluttering your rooms. Now is the time to pick it up, throw it away, or organize any items that don't have a permanent home. Removing items from the floor and furniture and organizing them will help create an easier environment to clean.

Start the New Year Off Fresh

After hosting holiday parties and entertaining family and friends, you may need a break and a little help keeping your home or business in order. Since the holiday season also marks the end of the calendar year, it's also a perfect time to start fresh by having your home, office, or business professionally cleaned. Hiring professional cleaners will give you a break and ensure you start the year off right with a thorough cleaning of your living and work spaces.

Clean from the top down: If you want more than your Christmas lights to sparkle this holiday season start with the high areas in each room and work your way down. Clean ceiling fans, high light fixtures, and furniture before moving to lower areas in the room. Once you've cleaned all the high spots, move to the floors and countertops to make them shine.. Pay special attention to baseboards, window sills, and the glass in your windows.

Create cozy spaces: The holiday season can be cold, especially in the Northern Hemisphere, so stock your couch and chairs up with soft blankets, comfy pillows, and lots of candles to create inviting spaces for guests to relax and be comfortable.

When You Do Need Help

Need high-quality, reliable holiday cleaning services? Look no further than your local Molly Maid. We can help lessen the stress of hosting holiday gatherings and entertaining holiday guests. Our service can also give you more time to enjoy holiday pleasures, like baking cookies, shopping for holiday gifts, and creating a festive holiday mood.

Tips to Get Your Home Ready for Holiday Guests

As you prepare your home for holiday guests, remember to always prioritize cleaning areas. For example, your entryway is the first area your guests see upon arrival. Make sure it's tidy, dusted, and organized. Adding a poinsettia is also a nice way to greet guests and get them into the holiday spirit. Here are some additional tips to help you get specific areas of your home ready for holiday guests:

Entryways

- Pick up and store any shoes, umbrellas, coats, and clutter.
- Designate a space in the closet or other area for guests' coats, boots, and shoes.
- Wipe down walls and baseboards to remove any scuffs and marks.
- Clean windows and doors.
- If necessary, clear walkways and entryways to ensure the safety of your guests.

Living Room

- Pick up the clutter, organize items neatly, and donate any items you haven't used in the last 6-8 months.
- Vacuum carpets (clean stains) and clean wood and tile floors.
- Dust and polish furniture.
- Vacuum furniture fabric, wash pillowcases and blankets, and fluff sofa cushions.
- Neatly fold throw blankets (after you wash them).



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Between Its Censorship and Harm to Children, TikTok Must Be Held Accountable

When XX-XY Athletics joined TikTok earlier this year, the American-owned sportswear company hoped its posts would inspire young women and girls to compete in sports. “If you think girls’ and women’s equality matter, stand up,” urged one of their advertisements on the social media site. “If girls’ and women’s sports matter and you want your daughters to have the same opportunity you had, stand up.”

After posting the advertisement, however, the small business faced something that has become all too common on Big Tech platforms: far-left, anti-women censorship. Within days of posting the ad, TikTok banned XX-XY Athletics from advertising on their platform, claiming that the company’s post was “offensive” and “hate speech.” The ban marked just the latest example of TikTok’s censorship of pro-women’s sports content. Just last year, the company removed a post from Tennessee’s Riley Gaines, a former NCAA swimmer who has spoken out against biological men competing in women’s sports.

While TikTok—whose parent company is closely tied to the Chinese Communist Party—censors pro-women content, the platform has left disturbing content unchecked, including sponsored posts that glorify transgender surgeries for young

people. No doubt, every Tennessean and American should be concerned that the Chinese-tied platform is censoring pro-women voices while pushing far-left propaganda. That’s why, this month, Senator Ernst and I sent a letter to TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew demanding answers and documentation regarding the company’s censorship of pro-women content. Unfortunately, much more needs to be done to hold TikTok accountable—especially for harming children.

Just this month, internal communications, revealed through a lawsuit brought by the Kentucky Attorney General’s Office, show that TikTok executives designed their app to keep children addicted to endless scrolling—regardless of the consequences. According to one document, the platform learned that on average users develop an addiction after just 35 minutes on the app. In another, TikTok acknowledged that such addictive behavior leads to mental health issues, including “loss of analytical skills, memory formation, contextual thinking, conversational depth, empathy, and increased anxiety,” according to the lawsuit.

In response, TikTok developed features to allegedly combat addiction, including automated messages that suggest users take a break from scrolling after a certain amount of time on the app. In

private, however, TikTok executives admitted that the features did not work. Instead, they believed the measures would improve the company’s public image. As one executive put it, the features are “useful in a good talking point” but “not altogether effective.” To make matters worse, while TikTok fostered addiction among children, the platform knowingly fed self-harm and eating disorder content to minors and failed to remove content that promoted drug abuse, pedophilia, physical and sexual abuse of minors, and the solicitation of minors for sex, according to the suit.

In response to these shocking revelations, I sent a letter this month to TikTok requesting all of the company’s internal communications and research regarding children’s safety to understand the full scope of the platform’s failures. Between its free speech censorship and harm to children, it is far past time that TikTok was held to account. In the Senate, I am working to ensure that happens.

— Tennessee United States Senator
Marsha Blackburn and her husband
Chuck live in Williamson County,
Tennessee. They have two children,
Mary Morgan (Paul) Ketchel and Chad
(Hillary) Blackburn, two grandsons,
and a granddaughter.



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My husband and myself and our 7 kids truly enjoyed this retelling of Scrooge! Such a classic with a breath of fresh air with the addition of the true reason for the season, Jesus. Hope. Thank you!
 -Mountain Mama



This was captivating, the actors outstanding. The sound effects brought you to the very place portrayed. Will be cherished as a tradition to listen to each year.
 -Nero Wolfe

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Thanksgiving: A Grateful Heart, Finding Inspiration in Scripture

November, the leaves are changing, days are getting shorter and the chill is in the air. For most Americans, when we think of Thanksgiving, we think of Plymouth Rock and the Pilgrims celebrating with Native Americans.

But, there is a much longer history of Thanksgiving than that. As a matter of fact, Thanksgiving is not merely a social or cultural tradition, it is an act of worship. Thanksgiving is not merely a suggestion; it is a commandment. Psalm 100 is a beautiful reminder to approach the Lord with gratitude and praise. The Lord's goodness and steadfast love are unchanging and eternal. This year, may we bless His name and reflect on His enduring love! Thanksgiving is an essential aspect of our relationship with God.

Psalm 100:4-5

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise; Give thanks to him and praise his name. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

Colossians 3:15-17

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

These verses underscore the importance of gratitude in our lives. It emphasizes the role of Scripture in Thanksgiving. For us as Christians, Thanksgiving is not just a holiday but a way of life that should permeate our daily actions and interactions.

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your mind in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give Thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

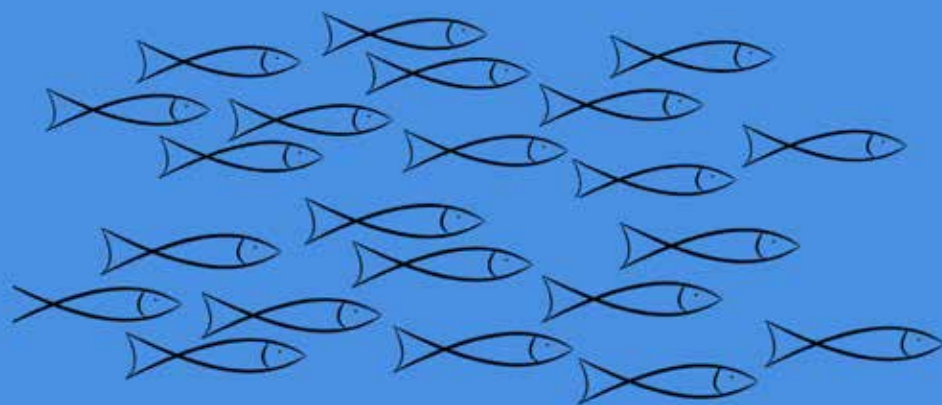
These Scriptures encourage us to give thanks to God, even in our trials and anxiety. Let God's peace guard our hearts and minds. Thanksgiving becomes a powerful means of finding peace and tranquility, even in the face of our challenges.

So, as we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving, let's not just savor the food, fellowship, and football, but take a moment to reflect on the profound message the Bible gives us on Gratitude. Let this season cultivate a heart of gratitude, not just on this special season, but every day of our lives.

— Durward Blanks is a Christian Life/Relationship/Wellness Coach/Speaker and Professional Santa Claus. A former resident of Nashville, he now lives in Mount Washington, KY. You can reach him at 615-496-1368 or DurBlanks@gmail.com



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“Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” (Hebrews 10: 24-25 NLT)

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BODY & SOUL

The Law of Reciprocity

We are entering the Season of Giving. Have you ever wondered why we get so much from giving? Here is the answer. The Law of Reciprocity is a law of humanity that helps to bring civility to our need to live in a social society. Simply put, when someone does something nice for you, you feel inclined to return the favor. It's like an unspoken social rule that encourages mutual help and cooperation. Basically: You scratch my back, I'll scratch yours.



Regardless of your individual beliefs, people are social creatures who value fairness and kindness. We naturally feel good when we help others and appreciate it when others help us. This creates a cycle of giving and receiving that strengthens social bonds and fosters cooperation. It's deeply rooted in us and its why we value a trusted community so much. This natural truth, like many others, was created using the Power of the Wisdom of Three. The law has three key components that make it function:

Mutual Benefit: Both parties gain something from the interaction. It's a win-win situation.

Expectation: When you do something nice for someone, there's an unspoken expectation that they will reciprocate at some point.

Voluntariness: The initial act of kindness should be done freely, without coercion. True reciprocity only happens when the giving is genuine.

In addition, there are only three levels of interest, and they bond the relationships used to navigate our motivations that affect reciprocity and the how they interplay with trust.

Self Interest: When acting out of self-interest, people are driven by their own needs and desires. It doesn't mean they're selfish, but rather, they are prioritizing their personal benefits. Trust in this context is often transactional and contingent on mutual benefits.

Altruistic Interest: This is where one acts out of concern for others, often at a personal cost. Trust here is built on empathy and understanding, and it's the bedrock of strong, selfless relationships.

Shared Interest: This represents a middle ground where mutual goals and benefits align. Trust in this context thrives on cooperation and collaboration because both parties are working towards a common good.

Together, these interests are part of the natural Law of Reciprocity. In our spiritual life, the Law of Reciprocity is evident in the relationship between faith and blessings. This mutual shared relationship is revealed by God, providing us with scripture which create our faith which then leads to us receiving His blessings and Grace, in turn, strengthening and nourishing our faith. It's a continuous cycle of giving and receiving, where God through the Church provides us blessings, and the faithful, through His Grace engages others through their ever-growing faith.

— Anthony “Tony” Boquet, the author of “The Bloodline of Wisdom, The Awakening of a Modern Solutionary”

FAMILY FLICKS

FOX Nation Becomes Home to Hit Series *God. Family. Football.*



Originally available on Amazon, FOX Nation featured eight never-before-seen episodes in October, and running throughout the fall. With a second season slated to premiere in 2025, the series explores the human spirit, teamwork and timeless wisdom of legendary Shreveport, Louisiana high school football coach Pastor Denny Duron, who continues to inspire and develop champions by putting God first, family second and football third.

The series serves as the kickoff for FOX Nation's “FOX Faith” vertical which features hundreds of hours of religious content all new to the platform. Most notably, the roll out includes the highly anticipated multipart docudrama, *Martin Scorsese Presents: The Saints*, hosted, narrated and executive produced by Martin Scorsese, set to premiere on Sunday, November 17th. The initiative will run through the holiday season with the launch of *Jesus Crown of Thorns*, a franchise docudrama in partnership with Nutopia, which will offer a re-telling of the life of Jesus that will shine a new light on his life.

Lauren Petterson, president of FOX Nation said, “With football season in full swing, we are thrilled to become the new home of this compelling and inspiring show. It's an honor to be able to share their story of resilience and character with our viewers and this is the perfect program to launch our FOX Faith vertical on FOX Nation.”

Told through the eyes of members of Shreveport, Louisiana's Evangel Christian Academy football team, the series spotlights real-life challenges the players must overcome on and off the field in their quest for a 15th state championship title. From ill family members to peer pressures to struggles at home and dating for the first time, the series follows the Evangel Eagles through practices, strategy sessions, dates, homecoming and all the ups and downs of high school life.

The series was created by Aaron Benward and produced by Watershed Motion Pictures with executive producers Benward, Jared Goetz, Matt Woolsey, Cody Bess, Scott Brignac and Cliff Young.

Denny Duron is a pastor, coach, entrepreneur, inventor, educator, author, composer, producer, communicator, motivator and chancellor of Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport, Louisiana. Duron's ministry began on the football field as a player at LA Tech University where he was later inducted into their Hall of Fame. As a quarterback in 1972 and 1973, Duron led the Bulldogs to two national championships and a 24-1 record. He was twice named all-Southland Conference first-team quarterback and, in 1973, was chosen as the Southland Conference Most Valuable Offensive Player. In 1976, Duron accepted an invitation to start a football program at Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, where at 24, he would serve as the youngest head college football coach in America. At EU, Duron coached the football seasons of 1977-1982. Duron began the football program for Evangel Christian Academy in Shreveport, Louisiana, which achieved national prominence in a few years. During that time, “Coach Duron” coached numerous All-Americans while at the same time virtually re-writing the national offensive record books for yardage, touchdowns, and points scored. Evangel Christian Academy was named by USA Today as one of the top eight high school springboards to the NFL, and Fox Sports recognized Evangel as the 1999 National High School Champions. The 2024 season could have as many as eight former Evangel Eagles in the NFL.

— Fox News Staff

FOX Nation is a direct-to-consumer on-demand streaming service designed to complement the FOX News Channel experience with a members-only destination for its most passionate and loyal super fans. Featuring nearly 10,000 hours of content, the subscription service includes lifestyle, and entertainment content, as well as historical documentaries and investigative series from a multitude of FOX News personalities. Morning Consult recently named FOX Nation as one of the top 10 fastest-growing brands of 2023 among Gen Z adults, with the platform placing in the top 15 overall. Launched in 2018, FOX Nation is available at foxnation.com and via app for iOS devices, Android devices, Fire TV, Apple TV, Google TV, Android TV, Roku, Xbox One, FuboTV, Vizio TVs, and Samsung TVs, as well as DIRECTV, DIRECTV STEAM, YouTube TV, Comcast Xfinity, Cox Contour, The Roku Channel, DISH and SLING.

FAITH UNDER FIRE

Don't Forget the Hostages: Time is Running Out

Jerusalem, Israel, October 17, 2024... Following news of the elimination of Hamas terrorist leader Yahya Sinwar in Gaza, the Genesis 123 Foundation is urgently calling upon Christians and Jews and all people of conscience to add their name to a global petition to release ALL the remaining 101 hostages in captivity in Gaza. <https://genesis123.co/freethehostages>



“In the past year, thousands of loved ones of the hostages taken on October 7, 2023, have been doing everything and anything possible to secure the immediate release of their loved ones. Those freed have reported on inhuman conditions. Many of the remaining hostages are already dead. Dozens are believed to still be alive, Securing their immediate return is critical, for the hostages, and their loved ones. We urge everyone to sign the petition and share it widely,” noted Jonathan Feldstein, President of the Genesis 123 Foundation.

“It’s impossible to look at any events in the war that continues to escalate and not have empathy for the hostages and their loved ones. It’s also impossible to be silent and do nothing. This is a simple grassroots effort to which anyone can, and everyone should, lend their voices.”

The petition is addressed to UN, the Red Cross, and the leaders of all the nations whose citizens were taken hostage, imploring them to put pressure on

Hamas and all those who have influence with Hamas to release ALL the hostages; immediately and unconditionally.

Pressure needs to be put on the Red Cross to do its job (which they have never done) and insist on visiting and bringing humanitarian supplies and medicine to ALL the hostages, the youngest of whom is one year old.

Feldstein added how heartened he and others are with the immediate response from thousands. “Tens of thousands more people need to join us. Please join us today. Sign the petition

HERE, and share the petition widely. Thanks to the leadership and support of world leaders promoting the petition, with God’s help, your voice, and our collective prayers, we will bring the hostages home.”

For additional information or how organizations can play an even bigger role, please visit www.Genesis123.co, or contact Gen123Fdn@gmail.com.

A partial list of the supporters from around the world and their endorsements can be found here - <https://genesis123.co/freethehostages/#quotes>

— Jonathan Feldstein, Founder and President, Genesis 123 Foundation
www.genesis123.co/

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(from left) Jim Daly, Chuck Swindoll, Anne Graham Lotz, Colin Smith, Alistair Begg, Adrian Rogers, Tony Evans, Charles Stanley, Janet Mefferd, Richard Hamlet, Michael Youssef, Robert Jeffress And Many More!

The Most Important Question Troubling Mankind Is: Why Can't We Get Along With Each Other?

There are growing numbers of people, who are increasingly perplexed with the direction that our world is going. The more we understand the deviousness of human nature, we become cognizant that this hatred, is often coupled with some form of violence which appears to be immune to any reasoning or spirituality and proclaims to have the right to literally annihilate the other person, group, community, or country!

Probably most of us have been influenced, one way or another, by a most interesting book written by Robert Fulghum, entitled: *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. The basic principles are rather simple, and straightforward. generally, work great with kindergartners and just about everyone else. These principles are simple: "share everything. . . . play fair. . . don't hit people. . . put things back where you found them. . . clean up your own mess. . . don't take things that aren't yours. . . It appears easy for kindergartners to understand and follow, and we contemplate that others who are like-minded, become compliant over 90% of the time, though most kindergartners usually act better than adults. I also suspect that most of us believe that we could negotiate to 100%! However, I would suspect that the proclamation of these principles written in several languages and propelled by a single engine Cessna between Israel and Palestine (along with several other parts of our world) would most likely result in a very unpleasant experience! It wouldn't take very long for us to realize that we are in a "world crisis," and there is something critically missing. As I prepared to go to bed there were only dilemmas racing in my mind and my night was filled with restlessness and not a hint at a solution. It must've been about 2 AM in the morning that I woke thinking about an intriguing book which I read several years ago, entitled: *The Journey of Man* by Dr. Spenser Wells who is an epidemiologist as well as an anthropologist. In the 90s, Dr. Wells and his remarkable team unrelentingly traveled literally throughout our entire planet formulating scientific and genetic testing which further developed a nomenclature that eventually broke the code contained within DNA as applied to all human beings. Now we understand scientifically, from a professional and well-designed research model and we all literally came from the same ancestors, and Dr. Wells' scientific research further identifies the parental ancestral pathway we share dating about 60,000 years ago which began in northern Africa.

This final journey in Dr. Wells book, *The Journey of Man*, took place at a remote airport where Dr. Wells and his team are about to take off on a very challenging flight to the most remote point on our planet. Ironically, Dr. Wells commented about this heroic ancestral group of pioneering peoples who traveled from northern Africa to the other side of our planet, these ancestors navigating by foot, one generation after another generation persevering for 35,000 years to arrive! Dr. Wells and team successfully completed the last and furthest journey in 35-hour flight. Dr. Wells shares that these brave human beings traversed through many very different types of country (which eventually would be called the United States!) on their way to their ultimate destination.



Dr. Wells and his colleagues discovered that each unique group of human beings, apart from every other group of human beings on earth, share a very similar DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid code with known markers A,G,C,T, which is identify from one drop of a human being's blood, containing over 3 billion entities within 99+ percent of all other human beings, which is essentially the same in all people) with 13 minor anomalies, or markers in DNA. This brings us to a most profound conclusion: we have been created and share in life because we all come from the same ancestral parents! We have unique and distinct personalities, though quite different

from each other in our interests, goals, desires, talents, abilities etc. At the same time, we are overwhelmingly very similar and like each other, in most ways. We are brothers and sisters from the same parents and the ways that we differ are minute compared to the vastness of our similarities. Perhaps it is at this time/opportunity, coupled with overwhelming scientific evidence, we may experience a metamorphosis in thought so that all human beings now understand that we are family, coming from the same parents and therefore we have a new understanding with responsibility to strive to understand and protect ALL, in our family.

If we can humbly and passionately allow ourselves to fully understand the indisputable facts of science, coupled with our own unique learnings and understanding that we possess purpose and meaning and a commitment to life itself.

"In conclusion, we might reflect on how one recovers from addiction is similar as one recover from an erroneous belief system (perhaps we are all addicts in one way or another and) is best understood in metaphor as we understand that we have two forces always pulling within us, throughout our whole life. That is force of the eagle and the wolf. Which one do you choose to be? We see the eagle flying free and high seeking the very best in life, soaring high into the mountains laying its eggs on the mountain peaks, enjoying the wonder and beauty and all the goodness of life. But there is the force of the wolf in each of us as it seeks evil and darkness, as well as power and destruction of others. It preys upon the dark side of our nature and taking away meaning/purpose of life. Which one wins this battle in us? The one we FEED!

Dr. Wells launched the first chapter of his book, *The Journey of Man*, in the following manner: "So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply. . ." Genesis 1:27-8.

— Tim Lynch D.Min, PhD.

NRB General Counsel Statement on Jack Phillips Victory in Colorado Supreme Court

NRB general counsel Mike Farris has issued a statement on the victory of Colorado cake baker Jack Phillips in the Colorado Supreme Court. The following statement is attributable to Mike Farris, NRB general counsel: “Yesterday, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled 4-3 in favor of Colorado cake baker Jack Phillips, who has faced a string of belligerent lawsuits because of his stand for God and freedom.

“On the very morning that the Supreme Court of the United States announced that it would hear Phillips’ first appeal, his shop received a phone call from an attorney seeking a cake that was pink on the inside and blue on the outside, unmistakably designed to celebrate the attorney’s sexual transition. Of course, the lawyer was seeking a lawsuit, not a cake. A complaint was filed with the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, which sat on the transgender cake case while the previous wedding cake case made it through the Supreme Court. “Throughout his extensive legal battles, Phillips has been represented by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), which I led as CEO during the original Supreme Court case and the first follow-up case.

“The Supreme Court ultimately ruled 7-2 in Phil-

lips’ favor because of obvious anti-religious bias by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission (CCRC). “Shortly after that victory, the CCRC pursued Phillips again based on the transgender cake. Again, the CCRC put its anti-religious bias on the record so plainly that the Commission’s lawyers essentially gave up and settled with Phillips. Not content with this outcome, the attorney who ordered the cake sued Phillips in state court. “In the meantime, I had retired from ADF. As general counsel for the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) association, I was able to write an amicus brief for Phillips on behalf of the NRB when this new suit reached the Colorado Supreme Court.

“It was a major First Amendment clash, with ADF still representing Phillips. But there was a procedural question in play, and it was on that question that Jack won.

“In simple terms, the Civil Right Commission failed to follow the correct procedure to allow the attorney who requested the cake to bring a personal case. Therefore, the constitutional questions at hand were not addressed, but ADF already won a case establishing those principles before the Supreme Court in a more recent case, 303 Creative.

Courts will often use procedural issues to avoid tacking tough constitutional questions, but a victory is a victory.

“This dismissal on procedural grounds is not the kind of issue that can be appealed to the Supreme Court. This should be the final victory on this matter. I heartily congratulate Jack and the team at Alliance Defending Freedom and thank God for this outcome.”

To interview Farris, please contact presscenter@nrb.org.

— NRB Staff
About NRB

NRB is a nonpartisan, international association of Christian communicators whose member organizations represent millions of listeners, viewers, and readers. NRB’s mission is two-fold: To protect the free speech rights of our members to speak Biblical truth by advocating those rights in governmental, corporate, and media sectors; and to foster excellence, integrity, and accountability in our membership by providing networking, educational, ministry, and relational opportunities. Learn more at www.nrb.org.

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Spiritual Goal for November

Colossians 3:23

DO IT...

We have heard the following quote many, many times...BUT...for TODAY...let's do it. Whatever we do, work at it with all our heart...as if we are working for the Lord...not just to please others. And, as we think about it further...we really, really are working for the Lord. God gave us life...gave us purpose...gave us meaning...gave us a solid foundation to stand on...gave us His Word...gave us the Spirit...and gave us a goal to keep our eyes on the Prize, the Prize of being spiritually, emotionally, mentally and even physically ONE with our Creator...our Savior...the One with eternity prepared for us. Now...let's DO IT.

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, thank You for being our Purpose. You are truly our Everything. We live and breathe through You...because of You...and thanks to You. We wouldn't be here if not for You. Thank You for reminding us TODAY Who holds all the tomorrows...and Who will hold our hand every step of our journey on planet earth and beyond.

Lord, thank You for filling us up...with Your love...Your grace...Your joy and peace that makes us whole. You are wonderful...amazing...beyond any comparison...and also our Best Friend. AMEN...and...AMEN.

— Ralph E. Vaughn

PLAN OF SALVATION

Has something in the magazine or something you have discussed with someone or some thoughts that you have had or something that you have heard, brought you to a point of realizing that you want and need to know Christ in the truest and personal sense?

If so, below is a simple outline for someone of any age who is not a Believer to act on their desire to accept Jesus Christ into their heart as their Savior.

God's Plan of Salvation

God created us to honor and serve Him

Revelation 4:11: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist[b] and were created

Each of us has sinned against God

Romans 3:10: As it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one"
Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

The penalty for sin is eternal separation from God and Heaven

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Good works cannot ever earn God's forgiveness and Salvation

Titus 3:5: not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.

God loves each of us

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus Christ died on the cross in our place, paying the penalty for our sin

Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

We each must accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior

Romans 10:9: that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13: For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

To accept Christ into your heart and life, pray a simple prayer along these lines

- "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins. I know that Jesus died for my sins and the sins of the world. Right now, I ask Jesus into my heart and receive Him as my personal Savior. Forgive me of my sins, thank you for saving me through the blood of Jesus. Please Lord, help me live for you. In Jesus name, amen."

All scriptures are taken from The New King James Version of the Holy Bible.

If you do not have your own Bible, email publisher@nashchristian.com and we will make sure you receive one.

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