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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

A Season of Renewal and Gratitude

On March 19, we welcome the first day of spring—a season of renewal and hope, when the chill of winter gives way to longer, warmer days. It is a time to pause and reflect on the many blessings in our lives: God's remarkable creation, the companionship of family and friends, and the freedoms we cherish. The list is both personal and endless.



Spring brings a renewed display of natural beauty. Sunrises glow with vibrant color, and the landscape awakens as plants, flowers, and trees come back to life. Birds fill the air with song as they build their nests, soon joined by the gentle chirping of hatchlings. Bees return to their work among blooming flowers, and butterflies drift across the sky—a reminder of the Creator's artistry. With such visible signs of life and growth, it's no surprise that our spirits are lifted. I find myself smiling more often this time of year.

The familiar phrase “stop and smell the roses” carries simple wisdom. Yet amid busy schedules and daily responsibilities, it can be difficult to put into practice. Still, it is in those intentional moments of quiet that we are best able to reflect, give thanks, and appreciate the gifts the Lord has graciously provided.

Spring also reminds us to “be still and know that He is God.” As we observe the complexity and beauty of the world He has made, we are invited into gratitude and deeper trust.

In the pleasant days ahead, I encourage you to spend meaningful time outdoors with those you love. Take time for conversation, reflection, and appreciation of this season of new beginnings—a vivid reminder of God's creativity and faithfulness.

May this spring renew your spirit, deepen your gratitude, and fill your heart with lasting peace.

Robert Stringfellow, Publisher, 615-815-8765
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David Rives, Director and Founder, Wonders Center & Science Museum, Science Expert, Biblical Scholar, Author, Producer, TV Host

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ONE BODY

PREFILLED COMMUNION CUPS

"Do this in remembrance of Me."



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This Is My Body, Given and Broken for You

Communion is one of the most familiar acts in Christian worship, yet it is often one of the least understood. When Jesus took bread on the night He was betrayed, broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is given for you,” He was not offering a ritual without meaning. He was declaring the heart of the gospel.



Scripture gives us a fuller picture of this moment through passages like 1 Corinthians 11 and Isaiah 53. Communion is not only remembrance - it is participation. In the breaking of the bread and

the sharing of the cup, believers proclaim what Christ has already accomplished.

Jesus bore our pain and carried our sorrows in His body. He experienced betrayal, rejection, abandonment, and brutal suffering, yet He freely gave His life out of love. His wounds were not random acts of violence; they were purposeful acts of redemp-

tion. His hands were pierced for the sins committed by our hands. His feet were nailed for the ways we walked away from God. A crown of thorns pressed into His head for sins born in our thoughts - doubt, fear, pride, and unbelief.

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus resisted sin to the point of sweating blood, carrying the weight of human anguish and spiritual warfare. On the cross, a spear pierced His side, and blood and water flowed - symbols of forgiveness and cleansing. He was beaten beyond recognition, fully broken so that we might be made whole.

Isaiah tells us that “the chastisement for our peace was upon Him.” The Hebrew word shalom means more than peace - it means wholeness, harmony, nothing missing and nothing broken. Communion declares that this wholeness has already been secured through Christ. As Peter later writes, “By His stripes you were healed” - past tense. The work was finished at the cross.

When believers receive Communion, they declare that they have died with Christ to sin and are now alive through His resurrection life. They proclaim that Jesus took upon Himself the power and conse-

quences of sin so that forgiveness, restoration, and new life could be freely received by faith.

For generations, Communion has anchored the Church in this truth. For Swanson, that same truth has guided our calling for more than 90 years as we serve churches across the nation with Communion supplies. This work is more than a business. It is a calling to support worship, discipleship, and the ongoing work of the Kingdom.



In the simple elements of bread and cup, the Church remembers: Christ was given, Christ was broken, and Christ still invites us - “Do this in remembrance of Me.” Make Him Known!

—Adam Swanson, CEO
Swanson Christian Products, www.swansoninc.com



SPECIAL FEATURE

Brought to you by: **917 Society** • www.917society.org

Faith, Freedom, and the Future of America: Join The 917 Society on March 7

At a time when our nation faces cultural confusion, civic illiteracy, and a growing disconnect from our founding principles, there has never been a more important moment for Christians and patriots to stand together. On March 7, The 917 Society will host its 5th Annual Fundraising Gala at the beautiful Ray Stevens CabaRay in Nashville—and this is far more than an evening of inspiration and fellowship. It is an investment in the future of America. This special evening, held from 6:00–9:00 p.m., will feature an outstanding lineup of speakers and entertainment, including Congressman Tim Burchett, Dr. Ken Berry, the Austin Brothers Band, and Rodgar McCalmon, Sr., a gifted portrayer of historical characters. Together, they will celebrate the enduring wisdom of our Founders and the biblical principles that shaped our Constitutional Republic.

The 917 Society exists to ensure that every 8th grader in Tennessee receives a free pocket copy of the United States Constitution on or around Constitution Day—September 17th. Named for that historic day in 1787 when the Constitution was signed in Philadelphia, The 917 Society works tirelessly to restore a proper understanding of America’s founding document and the Christian world-

view that influenced it. As we approach the 250th Anniversary of the United States in 2026, the stakes could not be higher. This milestone offers an unprecedented opportunity to reawaken a spirit of gratitude for the sacrifices of our Founders and to renew our commitment to the principles enshrined in our Constitution. The funds raised at this year’s gala will directly support expanded Constitution Day initiatives and educational outreach leading up to the 250th Anniversary celebration. We believe this anniversary must be more than fireworks and fanfare—it must be a rededication to liberty under God.

In April, The 917 Society will also travel to New York to commemorate a powerful moment in American history: George Washington’s walk to St. Paul’s Chapel following his inauguration in 1789. After taking the oath of office, Washington led members of Congress in prayer, publicly dedicating the new nation to Almighty God. This symbolic act affirmed what many of the Founders understood—that freedom flourishes only when rooted in virtue and faith.

By recreating that historic walk, The 917 Society seeks to remind Americans that our national sto-

ry is inseparable from our reliance on God’s providence. As Psalm 33:12 declares, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” America’s greatness has never been in her perfection, but in her willingness to seek divine guidance and uphold self-government anchored in moral truth.

The March 7 Gala is your opportunity to partner in this vital mission. Whether you purchase individual tickets or reserve a table, your support will help equip the next generation with the knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution they so desperately need.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of fellowship, patriotism, and purpose. Together, we can honor our past, strengthen our present, and secure the blessings of liberty for generations to come.

Tickets and table information are available at: www.917society.org/2026-annual-gala-fundraiser

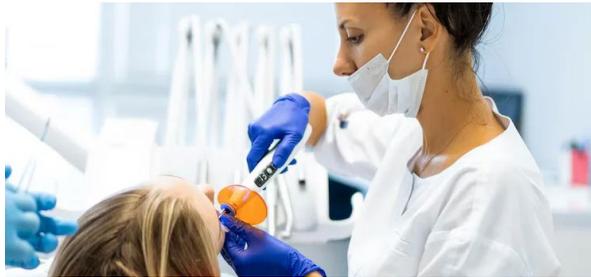
—Joni Bryan, Founder and
Executive Director, 917 Society
www.917society.org



A Parent’s Guide to Wisdom Teeth: What You Need to Know – and Why It Matters

As parents, we prepare our children for so many milestones — their first day of school, their first car, college decisions, and everything in between. One milestone that often sneaks up on families is wisdom teeth. For many teenagers and young adults, wisdom teeth removal is their very first surgical experience. That alone can feel overwhelming — not just for them, but for parents too.

At Solace Oral Surgery & Implant Center, we see this every day. And one thing we always tell families is this: wisdom teeth removal doesn’t have to be scary — but it does need to be taken seriously.



Why Wisdom Teeth Matter. Wisdom teeth typically begin developing between the ages of 15 and 18. By the late teen years or early twenties, they often start to erupt — or attempt to. The problem is, most of us simply don’t have enough room in our mouths for these extra molars.

When wisdom teeth become impacted (trapped under the gum or against other teeth), they can cause infection, swelling and jaw pain, damage to neighboring teeth, cysts or bone damage, and crowding that can undo years of orthodontic work.

Sometimes there are no obvious symptoms at first — which is why early evaluation is so important.

Timing Is Everything. One of the biggest misconceptions we see is families waiting until wisdom teeth are causing severe pain. By then, the procedure can be more complicated. The ideal window for evaluation is during the mid-teen years. When roots are still forming, removal is often simpler, healing is faster, and complications are less likely. A proactive approach can prevent emergency situations later.

Choosing the Right Oral Surgeon. Not all extractions are the same. An oral surgeon has years of additional hospital-based surgical and anesthesia training beyond dental school. That matters — especially when your child is being placed under sedation or IV anesthesia.

At Solace Oral Surgery & Implant Center, patient safety is our highest priority. Dr. Jaime Romero is proud to be recognized as a Center of Excellence

and was named an All-on-4 Center of Excellence by Nobel Biocare. But what matters most to our families isn’t just recognition — it’s trust.

Parents want to know:

- Is my child safe?
- Will they be comfortable?
- Are we in experienced hands?

The answer should always be yes.

Extractions Aren’t Just for Teenagers. While wisdom teeth are common in young adults, extractions can be necessary at any stage of life. Severe decay, trauma, infection, or advanced gum disease can sometimes require removal of a tooth to protect overall health. Oral health is whole-body health. Untreated dental infections can affect the heart, immune system, and overall well-being. Taking care of dental concerns early is part of being good stewards of our health.

A Word to Parents. If you’re unsure whether your teen is ready for a wisdom teeth evaluation, ask their general dentist — or schedule a consultation with an oral surgeon for peace of mind.

—Staff Writer

Solace Oral Surgery & Implant Center
www.solaceoralsurgery.com, 615-320-1392



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Legal Controversies Surrounding ICE

There is a lot of public attention to border and immigration issues today, especially surrounding the enforcement of laws that govern the deportation of individuals alleged to be in the country illegally. At the center of much of this controversy is an organization referred to as ICE. But just what is ICE and why is its work so controversial?



The Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) is a division of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). It was created by the Homeland Security Act of 2002, following the 9/11 attack. Since then, it has been responsible for enforcing federal laws governing customs, trade, and immigration.

ICE's stated mission is to preserve American security and public safety, mainly within US borders, by enforcing immigration laws. It does this primarily by detaining, deporting, and convicting unauthorized immigrants. It also assists international investigations into criminal gang activity, sex trafficking and terrorist networks that threaten to exploit US customs and immigration laws. This mission was underscored in the most recent Presidential election in which border control served as a key issue. But the recent expansion of ICE activities has since sparked national protests by some who argue that this expansion has outpaced accountability, and that the enforcement practices employed are heavy handed, or worse yet, racist. Legal and constitutional issues exist, ICE opponents insist, surround-

ing the tactics used by ICE agents, such as entering homes without valid, judge-signed warrants and conducting alleged improper searches and seizures. The recent fatal shootings of Renee Nicole Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis stoked the fires of these protests, and added increased tension between a citizen's exercise of free speech and the limits of such expression when it interferes with law enforcement.

When it comes to ICE's powers to carry out its mission, these differ in many respects from traditional law enforcement agencies. Agents can lawfully detain US citizens in limited circumstances, such as if a person interferes with an arrest, assaults an officer, or ICE agents suspect the person of being in the country illegally. ICE's use of force is governed by a combination of the US Constitution, US law and DHS's own guidelines.

The US Supreme Court has historically granted very broad leniency to law enforcement making so-called "in-the-moment" decisions without the benefit of hindsight. And the Court would likely be deferential to DHS's policy that ICE officers "may use deadly force only when necessary" and they have a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury to themselves or another person. Protests at the national level have a way to trickling down to various institutions in our society. Recently, I received a request for legal assistance to a family of a child in public school in Atlanta. The school and its faculty encouraged students to engage in a school-wide protest of ICE. The event

took place on school grounds, and those students who refused to take part were ostracized and isolated. I advised the family that this type of coercive, government-sponsored speech, violated their children's constitutional rights. Such school-based coercion is unconstitutional based on *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette*, in which the Supreme Court invalidated a requirement that school children salute the flag and recite the pledge.

A West Chicago elementary school teacher was recently placed on administrative leave because he posted on his social media a statement supporting the work of ICE. Shortly after the post became public, activists in the predominantly Hispanic section of the city began sharing it and defaming the teacher as a racist and calling for his termination.

The right of free expression, particularly on issues of national importance, is vital to our democracy. This includes the right of peaceful protest against perceived abuse by any governmental agency. But when such speech resorts to the use of violence or to defaming the reputations of those who may hold opposing views, it exceeds its protected purpose and may be subject to civil or even criminal sanctions.

—Larry L. Crain, Esq.
www.crainlaw.legal



SPECIAL FEATURE

Brought to you by: **Trevecca Nazarene University** • www.trevecca.edu

Trevecca Launches Flexible 10-Month MBA, the Fastest in Tennessee

Trevecca Nazarene University has launched a reimagined Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree with a 10-month accelerated option that's one of the fastest in the U.S.

Most MBA programs take two years to complete, and even accelerated programs rarely fall below 12 months. Trevecca's redesigned MBA offers working professionals a faster path through 30 credit hours of focused coursework grounded in AI technology, business strategy and leadership.

In addition to the accelerated 10-month option, the MBA offers a traditional pathway that can be completed in about 18 months. Students take one course at a time, either online or on campus. Both pathways can be tailored to specific career goals through one of eight specialty tracks:

- Data analytics
- Entrepreneurship and innovation
- Healthcare administration
- Human resources
- Interdisciplinary studies
- Management and leadership
- Nonprofit leadership and management
- Project management

The 10-month accelerated MBA, offered in an online format, is built for high-achieving professionals who are ready to expand their credentials through intensive six-week courses that emphasize real-world application, the effective use of AI tools in business, project-based learning and collaboration with faculty.

Dr. Jim Hiatt, dean of Trevecca's Skinner School of Business, believes the condensed degree will allow more students to excel in business than ever before.

"Trevecca is meeting the need for a faster and more affordable master's degree in business without sacrificing critical content," Hiatt said. "The affordability of an MBA can be an obstacle for many potential students, but it can be overcome through Trevecca's reasonable price structure. We look forward to helping students excel through this new program."

The first cohort for the new accelerated and traditional MBAs will begin in May. More information and enrollment details are available at Trevecca.edu/MBA

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



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The Wonders Center & Science Museum: Where Faith and Science Intersect at the largest Science Museum in TN

For Christian families seeking meaningful educational experiences, the Wonders Center & Science Museum, in Dickson offers something uniquely refreshing: a place where scientific exploration and biblical faith are not in conflict, but in harmony.

Just 35 minutes west of Nashville, in Dickson, the Wonders Center has become a regional destination for families, homeschool groups, and school field trips, at a museum that inspires curiosity, strengthens critical thinking, and reinforces a Christ-centered worldview.



From the moment families step inside, it's clear this is no ordinary museum. The Wonders Center is intentionally designed as a hands-on learning environment where children and adults alike engage directly with the principles that shape God's creation.

Across more than 100,000 square feet of exhibits, guests explore physics, geology, biology, astronomy, engineering, paleontology, and natural history. Instead of simply reading placards, students race cars to understand force and motion, investigate fossils, experiment with interactive science stations, and observe detailed displays that bring scientific concepts to life.

At the Wonders Center, children aren't just passive observers—they actively participate in hands on activities and experience the “how” behind the world God designed.

For parents, this creates invaluable teaching moments. A lesson about gravity becomes a conversation about order and design. A study of the solar system becomes an opportunity to reflect on Psalm 19:1: “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.”



Education that Strengthens Both Mind and Faith

What makes the Wonders Center especially meaningful for Christian families is its commitment to presenting science through the lens of biblical truth. Exhibits and educational programming are thoughtfully developed to affirm that faith and scientific inquiry work together rather than stand opposed.

The Heavens Declare Planetarium, recognized as one of the top planetarium experiences in the nation, immerses visitors in the vastness of the universe. As families journey through galaxies and star systems, they are reminded not only of the complexity of the cosmos but also of the Creator who spoke it into existence.

For homeschool families and Christian educators, the museum serves as an extension of the classroom. Group programs, guided experiences, and interactive demonstrations align with STEM educational standards while reinforcing a biblical worldview. Students gain exposure to rigorous scientific concepts, while maintaining confidence that their faith foundation remains intact.

In a culture where science and Christianity are often portrayed as adversaries, the Wonders Center offers a powerful alternative: curiosity anchored in truth.

Special Event: S.T.E.A.M. Day – March 16

On Monday, March 16, 2026, the Wonders Center will host a special Homeschool S.T.E.A.M. Day from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.—a celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math designed to ignite imagination and deepen understanding.

S.T.E.A.M. education highlights how creativity and critical thinking intersect. Engineering requires design. Technology demands innovation. Science invites inquiry. Art cultivates expression. Together, these disciplines reflect the creativity of our Creator.



Throughout the day, families can participate in interactive exhibits, hands-on challenges, and live demonstrations that encourage students to apply what they learn. Learners will have opportunities to showcase projects and inventions, allowing young innovators to present their ideas in a supportive environment. If you would like your child to submit their ideas, fill out the form at Events@daavidrives.com (Limited availability).

In collaboration with Liberty University, a special highlight of the event will be a performance by the Liberty Chamber Singers in the Wonders Theater, reminding attendees that artistic expression, the “A” in S.T.E.A.M, is itself a reflection of God's creative nature. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about Liberty University and all it offers at its booth located in the rotunda.



This event provides both educational enrichment and community connection. Children engage with peers, share ideas, and grow in confidence while exploring disciplines that prepare them for future vocations.

Why Experiences Like This Matter

Christian parents carry the responsibility of preparing their children not only academically, but spiritually. The Wonders Center supports that mission by creating an environment where learning is immersive, intellectually stimulating, and faith-affirming.

When children are encouraged to marvel at the intricacy of a fossil, the precision of physical laws, or the vastness of the universe, they are being invited into something deeper than information. They are being invited into awe.

Founder and Director of the Wonders Center, David Rives, often quotes Psalm 19:1, saying, “The heavens declare the glory of God, and at the Wonders Center, families experience that truth firsthand. S.T.E.A.M. Day is a special opportunity for students to explore science, technology, engineering, art, and math in a way that strengthens both their understanding of God's creation and their confidence to use their gifts for His glory.”



For Nashville Christian families looking to blend faith, education, and unforgettable hands-on learning, the Wonders Center & Science Museum offers an experience where discovery inspires and strengthens both mind and faith.



To learn more about S.T.E.A.M. Day on March 16, or other events, such as Astronomy Day, March 5, or to plan your visit go to: www.WondersCenter.org.

—Christine Johnson is a writer and Director of Public Relations at the Wonders Center & Science Museum. She has a background in strategic communications and storytelling across publishing, nonprofit, and entertainment sectors.





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Stewardship Simplified: Managing Money God’s Way in Five Categories

Have you ever stopped and thought about how money is used in our lives? Of course, at the highest level, it is used in exchange for goods and/or services. But have you ever really broken down the use of money into silos in your life?

I like to classify money into four categories, with one of the categories having two parts. We use money to “Give, Live, Grow, and Owe.” Owe has two parts: owe taxes and owe debt. Those are the only five ways we use money in our lives.

Scripture leads us to Give of our first fruits. In Malachi 3:10 (NIV) scripture says, “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty... In Proverbs 11:25 (NIV) scripture says, “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” In 2 Corinthians 9:7 (NIV) scripture says, “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” In fact, the Bible references a form of the word giving more than 2,000 times, and specifically uses giving as an act of generosity, tithing, or helping others hundreds of times across various passages.



The second way we use money is to Live. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus tells the Parable of the Talents, in which servants are entrusted with their master’s property, teaching that we are to use God’s gifts wisely and productively. God entrusts resources

to us based on our stewardship of them. We are to use these resources to provide for ourselves, our families, and our community. A challenge we must overcome is balancing our consumption habits with the other four areas where we spend money.

The third way we use money is to Grow. This is God’s plan for us to be able to provide for ourselves, our families, and our community in the future. Growing or saving for the future is biblical. In Genesis 41:34-36, Joseph advised Pharaoh to save during the years of abundance for the years of famine. Joseph’s advice to Pharaoh is a powerful example of saving during times of plenty to provide for times of need. These passages collectively illustrate that saving and preparing for the future is a wise and biblical principle. I also like to share Proverbs 13:11 with my clients, “Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow.” This encourages steady, prudent accumulation rather than reckless spending.



In the Owe silo, we have two parts. We owe taxes, and we owe debt. Taxes are a condition of the amount of resources God entrusts to us. We should be good stewards of our approach to paying taxes, just as we are with any other use of money, so we do not pay unnecessary taxes out of ignorance of the tax code. However, paying taxes means God has entrusted us with more resources, so in that we should be joyful.

The Bible is very clear on owing Debt, “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.” (Romans 13:8) In Proverbs 22:7, we are told, “The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender.” Scripture encourages us to avoid unnecessary debt, to repay what we borrow, and to be generous.



If you need assistance balancing your use of money through a Biblical worldview, you are encouraged to call our office to speak with one of our advisers. The Bible shares in Proverbs 15:22, “Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” We desire for you to be a successful steward in God’s Kingdom.

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CONSTITUTION CORNER



Questions & Answers



1. What is covered by the First Amendment right to petition for redress of grievance?

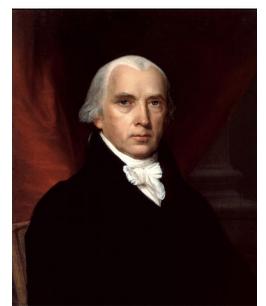
The First Amendment of the US Constitution contains a clause that specifically protects “the right to petition the Government for redress of grievances.”

But just what does this clause protect? The right dates back to the Magna Carta and protects the ability of a citizen to petition the king, or either house of parliament, to redress a wrong. Indeed, the Declaration of Independence was a perfect example of the exercise of this right. Today, all 50 states have enshrined this important freedom in their respective state constitutions. The right has also been expanded in recent years to include the right to petition administrative agencies.

2. Who was called the “Father of the Constitution”?

James Madison, of Virginia, is credited with the nickname “Father of the Constitution”. This is because his pivotal role in the drafting of the final document. Madison presented was called “the Virginia Plan” as a blueprint for our national constitu-

tion calling for a bicameral legislature with representation based on population. He also played a central role in drafting the Bill of Rights – the first ten amendments which have served as the backbone of individual freedom for over 200 years.



—Larry L. Crain, Crain Law Group, PLLC
www.crainlaw.legal



SECRETS FROM THE STUDIO

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One Step Forward and Two Steps Back?!

Sometimes life feels like one step forward and two steps backwards. You make progress. You heal. You dare to hope again. And then—something unexpected knocks you sideways. In those moments, it can feel like all your hard work has been erased. But what if it hasn't? What if the steps back are not proof of failure but evidence of courage?



My Bridges guest, Sheila Fitzgerald Preston, knows what it means to rebuild a life that changed in an instant. After a near-fatal motorcycle accident, Sheila became a double amputee. One ordinary day turned into a fight for survival. The road she had known disappeared, and a new, unchosen path lay ahead. There are setbacks—and then there are seismic shifts.



Sheila's Recovery Wasn't Linear

For Sheila, recovery wasn't linear. It wasn't neat. It wasn't inspirational every single day. It was painful. Frustrating. Exhausting. Learning how to live again

required more than physical healing; it demanded emotional and spiritual resilience. There were days of incredible victories—first steps with prosthetics, new milestones, renewed independence. And there were days when progress felt painfully slow, when the weight of “two steps back” pressed hard against her spirit.

But here is what Sheila's story reminds us: going backward is sometimes part of moving forward. When life knocks you down, getting back up rarely happens in a straight line. Healing doesn't follow a calendar. Growth doesn't arrive on demand. The setback doesn't cancel the breakthrough.

One of the beautiful parts of Sheila's journey is her service dog, Ivy. Ivy is more than assistance - she is companionship, stability, and daily reminder that support shows up in unexpected forms. Ivy represents something we all need when life feels unsteady: faithful presence.

We Need Ivy Moments

In seasons of “two steps back,” we need Ivy moments. We need reminders that we are not alone. We need tangible proof that even when we feel fragile, strength is still being built.

The truth is that resilience is forged in the tension between progress and setbacks. It is easy to celebrate the forward motion. It is harder—but more transformative—to keep going when momentum stalls.

Her Life is Defined by what She Continues to Build

Sheila's life today is not defined by what she lost. It is defined by what she continues to build. Her courage is not loud or flashy. It is steady. Persistent. Quietly powerful. And that kind of strength is born in the space where setbacks meet determination.

If you are in a season where it feels like you cannot gain ground—take heart. The step back may be strengthening muscles you didn't know you would need. It may be teaching patience, endurance, or compassion. It may be preparing you for terrain you cannot yet see.

Forward progress is not always visible. Sometimes it is internal. Sometimes it is spiritual. Sometimes it looks like refusing to quit. One step forward. Two steps back. And still—you rise. That is not failure. That is faith.

Today's Secret from the Studio: Sometimes going backward is a necessary part of moving forward.

—Monica Schmelter hosts the weekly Bridges shows on Christian Television. Bridges airs in over 50 million homes and is also on the CTN APP, ROKU and other streaming platforms. You can also watch Bridges on demand at bridgeswithmonica.com Monica and her husband have one adult son and recently welcome a daughter in-love into their family



MIRACLE MOMENTS

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The Eye Convinced Me There is a God

On 3/3/26 Tues 11:45am, at TN State Library and Archives, Dr. Ming Wang, a Harvard & MIT graduate (MD, magna cum laude) and one of the few laser eye surgeons in the world today who holds a PhD in laser physics, will present a talk “The Eye Convinced Me There's A God”. The film “Sight” (FREE link: sight.drmingwang.com) is based on Dr. Wang's autobiography “From Darkness to Sight”, and his faith journey is also featured in the award-winning Christian film “God's Not Dead”. For info about the 3/3 talk: ella@wangvisioninstitute.com, 615-525-3314.

In this presentation, Dr. Wang will tell the story how he, just like the student in the film “Sight” and “God's Not Dead”, came to America as a staunch atheist, and believed that science will save mankind. Fascinatingly, it was in the study of the science of human eye, where he discovered the powerful

clue and evidence for the existence of a creator! Dr. Wang will talk about the complexity of the human eye, from visual signal capturing, processing to interpretation, and how the science has led Dr. Wang to God! And how life has taught him the Creator is Jesus Christ!

About Dr. Ming Wang, MD, PhD



As a teenager, Ming fought hardship in his childhood and 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 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 orphans from around the world.

The film “Sight” (FREE link: sight.drmingwang.com), distributed by Angel Studios, is based on Dr. Wang's autobiography “From Darkness to Sight” and co-stars Terry Chen and Greg Kinnear.



—Leona Walthorn

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United Way Aids with Winter Storm Cleanup

When Winter Storm Fern hit Middle Tennessee, the scale of destruction was staggering. Neighborhoods were left covered in fallen trees, debris, and damage that will take months to clear. But as always, Hands On volunteers stepped in immediately, guided by Disaster Volunteer Leaders (DVLs) who help coordinate and lead the response.



Among them was Amy Maffei (pictured here 6th from the left in orange), whose journey with Hands On began simply to explore volunteer opportunities for herself and her family. Over time, it grew into something deeper. Amy's passion for service goes back to her college days at the University of Dayton. "Their motto was Learn, Lead, and Serve, and that really shaped me," she reflected. There were many service opportunities there, and that experience is why Amy continues to enjoy participating in service activities today. It was while browsing the Hands On website, looking for her next volunteer project, that Amy first discovered the DVL program. With years of leadership experience in her professional life, she realized she could bring those same skills to disaster response. "The DVL training did a great job of showing me how to take what I

already knew and apply it in a crisis," Amy said. "It made me realize the impact one person can have when they help guide others."

Finding Strength in Community During the Storm. During and after Winter Storm Fern, Amy had the chance to put that training into action. She noticed immediately how quickly Hands On mobilized—coordinating with partner organizations, identifying needs, and creating sign ups for Red Cross warming shelters and debris cleanup shifts. "The turnaround time from disaster to a coordinated response was honestly impressive," Amy said. "You see the incredible amount of preparation behind the scenes, and you understand why DVLs matter so much." A recent cleanup shift stands out. Amy's team arrived at a home where enormous fallen trees covered a steep property. At first, it felt overwhelming. But by the end of the shift, the group stood next to a massive pile of brush, looking back at a dramatically cleared hillside, realizing what a difference a few hours can make. "We were genuinely surprised by how much we were able to get done as a team, and I know I wasn't the only one who felt proud of what we accomplished," Amy shared.

Why DVLs Matter — Especially Right Now. Disaster Volunteer Leaders play a crucial role in moments like this. They help Hands On scale its response by:

- Guiding groups of volunteers, including people who may be helping for the very first time
- Ensuring safety, especially with chainsaws, heavy debris, and unpredictable terrain
- Creating structure and efficiency, so every shift results in meaningful progress
- Helping maintain momentum, shift after shift, until neighborhoods recover

During large scale cleanup operations, Hands On can only activate as many volunteers as there are leaders available to guide them. That's why DVLs are essential—and why this is a moment when more people stepping up would make a significant difference.

A Call to Join the Effort. Amy hopes her experience encourages others to consider becoming a DVL—or simply signing up for a debris cleanup shift. "There are so many ways to help," she said. "You don't need special skills. Just show up with a good attitude and a willingness to work. It is genuinely energizing to help your neighbor." Her message is simple and timely. Now is the moment for our community to come together. If you've ever thought about helping, this is the time to step up. Even one shift makes a real impact. Learn more.

—Kris Weise, Director Marketing and Communications – www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org

SENIOR SCENE

Bringing Joy and Happiness to Seniors

This Valentine's Day, the Subaru Love Promise was brought to life in a heartfelt and memorable way for the team at Darrell Waltrip Subaru.

In the spirit of the holiday, two of our team members had the privilege of visiting residents at Morning Pointe Assisted Living and Memory Care, delivering hand written Valentine's Day cards and thoughtfully prepared goodie bags. Rather than simply leaving the gifts at the front desk, they were invited to walk the halls, knock on doors, and personally share each small token of kindness.

What began as a simple gesture quickly became something far more meaningful. Residents welcomed the visitors with warm smiles, heartfelt conversations, and stories that underscored the enduring power of human connection. Some reminisced about Valentine's Days from decades past; others clasped hands a little longer, expressing gratitude for the time taken to visit. In those quiet exchanges, it became clear that the greatest gift was not what was inside the bag, but the care and presence behind it. For one team member, the



visit carried special personal significance. Nearly nine years earlier, before returning to the automotive industry, she had served as a resident assistant in the same community. Walking those familiar halls once again stirred cherished memories and reaffirmed a lifelong commitment to service and compassion.

At Darrell Waltrip Subaru, community involvement extends well beyond the showroom floor. It is reflected in the belief that showing up, caring deeply, and treating others with dignity are essential parts of honoring the Subaru Love Promise. Acts of kindness, whether large or small, are opportunities to share love, respect, and connection throughout the community. The team remains grateful for moments that give us these opportunities to step outside daily routines and into the lives of neighbors. Because, in the end, it is not only about the drive, but the difference made along the way. With love, the Darrell Waltrip Subaru Team.



—Charlotte Blackwell, Guest Services Manager
Love Promise Champion
www.darrellwaltripsubaru.com



Rage-Baiting and the Christian Response

TikTok is a breeding ground for rage-baiting.

One mother posts videos of her two-year-old daughter regularly eating large portions of donuts, hamburgers, and marshmallows for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Maybe a few blueberries appear on the plate, which the child ignores. Viewers are horrified. They comment. They share. They rage. So much so, one of these videos hit almost 60 million views and 2 million likes.

In turn, the algorithm rewards the mother with money. So, she posts more videos of her daughter's terrible diet. The cycle continues. Now she has an Amazon wishlist where followers send her free food and supplies, even as they criticize her parenting. The two-year-old becomes a commodity, her exploitation monetized by outrage. This is rage-baiting at its most profitable, and it's just one example among thousands of influencers.



It's no wonder Oxford Dictionary chose "rage bait" as their word for 2025, defining it as "online content designed to provoke anger or outrage for increased engagement. Social media platforms don't just allow rage-baiting — they're built to reward it. The algorithm doesn't care whether you're liking content or hating it. It only cares that you're engaging it. Rage becomes money.



Every outraged comment, every hate-watch, every share with a caption like "I can't believe this," all feeds the beast. Creators get paid while you get a cortisol spike and the hollow satisfaction of expressing disgust to strangers who agree with you.

Christians especially care deeply about justice, about protecting the vulnerable, about calling out wrongdoing. These are good impulses, but rage-baiting exploits them.

When we see a child being fed only junk food, our righteous concern for that child is real. But rage-baiting trains us to confuse strong feelings with meaningful action. Clicking, commenting, and sharing doesn't help the child; it pays the parent to continue.

So how should Christians respond?

First, learn to recognize rage-bait. Ask yourself: Is this content designed to make me angry? Does it present a situation in the most inflammatory way possible? If you feel that immediate surge of rage, pause. The feeling might be manufactured.

Second, don't feed the algorithm. Starve it. Don't engage with the content if possible. Scrolling past it is not indifference but rather discernment. As the old hymn reminds us: "Oh, be careful, little eyes, what you see." What we consume feeds us, and a steady diet of manufactured outrage depletes us of nutrients.



Third, replace rather than restrict. Paul's instruction in Philippians 4:8 isn't just about avoiding bad content but about actively dwelling on what is "true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy. Think about such things." This might mean following different accounts (and blocking others) or reading longer-form content that requires thought (the B&R is a good start there).



Fourth, redirect righteous anger toward meaningful action. If you're genuinely concerned about child exploitation online, support organizations working to support children. Volunteer at a food bank or with your church to support local kids who are often overlooked. Channel rage-bait energy into actual kingdom work.



Social media can be a strategic tool for businesses, churches, and communities to efficiently share short-form content and connect.

However, our sinful nature can turn something good into something rotten. That rot builds up in the deep damp crevices of social media, oozing into our minds, where it molds, and turns into a blackness that only God's salvation can restore.

Let's be proactive and pay attention to experiments like Australia's ban on social media for teens under 16, or Utah's requirements for parental consent and age verification. These policy approaches have their own complications, but they represent a recognition that something has gone terribly wrong.

In the meantime, Christians need to personally practice discernment and understand we feed the beast that profits from our impulses. Our outrage won't tame it. Only our refusal to be manipulated and a determination to fuel kingdom work has more impact than engagement metrics.

What we behold, we become. So choose carefully.

—Zoe Watkins, Communications Specialist, Baptist and Reflector
baptistandreflector.org



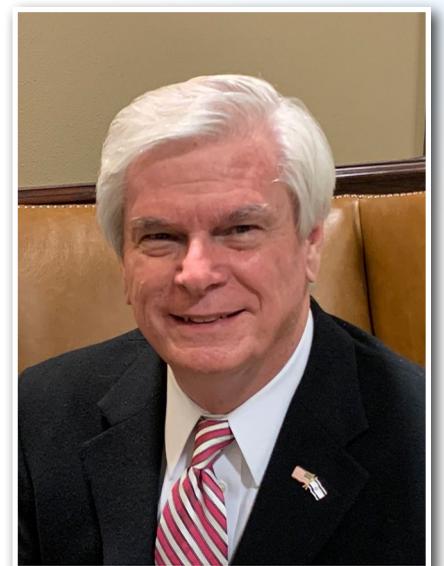
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Century 21 Capital Properties: A Team Redefining Real Estate in Middle Tennessee



Middle Tennessee is growing faster than ever, and with that growth comes opportunity. Families are buying their first homes, investors are discovering Nashville's potential, and the luxury market is putting our city on the national map. At the

center of it all is Century 21 Capital Properties—a brokerage built on teamwork, trust, and a genuine passion for helping people find their place in this community.

Broker/Owner Eva Angelina Romero knows that real estate is about more than houses. It's about people, families, and the stories that unfold once they walk through the front door. That belief has shaped the way her brokerage operates. With a strong team of dedicated agents, Century 21 Capital Properties is committed to serving clients across every stage of life—whether it's buying that very first home, finding a second place in the city, or moving into the luxury lifestyle that Nashville is now known for.

“Our team is really the heartbeat of this brokerage,” Eva says. “They're the ones walking side by side with clients, celebrating their wins, and navigating the challenges that come with one of life's biggest decisions. I couldn't be more proud of the people I get to lead every day.”

Helping Families Plant Roots. For so many in Middle Tennessee, homeownership is still the dream. The process can feel overwhelming at first—mortgages, inspections, contracts—but Eva's agents excel at making it simple and approachable. They take time to explain, to listen, and to walk clients through every step with patience and care.

“Buying a first home is more than a financial milestone,” Eva explains. “It's where life happens—where families gather, kids grow up, and memories are made. Our agents understand that, and they pour themselves into making the journey as smooth as possible.”

That personal approach has earned the brokerage a reputation for trust. Time and again, clients return to Century 21 Capital Properties not just for results, but because of the way they were treated along the way.

Second Homes and Luxury Living. Nashville isn't just a place to live anymore—it's a destination. More and more people are purchasing second homes here, whether it's a downtown condo for convenience or a retreat in one of the city's high-end neigh-

borhoods. The agents at Century 21 Capital Properties understand this shift and have become go-to guides for second-home buyers and luxury clients.

“Luxury isn't only about price—it's about lifestyle,” Eva says. “Our team has the experience and market knowledge to match clients with homes that reflect their dreams, whether that's modern city living or a property with space to breathe.”



Sharing Nashville with the World. This year brought a new chapter for Eva and the brokerage. Out of hundreds of agents across Tennessee, Eva was chosen to represent Nashville as a host of *The American Dream: Selling Nashville*, a nationally broadcast lifestyle and real estate show streaming on Roku, Amazon Fire, Apple TV, and social media.



The program highlights homes, neighborhoods, and local businesses while celebrating the people who make Nashville so special. For Eva, it's an honor not just personally, but for her team and the city she loves.

“I'm honored to share Nashville on a national stage,” she says. “But for me, the real joy is in telling the stories—about our neighborhoods, our community heroes, and the businesses that keep this city thriving. It's also a chance to show the world what an incredible team I have at Century 21 Capital Properties.”

Eva encourages the community to join her in that storytelling. “Know a home with a story? A community hero? A local gem?” she asks. “We'd love to share it.”

More Than Transactions. What sets Century 21 Capital Properties apart is the culture. This isn't a brokerage where numbers are the only measure of success. It's about relationships. It's about making sure that every client feels cared for, understood, and respected.

“We're stronger together,” Eva says. “Our agents bring a wide range of strengths, but the common thread is their heart for service. That's what makes our brokerage different—it's not just business, it's personal.”

The same culture of care extends to the team itself. Agents are encouraged to grow, to learn, and to lead with integrity. That environment not only makes the brokerage stronger, it ensures that every client benefits from a team that's invested in them from start to finish.

Looking Ahead. As Nashville continues to grow, Century 21 Capital Properties is ready to grow with it. The team is expanding its footprint in the luxury and second-home markets while continuing to champion families who are buying their very first homes.

Eva's role as both broker and national TV host underscores the brokerage's unique place in the industry. But she insists the spotlight belongs to her team.

“Being chosen as a host is an incredible honor,” she says. “But my greatest honor is leading this team of agents. They're the reason people trust us. They're the reason we're able to make such an impact in this city.”

Gratitude and Invitation. At the heart of it all is gratitude—gratitude for clients who trust them, for the community that surrounds them, and for the opportunity to represent Nashville both locally and nationally.

As the brokerage looks to the future, one thing is certain: Century 21 Capital Properties will continue helping families achieve their dreams, guiding investors in second-home opportunities, and elevating Nashville's presence on the national stage.

For those ready to buy, sell, or invest—or to nominate a story for *The American Dream: Selling Nashville*—the agents at Century 21 Capital Properties are ready to serve. Because in Nashville, every home has a story. And this team is here to help write the next chapter.

—Eva Angelina Romero, Broker/Owner

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Jorge and Gina Tarajano

ON MISSION FOR CHRIST



Jorge and Gina Tarajano are excited about the future of the church, and believe that revival is coming to the world. And they're especially invigorated to be part of this revival as witnesses of God's goodness through, songs, praise through music, prayer, and as worship leaders.

The Tarajanos live and worship in the Nashville area and are using their voices to reach out to Christians and non-believers alike. "We believe that God is going to do great things," Jorge said. "We're going whenever the Lord takes us. He opens the door, and we'll do the work."

A Glorious Message

Jorge and Gina have a multi-faceted witness through a variety of ministries and outlets—and just recently debuted their music ministry at an event at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium with leader Bobby Williams and other performers.

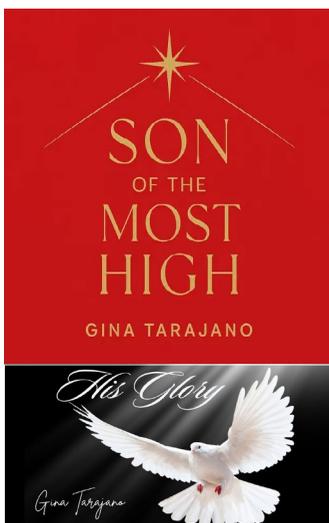
Glorious Music operates under the umbrella of the Unto You foundation, co-founded by Burton and Michelle Gaar and Jorge and Gina. Unto You is dedicated to producing high-quality media in a way that everyone no matter their socioeconomic level can access it.

When the four of us were praying and discerning what to name the non-profit, Burton suggested that it should be based on Colossians 3:17 which says "Whatever you do in word or deed, do it all unto the Lord. The 4 of us felt the name fit our Vision and Mission perfectly.



The music ministry's first releases are the Christmas song "Son of the Most High" and a trilogy of songs titled "His Glory," "His Light," and "His Harvest." The release of "His Glory" has included a much-watched video on YouTube and other social media outlets and a revival performance at Ryman Auditorium in February.

The music company is dedicated to "leading the Church into the power and presence of Almighty God" and seeing "lives changed, families restored, chains of addiction broken, and the joy of the Lord restored to those battling anxiety and depression."



According to Gina, the lyrics was an unexpected blessing from God that she describes as a "download" into her spirit. "I thought I was done with music other than singing in church. I thought that time of my life was over, but then He downloaded these lyrics and these songs," she explained. "When we tell you this ministry is birthed by the Lord, it's so true."

The Tarajanos have put together a creative team including writer Scott Lynch and producer and co-writer Burton Gaar. Together, they—along with musicians and singers—have helped bring their vision, hopes, and dreams to life. According to Jorge, he never questioned God's calling, but he wondered how they could achieve the creative vision he'd called them to. "God brought us the right people," he said. "This team is dedicated to creating music that lifts up the name of Jesus and carries His glory to the nations."

The recent performance at the Ryman, which was the official debut of the ministry's new music, was an example of God's faithfulness; Jorge said that the performance was a "humbling experience" that was filled with the Holy Spirit and was evidence of God's confirmation of their work. "Imagine starting a ministry out at 'the old church.' It was beautiful," Jorge said. And now the ministry of Unto You and Glorious Music is stretching out into new opportunities, as Gina will be recording choruses of its songs in Spanish and the couple will be going on the road.



Burton Gaar producer, Marcus Wyatt engineer



Gina & Garon Davis

Jorge is of Cuban heritage and speaks Spanish, while Gina has been trained in Spanish pronunciations. She sees the opportunity to record her choruses in Spanish as a wonderful opportunity to present the gospel message to more people. "We know that Hispanic individuals who have heard the songs can feel the glory of God from them, and I had a young woman tell me that her Spanish-speaking mother was at the Ryman and was crying even though she couldn't speak the words," Gina said. "And now imagine that someone who doesn't speak English can participate in church by singing the choruses."

The Tarajanos are committed to providing such services at no cost; they simply want to get the message of Christ out to as many people as possible. "Our intention is to give away everything," Gina said. "Whatever a church's needs are, we want to provide it for them."

The couple is also dedicated to providing quality music and media for all ages, but especially for children and youth. Both Jorge and Gina said that it's essential that Christian artists and creative workers reach out to the younger generation. "We think that the unploughed area is this age group, from kids to teenagers. We want to provide material and information at the right levels for them," Jorge said. "The enemy has so much influence over our children, and it's time that we take it back."

"God loves his children, and he's going to do a mighty work with them," Gina added. (To see the work of Unto You and Glorious Music, check out the music video for "His Glory" and other music at www.ginatarajanomusic.com.) Ultimately, the ministry is dedicated to releasing and presenting music that "ushers believers into a deeper encounter with God, positioning them to receive healing, deliverance, and renewed joy."

Family and Faith

Jorge and Gina met as children in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where they were both raised Catholic and attended private religious schools next door from each other. "Our two schools were very close, but also segregated from one another," Jorge recalls. "We knew of each other for years, and then I saw her at a baseball game and I noticed how beautiful she was." He said he "fell in love with her way back then," and then they dated for eight years before getting married after Gina graduated from LSU.

Jorge worked for International Paper for over a year, and then built an impressive resume as he transitioned a family-owned business to an ESOP (employee stock ownership plan); he still serves as the Chairman as senior adviser. Over the years he served as President and CEO of PALA Group, Inc., served on a workforce advisory council for the state of Louisiana, and served in various business and civic group capacities. He stresses, however, that business is not the most important thing in his life.



Jorge and Gina Tarajano cherish time with their granddaughter, Anna Louise, celebrating the joy of family alongside their growing ministry.

"My work is less than it used to be, and our ministry is our focus," he said. "I've transitioned from my main business, and Gina and I now find ourselves in this new chapter of our lives, and we are focused on reaching people for Christ."

The couple had their two sons Jordan and Jonathon in Baton Rouge, and they celebrated 40 years of marriage this past year; today, they are also grandparents of 2-year-old Anna Louise. "We're over the moon with our granddaughter,

and she's just stolen our hearts," Jorge said. "Gina's always been the princess in my life, and now we have Anna Louise."

The Tarajanos moved to Nashville in 2017 to be closer to son Jordan's family, but soon found a wonderful home of their own—and a place to worship and serve in ministry. "We thought we were moving here for our son, but everything's changed for us after moving to Nashville," Gina said.



Left to right: Jordan and Jonathon with their parents, Gina and Jorge, standing together on a wooden dock at sunset during a family trip.

Gina had pursued music from a young age and recorded pop productions in Los Angeles and Nashville; she'd even studied in Italy under Andrea Bocelli's

vocal coach. As many things in her life, however, Gina found that God was pushing her in another direction. She received a calling to sing and record in the Christian music genre and that changed everything for her, as new doors and opportunities opened up. They became involved in Regeneration Church and today they credit the church's leaders as vital to their spiritual growth. "We've been discipled there, and we honor them. We know that none of this would have happened without their prayers and guidance," Gina said. "They're a blessing."



Gina Tarajano, worship leader and co-founder of Unto You and Glorious Music, photographed in studio.

According to both Jorge and Gina, they could have never anticipated where God would take them on their journey. In fact, while they've loved each other for decades, they have grown closer over recent years. "At the time we married we had no clue why God put us together," Gina said. "And I don't think it's truly been until the last couple of years that we realized God had put us together for ministry." Their newly-rekindled passion for ministry is now leading them into new and unexpected directions. And they're leaning entirely on God to move them on the right path.

A New Future

As the Tarajano consider the future, they're drawn to the words of Isaiah 43:19, which says "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" Gina said she could have never imagined their lives changing so

drastically at their ages. While they may be new grandparents, they are reinvigorated for doing God's work and following his lead. "God tells us to not look back, that he's doing a new thing, and boy is he ever doing a new thing with us," she said. "This is God's time, and it's his time to shine.."



Gina Tarajano holds her granddaughter, Anna Louise, beside a fireplace during the Christmas season.



Shooting the Video



Their son Jordan with Family

—Cheryl Wray
cherylsgray@gmail.com,
 Author, Freelance Writer, Speaker





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Restoring Lives, Renewing Hope The Mission of Renewed Life Ministries Outreach (RLMO)

Every person faces seasons marked by pain, exhaustion, and the search for hope. At Renewed Life Ministries Outreach (RLMO), recovery is understood as far more than overcoming addiction or managing trauma—it is a process of renewal. True recovery restores the whole person: financially, physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially. As a Christ-centered recovery organization, RLMO walks alongside men as they rebuild their lives through faith, evidence-based care, and compassionate community.

A Holistic, Trauma-Informed Foundation. RLMO recognizes that addiction, relapse, and mental health challenges often stem from unresolved trauma, fractured relationships, and a loss of purpose. To address these roots, we provide trauma-informed therapy that honors each individual's story while equipping them with tools for long-term healing. Our occupational therapy services help men regain practical life skills, work readiness, and independence—because recovery must translate into real-life responsibility, confidence, and stability.

Restoring Stability Through Work and Financial Support. Meaningful work is essential to dignity and long-term success. RLMO actively assists men in securing employment, developing job-readiness skills, and rebuilding financial stability. We also of-

fer financial education to teach budgeting, responsibility, and stewardship. Our goal is empowerment—not dependency—so that each man leaves RLMO prepared to support himself, his family, and his community.

Integrated Clinical and Spiritual Care. Through a third-party clinical partnership with Mind The Gap in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, RLMO ensures access to professional therapeutic services while remaining rooted in our Christian mission. Alongside clinical care, we offer pastoral counseling that provides a safe, grace-filled space for men to process grief, shame, forgiveness, identity, and calling through biblical truth and prayer. We believe lasting transformation occurs when hearts are healed, not just behaviors modified.

Physical Health, Recreation, and Community Connection. Healing extends beyond counseling sessions. RLMO supports physical wellness through an on-site workout room that encourages discipline, strength, and healthy routines. We also value joy and connection, offering recreational opportunities such as a pickleball court where relationships are strengthened and community thrives. Transportation assistance removes barriers that often prevent individuals from attending appointments, work, church, or recovery programming. No one should miss an opportunity for growth be-

cause of logistical challenges.

Recovery Through Community and Skill-Building. RLMO provides a wide range of recovery-focused programs designed to build accountability, structure, and long-term success, including:

- Relapse prevention and recovery skills groups
- CPRS-led 12-Step meetings
- Step studies rooted in accountability and biblical principles
- Peer support and life-skills development
- Guitar lessons and creative expression to foster discipline, purpose, and healthy emotional outlets

These programs reinforce a core truth: recovery is not walked alone—it is lived out in community.

A Ministry of Renewal and Hope. At its heart, Renewed Life Ministries Outreach is about restoring what was lost and renewing what was broken. We remind men that they are not defined by their past and equip them for a future filled with hope, purpose, and faith. As Scripture declares, “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17). This promise guides everything we do. For those seeking healing, stability, and a renewed beginning, RLMO stands ready to serve—because recovery is possible, and new life is real.

—Tim Anderson, Executive Director, Renewed Life Ministries Outreach (RLMO) www.rlmo.org

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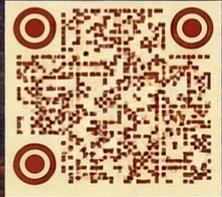
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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

How Should We Pray?

Many times, it seems when we seek God for answers, He is far from us. We may think he does not hear us, and our prayers are not getting above the ceilings. I have good news! God is inside of us and very present. He is not far away. He is always ready to listen when we speak. Secondly, our prayers do not need to get above the ceilings, we speak to our Spirit inside of us. Psalm 46:1, tell us “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”. God is already there, fully available and reliably present.

We often relate to God as if He is far away in the distant and we must summons Him to show up. If we have been born again, the very Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives inside of us. God has placed His Spirit inside of us and has already blessed us with all spiritual blessings. Ephesians 1:3 tells us, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in heavenly places in Christ.



Paul explains those blessings in the rest of his letter to the Ephesians, which includes, being chosen and loved by God, adopted as His child, redeemed and forgiven, grace lavished on us, revelation and spiritual understanding, an eternal inheritance, sealed with the Holy Spirit, and so much more. We are loaded with blessings. When we pray and seek God, we should start from the standpoint of

what we have instead of showing up to God as if we have nothing. Many of the answers we may seek are already inside our Spirit, we need to acknowledge everything we have already been given. *Philemon 1:6*, “That the communication of our faith may become effectual by the “acknowledging” of every good thing

which is in you in Christ Jesus”.

Our faith becomes powerful, and our prayers are strong when we recognize and acknowledge the good things God has already placed in us through Jesus Christ.



When we comprehend what has already been given to us by God, it should not only change how we live but also change how we pray. Being aware activates our faith and we know God is pleased when we walk in faith.

Stop begging God and begin to acknowledge with thanksgiving, how loaded we are! you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! *Matthew 7:11(NIV)*. Sometimes, when something good suddenly appears in your life, attribute it to a kiss from God.

—Rhonda L. Smart
rhondalsmart@gmail.com



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“Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.” - 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

BEST BOOKS

Wholesome Books for the Easter Basket

It's that season again where moms and grandmas are on the hunt for items to fill the Easter basket. May I make a suggestion? Add a book. If you're wondering where to start, here are a few wonderful options by Christian authors for a variety of ages.

***Happy Easter, Risen King* by Laura Sassi, illustrated by Gaby Murphy (ages 0-4)**

Follow Jesus' friends and some playful critters as they go to the tomb to look for Jesus, an angel gives them good news, and everyone happily exclaims, "Happy Easter, Risen King!" With cheerful rhymes and bright illustrations, your child will be drawn into the joy of Easter while identifying the colors of that very special morning.

***Adventures in the Friendly Forest* by Amanda Jass, illustrated by Katya Longhi (ages 5-9)**

Written in story form, the book opens with a fierce storm sweeping through the Friendly Forest. Each remaining devotion features the adorable yet flawed woodland creatures. As they work together to clean up from the storm, each story gently weaves in a life lesson—the final devotion ends with a story of hope.



***Faithful Feet* by Laura Sassi, illustrated by Emanuela Di Donna (ages 4-7)**

This winsome book follows along with familiar Bible heroes as they use their feet to do God's work. The beginning and end will tickle children as they read about those stinky, chubby, and grubby feet used to spread God's love to all. Engaging and fun!

***Wild Faith Devotional* by Valerie Ellis (ages 7-12)**

The devotional features 52 unique and unusual animals, like a glass frog (who knew), as well as more familiar animals like the dog and lion. While learning about the amazing animals God made and their uniqueness, kids will connect with Him in a deeper way.

***Faith and Science with Dr. Fizzlebop: 52 Fizztastically Fun Experiments and Devotions for Families* by Brock Eastman (ages 5-10)**

Do you have a budding scientist? Explore the wonders of faith and science with 52 exciting experiments designed for kids and parents to enjoy together. Each experiment—carefully curated by our quirky guide, Dr. Fizzlebop—offers a delightful blend of learning and fun.

***Secrets of the Broken House* by Taryn Souders (ages 10-13)**



A creepy house. A small-town murder. One clever junior sleuth. What more could you want in a middle-grade mystery? Honestly, I don't read many books in this age range, but this one hooked me

in from the first clue. The dose of humor, cast of quirky characters, and dash of spooky make this a fun read. A true gem for mystery-loving readers—young and not-so-young alike.

These wholesome, faith-filled books will last longer than jellybeans or toys and continue to plant seeds well after Easter.

— *Sally Cressman* is the author of *The Dance of Easter*. Sign up for her email list to receive *Easter Conversation Starters* or connect with her on Instagram.



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5 Compelling Reasons to Serve the Christian Niche Market in Financial Services

No matter how you define it, the Christian population in America is the largest niche market seeking financial advice. For financial professionals, this represents a unique and rewarding opportunity. Here are the five best reasons to focus your practice on serving our fellow Christians:



1. Unmatched Market Size

With tens of millions of Americans identifying as Christian, this segment is not only vast but also deeply engaged. Their sheer numbers translate into a steady stream of potential clients actively seeking financial guidance that aligns with their values.

2. Shared Values Foster Trust

Christian clients often prioritize ethical investing, stewardship, and charitable giving. Advisors who understand and respect these principles gain an immediate trust advantage, making it easier to build lasting relationships and increase client loyalty.

3. Specialized Financial Needs

From faith-based investing to legacy planning with a charitable focus, Christian clients frequently seek advice tailored to their beliefs. By offering services that address these unique priorities, you position yourself as a specialist rather than a generalist.

4. Word-of-Mouth and Community Networks

Christian communities tend to be tightly knit, and referrals carry significant weight. Serving this market well can lead to exponential growth through personal and church-based recommendations, amplifying your reach far beyond traditional marketing methods.

5. Meaningful, Purpose-Driven Practice

Advising Christian clients isn't just about numbers—it's about helping people steward their resources in accordance with their faith. For many advisors, this provides a deeper sense of purpose and fulfillment in their daily work.

The Christian market is America's largest niche seeking financial advice. By understanding their values and meeting their unique needs, financial professionals can build a thriving, impactful, and purpose-driven practice. Choosing to become a Christian Financial Advisor isn't about starting over—it's about finally aligning your experience with your convictions. For over 20 years, we've helped advisors transition thoughtfully into faith-aligned platforms that honor their beliefs while supporting professional excellence. If you sense that your convictions have outgrown your current firm, we invite you to start a conversation. Let's explore what alignment could look like for your career. Your success doesn't have to come at the expense of your faith. Contact us to learn more.

—*Michael Wallin, Certified Financial Planner*™.
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7 Meaningful Easter Activities for Christian Families to Teach Kids the True Meaning of Easter

Easter is just around the corner and is more than a holiday. Easter is a beautiful reminder that *“He is not here; He has risen!”* (Luke 24:6). Yet, as meaningful as this day is, our family traditions can sometimes become routine. This year, invite your children to experience the wonder of the Resurrection in new and memorable ways that nurture both joy and faith. Here are seven Christ-centered activities that help bring the Easter story to life in your home:

1. From Darkness to Light

On Saturday evening, dim the lights in your home and light a few candles. Talk together about how the disciples felt after Jesus died, and read Psalm 88 or John 19:30. Explain that waiting can feel dark, but God is always at work. Before sunrise on Easter morning, step outside as a family and watch the light appear. As the sun rises, joyfully proclaim, *“He is risen!”* (Matthew 28:6). Celebrate with a special breakfast treat and thank God for the hope we have in Christ.

2. Victory Banner Parade

Have each child decorate a small banner or flag that celebrates what Jesus conquered—sin, fear, death, and darkness (1 Corinthians 15:57). Let them write words like *“Hope,” “Life,”* and *“Jesus Lives!”* Take a short walk around your neighborhood or your yard, waving the banners and singing praise songs. This simple activity helps children learn to share their faith with confidence and joy.

3. The Three-Day Bible Walk

Create a short “Easter Story Walk” through your home. At each stop, share a part of the story:

- The Last Supper (Luke 22) – share bread and juice
- Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36–46) – a quiet prayer moment
- The Cross (John 19) – dim lights and reflect
- The Empty Tomb (Luke 24:1–6) – bright lights and joyful music



This hands-on experience helps children connect emotionally and spiritually with the truth of Scripture.

4. Resurrection Breakfast Surprise

Turn breakfast into a joyful reminder of the Gospel. Use pancakes, fruit, or toast to form messages like *“He Lives!”* or *“Jesus Is Risen.”* Tuck small Scripture verses under napkins, such as:

- Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:19)
 - Praise be to God... He has given us new birth into a living hope.” (1 Peter 1:3)
- Let your children discover each message as they eat.

5. The Empty Tomb Gratitude Box

Decorate a small box like a tomb. During the week, have family members write down worries, fears, or struggles and place them inside. On Easter morning, empty the box and replace the papers with words like *“Forgiveness,” “Joy,” “Peace,”* and *“New Life.”* Talk about how Jesus’ resurrection brings freedom and hope (Romans 6:4).

6. Rolling Away Stones Through Service

Explain that when Jesus rose, the stone was rolled away (Matthew 28:2). Encourage your family to “roll away stones” for others by serving:

- Rake a neighbor’s yard
- Deliver a meal
- Write encouraging cards
- Visit someone who is lonely

This teaches children that Easter love is meant to be shared.

7. Empty Tomb Photo Fun

Invite your children to act out how the disciples may have felt when they discovered the empty tomb—surprised, joyful, and full of wonder. Take photos and share them with relatives, adding a short verse or testimony. These meaningful traditions help children see that Easter is not only something we remember—it is something we live. As you celebrate, may your family be reminded that *“Christ is risen... and so we walk in newness of life.”* (Romans 6:4). Blessings to you and your family this Resurrection season.



—Lee Ann Mancini is the author of *Raising Kids to Follow Christ: Instilling a Lifelong Trust in God*, founder of *Raising Christian Kids*, adjunct professor at *South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary*, and executive producer of the animated series *Sea Kids on Right Now Media*, *Pure Flix*, *Answers.tv*, *Minno*, and *Yippe*.



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—Harold Witherspoon, III
 Executive Director of Operations
 The Salvation Army-Nashville Area Command

“We are extremely glad to have such a wonderful partnership with Robert and the Nashville Christian Family team! Our approach to marketing as a nonprofit organization involves creating partnerships that give us room to grow into a larger media buy down the road. Robert and his team’s attention to service and establishing a meaningful relationship, along with the distribution, make it hard not to want to be in the publication.”

—Misty Ratcliff
 Development & Communications Manager
 The Salvation Army-Nashville Area Command

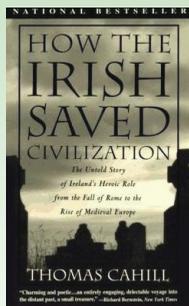


Could You Imagine, If You Had To Lose Everything, Before You Could Find Your Greatest Quest?

The most recent chilly, windy mornings remind me of my first real exposure to inclement weather as a 10-year-old on a bicycle delivering newspapers early on a Sunday morning in Chicago. As an adult, I would not wish this job on someone I didn't care for, but very much like many of our readers who has similar employment ... unbeknownst to me, it helped to build resiliency and character. Also, the cooler weather reminds me of the upcoming Ides of March, the transition from winter into early springtime, and of course, March 17, the day of the year we honor the good deeds of Saint Patrick.



I probably heard the name Patrick as often as I heard the name of a favorite relative of ours that we were anticipating their next visit. My parents were born in Ireland and understandably Saint Patrick was a most important person throughout their lives. Ironically, for me it was not until I read Thomas Cahill's best-selling book entitled: *How the Irish Saved Civilization*, that I came to appreciate the depth of character of Saint Patrick. Cahill's historical writing about the Fall of the Roman Empire, and the overwhelming fear and belief that much of history, especially church history and innumerable biblical documents along with the early Bibles etc. would be destroyed, unless they were quickly and secretly shipped to the least likely place on earth to be invaded. The choice place was Ireland.



About this same time a young man, named Patrick was born into a very affluent family in England. As a youngster, Patrick was kidnapped and imprisoned in Ireland as a shepherd in a very primitive, scary and abusive environment. Through these many years of loneliness and turmoil which Patrick experienced, he was guided in becoming a wise and talented young man who went from being agnostic, to developing love for people and a deep authentic spirituality. As Patrick grew in knowledge and wisdom, he physically became strong and courageous and figuring out his escape back to England and returning to his family.

Patrick's family felt hopeless for years with his kidnapping, but were very happy with his return, though surprised that he wanted it to return to Ireland, because it was in this place he found God and developed a deep relationship with his people, though they were very primitive and uneducated. Patrick immediately began his academics and excelled in his studies, was ordained and simultaneously appointed Bishop of this unknown country where he ministered for over 40 years.

As Patrick returned to Ireland, he was daily confronted with many obstacles. Daily Patrick wore a magnificent breast plate which protected him and engraved on it was a rather comprehensive summary of his theology and relationship with Jesus Christ. Over the years, this became known as the "Prayer of Saint Patrick" ... The Irish Prayer:

I arise today,
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through the belief in the threeness,
Through the confession of the oneness of the Creator of Creation.
I arise today
Through the strength of Christ's birth with his baptism,
Through the strength of his crucifixion with his burial,
Through the strength of his resurrection with his ascension,
Through the strength of his descent for the judgment of Doom.
I arise today
Through the strength of the love of Cherubim,
In the obedience of angels,

In the service of archangels,
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In the prayers of patriarchs, in the predictions of prophets,
In the preaching of apostles,
In the faith of confessors, in the innocence of holy virgins,
In the deeds of righteous men.

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven,
Light of the sun,
Radiance of the moon,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftmess of wind,
Depths of sea,
Stability of earth,
Firmness of rock.

I arise today
Through God's strength to pilot me:
God's might to uphold me,
God's wisdom to guide me,
God's eye to look before me,
God's ear to hear me,
God's word to speak to me,
God's hand to guide me,
God's way to lie before me,
God shield to protect me,
God's host to save me,
From snares of devils,
From temptations of vices,
From everyone who would wish me ill,
Afar and anear, Alone, and in multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and those evils,
Against every cruel merciless power that may oppose my body and soul,
Against incantations of false prophets,
Against black laws of pagandom,
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of witches and smiths and wizards,
Against every knowledge that corrupt man's body and soul.

Christ to shield me today
Against poison, Against burning,
Against drowning, Against wounding,
So that there may come to me abundance of reward.
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ to my right, Christ to my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ when I arise,
Christ in the heart of every man, who thinks of me,
Christ, in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.
I arise today
With the Creator of Creation.



—To speak with Dr. Tim Lynch, PhD., you can call him at 615-504-4357 or email him at tdlynch@bellsouth.net. If you would like to know more about Dr. Tim, check out the *Psychology Today Practice Directory* or visit his website at www.thelynchgroup.net





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Molly Maid Shares Spring Cleaning Tips

With the help of Molly Maid, a home that was closed up all winter can be spruced up in no time. Organizing the task, both practically and psychologically, can reduce the stress and frustration that is often associated with spring cleaning.

We complete thousands of cleanings each year, and have developed the following strategic method to help break down the huge chore of cleaning the entire house into realistic tasks and goals:

- Create a flexible, comprehensive plan and put it in paper. Following a plan that is in writing is easier to stick to as opposed to following a plan from memory. Decide when to clean, stick to it and build that time into a schedule.
- Don't try to tackle the whole house at once; otherwise, you'll get frustrated and procrastinate. Instead, set a goal to thoroughly clean one or two rooms every couple of days.
- After you put things where they belong, you can begin cleaning. You will waste time and become discouraged if you have to stop in the middle of what you're doing just to put something away in another room. Clear that clutter!
- Gather all chemicals needed before you begin cleaning and carry them from room to room as you go. This prevents unnecessary trips back and forth to your supply cabinet.
- Clean the room from top to bottom, moving left to right to ensure you don't overlook door frames, door panels and window sills. Don't forget the center of the room!
- Spring is a great time to inspect and clean window treatments. Whether you need to wash blinds, send drapes and sheers to the dry cleaners, or throw washable curtains into the washing machine, getting your window treatments clean after a long, dark winter can brighten an entire room.
- Dust first – then vacuum! Crumbs, pet hair, etc. will fall to the floor as you're cleaning. Instead of dusting and vacuuming bedrooms one at a time, first dust and then vacuum all the bedrooms on each level. It saves time.

Get your children involved – little children love to sweep the floor and help put laundry away. We have free, printable chore charts online at www.mollymaid.com.



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PARENTING POINTS

What Do I Do When (Home)School Gets Boring?

A Barna survey found that nearly half of parents believed the church should take the lead in their children's discipleship, while 95% of church leaders believed the home was the primary place where children learn about Jesus. Because children I know kids don't want to be bored because boredom isn't fun. But when routine settles in and our limited options get stale, people stop expecting and hoping that something interesting is going to come along. A hope deferred makes the heart sick. It becomes easier not to hope.

So how do you interest kids in something when they're bored? Here are a few ideas that have helped me:



Make them move. Most any worksheet can become a physical game instead. With a couple of whiteboards, verb conjugation becomes a running relay. To discern character motivations, play charades. Where kids' choices and creativity come in, things get even better.

Make them laugh. You don't have to be a comedian. You just need to be willing to try something unexpected, like wrapping yourself up in tape. In that case, I was teaching the Latin root for to stick, which shows up in sticky words like adhesive and coherent. At last report, that memory was still sticking.

Make them question your sanity. I once had a science teacher who held up a Ziplock baggie containing his own kidney stones. If I'm walking on my desk in English, we're talking about prepositions today. If I crash into my desk and cry "Owww!"; we may be discussing interjections. If kids expect the unexpected, they're going to be paying attention. **Make it social.** If it's planned well, almost every activity can be better with a friend. Regularly reading for an audience pushes writers to the next level.

Bridge to their interests. I've never taught music, but once I noticed I had a class full of musicians. We got them on stage in togas and camo, performing a popular song in Latin for their friends...including the full guitar solo. Learn about kids' interests, then build a bridge to those interests where you can. It requires creative effort, but that same effort shows kids that you see them.



Break the box. We were reviewing old vocabulary, and even I was bored! So we used one of our word roots to invent a brand new word. Our goal was to get somebody who wasn't us to use it. This succeeded beyond our wildest dreams when some guy in England wrote a complete blog post about it.

Ask for help. A parent who was a chef put on a Roman banquet for my students. Another friend showed our students how magic tricks (illusions) really work – that there's actually no magic involved. If you have a special talent or random hobby, let the teachers in your life know about it!

The good news is that no one actually enjoys being bored for very long. So when kids see you taking a risk to shake things up, even if it's flawed, they'll often jump in and help you!

—A classroom veteran, George Rietz encourages teachers, teaches homeschoolers, and invents new tools to reshape education. Contact him through ExploreMyWriting.com.



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(from left) Jim Daly, Chuck Swindoll, Anne Graham Lotz, Allen Jackson, Alistair Begg, Adrian Rogers, Tony Evans, Charles Stanley, Dave & Anne Wilson, Michael Youssef, Robert Jeffress and many more!

America, Beware of False Weight Loss Gods

Yes, weight loss injection medications work, but they can't replace treating your body 'like a temple' through better sleep habits, diet and exercise.

Oprah Winfrey is on a tour promoting her new book, "Enough: Your Weight and What It's Like to Be Free." In 2023, she reportedly had one of her famous "aha" moments, this time realizing her road to personal freedom involved GLP-1 agonist drugs.

She stopped seeing obesity as a personal failure and began viewing GLP-1s as a way to "quiet the noise" that comes with constantly wanting to eat. In her telling, she was suddenly free. Don't get me wrong, I believe Oprah's "aha moments" are real, and I also see the great value of GLP-1 drugs, especially in a society where nearly 70% of the population is either overweight or obese.

I also like the way these drugs work, decreasing hunger signals in the brain and delaying gastric emptying, which have added benefits that may include reducing the desire for alcohol, improving insulin efficiency and decreasing inflammation in the body. They lower blood pressure, reduce cholesterol levels and improve cardiac function, which is one of the reasons so many cardiologists are taking them.

But they are also false gods. They are powerful tools for physicians and their patients, but they do not take the place of treating your body like a temple and honoring it by exercising more, sleeping better and eating healthier foods. The place to start is not with GLP-1 drugs. They are not medical miracles all by themselves. They are also part of a larger problem where people rush to shots and pills for solutions without fully examining the underlying cause. Of course, as a practicing internist, it is important to me that I help you get your weight down by whatever safe means necessary because of the strong association between obesity and the risk of heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure and several kinds of cancer, including breast, colon, liver, and pancreatic cancer.

GLP-1 drugs are not miracle workers. They are simply effective tools in a trained doctor's arsenal to fight obesity. Worshiping them can lead to dependence that is difficult to break, and when they are stopped, patients (including Oprah) often find themselves regaining the weight.

Holding these drugs out as the only effective solution also opens the door for charlatans to use them to proselytize many into taking ripoffs and cheap alternatives sold through online pharmacies that may be medically dangerous. It is a more fundamental approach to look at the food we eat and to embrace the MAHA — "Make America Healthy Again" — movement's emphasis on whole foods, with a declared war on ultra-processed food.

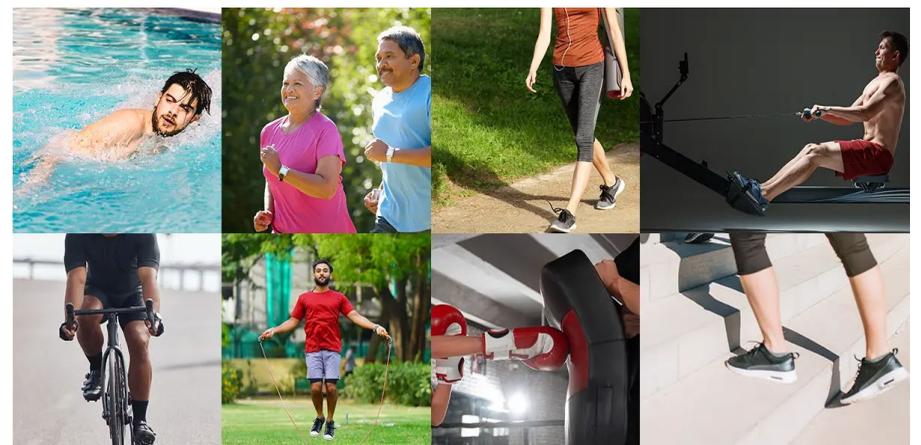


God didn't put us on the planet to pollute our bodies with chemical dyes or synthetic flavors or sweeteners that draw us into a world of unhealthy addiction. Replacing an addiction to unhealthy foods with a dependence on GLP-1 drugs is not the only viable long-term solution. Keep in mind that losing weight can also be associated with your faith, seeing your body as sacred, aligning spiritual discipline with healthy eating and exercise and seeking comfort in God rather than in food.

In fact, there are many prayers throughout the Bible that may help us down the road to treating obesity. Here is one of my favorites:

"Your Word says my body is Your temple, and I am responsible for stewarding this gift. I choose today to make right choices regarding the foods I eat. I will not eat more than my body needs, and I will not fill my mouth with foods that are unhealthy, such as excessive sugar and carbohydrates. I refuse to live a life of gluttony and instead clothe myself in self-control and healthy living, so I may serve You well."

Can the hunger "noise" that Oprah speaks of be quieted by the GLP-1 weight loss drugs? The answer is yes. These drugs are miracles of modern science. But the way to a thinner future can also be found through a healing hymn, prayer and spiritual healing that may provide the path to a more permanent solution than any injection alone.



—Marc Siegel, M.D. is a professor of medicine and medical director of Doctor Radio at NYU Langone Medical Center. He is a Fox News medical analyst and author of "COVID: The Politics of Fear and the Power of Science." Follow him on Twitter @drmarcsiegel.

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Man's Unsolvable Problem

A young man named Eli, found himself traveling through an interesting old town. His wandering was fueled by his insatiable curiosity and his love for the truth. One day, while wandering through the ancient streets, he came upon the town's library. Eli stumbled into the single chamber filled with books; new and old. As the door closed behind him, he instinctively believed that these volumes, contained in this vault filled with knowledge, held the answers to all of mankind's problems.

Flipping through the pages, book after book, he learned they were all written in languages he had never seen before, and no matter how hard he tried, he could not decipher their contents. Eli spent years in that library, surrounded by the wisdom of the ages, yet unable to unlock its secret treasures.

"One evening, as the sun set, casting a golden glow over the library, an old librarian approached Eli. Without his knowledge, she had watched him struggle for years and decided his time for guidance had come. Her name was Verity, and she taught him the languages of the books, one by one, until he could read them fluently.

With each language he learned, Eli discovered solutions to problems that had plagued humanity for centuries. He couldn't wait to share this newfound knowledge with the world. His excitement grew as he envisioned the end to needless suffering worldwide. The truths he could share would ease the pain caused by avoidable poor decisions. Then, suddenly, the smile left his lips. Sitting back in his chair, he utters aloud, "Weren't these solutions made available in the past. Someone, smarter than I, found what God created and wrote these solutions down for others to use. I was not the first to read these worn pages. Why are they not widely used in this present age?"

Verity overhears his pleas in the silence of the library, walked up behind him and places a hand on his shoulder, "Now, your eyes have opened, a Solutionary has been awakened, and with that wisdom comes the heartbreak of understanding. Yes, some, if not most, of these eternal laws, from time to time, fall out of favor with society, replaced by selfish desires. However, they are never lost; God created them to be timeless and ever present. Even when the truth is no longer favored and taught to the young, God, in His time, has a way of delivering the truth to the ones who crave it. They feel the pull of its call, and they have the courage to seek the truth, regardless of the cost. His presence, and the power it wields, cannot be denied forever."

With tears in his eyes, he shifts in his seat to gaze up into the face of his mentor, "The task is massive. So, when? As I make the truth known, when will people come to believe me and apply the truth as solutions to the world's problems? It has the power to stop the senseless suffering of so many people worldwide."

A single tear cascades down her cheek, and she whispered in reply, "Only, once you have the trust of the entire world." Sitting in front of him, "You see Eli, no one person alone can change the world, for people's lack of trust and selfish nature is too strong for that. Positive change requires the might of truth to be delivered, one person at a time, through trust, courage, and compassion. You must be content, being one of those Solutionaries who lives such virtues, and is willing to Know, Love, and Serve God."

If this is my last post, I want all to know, there was only one purpose for all that I have written; to have made a positive difference in the lives of others.

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



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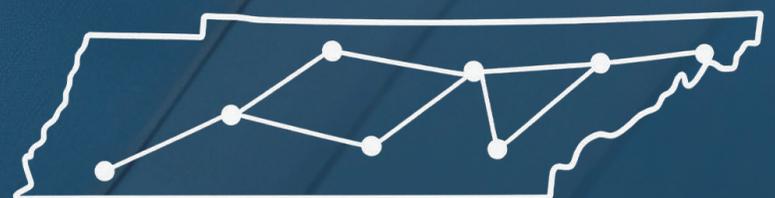
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Can Your Beliefs Transition to Knowledge?

In a recent conversation with one of my CBIG (Christian Business Impact Group) members, the conversation went to traveling. In my career, I've traveled extensively, averaging 250 – 300 flights per year for many years. I remarked that I have transitioned from believing that God will be with me to knowing it. While the specific topic was travel, the principle of transitioning from belief to knowledge applies in every area of our life.

We believe because we have read about it in scripture. We know because we have experienced it in our lives. It's one thing to believe it because you've read it. It's another thing to know it because you have experienced it.

In this example, I am reminded of a half of dozen really difficult moments while traveling – car accidents, breakdowns, confusing and troubling situations – and, in every one of them, God sent someone to help and resolve the situation.

He really does have me in His hand. He really does look over me. I used to believe that. Now I know it because I've experienced it over and over again. Here's just one such example.

Coleen, my wife, Kelly, my youngest daughter, and I were driving back from Windsor, Ontario, where we had spent a couple of days. We headed to Metro Airport in Detroit, where Coleen would drop me off to catch a flight to a speaking engagement, and

Coleen and Kelly would drive back to Grand Rapids.

That route took us through Detroit, and we found ourselves heading west on I-94 during rush hour. I was in the center lane, and on the right, a flatbed truck on the exit ramp had slammed on his brakes causing the trailer to jackknife across the road. It slid across all three lanes of traffic.

I was able to swerve into the left lane, but it caught us in the back passenger's side of the car, and slammed us into the cement divider. The trailer came to rest perpendicular to the traffic, blocking all three lanes. We had rolled up about 100 yards and came to a stop.

Coleen and Kelly were both hurt and upset, in tears, and I was in a bit of shock. I didn't know what to do. I could see the traffic stopped behind us, and heavy traffic coming in the opposite direction. I was dazed and confused.

Then, a couple of nurses showed up. One was white and the other black. They were in their nurses' work clothes and had name tags from nearby Henry Ford Hospital. They took control, attended to Coleen and Kelly and calmed as all down. A few minutes later the ambulance came, having to come from the opposite direction on the freeway. Coleen and Kelly were loaded into the ambulance, and I rode in the front with the driver. He took us all to

Henry Ford, where Coleen was admitted to the ER and Kelly to the pediatric ER.

I went back and forth between the two. Their injuries were minor, and they were soon discharged. After the adrenaline wore off and we began to think clearly, Coleen and I had the realization at the same time. Where did those nurses come from?

They could not have come from behind the stopped truck trailer, because we would have seen them coming. They could not have come from outside the expressway. At that point, the expressway was below grade level and surrounded by fences. They could not have come from the other side of the freeway, because the traffic was too heavy to cross it.

We both realized, at the same time, that we had been served by angels. God had us and sent ministering angels when we most needed them. That's just one of multiple such incidents.

At this point in my life, I have lived long enough with him to know, not believe, that He has me; that He truly is with me. That knowledge, in place of belief, is a special blessing for those of us who have been around a while.

—For 30 years, Dave Kahle has helped businesses sell better and nudged Christian businesses to reach their potential. He's authored 13 books, including *The Good Book on Business*, and presented in 47 states and 12 countries.

If something in this month's issue of

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Spiritual Goal for March

Keep It Simply Simple: The Heart of Salvation

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. —Romans 10:9-10

KEEP...it simply simple.

Someone might say that he/she is not good enough to be a Christian...or say, “I will get around to it someday”...OR a hundred examples of procrastination. If asked about it...tell them that to use the KISS Principle based on the Word of God. Although our salvation cost Jesus His life as He died to redeem us...Apostle Paul laid out the facts.

“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, someone may ask...just believe??? You know us better than we know ourselves...but...when we really, really believe...You promised that Your Spirit will guide us into all Truth...teaching us how to live, think and be concerned for others.

Lord, thank You for reminding us TODAY to keep our life simply simple by looking to You as our Creator, Savior, Lord and Best Friend. Even in our finite mind, we know that having a best friend provides us opportunities to share everything: victories, disappointments, hurts, fears, sunshine and rain.

Lord Jesus, we look to You as the Author of our faith. Help us to walk confidently TODAY with the Spirit of Truth encouraging us. Let it be so. Let it be so. 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.

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