



CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF GOD NEWSLETTER

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Happy November!

What a month this November is! On the 4th we elect a new President to lead our nation for the next four years, and on the 27th we pause with friends and family, giving thanks to our Creator for the bounty and blessings we enjoy. We must never take our freedoms for granted as those were bought with the blood of patriots, and we should never take our blessings for granted as these are gifts from our great God.

What an awesome responsibility befalls the citizens of this great land as we elect a new leader this great country! I urge each and every one of you to pray about the ballot you will cast and remind you that as Christians we must follow our conscience and vote for the candidate most likely to lead America righteously and justly. These are trying times in

which we live, reminding us that we do live in the kingdom of man where Satan roams and torments. While we have citizenship duties, we have a higher allegiance to the coming Kingdom of God, for our higher citizenship is in Heaven.

Let us give thanks for our freedoms, our bounty, our brave men and women in harm's way engaging the enemy of not only freedom and democracy, but I believe, of Christianity as well!

And thank God for your family, your friends and your brethren, for they are priceless. I thank each and every one of you for your friendship, faithfulness, tireless service and support in this ministry. I thank each and every one of you in our tiny army of volunteers keeping this ministry going and keeping our House of Worship so pleasant, bright and



A WORD FROM THE

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Jesus: “My house was designated a house of prayer for the nations” (Mark 11:17, MSG). / “[Jesus] came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place” (Luke 4:16, MSG).

We would love to have you join us each Saturday for study and worship at 801 Quail Creek Drive — 11 a.m. for classes, 11:45 for singing and preaching. You can come dressed to the ‘nines’ or more casual if you choose. What we really like to see is a spirit of friendliness, an attitude of sincerity, and a willingness to ‘search the Scriptures whether these things are so’ (Acts 17:11). We want your fellowship with us to be a pleasant experience.



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long-range results. And ‘without a vision the people perish’ (Ibid, KJV).”

“Just another example of selfishness, isn’t it?” Solomon responded. “Eat, drink and be merry . . . and I too, sadly, succumbed to that philosophy at times. At other times I kept my focus: ‘It is a horrible thing for a king to do evil. His right to rule depends upon his fairness. The king rejoices when his people are truthful and fair’ (Prov. 16:12-13, LB). That leader who has the character to lead his people in the ways of God finds great joy and fulfillment—not only for himself, but for them as well.”

“Sometimes, Solomon, it isn’t the leaders; there are also bad citizens. And, as you put it, ‘The good influence of godly citizens causes a city to prosper, but the moral decay of the wicked drives it downhill’ (Proverbs 11:11, LB). It is unfortunate, but I have witnessed entire cities, against my will, practice the list of evils of which you wrote: ‘Here are six things God hates, and one more that he loathes with a passion: eyes that are arrogant, a tongue that lies, hands that murder the innocent, a heart that hatches evil plots, feet that race down a wicked track, a mouth that lies under oath, a troublemaker in the family’ (Proverbs 6:16-19, Msg). Those kinds of things contaminate a city: ‘Sin brings disgrace’ (Proverbs 18:3, LB).”

“And there are times,” Solomon said, “when the leader and the people must extract a few evil men to preserve a community or country: ‘When you remove dross from silver, you have sterling ready for the silversmith. When you remove corrupt men from the king’s court, his reign will be just and fair’ (Prov. 25:4-5, LB). One can always hope the good outweighs the evil. I would that this adage be indelibly written on the foundation of each nation’s capitol: ‘Godliness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. A king rejoices in servants who know what they are doing; he is angry with those who cause trouble’ (Prov. 14:34-35, LB).”

“A worthy aspiration, Solomon. The people of a city or of a nation need to feel a sense of respect and hope for their international neighbors. How many times I have seen troublesome situations escalate into total chaos, factions and wars that could have been prevented with a little effort toward understanding, a little give-and-take attitude.”

Solomon pointed to his parchment: “‘When the country is in chaos, everybody has a plan to fix it—but it takes a leader of real understanding to straighten things out’ (Prov. 28:2, LB).”

“It is rare to have such a leader of character, one who realizes that ‘If you desert God’s law, you’re free to embrace depravity; if you love God’s law, you fight for it tooth and nail. Justice makes no sense to the evil-minded; those who seek God know it inside and out’ (Proverbs 28:4-5, Msg). My laws are encompassed in the two great commandments: love God with all your strength and fervor; love your neighbor as yourself! (See Mark 12:29-34) If these principles were adhered to on an international scale there would be peace in the world.”

The Quester

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By Jerry McClenagan
Continued from Oct..
'08 newsletter



This serialization of a forthcoming book, THE QUESTER, is creative nonfiction based upon my research into the writings of Solomon and the words and life of Jesus. I use not only the traditional KJV, NKJV and NIV, but have relied heavily on *The Message* to give a contemporary flavor to the ancient proverbs of Solomon as well as the NT quotes by and about Christ.

SCENE 11

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, . . . How often I have wanted to gather your children together . . . , but you wouldn't let me. —Jesus (Matt. 23:37-38, LB)
When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily; but with honest, sensible leaders there is stability. —Solomon (Prov. 28:2, LB)

As Jesus and Solomon walked to another part of the mountain the pleasant sound of the falls was lost in the noise of battle in the valley below. Jesus saw beyond what Solomon observed: the swords had evolved into nuclear blasts and screaming jets with missiles. The words of his prophet, Joel, reverberated in his mind: "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will be darkened, and the stars no longer shine (Joel 3:13-14)."

His eyes were sad, his heart heavy, as he thought of a world inundated with wars and rumors of wars. "O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years," a poet would pen. And his dream was that of Joel's (ibid, vv. 16-17): "The LORD will roar from Zion and thunder from Jerusalem; the earth and the sky will tremble. But the LORD will be a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel. Then you will know that I, the LORD your God, dwell in Zion, my holy hill." And he knew that one day there would be peace in the world.

Solomon interrupted his reverie . . .

"My study of history affirms one thing, Lord: 'Without wise leadership, a nation is in trouble; but with good counselors there is safety' (Prov. 11:14, LB). Have the nations of the world followed my advice, Great King of the Nations?"

Hanging his head, shaking it sadly, Jesus' eyes glistened with tears as he said, "How often I would have helped them, led them, but they wouldn't let me (see Matt. 23:37-39). Even many of the kings of your day reject me, choosing the fictitious gods of other nations. Even you, worshiper of the true God, succumbed to a compromising position. You failed to heed your own advice: 'When rulers are wicked, their people are too; but good men will live to see the tyrant's downfall. . . .Where there is ignorance of God, the people run wild; but what a wonderful thing it is for a nation to know and keep his laws!' (Proverbs 29:16, 18, LB —also vv. 25-27.)

"The people tend to focus on short-term pleasure rather than develop a vision for

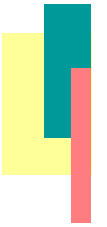
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Prayer Requests

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" . . . The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed."
— James 5:15-16.



Sheri Bartlett: Julia McKinney's daughter, having serious health problems.

Amber & Dylan Clark: Grandchildren of Betty Clark, cerebral palsy. Amber has been diagnosed with shingles.

Vickie Crevoi: Sister of Linda Booth, Chronic Progressive MS.

Bob Fink: Larry Lyles' daughter's father-in-law, prostate cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

Sherry Evans: Niece of Jerry and Glennis. First food intake after 40 days, but still battling infection.

Paul Flatt: James Bailey's brother-in-law, suffered a heart attack. He is undergoing alternative treatments.

Velvet Green: Suffers from schizophrenia.

Bobbie Gatson: Mother of Velvet Green, nerve and back problems making it difficult for her to walk.

Je Keishalyn Henley: Daughter of Velvet and Gary Green, is incarcerated and having health problems. Pray for an early release.

Benny Ray Hicks: Betty Clark's daughter's brother-in-law, diagnosed with leukemia.

Anna Law: In need of a kidney transplant.

Dollie Meil: She is suffering with cerebral palsy. She has been moved to The MacKenzie House, 8609 Boston Ave. #139, Lubbock, TX 79423, 806 744-7387.

Ted Rankin: He is having further difficulty with mobility and weakness. Tests show he has increased brain lesions, indicating MS.

Kathryn Scott: Friend of the Baileys; severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability.

Carol Sellers: Mother of James Sellers, recuperating from a heart attack.

Wilson Stewart: Diagnosed with prostate cancer, numbness and difficulty swallowing.

Jeanne Vincent: C.B. & Darrell Sehorn's sister, breast cancer which has metastasized to the bone.

Ron Vorheis: Is suffering from macular degeneration, heart arrhythmia & severe digestive problems; including pancreatic inflammation and diverticulitis.

Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS		ANNIVERSARIES	
Jody Kirkpatrick	11-07	Francis/Roy Carlson	11-11
Marvin Cryer	11-15	Reba/James Bailey	11-15
Steve Cryer	11-18	Julia/Vic McKinney	11-28



Countries that don't allow their citizens the right to vote—and who wouldn't know what any freedom meant if it weren't for the United States—are now turning around and saying our Bill of Rights is a bad idea! To those of who have been around for a while, this is so absurd as to be laughable. But to young people today, it's all they hear and all they have ever known. / And soon, if not already, those young, impressionable minds will account for a decisive voting bloc in every national election.

~ Charlton Heston on the right to bear arms, "Our First Freedom," The Saturday Evening Post, Jan./Feb. 2000

*REMEMBER THE SPECIAL
FUND SETUP FOR THE
PURCHASE OF DUPLICAT-
ING EQUIPMENT TO
GET IT ALL DONE OUT.*



Solomon unrolled the scroll he carried. "Recently I wrote this: 'If you see some poor man being oppressed by the rich, with miscarriage of justice anywhere throughout the land, don't be surprised! For every official is under orders from higher up, and the higher officials look up to their superiors. And so the matter is lost in red tape and bu-reaucracy. And over them all is the king. Oh, for a king who is devoted to his country! Only he can bring order from chaos' (Eccl. 5:8-9, LB)."

Jesus sighed. "Oh for such a king over each nation! Down through the centuries there have been a few who ruled with justice and compassion. Even then, there are al-ways those who do not respond to that kind of righteous leadership."

Jesus continued to emphasize the importance of good citizenship (Rom. 13:1-7, Msg), ending with, "'Fulfill your obligations as a citizen. Pay your taxes, pay your bills, respect your leaders' (Romans 13:1-7, Msg)."

"But even good citizens get the raw end of the deal at times, don't they?" Solo-mon asked. "'Again I looked and saw all the oppression that was taking place under the sun: I saw the tears of the oppressed—and they have no comforter; power was on the side of their oppressors' (Eccl. 4:1, NIV)."

"There will always be tyrants," Jesus said, "in spite of the fact that I have imple-mented earthly governments. Men will always cry out under a load of oppression and plead for relief from the arm of the powerful (Job 35:9, NIV). There will always be those who pray, 'Redeem me from the oppression of men, that I may obey your precepts' (Psalm 119:134, NIV). But the Greater Purpose of God will always prevail: 'In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world' (John 16:33b, NIV). Here is my advice for all my servants and friends: 'The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments to rule well so we can be quietly about our business of living sim-ply, in humble contemplation. This is the way our Savior God wants us to live' (1 Tim-othy 2:1-2, Msg)."

"Even as you inspired me to write, Lord and Master: 'The Lord hates the gifts of the wicked, but delights in the prayers of his people. The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous' (Prov. 15:8, 29, LB)."

Then Solomon quoted the words of his father, David: "Rescue me and deliver me from the hand of foreigners, whose mouth speaks lying words, and whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood— that our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as pillars, sculptured in palace style; that our barns may be full, supplying all kinds of produce; that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thou-sands in our fields; that our oxen may be well-laden; that there be no breaking in or go-ing out; that there be no outcry in our streets. Happy are the people who are in such a state; happy are the people whose God is the Lord!" (Psalms 144:11-15, NKJV).



Heartbeats

Editorial
Jerry McClenagan

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life. Prov 4:23 (NIV)

GIVING THANKS is often a matter of perspective: where you are in relation to what you observe; what you experience in relation to another's experience. "When I think of so-in-so I'm more thankful about my situation."

That's not a bad way to develop a thankful spirit; I see this being done in Psalm 107. But I noticed something else: the psalmist focuses on a bigger picture, one that covers thousands of people over many years. The total picture goes beyond an individual's petty wishes and daily complaints. He is focused on Israel as a nation, then expands to the total mass of humanity:

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His faithful love endures forever. ² Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that He has redeemed them from the hand of the foe . . . ⁴ Some wandered in the desolate wilderness, finding no way to a city where they could live. ⁵ They were hungry and thirsty; their spirits failed within them. ⁶ Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble; He res-

cued them from their distress. . . . ⁸ Let them give thanks to the LORD for His faithful love and His wonderful works for the human race" (Psalms 107:1-2, 4-8, HCSB).

I'm not suggesting that we depersonalize our thanksgiving. But if we begin with the larger picture, then bring it down to our individual circumstances, we might be more thankful.

Right now, we face some traumatic times as a nation. Shall we begin with how far we have come, how many problems we've endured, in our prayer of thanksgiving to God? Of course, there is plenty to pray about in asking God for help and mercy, but don't forget the words of the psalmist as he ends this song: "The upright see it and rejoice, and all injustice shuts its mouth. ⁴³ Let whoever is wise pay attention to these things and consider the Lord's acts of faithful love" (Psalms 107:42-43, HCSB). ■

"Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the **unforced rhythms of grace**. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." ~ Jesus. Matt 11:28-30 (MSG)

GraceRhythms

Discipline is easy for me to swallow. Logical to assimilate. Manageable and appropriate. But God's grace? Anything but. Examples?

David the psalmist becomes David the voyeur, but by God's grace becomes David the psalmist again.

Peter denied Christ before he preached Christ.

Zacchaeus, the crook. The cleanest part of his life was the money he laundered. But Jesus still had time for him.

The thief on the cross; hell-bent and hung-out-to-die one minute, [Paradise]-bound and smiling the next.

Story after story. Prayer after prayer. Surprise after surprise. Seems that God is looking more for ways to get us home than for ways to keep us out. I challenge you to find one soul who came to God seeking grace and did not find it.

~ Max Lucado, *When God Whispers Your Name*

OUT OF THE Saltshaker



& INTO THE WORLD

"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage." Matt 5:13 (MSG)

I popped John Stott's book *Basic Christianity* into her hands. "Read it sometime in the next couple of years," I said as she walked out the door.

[This was Pippert's frustrated effort after no one but Mary—an outspoken skeptic of Christianity—attended a campus Bible study at her invitation. Mary was an Irish girl who had said, "This has been the best month I've had all year! Do you know that I've talked three people out of being Christians this month!" Now she would challenge the author; she asked:]

"Why are you a Christian? How can you be a thinking person and reject your mind? It's intellectual suicide to believe something without any evidence to support it?"

"Mary," I said, "I couldn't agree with you more. I've always been amazed by people who can accept Christ blindly. But you know what else mystifies me? How anyone can *reject* Christianity blindly without bothering to investigate the evidence." And so began a two-hour conversation.

[It was then that Pippert gave her Stott's book. The next week, Mary said:]

"I read the book you gave me. I came to that chapter on sin and I wanted to hide under the bed." It never occurred to me as she spoke that the Holy Spirit was convicting her of sin. . . . Then came the bomb. She suddenly [after a lot of discussion and questions] looked straight at me and said, "I feel like God is over there," as she gestured with her hand, "and I am over here. I've really wanted to know God all of my life. But how do I bridge the gap? What would I do if I wanted to become a Christian?"

I stared at her in disbelief. [To be continued . . .] ■

LifePoints



- Call on God, but row away from the rocks. —Ralph Waldo Emerson
- Aim at Heaven and you will get earth "thrown in": aim at earth and you will get neither. —C. S. Lewis
- Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of a readiness to die. —G. K. Chesterton
- The two most powerful warriors are patience and time. —Leo Tolstoy
- The first duty of love is to listen. — Paul Tillich
- Life is god's novel. Let him write it. —Isaac bashevis

- singer
- God calls us not to solitary sainthood but to fellowship in a company of committed men. —david schuller
- How you spend your time is more important than how you spend your money. Money mistakes can be corrected, but time is gone forever. —david b. Norris
- Half our life is spent trying to find something to do with the time we have rushed through life trying to save. — will rogers



Cont. from pg. 1

beautiful. The inspiring music ministry, the sermons, the Newsletter and Bulletin, the Outreach Sermon Ministry, the Bible Class lessons, and the fellowship, all such blessings to us in our mission and spiritual walk.

It is my prayer that God will continue to bless America and guide our leaders, continue to bless and further our ministry, and continue to bless you and your family. God is not limited in the blessings He can bestow, the only limitation is our ability to receive God's blessings. Once we see that God is the Giver of all good gifts and our lives are an accumulation of the gifts He has bestowed upon us, once we see what we have and not what we have not, once we see the difference between wants and needs, the blessing of gratitude is bestowed upon us bringing the joy and peace we all so crave.

God Bless America! Be filled with thanks on this Thanksgiving Day!

May God continue to be with you and me.

Jeff Booth

BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD

**PSALMS 33:12 (NKJV)
[SEE 'THE QUESTER',
PG. 10]**



God Bless America



A cheerful disposition is good for your health;
gloom and doom leave you bone-tired.



Jimmy and Joey, normal boys
Like fishing in the brook.
Of course they dug in garden soil
For worms to bait their hook.
I'd wryly glance into their can
Then quickly look away
To give each one a hasty hug
And send them on their way.
One day young Jim came grumbling home
"To get more bait," he sighed.

"You didn't have enough?" I asked.
"Joe ate it!" he replied.
My stomach churned
My color turned
Grey, purple, green, and red—
'Till Jimmy, still disgusted, spoke—
"This morning we took bread!"
(—Mary Orr, Three Hills, Alberta.
Christian Reader, "Kids of the Kingdom.")