

VOLUME LXXXIII
May 2018

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



*Greater love has no one than this:
to lay down one's life for one's friends.
John 15:13NIV*

Submit your comments to our Editor, Jacquie Hinton, about "The Shepherd's Staff;" and, any other thoughts you might have about the publication that you feel will be constructive or interesting to our readers. You may do so by emailing us at:

newsletter@pahrupcc.com



Morality & Politics

[The views expressed by D. Keith Walker in this article are his own and do not necessarily represent the views of the leadership or members of Pahrump Community Church as a whole.]

As you may have already read in the *Pahrump Valley Times*, I am one of the signatories on a Referendum Petition regarding brothels in Nye County.

This effort is already creating tension in our town, in the churches in Pahrump, and in *our* church.

Just for clarity, let me tell you what I have done. Several in our community decided that it would be appropriate to (once again) give the citizens of Nye County an opportunity to vote on whether to renew the county ordinance that legalizes and legislates controls over prostitution. In order to guarantee that this referendum is on the ballot at the next voting day, organizational paperwork must first be filed, then a petition with a minimum of 1,963 signatures must be officially submitted to our local government. I am one of the signatories whose name is on the organizational paperwork that is now officially on file. I am encouraging our community to join this effort by signing the petition.

When the petition with the necessary signatures is submitted, the referendum will be on the ballot with two voting options:

Yes. If you cast a *Yes* vote, you are saying, *Yes, I want to keep legal brothels and legal prostitution in my county.*


No. If you cast a *No* vote, you are saying, *No, I do NOT want brothels and prostitution in my county.*

The simple version of this issue boils down to a single question: *Is prostitution good or bad?* I am confident that the vast majority of those who call themselves Christians would answer, *Prostitution is bad.*

However, in discussions with fellow Christians and Church leaders here in Pahrump I have been challenged to consider some of the complexities of this issue.

By far the most persuasive argument for Christian leaders to stay out of this hot-button issue is that it may detract from our central goal of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Far less compelling are the suggestions that churches should not be involved in politics, or that we have no business imposing our morals on unbelieving citizens in our community. Yet another argument (that I consider invalid) is the *side-effects* argument: that legalization of prostitution provides controls that offer more protection for those involved and also prevents the spread of more serious criminal activities in our community.

Let's start there. This *side-effects* argument assumes that allowing but controlling that which is bad will be less detrimental to the community than disallowing it altogether. It could even be said that this is the Biblical approach to *bad* things—like divorce. The Jewish leaders in Jesus' day brought this one up as a way to trap Jesus. You can read the whole episode in Matthew 19:3-9. Jesus acknowledged the prevalence of divorce but added this:

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Because of your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery. Matthew 19:8–9

Note that Jesus did **not** say that divorce was allowed because it was better than the alternative. After all, making something **legal** does not make it **right**. Jesus clearly teaches that divorce violates God’s design and that even *legal* divorce has terrible sin-related side-effects!

Besides that, God’s instructions regarding divorce were intended for the protection of those who were hurt through the sinful actions of another. Prostitution is in a different category. Some may say that legalized prostitution provides a degree of protection for “the girls”—but what these “girls” need is deliverance!


And as for the idea that outlawing this vice will only bring in more criminal activity? If this were true, Nevada (the only state in the union with legal prostitution) should be the safest state with the lowest crime rates. Statistics indicate otherwise.

One local political candidate is quoted as saying, “Prostitution has been a part of Nevada since the 1850s and was legalized in the early 1970s. It’s part of the culture of Nevada. Mining, gaming, girls and liquor.” I would agree that this is an accurate reflection of the reputation of Nevada. Indeed, Las Vegas has capitalized on that reputation by embracing the title *Sin City*, but this is hardly the badge to be worn proudly by God-fearing Christians!

So, is it even right for Christians to impose our morals on unbelieving citizens in our community? Let me ask another question: is it right for wicked, immoral people to impose their *immorality* on Christians in their community? The truth is that every act of legislation imposes a set of standards on the community. The Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples. I disagree with that ruling, but it has been imposed on all the citizens of this country. I am thankful that the USA still provides involvement in the election of officials. I will vote for people whose ideologies align with my own. Will I vote for legislation that reflects Biblical morality? Absolutely! Not because I think that people who live by Biblical standards of morality will all go to heaven, but because a community of people who uphold good moral standards is infinitely preferable to a community that rejects Biblical morality! The citizens of such a community (town, county, state, nation) will be better off!

Am I getting involved in politics? In a way, but I believe in a Biblically healthy way. The issue at hand is not inherently **political**—it is inherently **moral**. It has become political because certain politicians are using this as a platform. But this is not a Democrat/Republican matter. This is not partisan politics. This is about right and wrong! Prostitution is wrong whether it is legal or illegal. It is wrong because it corrupts God’s design for sex. It is wrong because it violates God’s design for marriage and family. It is wrong because it robs “girls” of their God-given identity and virtue. It is wrong because it objectivises females as a commodity. It is wrong because it encourages men to act out of lust rather than love in the context of marriage. It is wrong because it destroys relationship and families. Prostitution is wrong because it is an act of defiance against God Who alone has the right to set the rules regarding sex and relationships. When I preach and teach these truths, I am not being *political*, I am being *Biblical!*

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Finally, by taking a stand against the immorality of prostitution are we compromising the simple message of the Gospel? Are we building a wall to keep out those who are most in need of love, mercy and forgiveness?

In a recent article on frc.org, Travis Weber, Director of the Center for Religious Liberty, comments on a parallel issue. He observes that

[Some] may believe in what the Bible says about these issues yet stay silent for what in their mind are strategic reasons—they may want to lead with their framing of the gospel message, or something else.

Yet part of the gospel message is the clear proclamation and recognition of sin. Without this, the clear proclamation of Christ's provision on the cross for our sins makes no sense; only with the admission of sin can we enter into true freedom and peace in Christ. If we compromise on this true gospel message for our own strategic reasons, we are really failing to fully trust God.

Christians should absolutely continue to do everything we can to win every person to Christ. Unfortunately, many will try to stamp out part of the gospel message and truth itself.

Any who know me already know that nothing will stop me from clearly presenting the Gospel—both the bad news that sin is our problem, and the Good News that Jesus is our answer. Based on the environment of 21st century western culture, if we must avoid controversial topics in order not to offend unbelievers, we will be forced to ignore multiple significant passages of God's Word. Will unbelievers think we are "haters" because we repeat the teachings of God's Holy Word? Yes.

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

Is it possible to be faithful to the principles of the Scriptures while at the same time reaching out in love to those who are still lost in sin? Yes. Ephesians 4:18 admonishes us to do both so that we are


Speaking the truth in love. Ephesians 4:18

I do hate the sin. I do love the sinner. The Word of God is filled with accounts of God's redeeming grace transforming the lives of those who turn to Him. Any who claim we are taking a *holier than thou* stance have not been listening. We are **all** sinners (Romans 3:23). We are **all** deserving of eternal separation from God in hell (Romans 6:23). God did not save me because I was good or because I deserved it. Quite the opposite. He saved me merely because of His mercy and grace through Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11

Moses, David and the apostle Paul were all murderers. But because of God's mercy and grace, their names are synonymous with being great men of God. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were all liars. Because of God's mercy and grace, they are now known as the patriarchs of God's people. Rahab was a prostitute. But God, in his mercy and grace, used her in the lineage of the Messiah Jesus! (See Joshua 6; Matthew 1; Hebrews 11.)

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These are all proof that God offers mercy and redemption to those who turn to Him in faith. When a woman guilty of sexual immorality was brought to Jesus, He offered forgiveness, but not license.

Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and FROM NOW ON SIN NO MORE." John 8:10-11

Thoughtsome will accuse me of a message of hate and condemnation, my motive is love and the Good News is forgiveness!

Some have said that because Jesus never took *political* actions to change society, they will also refrain from being involved in issues such as this. I absolutely respect that perspective and I support your decision. At the same time, I think they should be very careful not to impose their convictions upon sincere Christians like myself who feel it is right to strive for a more wholesome community by promoting laws that reflect Biblical morality.

Voting on this referendum or signing this petition is not a mandate from God. Each of us must be faithful to our Christian convictions. I have shared my opinions with you, but I will not force anyone to comply with my views. I do, however, want you to prayerfully and thoroughly consider this issue. We will have petitions available on the church campus for any who feel it appropriate to join this effort.

God bless you all!

Serving the Savior,

Pastor Keith

CABIN C (Citizens Against Brothels In Nye County) is a referendum effort to give the people of Nye County an opportunity to vote for or against having brothels in our county.

No little girl grows up wanting to be a prostitute. www.nolittlegirl.org is a website in support of this effort. Visit this site to get answers to frequently asked questions, and for more information about this endeavor.



Recommendations: Desire

"It's my addictive personality. I can't even buy a pack of gum without going through it in an hour." Of the many things John Piper has written, this comment on handling Christian liberty is one of the statements that tends to stand out to me. I can't identify with the bubble gum thing, but I think Piper and I share an intensity of personality that I wouldn't wish upon too many others. When I'm into something, I'm very into it – when I find an author or musical artist I really like, I'll make a list of all of his or her output and set to the business of acquiring it. I like Piper's intensity and I also like his wordiness. That guy uses adjective and adverbs like they're going out of style. It's great! Why do I get told to use an "economy of words" in one of my classes when John Piper piles on three or four modifiers and skirts as close to run-on sentences as propriety allows? I digress... Anyway, this month's approbation is another work that has greatly shaped my thinking on the Christian life. As far as Christian writers/pastors living today go, I would rank Piper high on my list of those I enjoy reading/hearing. I pray that he is a blessing to you, too.

Desiring God
by John Piper

Discovery

I do not have a clear memory of when I first read *Desiring God*. I'm certain that it was post-2009, but that conclusion is drawn not from memory but from my records. (In my opinion, I shouldn't start forgetting things for another ten to twelve years. I have been thankful for the fairly exacting recollector with which God has blessed me. I'm hoping I've just gotten to storing too much info up there... no one asked me, I suppose.) I have personal journal entries from the summer of '09 that tell me that that's when I read *Don't Waste Your Life*. "Pastor Caleb, will you ever be able to keep your books straight? Didn't you give us this sort of runaround last month, too?" Let me explain. I know I read *Don't Waste Your Life* before I read *Desiring God*, but many of the themes are shared between the two books. I had been encouraged to use my life for something meaningful via this other book and I'd listened to a handful of sermons by Pastor John. I was more or less acquainted with what he calls "Christian Hedonism" from these other venues, but it wasn't until reading *Desiring God* that I got his full picture of the heartbeat of Christian hedonism: "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

Summary

If you're going to use a word like "hedonism" in talking about Christianity, you'd better explain yourself. These explanations (Piper calls them "meditations" in the subtitle to *Desiring God*) fill 350+ pages of chapters and appendices. The book argues that we can't have a proper understanding of our Christianity without a biblically robust understanding of God's character.

God is absolutely sovereign. We know this. We speak of it regularly here at PCC and I praise the Lord for it. Piper highlights a logical conclusion of this: God is infinitely joyful because He never gets frustrated by compromised plans. "So now we must ask: What does make God happy? What is it about redemptive history that delights the heart of God? The way to answer this question is to survey what God pursues in all His works. If we could discover what one thing God pursues in everything He does, we would know what He delights in most. We would know what is uppermost in His affections" (41).

God's chief delight is His own glory – His own God-ness. "God's glory is the beauty of His manifold perfections" (42). This is His primary joy.

Such an unpacking of the biblical text was a bit of a strange turn of events for me when I initially read through *Desiring God*. It didn't strike me as wrong, really – it was just so foreign to the categories in which I'd thought previously. Piper makes his case from Scripture with the conclusion that our chief end is to delight in God Himself. Being satisfied with anything less than God would be idolatry for Him and is definitely idolatry for us.



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Our problem is not that we run after our own pleasure too much. No, our problem is that we fail to truly chase joy to its undiluted source. We don't need to desire joy less – we need to pursue pleasure even more. We need to desire God. This is a liberating and a jubilant concept and Piper explores it in the contexts of conversion, worship, love, Scripture, prayer, money, marriage, missions, and suffering.

Boon

“We are far too easily pleased.” This C.S. Lewis quote appears in Piper's chapter on worship. I think this more than any other single statement from the book has molded the way I think. It seems wrong to celebrate a quote in a book rather than “original” content, but Piper weaves Scripture, illustrations, C.S. Lewis, songs, and Jonathan Edwards throughout *Desiring God*. Having read through the book two and a quarter times (my last Bible study didn't pan out), I still feel like I undersell it when I'm telling others about it. Since I subjected myself to this idea of “boon,” here's what this book did for me:

Desiring God made me want more. More joy. More pleasure. More satisfaction. More God. The logic behind Piper's argument works. I may not agree with every conclusion he's ever made, but I cannot argue with the biblical truth that this life truly is about getting all the joy you can. It makes me want to surrender my lesser loves (i.e. idols) not so much because I feel guilty about them (though I do) but because I feel ripped off! Why would I bother worshipping money or my wife or myself when all of these things were created expressly to help me enjoy God forever? *Desiring God* energizes me to pour everything I have and everything I am into the glory of the One who loves me.

Approbation

Maybe it's cheating, but on the front cover of my copy of *Desiring God*, there's an endorsement from John MacArthur (one of my other favorite expositors of Scripture). He says that the book is “a soul-stirring celebration of the pleasures of knowing God.... A must-read for every Christian and a feast for the spiritually hungry.” Amen.

I want my brothers and sisters in Christ to eagerly seek first God's Kingdom and His righteousness. I want us to bask in grace. I want us to constantly forget what lies behind and push forward to what lies ahead. I want us to desire to God.

Will it be a bit of a tricky read? Yes. Will there be some concepts that are hard to wrap your minds around? I think so. Will it encourage you? If you're actually reading it for what it says. Will it excite you? I believe it will. Brothers and sisters, take the time to go through John Piper's meditations. Let his unpacking of Scripture shape you into the man who found treasure hidden in a field. My prayer is that as a result of this book, God will work in your heart such joy that you go and sell all that you have and buy that field.

By God's grace,
Pastor Caleb



Navigator Missionaries
Levi and Irene Ndimubanzi

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Levi & Irene Ndimubanzi

Last year we set out to send three young men to Nigeria for training, and it didn't happen. We planned for March 2018 and it didn't happen! This brought some frustration on the side of the trainees who had put off everything, the trainers in Nigeria and on our side. We are trusting God to have them go by early next year, well knowing that God's timing is perfect! Hopefully this will give us more time to fundraise and put in place all the necessary logistics to get this strategic initiative going.

My sister Lukia travelled to the US, and was involved in an accident the night she arrived. She had planned to spend two weeks in America and ended up staying for five months; spending three of them in hospital and rehab. She had great plans for the trips, but they all ended at the accident scene! Am sure all this fits well in God's grand scheme of things if Jeremiah 29:11 is true! My sister returned two weeks ago and is progressing well.

At the family level; last year we had planned to have a third child, but shortly after the excitement of conceiving, we had a miscarriage. That too did happen in 2017! By God's grace we conceived later in the year, and first week of June we will be welcoming another addition to our family God willing. Irene struggled with migraines and several complications in the early months of pregnancy and was put on bed rest, but we thank God she stabilized. She is healthy, strong and the pregnancy is progressing well!

We appreciate your prayers:

1. For God to continue ministering and shaping the vision of the intending trainees. And to provide the necessary resources for this initiative
2. For Irene and the baby as we wait for the D-day.
3. Join us in thanking God for his mercy on Lukia, and commit her for complete healing and emotional reconnection with life back home.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support through your financial gifts!

Our Church Family **does not** financially support the Ndimubanzis. I have included their newsletter in this issue to allow you to meet this family. They are wonderful people!

You may, however, feel free to email them at:
leviland@gmail.com via mail93.atl161.mcsv.net



THE AGRE FAMILY NEWS

"Serving with the Navigators"

The Navigators' calling: To advance the Gospel of Jesus and his kingdom into the Nations through spiritual Generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.

"...But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him and by His wounds we are healed..." ISAIAH 53. 5

May Grace and Peace be with you, as we celebrate the suffering, death and resurrection of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Easter prayer for you is Jeremiah 6.16 " This is what the LORD says: 'Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls..."

MINISTRY NEWS

Early March, Marie Claire and I were in Kenya for the selection of the Navigators Africa regional director. As you know we were part of the nominees; thanks for standing with us at the critical moment of our spiritual journey. It was a moment a worship, prayer and rededication of our lives to God. It was emotionally challenging for us to even consider being candidates. We finally surrendered and accepted to stay in the process of selection. We were open to give up all the things we hold dearly to take the challenges and allow THE LORD to speak through the selection council. Edward and Christine Mupada were selected as the new Africa regional director. We will continue to serve with the leader. Mike and Karen Kotecki are currently visiting and we are happy to host and co-labor with them.

FAMILY NEWS

We are all doing well. Emma Grace is in Ottawa for her college education. She got a partial scholarship from the Cote D'Ivoire government. We are amazed to see how time flies so fast and to live at home with a vacuum she left behind. We thank God that through technology we are able to communicate almost daily and sometimes pray with her. She is involved in a Navigators Bible study on the Ottawa. Danielle, Ruth and Sarah are doing well and busy with their secondary school education.

We thank God for his faithfulness and your partnership over the years. Thanks so much for your involvement with us in this work. We greatly appreciate your friendship and support. Kindly pray Jeremiah 16.6 for our family and for Emma Grace in Canada. Pray for God's anointing on Edward and Christine Mupada as they lead the Navigators Africa ministry in this season of life. April 2nd we will travel with the Koteckis to Daloa (6 hours' drive from Abidjan) for a spiritual retreat where I will speak on the passion to know, love and become like Jesus-Christ. I feel inadequate to speak on a subject which is the heart of the transforming power of the Gospel.

With deep appreciation for your partnership in the ministry of advancing the Gospel as we celebrate the resurrection of the ONE who conquers the grave.



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LA FAMILLE AGRE

06 BP 1130 Abidjan 06 Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa
lobagre@gmail.com Jeremie: (225) 0954 5353
Home: (225) 22 50 72 94

If you wish to financially support the Agre's ministry, please send your gift to: The Navigators, Account number 191478. The Navigators PO Box 6079 -Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679

Where is it?



Cote D'Ivoire is located in the West of Africa. It is surrounded by Liberia, Ghana, Burkina Faso and Guinea. South of Ivory Coast is the Atlantic Ocean (South). It's coastline is 515 km.

Dr. Jeremie and Marie Claire Agre are Navigator Missionaries in the Ivory Coast that our PCC family supports.





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Thank you for remembering us during the celebration of the Resurrection of Christ while we were in Côte d'Ivoire. We drove inland from Abidjan (on the coast) to Daloa. There we joined a retreat with two Ivorian Navigator missionary families who recently moved there to advance the Gospel on the campus of the university and in the city(left side photos). Then we worked alongside the staff in Abidjan with their emerging leaders (right side photos). *April 20—May 9 we travel to Misawa, Japan and to Seoul, South Korea, to minister alongside US military chaplains, service members and families! Thank you for praying for good flight connections and fruitful outreach!* Thanks also for your investment, enabling us to proclaim the Resurrection of Christ, so others will grow to know Him and to make Him known!



Mike & Karen Kotecki
@ gmail.com
jm.kotecki or karenk52

The Navigators, P.O. Box 6079,
Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679
Mission Account #40956 Ph: 866-568-7827
Akazienstr 10a, 66849 Landstuhl
Germany

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Mike and Karen Kotecki are Navigator Missionaries our PCC Church Family Supports



Cathedral Canyon Pahrump, Nevada By Bob Jacob

This small natural box canyon located just outside of Pahrump, Nevada was once filled with stained glass windows, Victorian style streetlamps, religious items, a man made waterfall and a 200 foot suspension bridge (for foot traffic only) which was modeled after the Golden Gate Bridge and a statue of Jesus Christ. In the past this site would have been awe-inspiring: with small statues blended in with mesquite trees, stained glass windows, and the whole place was rigged for sound and was fully lighted by Victorian style streetlamps. Some of the lights were behind the stained glass windows set into natural canyon wall niches which made for dramatic effects. Now, after years of vandalism, looting, and neglect, only a few empty stone alcoves and a horribly desecrated, headless Christ statue are all that remain. The Christ statue is a smaller replica of "Christ the Redeemer of the Andes". The original statue is on the border of Argentina and Chile, high in the Andes mountains and is visited by pilgrims from all nearby countries and has been declared a National Historic Monument of Argentina. This one, however, seems to have been primarily used for target practice, its torso is peppered with bullet holes and shotgun pellets. I have no doubt that the perpetrators of this destruction are likely completely ignorant of the irony of their actions.

This area is also the reputed burial place of the famous Indian outlaw "Queho". Plus the Front Site Firearms training grounds are close enough so at times you will hear gunfire in the far off distance.

Cathedral Canyon was the dream of a man named Roland Wiley. Originally from Iowa, Wiley moved to Las Vegas in 1929 after obtaining a law degree two years prior. In 1936 he bought the 14,000 acre ranch outside of Pahrump where this canyon would later be created. While the area looks flat and featureless, there are numerous small box canyons, mesas, and hills throughout. This inspired him to rename his estate Hidden Hills Ranch. In the 1960's Wiley began the transformation of one of these box canyons into Cathedral Canyon, opening it to the public in 1972, free of charge and opened 24 hours a day. It is said that he conceived the idea in 1955 while traveling through Guatemala, where he saw a church that was devastated by an earthquake.

At the east end of the box canyon was a man made waterfall. Wiley installed a water pump to circulate the water from the small pond up to the top of the canyon where it would cascade back down, transforming the dry wall of the box canyon into a lush grotto. The homage to The Sermon on the Mound plaque can still be made out under the waterfall however the harsh weather has made it almost impossible to read.

After Wiley's death in 1994 at the age of 90, his surviving family members wanted to preserve the canyon, but due to lack of funds they were unable to. A caretaker was employed by the family for a few years, but that was not enough to prevent vandalism. The family did offer to sell the canyon to the Pahrump Valley Chamber of Commerce, but they did not have the funding to make the purchase.

To get to Cathedral Canyon take State Route 160 South out of Pahrump to the Tecopa Highway and turn right. Drive southwest for 5.5 miles and look for the Cathedral Canyon sign and bear right for another 1.5 miles (this road for the most part is passable for most vehicles). Cathedral Canyon is just off to the left by the large truck tire.



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This Photo is from the Internet web site <http://strayngerranger.com/cathedral-canyon-ruins/>

Cathedral Canyon in the early 1970's, showing the stairway down to the canyon, the suspension bridge and the statue of Christ. Why some people would enjoy destroying something so beautiful and unique is beyond this author's comprehension.

NOTE: While most of the symbolism was Christian, it was clear that there was no doctrine or specific religion being endorsed. It is a shame that future generations will never experience the wonder that was Cathedral Canyon.



EDITORIAL PAGE

May Day

Well, here we are in the merry, merry, month of May! How nice it is to feel the gradual changes of the seasons. Well, at least that is what the calendar, history and culture tell us. But, realistically, it means weeds, temperatures in three digits and air conditioner issues.

So, I decided to do some research about "May Day" as I had childhood remembrances about celebrating "May Day." And, guess what, this has various meanings in various conditions and in various countries. For example, in Russia "May Day" is a public holiday known as the Day of the International Solidarity of Workers. There, in most cities, the celebration includes parades and obligatory workers' marches.

However, it has become, in most countries, a celebration of "Spring" with various forms of celebration. For example the celebration includes "Maypole Dancing" and music festivals. Note, however, that for the most part, "May Day" is a Northern Hemisphere occurrence as May in the Southern Hemisphere is getting ready for winter.

I remember "May Day" in my childhood as a time for "wrapping the Maypole." Never heard of it? Well, let me enlighten you. You see there is a long pole set up with many different colored ribbons hanging from the top of it to the ground. As a child in school, we were designated, by the powers that be, to be the official "Maypole Wrappers." To this day, I will never understand the significance of "wrapping" it; except it gave the girls a chance to put on their Easter dresses which had not been worn since Easter. And, it gave the boys a chance to stand in front of the girl they thought was "cute."

The procedure to "wrap" the Maypole, on the surface, seemed quite simple. The girls faced one way and the boys faced the other way. When the music began, all the girls took their ribbons and went under the ribbon of the first boy. Then, over the ribbon of the next boy. And, over and under until you had only a sliver of a piece of ribbon left. Now, how simple is that?! All you had to remember was "over, then under – over, then under." Now, how hard is that?!? Easy, you think? Well, you just "over and under" until your ribbon is so short you were "kissing" that stupid "Maypole." And, the boy you so wanted to notice you had become a face you never wanted to see again. And, the boy decided he would rather kiss a gorilla than look you in the face again.

Now, that is just one definition of "May Day." There is, however, another definition for "May Day" that on the surface seems somewhat perplexing also. It is the vocal emergency international "distress signal" in radio communications. It is used primarily in the fields of aviation and navigation. However, it is sometimes used by other emergency responders.

It is used primarily to signal, vocally, a life threatening emergency. It is always given three times in a row to eliminate confusion about the caller. This seems superfluous to me. It seems to me screaming

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as loud as you can “HELP ME!” works as well and takes less repetition. In a crisis, it seems to me, a direct approach to an emergency saves time and translation. For example, if it the first of May and a pilot calls the Control Tower and says “May Day.” “May Day”. “May Day!” The Control Tower might reply. “The Same to You.” “The Same to You.” “The Same to You.”
Okay, Okay. I am just joshing. I just wanted you to have a glorious and memorable “May Day!”
“May Day!” “May Day!”

“While strolling through the park one day,
In the merry merry month of May,
He was taken by surprise,
By a pair of roguish eyes,
In a moment his poor heart was stole away.

A smile was all she gave to him,
Of course she was as happy as can be,

He immediately raised his hat,
And finally she remarked,
He never will forget,
That lovely afternoon,
He met her at the fountain in the park.”



EDITORIAL STAFF
 Jacquie Hinton – *Editor*
 Pastor Caleb Walker and Karen Crispell– *Copy Editors*
 Reporters and Contributors: *Our Missionaries and PCC family*



Puzzles??.....
By Sharon Ankrum



I love to do jigsaw puzzles! My very favorite is a beautiful 1500 piece landscape scene. However, the weird ones with no borders are fun too.

Dumping all the pieces out on the table is a big mess of odd shaped pieces that have no conformity at all. Now, usually I find all the edge pieces that will make the frame and then start with all the odd colors.

Sometimes I have a lot of mini puzzles scattered about then connect them to the big puzzle.

We are like that puzzle, we have to conform to the likeness of Jesus to make that beautiful picture God intends us to be. We have the frame and piece by piece with rough edges and notches and holes, God's working in us will make a finished production that is beautiful.

As we study and grow, we become that workable puzzle where every piece fits with another in harmony. Colossians 3:14 "Above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony".

At first, when we scatter the pieces and turn them over, it makes absolutely no rhyme nor reason how something beautiful can come out of the humble jumble mess. Perseverance and time will soon fit everything where it needs to go. Discipline at staying with it will produce the result we're looking for. How often we look at something like this puzzle and walk away, never to appreciate the work of art. It is by the grace of God, we don't remain a pile of odd shaped pieces in a big mess. Ecclesiastes 3:11 says "He has made everything beautiful in Its time." Also, He has put eternity into man's heart yet, so that he cannot find out what God has done from beginning to end".

Now, sometimes it takes weeks or months to finish my work of art, but piece by piece it soon takes shape; and, as I near the putting in of the last piece, I feel a sense of satisfaction that I stuck to the course and joy that the finished product is worthy of my diligence. And although I don't decoupage and hang my work like many others, the joy of finishing and seeing the beautiful picture is reward enough.

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God has been patient with His creation. Out of love, He has provided us with a looking forward to an indestructible puzzle, where by the Cross we have access to that place where all things are perfect.

Sometimes I get a puzzle with a missing piece, or a piece that doesn't go with my puzzle, what a disappointment that is! I just mark on the box where the missing piece belongs, but it isn't complete. Praise God that we are complete in Him, through Christ who paid the price by dying for our sins . "He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him." Colossians 1:22 ESV

There are no missing pieces in Us that trust in Him. Everything fits together like the puzzle. Unique as we are and want to make things fit where they don't belong, by obeying and trusting all things will make a work of art that is acceptable to the Master.

There is a great hymn that says "He planned a beautiful design, but it will take some heat and time, but the Potter knows the clay.

Just like that mess on the table, we are in His hands, workable, pliable,
If we are submissive to His will, a perfect finished work of art.



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Prison Ministry April, 2018

We have experienced some real changes during the first part of the New Year.

We are no longer serving the State of Nevada Boot Camp. Its location has been moved from Indian Springs, Nevada to Las Vegas and they are served by the ministries in that area. We really miss them; and, pray the Lord will bless them in their new location.

However - we are still serving at the Nye County Detention Center; and, we were very pleased and surprised to receive an Appreciation Award from Sheriff Wehrly and Undersheriff Eisenloffel.

Lois Meeks and Irene Hunt (that's us) each received a beautiful Award Plaque with the following words:

Appreciation Award

In support of Nye County Detention Services
For providing inmates at the Nye County Detention Center with
Uninterrupted Ministry services since 1991. You continue
To serve inmates with "The Singing Church", bringing
uplifting music, singing, comfort and spiritual
joy to those who are incarcerated.
You are deeply
appreciated for your service to
the citizens of Nye County, the Nye County
Detention Center and its inmates. We applaud your
spirit and thank you for the work you have accomplished.

Sharon A. Wehrly
Nye County Sheriff

Michael Eisenloffel
Nye County Undersheriff

We are pleased and humbled by the special Award; and we are happy to know that our ministry will continue in Nye County.

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At Inspirations Senior Center we are still offering the Tuesday Morning "Sing Along"; and, what a great joy it is to spend this time with them. Our team has expanded to five singers, one guitar, one violin, and one Omnichord and our music fills the second floor of the building. This happy time on Tuesdays is also open to visitors as well as the residents; and, we hope you will be able to join us in song when you are in the neighborhood.

We thank you for your support and prayers and look forward to serving the Lord, one day at a time.

God bless you,
Irene Hunt, Chaplain

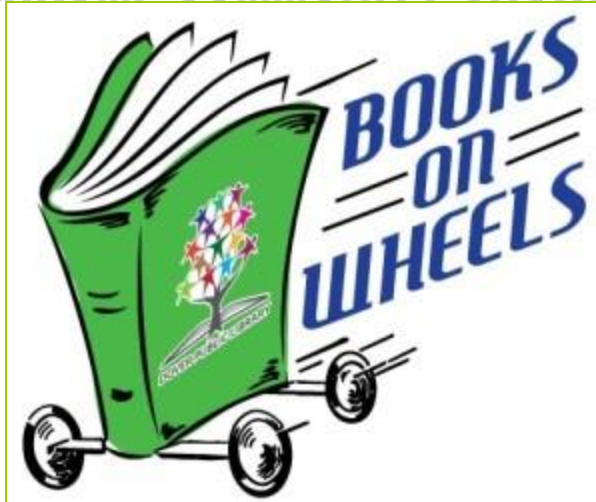
SING *All Together Now* GALONG





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PAHRUMP COMMUNITY CHURCH'S



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THIS MONTH'S BOOK THEME FOCUS IS:

Biography

Missions

Women

Prayer and Devotion

STOP, BROWSE, AND/OR CHECKOUT BOOKS

BEFORE AND/OR AFTER

EACH SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE



Don't forget the Awana Auction on this Saturday, May 5th. They will continue to accept donations and sell tickets until Wednesday, May 2nd. Please note that the \$10.00 ticket isn't to get in but to pay for the catered Panda Express. The Dinner will begin at 5:00 pm and the Auction will begin sometime around 6:00 pm.



Mother

*has ears that listen,
Arms that always hold.
Love that's never-ending
And a heart that's made
of Gold.*

**Happy
Mother's
Day**

