

EVANGELICAL PROTESTANT  
CHURCH(GCEPC)®, INC,  
LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL  
PROTESTANT CHURCH(LEPC)®

BREAKING  
NEWS!



Staying Warm?

Film at eleven, ED

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# The Evangelical Protestant The Magazine of the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church

WINTER 2012

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## How Grand Are Your Works!



**Psa 76:4** You are the radiant one. You are more majestic than the ancient mountains.

Grand Canyon, AZ



Evangelical Protestant  
Church (GCEPC)® Inc.,

Lutheran Evangelical  
Protestant Church (LEPC)®,

*GCEPC "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works, so that no one can boast." Ephesians 2: 8*

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Editor Rev. Steve Bacon

# We Believe

**1. The Holy Scriptures**, in the original tongues, is the inspired and inerrant word of God. (Matthew 4:4, 2 Timothy 3:16,17)

**2. There is one God**, eternal and self-existent, Creator and Ruler of the universe, and manifested through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (John 1:18, Matthew 3:16-17) We are Trinitarian.

**3. Jesus Christ** is truly divine and truly human having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. (Matt.1: 18)

**4. Jesus Christ** died on the cross and shed His blood as a Sacrifice

for our sins; He arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High. (1 John 2:2)

**5. Humankind** was created in the image of God, but fell into sin causing separation from God. (Gen. 3:1-24)

**6. Salvation** has been provided through Jesus Christ for all; and those who repent and believe on Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life and become the children of God. (John 1:10)

**7. Water baptism** identifies us with the death and burial of Christ and that we should arise to

walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19-20)

**8. We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit** to glorify Christ, to convict of sin, to enable the believer to live a godly life, and to empower the Church to carry the gospel into all the world. (Matthew 12:31, Acts 1:8.)

**9. In the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ** for His Church. (Matthew 24:30, Rev 1:7)

**10. In the bodily resurrection** of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved and everlasting separation from God of all those who reject Jesus Christ. (John 1:10-13, Rev 20:11-15)

## The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

AMEN.

## Bishop's Page



### Just thinking

...why shepherds? was it just because they were simple?

Migdal Eder, "Tower of the Flock," was located on the outskirts of Bethlehem. "And you, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, even the former dominion shall come, the kingdom of the daughter of Jerusalem." (Micah 4:8) According to the Talmud this area was within a consecrated circle around Jerusalem where animals for the Temple sacrifices of Peace and Passover were kept. Jewish writers of the day concluded from Micah's prophecy that

the announcement of the Messiah would come first from Migdal Eder. The shepherds tending these cattle/sheep would have been part of the sacrificial system of the Temple. On this holy night the calling of these shepherds would reach true fulfillment in receiving the announcement of the Lamb of God come to take away the sins of the world and bring peace. Who better to receive such news! It was a powerful prophetic sign to all of Israel and later to the world that salvation had come just as the Scriptures foretold. After receiving the news the shepherds visited the baby Jesus, the new Priest and King, as confirmation and then spread the news that the Messiah had come. "Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds." (Luke 2:17-18)

you can read more here about Migdal Eder:

<http://int.icej.org/news/commentary/tower-flock>

*My greatest desire for all of our ministers is that they would have a close walk with Our Lord, learning His ways, hearing His voice, knowing Him.*



Blessings,

*Bishop Nancy*

# Are we rolling down hill like a snowball headed for hell?

Pastor Steve Bacon

## Are the Good Times Really Over for Good?

Merle Haggard

*I wish a buck was still silver.*

*It was back when the country was strong.  
Back before Elvis; before the Vietnam war  
came along.*

*Before The Beatles and "Yesterday",  
When a man could still work, and still would.  
Is the best of the free life behind us now?  
Are the good times really over for good?  
Are we rolling down hill like a snowball  
headed for hell?*

*With no kind of chance for the Flag or the  
Liberty bell.*

*Wish a Ford and a Chevy,  
Could still last ten years, like they should.  
Is the best of the free life behind us now?  
Are the good times really over for good?*

*I wish coke was still cola,  
And a joint was a bad place to be.  
And it was back before Nixon lied to us all on  
TV.*

*Before microwave ovens,  
When a girl could still cook and still would.  
Is the best of the free life behind us now?  
Are the good times really over for good?*

*Are we rolling down hill like a snowball  
headed for hell?  
With no kind of chance for the Flag or the  
Liberty bell.*

*Wish a Ford and a Chevy,  
Could still last ten years, like they should.  
Is the best of the free life behind us now?  
Are the good times really over for good?*

*Stop rolling down hill like a snowball headed  
for hell.*

*Stand up for the Flag and let's all ring the  
Liberty bell.*

*Let's make a Ford and a Chevy,  
Still last ten years, like they should.  
The best of the free life is still yet to come,  
The good times ain't over for good.*

My cell phone ringtone is "Old Time Rock & Roll: by Bob Segar, but when it comes to music with a message I always go with Country.

This past year this tune by merle Haggard has been going through my head and I have been singing it a lot. Three times this year we have been assured that the world will end and many people have believed it.

They believe it because they see the world spiraling out of control and can't imagine it getting any worse.

The carnage that exist when gunman take the lives of innocent people in movie theaters and schools because of some perceived wrong done to them or perceived right that they are correcting or worse yet, fulfilling a fantasy game in real life.

Evil is real. The devil is real. God is real.

We accept the pushing out of God from our schools, workplaces and government and yet this country was founded on faith and trust in God. This country was settle by people who left Europe and Asia escaping religious and government persecution.

This country was founded thusly:

**IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.**

***The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America,***

*When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.*

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes;*

(Continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 4)*

*and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.*

We did not require a religious test to serve in government so why are we requiring one now when professing Christians are denied the right to free speech. In our pulpits today, preaching the Word of God can be treated as hate speech and Ministers of the Gospel can be arrested for preaching it.

God has been pushed out of our schools and when a crazed gunman kills 20 innocent children and 6 teachers and himself, we ask where was God when this happened.

God has been pushed out of the workplace and when a crazed gunman in Minneapolis kills 6 people and himself we ask, where was God when this happened?

We have pushed God out of the public and when a crazed gunman kills 20 innocent people in a crowded movie theater, we ask where was God when this happened?

Some say God was not there because we pushed Him out, but that is not true. While we constantly turn our back on God, He never turns his back on us.

As Christians continue to sit silent as God is pushed from America, the devil gloats. As Christians continue to send mixed messages about what it means to be a Christian, the devil gloats.

As denominations continue to fight with each other and agree to change the inerrant Word of God to suit the times in an effort to include everyone in the Kingdom of God, the devil gloats.

Cults continue to grow and Christianity continues to shrink. Why? Because cults have one party line that is adhered to and followed. Christians cannot agree on whether they should have Communion every week every other week or once a month. They cannot agree whether the elements are or merely represent the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus. Homosexuality is a sin, or no it isn't. Once saved always saved, or it is possible to turn away from God and fall from Grace.

Mormonism is the fastest growing religion and it is a cult. Mormons believe that living a good life can turn you into a god when you die, provided you are a man. Gee that sounds pretty good doesn't it.

Muslims believe that if you lead a good life and do plenty of good works, give to those less fortunate and pray six times a day you can have a dozen virgins in paradise, provided you are a man. Sound pretty good doesn't it?

Christians believe what?

*God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever would believe in him would not die but have eternal life. John 3:16*

That should be the party line and that should be the message that every Christian has on their lips.

How can we stop these tragedies that are happening?

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

The NRA feels that we need to have trained people with guns in the schools and workplace to insure safety. I don't believe that, although I do have guns for my protection and I would most certainly use one if my life or the life of a loved one was in danger.

I believe the way we can prepare for and protect innocent people from the ravages of crazed people is to make sure that they know and understand about Jesus Christ. To make sure that children growing up and adults know the story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not the lies of a Mormon or the story of Mohammad, but the story of Jesus the Christ, Son of God who was with God in the beginning and has no beginning or end.

This world will continue to spiral out of control and Jesus will indeed come again but it will not be when we think it can't get any worse.

The world will end when we have pushed God completely from the picture and when man becomes their own God. When mankind is sure that everything they have done and are doing is a direct result of their own efforts, then the world will end.

This year can see a great change in our country if we as Christians want it to change. If we as Christians start to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone around us and pray for the Holy Spirit to take over, we will start to see change.

If we train our children in the one true faith we can be assured that while their physical lives may be taken, their spiritual lives are safe and secure.

Jesus Loves Me

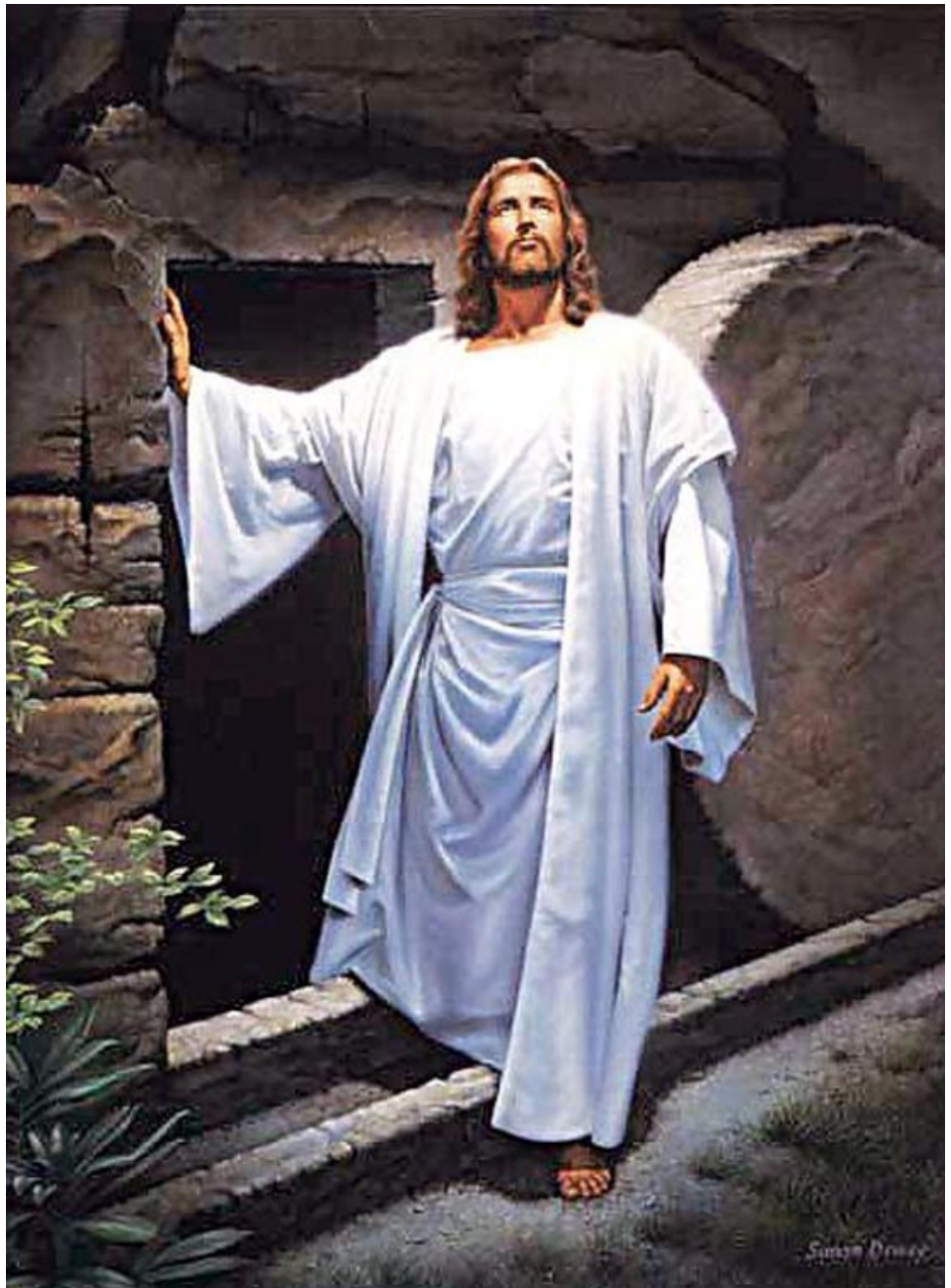
This I know

For the Bible Tells me So

We don't have to feel like we are going downhill like a snowball headed for hell if we share the Good News.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve Bacon



## OUTREACH MEANS REACHING OUT by Bishop Dr. David Church



*But praise be to God for His promises!! "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Romans 5:20.*

**Outreach.** This seems to have become a popular ministry buzzword added as part of the name of a church, a ministry organization, or a ministry within another. We have Victory Outreach, Christian Outreach Ministry, Global Media Outreach and many others. But many are great ministries that are reaching out to the lost and hurting people others forget or ignore, evangelizing and making disciples of them and raising an army of soldiers for Jesus Christ. Some are reaching out to the inner cities suffering from so-called "urban blight", large cities with collapsing economies, sprawling neighborhoods full of crime and with a large disparity between the poorest and wealthiest classes.

In these places people have little or no hope. An atmosphere of despair is felt everywhere. Drug and alcohol addiction as well as fornication runs rampant as people seek relief from their seemingly hopeless existence. Without responsible adult supervision, bored teens turn to gangs that promise to provide them with a sense of "belonging" and teaching them the paths to "easy money": dealing drugs, robbery and extortion, prostitu-

tion and every other vice and crime which preys on others in not much better predicaments. Sin abounds.

But praise be to God for His promises!! "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."—Romans 5:20. Poverty, addiction, crime and despair are only symptoms of the real problem- *the spiritual bankruptcy of unregenerate man*. We do not become sinners by sinning. We sin because we are sinners. The person without Christ is in bondage to their sinful desires. An un-regenerated man or woman is unable to not sin. Sure, one can do good things occasionally. I'm sure even Adolph Hitler and Joseph Stalin loved and helped their mothers, but had no capacity (or nature) to please God. No child of Adam can.

We know without a doubt that Jesus Christ can and will free anyone that calls upon Him in faith. Anyone. Manson murderers Tex Watson Dennis Rice and Bruce Davis turned to Christ and now have ministries to prisoners. Much farther back in history we see a strict Pharisee that arrested and put the earliest followers of Jesus to death. We know him today as the Apostle Paul who is arguably the greatest missionary that ever lived and who wrote roughly half of the New Testament. Our God changes lives!!

In spite of hardships unimaginable and uncountable St. Paul reached out throughout the Roman Empire for his Lord. Our Lord. The same Lord that raises the dead, heals the diseased and infirmed, and regenerates the spiritually dead and bestows the Holy Spirit on all who repent and call out to receive Jesus Christ.

If we, as ministers of the LEPC, would take this to heart and believe that Jesus works in the same way today as in St. Paul's time *and* have within ourselves the burden for the lost that he had we too can have an effective outreach. Some of us are already doing "outreach" as Prison Chaplains. Some work with abused children and woman. Some of us work in Addictions and Recovery Ministries. We are called to work wherever Christ knows we will be effective as we yield to His Spirit and feel the pain of those caught in the grip of the enemy of our souls within this sinful world.

**Bishop Dr. David Church**

# Forgiveness and Reconciliation – Part 2

By Bishop Jessica Johnston, Spirit Soul and Body Ministries

In Part I of Forgiveness and Reconciliation we defined what it means to forgive and the guidelines for reconciliation. That forgiveness does not always lead to reconciliation but can be the pathway if the offender truly repents and there is fruit of repentance. In Part II we will expound on one thing that stands in the way of forgiveness and reconciliation and how to deal with it: Denial. Denial comes in many forms and can occur on the part of the one who has been offended or the offender. In this article we will deal with both.

But let's begin by defining denial. Denial is declaring something to be untrue. This can be an allegation, a fact, a statement, something that occurred, etc. In the study of psychology denial can also be a coping or defense mechanism for those who have been wounded for example by violence, assault, abuse, death or dying. It allows someone to reject, despite the evidence, something too painful to accept. But, denial can also be a shield to forego responsibility for harming another.



## The Offended

As mentioned for someone who has been hurt or wounded denial may be a way to protect self. They may say things like "It didn't happen. I forgot all about it. I just moved on. I pretend like it never happened. I didn't let it affect me." While this temporarily may help someone cope with the pain it is not the truth. This "forgetting" or "moving on" is even associated with forgiving. But, forgiveness or acceptance is not denying that you were violated or hurt. In order to truly forgive someone who has hurt us we must first acknowledge what has happened. If you or someone else thinks you are in denial here are some things you might consider:

- Honestly ask yourself what you fear.
- Think about the potential negative consequences of not taking action.
- Allow yourself to express your fears and emotions.
- Try to identify irrational beliefs about your situation.
- Journal about your experience.
- Open up to a trusted friend or loved one.
- Participate in a support group.
- Seek counseling.





## The Offender

Sometimes the offender does not accept or acknowledge their responsibility in the situation. This also is denial, specifically denial of responsibility and denial of impact.

### Denial of responsibility

“This form of denial involves avoiding personal responsibility by:

- **blaming**: a direct statement shifting culpability and may overlap with denial of fact
- **minimizing**: an attempt to make the effects or results of an action appear to be less harmful than they may actually be, or
- **justifying**: when someone takes a choice and attempts to make that choice look okay due to their perception of what is "right" in a situation.

Someone using denial of responsibility is usually attempting to avoid potential harm or pain by shifting attention away from themselves.

### Denial of impact

Denial of impact involves a person's avoiding thinking about or understanding the harms of his or her behavior has caused to self or others, i.e. denial of the consequences. Doing this enables that person to avoid feeling a sense of **guilt** and it can prevent him or her from developing remorse or empathy for others. Denial of impact reduces or eliminates a sense of pain or harm from poor decisions.” (*Wikipedia, Denial, 11/27/12*)

Additionally, and even more painful, especially for victims of sexual assault or abuse, is when this same denial exists in friends and family who are made aware of the circumstances. Victims of abuse must be made aware that this is a possibility and through counseling be prepared before sharing.

So why do people deny responsibility and impact of their behaviors ultimately keeping the pathway to forgiveness and reconciliation closed? Sometimes it is pride; sometimes it is fear because of the consequences that may occur, including loss; sometimes it may be out of ignorance and lack of knowledge or understanding. Possibly their denial of their own hurt and abuse is the cause. There are many reasons.

### How do we deal with the denial of someone who has hurt us?

Scripture says in Luke 17:3-4 “...If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. Also, if seven times in one day he sins against you, and seven times he comes to you and says, ‘I repent,’ you are to forgive him.” Most today do not use the term rebuke. Confront is more accepted. For some, confrontation is not wise, but if it is an option there are some things to remember. You can confront them with rational argument in the hope of breaking through their denial or you can forgive, accept their denial and work around them and let them live with the consequences of their denial.

If you want to confront them it will take time and effort. You will have to determine how deep their denial goes and if you are willing and feel led of the Lord to engage them. Engaging them in their denial does not mean you allow continued hurt or abuse.



Here are a few strategies in engaging those who deny: (Referenced from Dr. Sanity Blogspot 4/17/06)

- Set the boundaries. Determine to have a rational discussion of the issues. Prepare yourself that they may ignore these limits and what you will do.
- Respectfully give constructive feedback.
- Present your rational perspective with your evidence or facts.
- Point out errors in logic; ask for objective evidence.
- Re-direct. If they avoid the point make them aware of it and challenge them to return to rational argument.
- Acknowledge when they have a point.
- Ask for specific suggestions on how to deal with the problems, share your own and agree.
- Don't solve the problems for them.
- Give them information to read on the issue.

Those who have been abused should seek the help of a Godly counselor to determine how best or if to do this. This will also depend on where you are in your healing process. A counselor can facilitate this type of discussion if needed.

So, whether you are the offended or the offender we should all understand as David in Psalm 51:6 "Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part You will make me know wisdom."

Denial wounds. It wounds the one denying and the one denied. It is living a lie, delusion or fantasy. The conscience says look and you look away.

If we attempt to achieve a fake forgiveness with the offender by putting "out of mind" the offense, we might be fooling ourselves and others, but the hurt remains. Forgiveness is real. It deals with the truth regardless of how painful. Be courageous enough to accept the truth and take responsibility for the truth. In doing so it is more likely that with guidance, forgiveness can occur with the possibility of reconciliation.

Ultimately we should remember, whether the one that is hurt or the one that hurt us, that nothing is hidden from Gods sight.



# Serving During A Time of Spiritual Warfare

Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy

Serving During A Time of Spiritual Warfare And The Offering Of His Name. Do we Captain our boat or do others determine our course?

As we enter this Christmas Season and look forward to the Epiphany of our Lord, I think of a recent writing by Bishop Nancy and the direction of Chaplaincy in our military and their auxiliary organizations. My question to the reader is “What do we have to look for in the future of our military and the role of the Christian Chaplain?” I ask your prayerful consideration of my question. I submit that we are in the same battle for speaking His Name as were early followers who had to meet in secret to worship and call upon Him as Lord and Savior. In my conversations with colleagues and fellow Chaplains who serve in our military I find that the rules of the secular community are becoming the force to control and structure what the Chaplain may offer in his/her words of prayer and ministering to those who are our military.

For more than half of my life, I have served in our nations military. I have worn the uniforms of the Navy and Army. I have been attached to the Marine Corps as a Navy Combat Corpsman and I am currently in my twelfth year of serving in the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. I consider uniformed service honorable and one of God’s callings to those who serve. Our brethren who serve as Chaplains are a part of this service not only in the service uniform but also under the banner of the Church. Now it appears that secular forces are lowering the banner of the “the church” to take secondary precedence to a national banner of progressive thought. In the past, the “church pennant” was the only flag that was flown above the national ensign on US Navy ships when a Chaplain was conducting services. The custom is to raise the national ensign and then the church pennant on a separate halyard. The national ensign is then lowered below the church pennant. Upon completion of the services the national ensign is raised back to full staff and the church pennant lowered. This tradition has been challenged over the years and the argument of separation of church and state used to call for an end to the practice. Currently the practice of silencing the military chaplain has taken on a less visible role however, the message is clear that a chaplain must not offer prayer or religious content others may find offensive. To offer prayer in the name of Jesus could be offensive to some and therefore the Chaplain who does so faces the possibility or command repercussion and possible career endangerment. Since military orders and directives carry penalty if not followed one can see how Chaplains may find themselves in conflict with the secular military directive or order and God’s calling to minister in His name.

**THE ARMOR OF GOD** EPH. 6:10-17

**The helmet of salvation**  
The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?  
Ps 27:1

**The sword of the Spirit**  
For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword...  
Heb. 4:12

**The shield of faith**  
Who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.  
1 Peter 1:5

**The breastplate of righteousness**  
...be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ...  
Phil 3:9

**The belt of truth**  
If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.  
John 8:31-32

**The shoes of the Gospel**  
How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace..  
Is 52:7

\*Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace, in all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... Ephesians 6:10-17 niv-2011, Good and Beautiful used with permission.

(Continued from page 11)

I have served as Lay Leader in my US Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla for several years. Recently Commandant Instruction M16790.1G section G.12 concerning Lay Leaders provided direction to Flotilla Commanders concerning the Lay Leader. In brief it states that an elected unit leader may designate a Lay Leader for the unit. The name of said Lay Leader is forwarded to the appropriate Coast Guard District Chaplain who will provide materials that will enable the Lay Leader to perform related functions in a proper manner and consistent with Coast Guard Policy. The position of Lay Leader is not an authorized staff position and will not be recorded in the Auxiliary Data collection. Lay Leaders in performing invocations, moments of silence and other activities must adhere to directions of specific US Coast Guard guidelines and they must ensure the offered content is non-sectarian to avoid offending persons of different beliefs, and to recognize the inherent diversity in a national organization such as the Auxiliary. This is the circumstance faced by many who serve in uniform and one that requires much prayer and self searching to determine what God is leading them to do and how they are to serve. To some it is a clear decision of service to two masters and the choice is obvious.

As I have listened to my brothers in the chaplaincy and come to my decision, I recall Psalm 144 that has been my mantra for some time when engaged in the fight for His kingdom and the offering of His name in my prayers.

Let us listen to God's word:

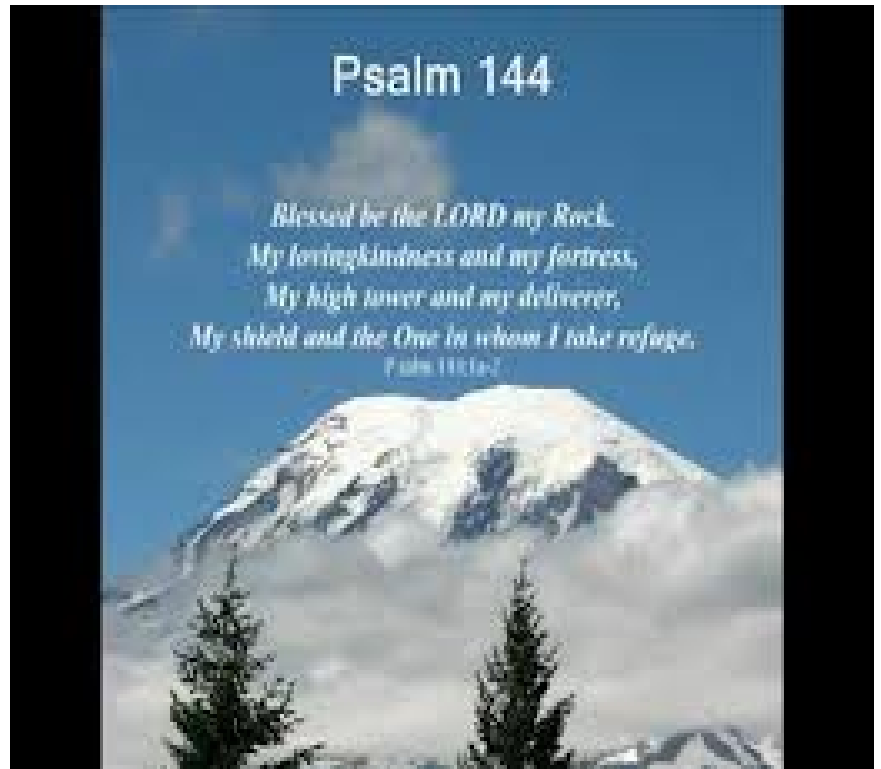
Psalm 144: 1-2, 7-8

Praise be to my Lord my Rock,  
who trains my hands for war,  
my fingers for battle.

He is my loving God and my fortress,  
my stronghold and my deliverer,  
my shield in whom I take refuge,  
who subdues peoples under me.

Reach down your hand from on high ;  
deliver me and rescue me  
from mighty waters,  
from the hands of foreigners  
whose mouths are full of lies,  
whose right hands are deceitful.

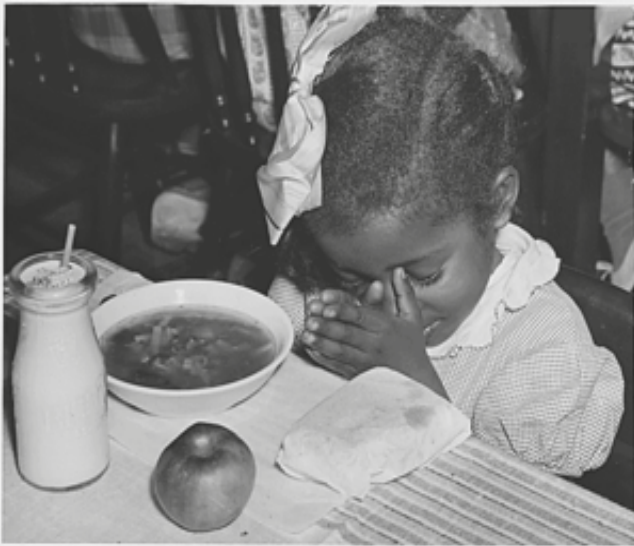
This is the word of the Lord.



Reciting this Psalm brings clarity to my thinking and peace to my being. How can one who holds this as his/her mantra not offer prayer in the name of Jesus. When I think of the battles ahead and the price my brothers and sisters in arms and in the Chaplaincy face my heart breaks for them. We are truly in a battle for our faith and the right to offer our prayers in the market place and in His name. If denied this foundation of our call in the name of diversity, what then do we expect next. Persecution of believed has been a part of history over time. I believe we are now entering another phase of persecution as men and women called to the service of our Lord and the effort is to silence the voice calling His name in prayer. May we as soldiers of the cross call upon his name and as offered in Psalm 144: 11 "From the deadly sword deliver me, rescue me. Let us look forward to His coming as a deliverer from those who seek to silence the use of His name in our prayerful offerings.

Rev. Dr. Thomas Peavy

## Can We Please Put Prayer Back in Schools Now?



Even people who don't typically pray are praying in the wake of what has now officially become the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history. That's the right response to the senseless killing of 20 children and eight adults, but it's time to take this issue of prayer a step further. Rather than waiting until the aftermath of a Columbine, Virginia Tech Newtown school shooting to pray, can we please put prayer back into schools on Monday morning?

I know it's not as simple as that, but I ask you: If Columbine wasn't enough, if Virginia Tech was not enough, can the Newtown school shooting finally be enough? If not, when is enough enough?

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court examined a 22-word prayer children used to acknowledge God. That prayer went like this: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers, and our country." It's a simple, put powerful prayer that I believe invoked God's protection over schools and inspired morality in the hearts of a generations. Removing prayer from schools has spawned a well-documented impact on our educational system and on the broader society.

Indeed, David Barton's *America: To Pray or Not to Pray* offers statistics on the impact of removing prayer from schools. I won't recount all the numbers here. Suffice it to say that there has been a dramatic rise in teenage pregnancy, unmarried mothers, the divorce rate, violent crimes, illegal drugs, abortions, single parent homes ... Across the board the nation has witnessed a dramatic rise in immorality and it began at a precipitous pace when prayer was removed from schools.

Skeptics will deny any correlation between prayer in schools and morality in our nation, but I beg to differ. By giving children the opportunity to participate in a prayer every morning from the time they are old enough to attend school, they were exposed to the person and power of God. By shutting God out of



*(Continued on page 14)*

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the school system, many children lost the chance to invite Him into their families and into their hearts.

Clearly, our nation needs God now more than ever.

Allowing students to participate in a moment of prayer every morning is not a panacea for our nation's problems, but it's one step in the right direction. It's righting an old wrong. It's showing God a measure of repentance. It's opening the door for Him to move in our families, our schools, and our country at a greater level.

The decision to remove prayer from public schools in 1962 was unpopular then and it's unpopular now—yet it remains in effect. It's time to get down on our knees and pray for the right to government-sanctioned prayer in public schools again. It's probable that many students would tune out during the daily prayer. It's likely that there would be debates over whether it should be a Hindu, Muslim or Christian prayer. It's almost certain that the ACLU and atheist activists would put up a fight.

But if God is for us, who can be against us? I believe God has been waiting for His people to rise up with a unified voice of righteousness against the immorality in this nation. I believe God has been patient through our prayerlessness. And I believe if we set our hearts toward reinstating Christian prayer in schools it could help fuel the prophesied Great Awakening in this generation.

Some experts are reporting that nothing could have prevented the Newtown school shooting. Again, I beg to differ. I think prayer could have prevented it. And I think reinstating prayer in public schools can prevent the next mass murdering from stepping foot on campus and prematurely ending more innocent lives. So, in the wake of yet another tragedy, can we please put prayer back in schools now? **Jennifer LeClaire,**

**Jennifer LeClaire Ministries,**  
[www.jenniferleclaire.org/](http://www.jenniferleclaire.org/)



**School prayer** was a standard part of schooling until June 1962.

[saturdayeveningpost.com](http://saturdayeveningpost.com)

## Sharing Christ at Christmas LEPC and GFA

### Singing carols and praying

In one area, staff and missionaries visited a hospital and sang Christmas carols for the patients, doctors and nurses. "When you were singing, I felt heaven coming down and the presence of the Lord covering this place," one of the patients told the missionaries.

\*\*\*\*\*



Many churches do programs for the community. These dancers were part of one of the services.

How do you explain Christmas to someone who has never celebrated the holiday? The LEPC and Gospel for Asia find the way. Gospel for Asia-supported missionaries and staff start by sharing the story of Christ. Each year during the weeks leading up to Christmas, missionaries, Bridge of Hope workers and office staff fan out and share the Good News about the Savior who was born in a stable. Each group of GFA workers creates their own program and chooses their own venue for sharing the Christmas story.

They also took time to share the story of Jesus and to pray for the patients. One man, who had been bedridden for 10 years, was brought to tears by the prayers. "Now I have peace and joy in my life. I thought no one loves me, but now I understand that Jesus loves me," he said.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Seeing answered prayer

This same group also sang carols and prayed for the people at a local military base, where they had sung and handed out Gospel tracts the year before. Many remembered them from their previous year's visit and warmly welcomed them back. Team members were blessed to hear about answers to their prayers from the previous year.

They met a baby whom they had prayed for while he was still in his mother's womb. They had also prayed for the mother after discovering her husband had been paralyzed in an accident. The team rejoiced on this return visit when they saw the husband up walking around again.

"I was waiting for you to come this year so that I could testify of God's miracle to you," the new mother told the team. Another family

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at the military base thanked the team for praying for their 10-year-old son the previous year. The boy had a mental problem that made it impossible for him to perform even the most basic functions, like standing up. The team praised the Lord after seeing the boy standing up and joyfully clapping along to their songs.

After visiting the hospital and the military base, the team turned its attention to the marketplace. They went out to the bustling streets in their community and sang songs, which always attracts a crowd. The people who gathered to hear the concert received Gospel tracts and New Testaments.

Another street party was held on December 23 in front of the GFA administrative office in that area. The GFA team worked with Christians from other organizations, and together, they led a candlelight Christmas worship service and shared the Gospel with those who gathered to participate.

On Christmas Day, the believers gathered for worship, and after the service, the Women's Fellowship teams distributed food packets to beggars and homeless peo-

ple in the busy railway station. They also handed out Gospel tracts and New Testaments to the people in the station.

Gospel for Asia-supported missionaries had the unique opportunity to share the Gospel on the first-ever publicly recognized Christmas holiday in Nepal. That's because 2009 was the first year the Nepali government declared Christmas as an official holiday. Believers and the missionaries who serve as their pastors had worship services to mark the holiday and invited people from the local communities. The pastors clearly presented the Gospel and gave Bibles to visitors. In one area, 12 people chose to follow Christ after hearing about Him at church that day.

The EPC/LEPC loves partnering with GFA.

At the time of this writing we have dug four Jesus wells that will provide clean water for generations to come in the four villages. There is a church near each well and the pastors and members minister to the people about Jesus as they come for water.

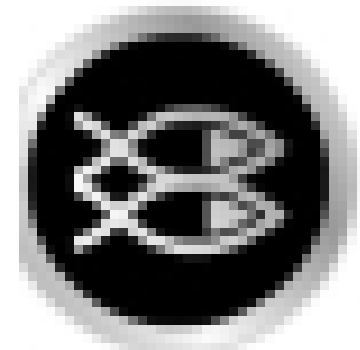
**“Christmas becomes real when we are truly able to express the love of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ with others,”**



This congregation is just one of many that had a Christmas worship service.



## Akamai Establishes University Chaplaincy Appoints Rt. Rev. Dr. Harvey Menden



OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY

The following is the announcement made by Akamai University in the appointment of LEPC Bishop Dr. Harvey Menden as head of their new Office of University Chaplaincy. Joining Bishop Menden in Akamai University's Chaplaincy Program is the Very Rev. Charles E. Sigmon, J.D. Rev. Sigmon has been appointed as a Chaplain to the University. His bio as presented by Akamai's website is included here, also. We congratulate our LEPC ministers in their appointments.

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Harvey Menden is ordained through holy orders within the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church. Dr. Menden is a Bishop and leads the Synod for the State of Georgia. Dr. Menden is a member of the International Society for Performance Improvement (ISPI) and has previously served on the Atlanta Chapter's board. The Rt. Rev. Dr. Menden is on the LEPC/GCEPC denominational Board of Advisors. As a bi-vocational clergy member he has held ordained leader servant positions in the church as a Deacon, Priest and Bishop. Religious research interests include the field of Apologetics, a theological science which has for its purpose the explanation and defense of the Christian religion. Dr. Menden's doctoral research was titled "Leveraging Apologetics for Successful Evangelism." Dr. Menden's religious education includes an M.T.S. from Agape Seminary, D.Min. from CBCS, an M.A. and Ph.D. from Southwest Bible College and Seminary. Dr. Menden received his Ph.D. in Business Education from International Institute for Advanced Studies, an MBA from NU and a BS in Political Science from the State University of New York. [Visit the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church website.](http://www.LutheranEPC.com) www.LutheranEPC.com

Dr. Menden has served as a Performance and Learning Consultant for multi-billion dollar businesses and previously held the position as a Director of HR Planning, Director of Training and Organizational Development at Adecco, Senior Consultant for the Human Resources Organizational Capability Group at BP Amoco Corporation. He has provided services to Fortune 500 companies such as The General Electric Company, The Coca-Cola Company, Black and Decker, Canada Life, and Little Tikes. He possesses extensive experience within Human Resources, Organizational Development, Organizational Behavior, International Business, and Adult Education.

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## The Very Rev. Charles E, Sigmon appointed as Akamai University Chaplain



### Rev. Charles E. Sigmon, Jr

The Rev. Charles E. Sigmon, Jr. is ordained through holy orders within the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church (LEPC). He is a bi-vocational clergy member and a retired attorney. Rev. Sigmon has provided service to the Lord's people as a deacon then a minister.

Rev. Sigmon's education includes a B.A. from the University of Tennessee and a J.D. from the University of Tennessee College of Law. In addition, Rev. Sigmon is continuing his religious studies through Concordia Theological Institute. Rev. Sigmon has adopted 2 Corinthians 1:4 as his ministry verse: "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we

will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."

### Mission of the University Chaplaincy

The Chaplaincy at Akamai University is committed to the spiritual development of all community members including students, staff, faculty and administration. The Chaplains at Akamai University seek to facilitate the growth of the total person towards a mature loving relationship with God, others, their self, and God's creation in its entirety. The chaplaincy focuses on biblical reflection, prayerful advocacy, spiritual disciplines, counseling, selfless service to community, stewardship, witnessing and the maintenance of positive attitudes and ethical behaviors. Visit : [www.akamaiuniversity.us/UniversityChaplaincy](http://www.akamaiuniversity.us/UniversityChaplaincy)

Painting by:

**William Strutt Peace- 1896**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the  
LORD. . . .

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

Isaiah 11:1-8



## Sympathy and Condolences

### *Deepest Sympathy to Newtown, Connecticut*

Our hearts are so grieved and horrified over the senseless loss of precious lives in Newtown, Connecticut. Jesus, thank you that you were there before we knew anything about this, thank you for your arms around this town to give your comfort for the hurting and those who have lost loved ones and little ones in this time. Newtown your sorrow is our sorrow. Your loss is our loss. Our hearts and prayers are with you. The EPC/LEPC grieves with you.

### *National Pastoral Prayer*

With deep gratitude we thank You, Father, that You are ever mindful of our weakness, how fragile our lives are. We have once again been reminded of our place in the universe but also that when we are weak we are strong because of Your life that is in us. When we think we cannot face one more day, somehow we do, when life explodes in our face and we can't even breathe somehow breath comes, and so, here we are, Lord, broken, broken again as a people and broken as a nation...You said, "and a little child shall lead them." It is not the dark life of a young man who has brought us to our knees; it is the little children, their laughs, their smiles, their lives, their loss. They are safe now but we are lost. Help us, Lord, show us the way out of this place not only of Littleton, Aurora and others and now Newtown, but this place of self centeredness, this place that causes us to believe we are invincible, in control when we are not and cannot be. Bring us into reliance on You, dependence on You and acknowledgement of You, that this earth we fight over is Yours and all that is in it. "Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down ..since ancient times no one has heard, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him as You do" You have proven that You use the vulnerable to make the greatest impact even in sending us your own Son as an infant in the midst of an evil and ungrateful world...thank You that You see us..and hear us..please help us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

# The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Tutrone

November 21, 2012 - 12:00 AM

The Rev. Dr. Robert E. Tutrone, 74, of Cresco, died Tuesday morning, Nov. 20, 2012, at Pocono Medical Center, East Stroudsburg. He was the husband of Gail (Young) Luddeni-Tutrone.

Born on Jan. 10, 1938, in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of the late John and Edith (Franchini) Tutrone and lived in Monroe County since 1976, moving from Smithtown, Long Island, N.Y.



He served in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1968.

Bob was a social worker for Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health/Mental Retardation until retiring in 2004.

He was Bishop Consular and Bishop of Chaplaincy of the Lutheran Evangelical Protestant Church and belonged to the General Conference of Evangelical Protestant Churches. He served as pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Swiftwater for the past six years and also led summer worship services at Parkside Chapel in Henryville.

He was a life member and chaplain of Pocono Township Fire Company and also served as chaplain of several other Monroe County fire companies, the Monroe County Fire Police, the Pocono Township Police Department and the Monroe County Office of Emergency Management.

He was director of Christian Chaplains Corps of America; member and chaplain of American Legion Post 859 in Newfoundland; member and chaplain of Monroe County Joint Veterans Memorial Honor Guard; chaplain and director of Monroe County Veterans' Association; and director and chairman of Substance Abuse and PTSD Committee. Other memberships include Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 678, National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA), Chaplains' Committee of the Firemen's Association State of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Special Fire Police Association and Disabled American Veterans.

He also received firefighter certification from the State University of New York; served as president, vice president and board chairman of Monroe County Fire Police and was second lieutenant of Pocono Township Fire Police.

For many years, Bob was one of Santa's helpers by representing him in New York and throughout the Monroe County area.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Robert Tutrone and his wife, Dianna, of Pocono Summit; and Edward Tutrone and his wife, Laura, of Pocono Lake; three stepsons, Michael Luddeni of Ormand Beach, Fla.; Christopher Luddeni and his wife, Sherry, of Bath; and Daniel Luddeni and his wife, Melissa, of Cresco; eight grandchildren, Cody Tutrone, Andrew Tutrone, Matthew Tutrone, Katelyn Bensley, Kelly Bensley, Joshua Luddeni, Jeremy Luddeni and Sean Luddeni; a sister, Bernadette Magnani and her husband, Giani, of Pelhem Manor, N.Y.; a niece, Jill Magnani; two nephews, Adam and Mark Magnani; and several cousins.

Well done good and faithful servant, you will be missed but we will see you again in the resurrection.

# What's New!



**The Wisconsin Retreat Members  
 Wisconsin Region Retreat  
 October 12 – 14, 2012  
 St Anthony Retreat Center  
 Marathon, Wisconsin**



# New Research Explores the Changing Shape of Temptation—Barna Research

## TEMPTATIONS AND AMERICA'S FAVORITE SINS



January 4, 2013 – It's that time again—the end of one year and the beginning of another—when people resolve to make some changes in their lives. New Year's resolutions are certainly nothing new—in fact, for many people, they are the same year after year. Making and breaking resolutions is something of a tradition. A new study from the Barna Group examines the temptations Americans say they most commonly struggle with—and how they resolve to deal with these moral and ethical lures.

The research reveals some new—and not so new—aspects to the temptations facing today's adults. The research was conducted in conjunction with a book project from Todd Hunter called [Our Favorite Sins](#).









### WHAT TEMPTS US?

For most American adults, the things they'll admit to being tempted by are related to work and productivity—but some of the age-old deadly sins show up too. Though, perhaps unsurprisingly, the more serious the temptation, the fewer people admit to struggling with it.




#### NEW TEMPTATIONS:

Spending too much time on media	44%	
“Going off” on someone via text or email	11%	

#### OLD TEMPTATIONS:

Eating too much	55%	
Spending too much money	44%	
Gossiping	26%	
Feeling jealous	24%	
Viewing pornography	18%	
Lying or cheating	12%	
Abusing alcohol or drugs	11%	
Doing something sexually inappropriate with someone	9%	

#### PARTICULARLY WESTERN TEMPTATIONS:

Procrastinating	60%	
Worrying	60%	
Being lazy / Not working as hard as I should	41%	

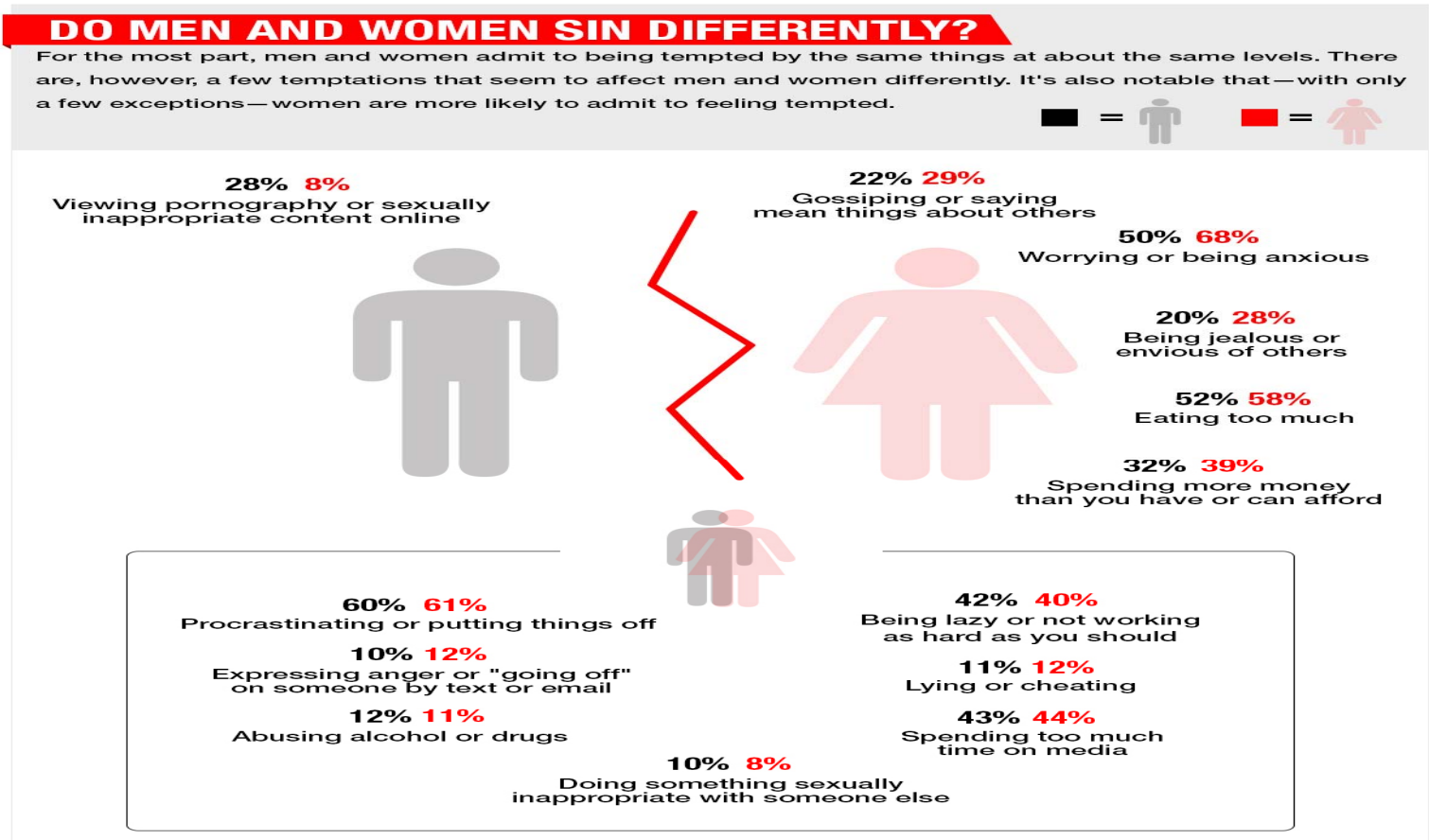
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### New Temptations

Resolutions relating to technology are becoming more common—particularly those that involve spending *less* time on it. The research shows nearly half of Americans (44%) say they are tempted to spend too much time with media, including the Internet, television and video games. Another “new” media-related temptation is to express anger or “go off” on someone by text or email. Overall, one out of nine Americans (11%) say they often or sometimes feel tempted to do this.

Though sexual sins are nothing new, viewing pornography online continues to escalate and take on new forms as the Internet and social media evolve. Nearly one in five Americans (18%) say they are tempted to view pornography or sexually inappropriate content online. Men more commonly admit being tempted to view porn than women (28% versus 8%).

It is not surprising the most technologically oriented generation—the Millennials, or Mosaics—are more likely than average to admit to struggling with these temptations of modern technology. More than half of Millennials (53%) say they are tempted to over-use screens and one-quarter (25%) feel the temptation to use technology to express their anger at others. When it comes to viewing pornography online, Millennials are significantly more likely than other generations to admit to wrestling with this temptation: more than one quarter (27%) say they are tempted by online pornography, while only 22% of Busters, 15% of Boomers and 8% of Elders say the same.



Source: OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup> N=1,021  
 Barna Group study conducted for Todd Hunter's book *Our Favorite Sins* (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

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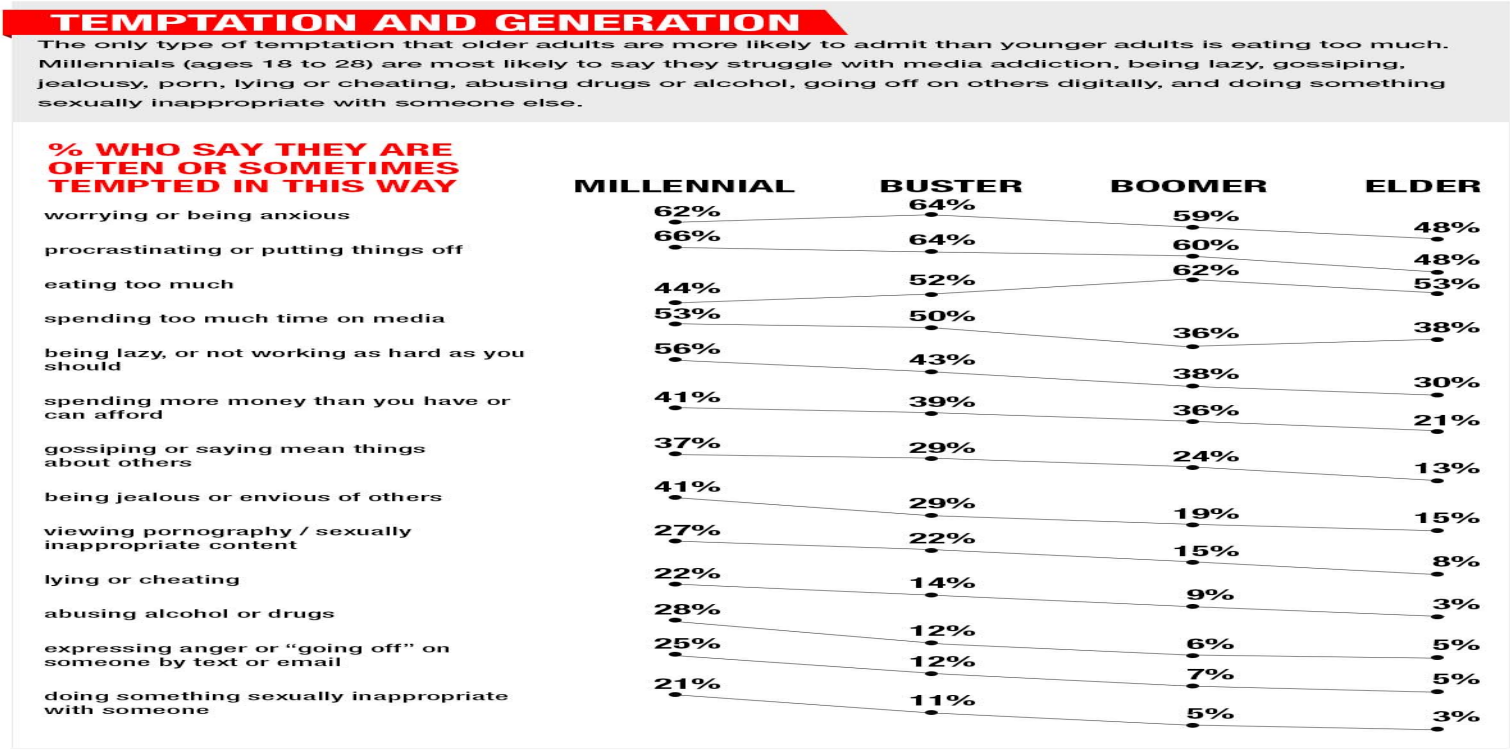
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### Old Temptations

Most temptations are not so modern. Americans are still facing the same age-old deadly sins that humanity’s always wrestled with. Though, naturally, the more serious the sin, the fewer people admit to being tempted by it. Which, perhaps explains why “eating too much” is up near the top of the list of admitted temptations—more than half (55%) say they are tempted to overeat. While doing something sexually inappropriate with someone is at the bottom—less than one in ten Americans (9%) admit to this. As might be expected, the older the person, the more likely they are to struggle with overeating (though this decreases from Boomers to Elders) and the younger the person, the more likely they are to face sexual temptations (21% of Millennials admit to being tempted to sin sexually with someone verses only 11% of Busters, 5% of Boomers and 3% of Elders).

When it comes to other more “traditional” sins, about one-third of Americans admit to spending too much money (35%), one-quarter say they are tempted to gossip or say mean things about others (26%), a similar number struggle with envy or jealousy (24%), a little more than one in ten admit to being tempted to lie or cheat (12%) and about the same number say they are tempted by alcohol or drugs (11%).

Though Millennials admit to being more tempted by these things than any other generation, the answers are fairly consistent across ages. The one exception being envy or jealousy, which Millennials are significantly more likely to admit to (41% verses 29% of Busters, 19% of Boomers and 15% of Elders). This is perhaps a life-stage factor as twentysomethings try to find their place and establish a lifestyle. Though it could also point to the effects of nearly ubiquitous consumer advertising on a generation that’s been marketed to more than any previous age group.



Source: OmniPoll™ N=1,021  
 Barna Group study conducted for Todd Hunter’s book *Our Favorite Sins* (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

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### Particularly Western Temptations

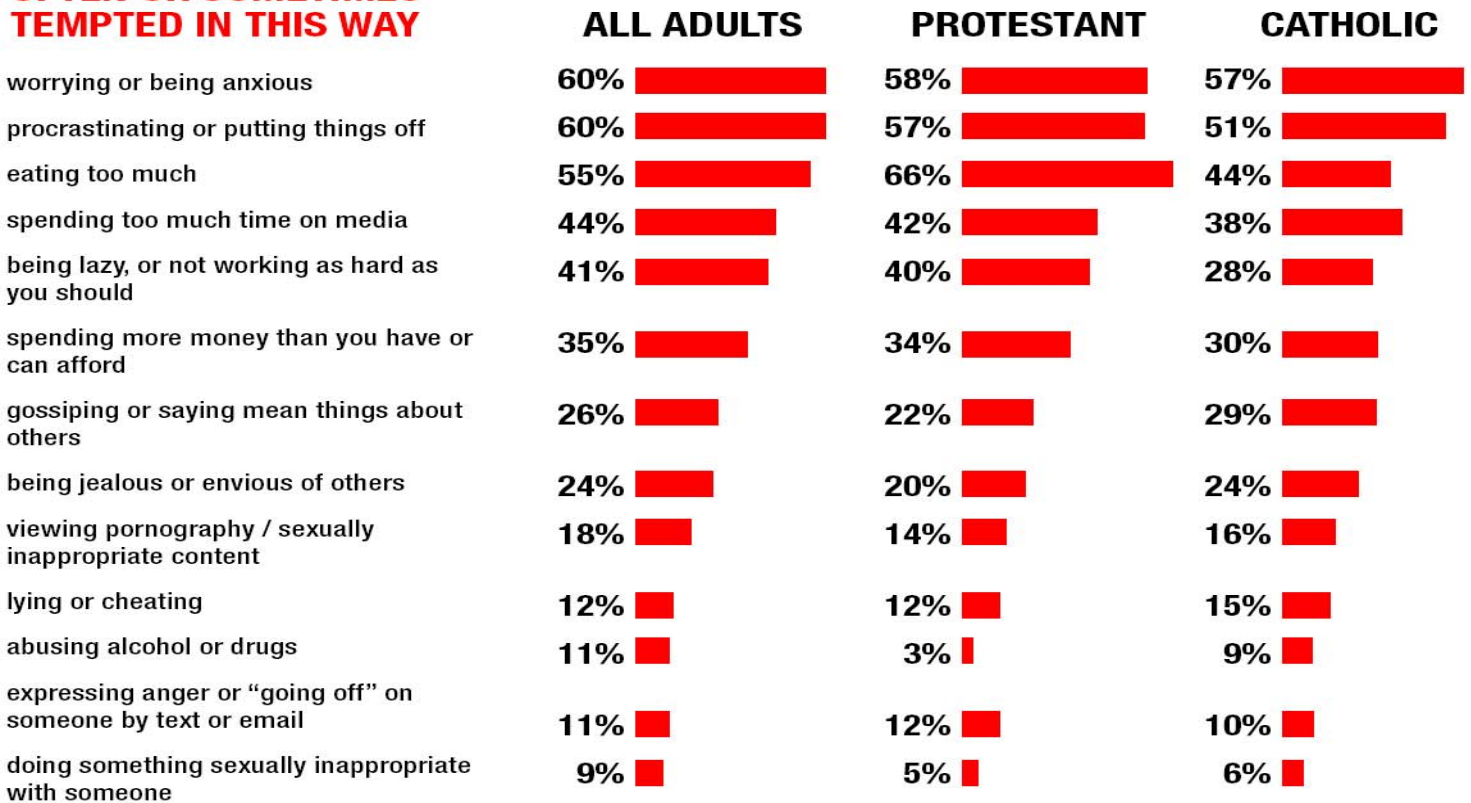
While most people may or may not consider procrastination and anxiety to be especially sinful, they are the temptations Americans are most likely to admit struggling with. Three out of five (60%) Americans say they are tempted to worry or be anxious and the same number say procrastination or putting things off is a serious temptation for them. In a similar vein, 41% of Americans say they are tempted to be lazy and not work as hard as they should. As with most of the other temptations, Millennials are more likely to admit they wrestle with these productivity-related temptations and each older generation is less likely to say so. Interestingly, when it comes to these work-related temptations, Protestants are more likely than Catholics to say they struggle with these (57% of Protestants say procrastination is a temptation and 40% admit to being lazy versus 51% and 28% of Catholics, respectively).

Such angst regarding productivity may be a result of the Puritan work ethic or of a society driven by busyness and material success. Either way, they reveal the high value Americans place on work—and the anxiety surrounding it.

## TEMPTATION AND RELIGION

Practicing Christians, whether Protestant or Catholic, tend to admit being tempted with about the same frequency of the national population. However, Protestants tend to admit overeating, procrastinating, and being lazy. Catholics are comparatively more likely to admit struggling with gossiping and alcohol and drug abuse.

### % WHO SAY THEY ARE OFTEN OR SOMETIMES TEMPTED IN THIS WAY



Source: OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup> N=1,021  
 Barna Group study conducted for Todd Hunter's book *Our Favorite Sins* (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

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## Why Do People Give In?

People give in to temptations for many reasons—but it would seem most people aren't actually sure why they do so. Half of the respondents say they don't know what the most common reason is they give in to temptation. Of those who could identify a reason, one in five (20%) say they give in to escape or get away from "real life" for a while. Other responses given were listed by less than one in ten, but included: to feel less pain or loneliness (8%), to satisfy people's expectations of me (7%), to take a shortcut to success (2%), for personal pleasure or because "I enjoy it" (2%), or simply as a result of human or sinful nature (1%).

## WHY WE GIVE IN

Most people—half of all respondents—admit they aren't sure why they give in to temptations. Of those who did give a reason, few believe it's because of their human or sinful nature:



Source:

OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup> N=1,021

Barna Group study conducted for Todd Hunter's book *Our Favorite Sins* (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

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### Is Resistance Futile?

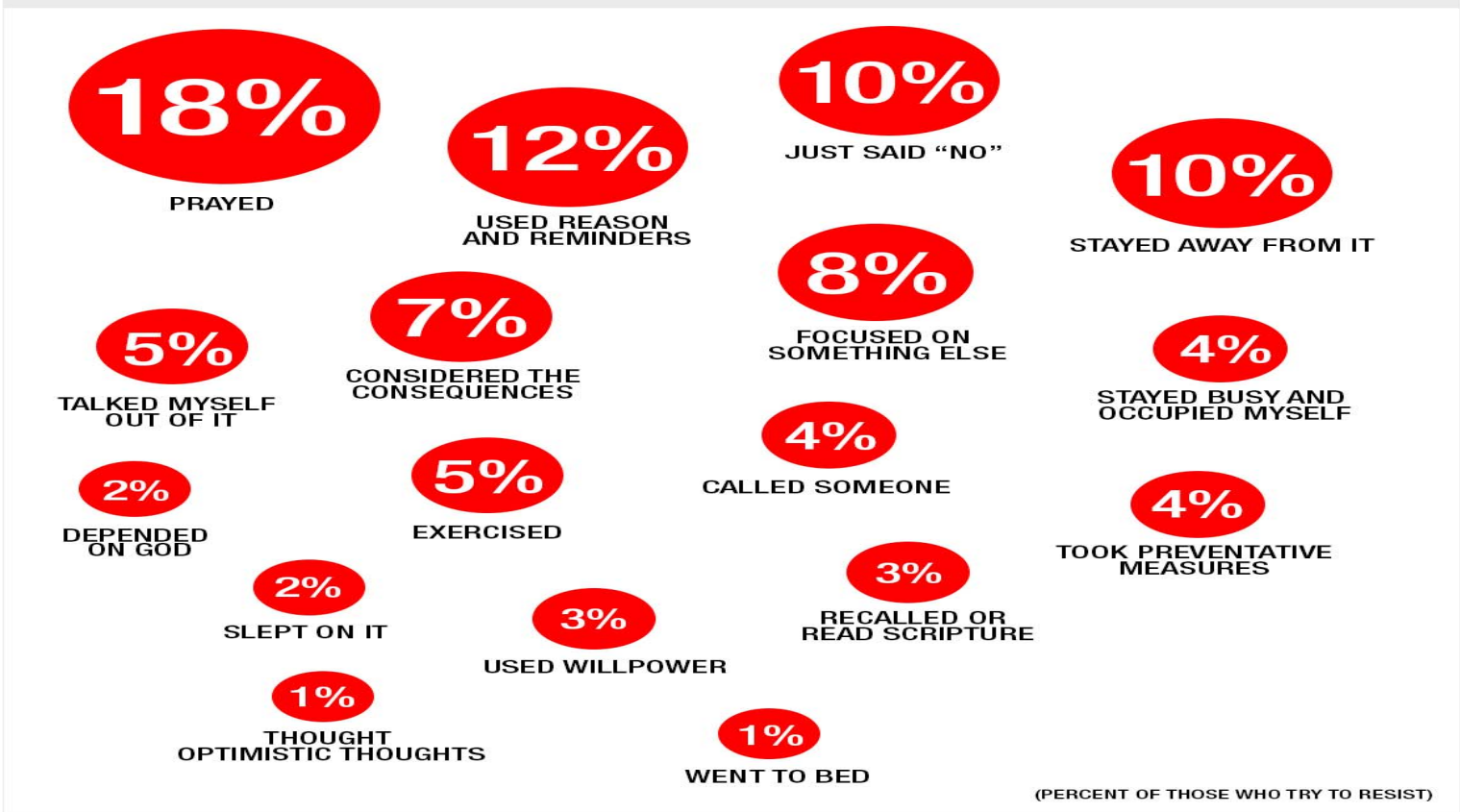
When facing a temptation, remarkably, most Americans (59%) say they don't do anything specific to avoid the tempting situation. As one demonstration of the changing values undergirding temptation, nearly half of Boomers and Elders say they try to avoid giving into temptation, but just one-third of Millennials and two-fifths of Busters attempt to resist temptation. However, those who are practicing Protestants and practicing Catholics stand in contrast to this trend: a majority of both groups indicate they attempt to stand up to temptation.

Those who try to avoid "giving in" implement a variety of coping mechanisms, from simply walking away to recalling Scripture to exercising. The most common way Americans say they avoid temptation is to pray and ask God for strength—about one in five of those who resist (18%) say this is what they usually do to hold back temptation.

Other common responses include using reason to weigh the options (12%), choosing to just say "no" (10%), and simply avoiding or staying away from the situation altogether (10%). Most of the ways people say they resist temptation are fairly individualistic—only 4% of people say they talk to or call someone else when they are tempted and a mere 1% say they seek the company of others or attend a meeting. In general, Americans seem to rely on their own willpower (through reasoning, leaving the situation, thinking about something else, or focusing on positive thoughts—about 4%-5% each) or on a distracting activity (exercise, work, going for a walk, listening to music, going to bed—about 2%-3% each).

### THE WAYS WE RESIST

Coping mechanisms come in all shapes and sizes. Here are a few of the common ways Americans resist temptation.



Source: OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup> N=1,021  
 Barna Group study conducted for Todd Hunter's book *Our Favorite Sins* (Thomas Nelson, 2012)

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## **Observations**

David Kinnaman, president of Barna Group, directed the study and offered four observations on the findings:

First, morality in America is undergoing a shift. One example of that is how temptation has gone "virtual." It now shadows many of the digital domains of contemporary life. Nearly half of Americans admit to being tempted to use too much media and one in nine admit to expressing their anger digitally. For faith leaders, this shift underscores the importance of including technology and media as part of a broader discussion of spirituality and stewardship.

Second, Millennials are significantly more likely to admit to being lured by most of the temptations assessed in the research. Why is that? Given their stage of life, are they simply more likely to be confronted by tempting situations than are older generations? Or is it that younger adults are more comfortable admitting to them in the context of a survey? Perhaps the perceived social consequences of being honest about personal struggles are dropping—or it's merely the angst of youth, worrying about things older adults simply no longer worry as much about. The bigger concern is if Millennials are beginning to accept these emotions as normal and not inherently wrong—as a result of media influence, normative peer behavior and shifting values. Whatever the case, a distinct moral perspective seems to be emerging among younger adults when compared to older generations. Millions of Millennials do not see temptation as something to be avoided, but rather a relatively benign feature of modern life.

Third, distinctly work-related vices top the list of Americans' temptations. As a society, are Americans really most concerned with procrastination and productivity? People seem to be more aware of (or willing to admit to) "sins" that actually make them look better—i.e., it's somewhat self-serving to admit procrastination or laziness because it reflects well on one's work ethic. But few people want to admit to being envious or mean or tempted sexually. But, of the list, productivity is not exactly the most biblical pursuit—that specific "temptation" is much more reflective of American values than of core biblical themes.

Finally, only 1% of Americans of any age are able to articulate that giving in to temptation might be caused by sin. Most Americans think of temptation more as a steady stream of highs and lows that must be navigated. This reveals a gap in biblical thought on the subject of temptation among the nation's population.

## **About the Research**

The OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup> included 1,021 online interviews conducted among a representative sample of adults over the age of 18 in each of the 50 United States. The sampling error for OmniPoll<sup>SM</sup> is plus or minus four percentage points, at the 95% confidence level.

This study used an online research panel called KnowledgePanel<sup>®</sup> based on probability sampling that covers both the online and offline populations in the U.S. The panel members are randomly recruited by telephone and by self-administered mail and web surveys. Households are provided with access to the Internet and hardware if needed. Unlike other Internet research that covers only individuals with Internet access who volunteer for research, this process uses a dual sampling frame that includes both listed and unlisted phone numbers, telephone and non-telephone households, and cell-phone-only households. The panel is not lim-

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(Continued from page 28)

ited to current Web users or computer owners. All potential panelists are randomly selected to join the KnowledgePanel; unselected volunteers are not able to join.

Based upon U.S. Census data sources, regional and ethnic quotas were designed to ensure that the final group of adults interviewed reflected the distribution of adults nationwide and adequately represented the three primary ethnic groups within the U.S. (those groups which comprise at least 10% of the population: white, black, and Hispanic).

People are identified as having a practicing faith if they have attended a church service in the past month and say their religious faith is very important in their life.

Generations: Mosaics / Millennials are a generation born between 1984 through 2002; Busters, born between 1965 and 1983; Boomers were born between 1946 and 1964; and Elders were born in 1945 or earlier.

The research was commissioned by Thomas Nelson in association with the launch of Todd Hunter's book [\*Our Favorite Sins\*](#).

### **About Barna Group**

Barna Group (which includes its research division, the Barna Research Group) is a private, non-partisan, for-profit organization under the umbrella of the Issachar Companies. It conducts primary research, produces media resources pertaining to spiritual development, and facilitates the healthy spiritual growth of leaders, children, families and Christian ministries.

Located in Ventura, California, Barna Group has been conducting and analyzing primary research to understand cultural trends related to values, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors since 1984. If you would like to receive free e-mail notification of the release of each update on the latest research findings from Barna Group, you may subscribe to this free service at the Barna website ([www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org)). Additional research-based resources are also available through this website.

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# The "Back Page"

## Blessed to be a Blessing *Genesis 12*

*Pastor Steve Bacon*

Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord,

It has been 1 year and 14 days since I escaped from the hospital following my cancer surgery.

I wore and Ileostomy bag for 5 months before the surgery to take it down.

I have gone through 28 radiation treatments, 65,000 Plus units of Chemo

I have Neuropathy in my feet that may or may not ever go away. I get cold now, when before I was always hot blooded.

## From the Editor

Thanks for all of your contributions. Remember, for this magazine to be a success you must be the reporters. I will try and put it together in the best light and we will all praise God in the process.

May the blessings of Christ be with you all.

*Pastor Steve*

Is he done yet?



Steve & Teddy 9/28/1951

I had C-Diff both times in the hospital and have been taking Kefir 3 times a day since to build up the good bacteria in my colon

I have spent the last 7 months since I had my Ileostomy reversed, trying to retrain my bowels to work without running to the bathroom every 20 minutes every 4 days.

I have had 6 count them 6 colonoscopy's since July 2011.

I am Blessed

God is good, the blessings he heaps on us each and every day is overwhelming. I am indeed blessed.

Thank you for all of yours prayers and support this past year, Patti and I appreciate and love every one of you.

My prayer for you this upcoming year is that you will grow closer to the Risen Christ and allow Him to enfold you with his love.

This world will continue to spiral out of control until Jesus comes again but as long as Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior nothing on this earth, below this earth or above this earth can ever take you from him.

When He seems distant to you it is not because He has turned His back on you, it is because you have turned away from him.

May you have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

May the Lord Bless You  
And Keep You  
May the Lord Make His Face  
To Shine Upon you  
And be Gracious to You  
May the Lord Lift up His  
Countenance on You  
And Give You His Peace

Blessings,

*Pastor Steve*

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