

VOLUME XCIV  
April 2019

## THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



You seek  
Jesus of Nazareth,  
who was crucified.  
He has risen;  
he is not here.

Mark 16:6



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](mailto:newsletter@pahrupcc.com)



<p>VOLUME XCIV April 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 2</p>
-----------------------------------	---	-----------------------------	---------------

### Go Fishing

One of my friends recently had the opportunity to engage in a favorite pastime—ice fishing. He sent a celebratory picture of some fresh-caught rainbow trout laid out on the snowy surface of the frozen lake. I must admit that I was a little envious.

My church family would probably never use the term *fisherman* as a description of me. The truth is I haven't been fishing for many, many years. After all, it's not like I can just run out and cast a line during lunch break.... I live in the desert!

But I have fished repeatedly throughout my life. I did some ice fishing while living in Canada. And during the summer there I have fished from a canoe while paddling on local lakes.

I experienced the thrill of trout fishing during our short time living in Kettle Falls, Washington about ninety miles north of Spokane.

A significant portion of my growing up years was spent on Farmers Branch Creek in Texas. In addition to being a great place to go exploring, catch turtles, and go swimming, the creek was also my own personal fishing hole.

My earliest memories of fishing took place on my Granddaddy's farm in northern Louisiana.

I was among the younger of a slew of grandkids in my Dad's large family. As a little kid, we knew we were to stay in the fenced-in back yard shaded by an immense pecan tree. The pond was visible from this enclosure, but we were only allowed to go there with grown-ups. It was always exciting when I would see Granddaddy open the old shed and begin to pull out an assortment of cane-poles and other fishing gear. I knew we were going fishing!

In my memory, this was always a group event involving Granddaddy, my parents, my aunts and uncles and most of my many cousins. We would first go dig for worms, then we would head for the pond where fishing was always good! Although at the time I only knew our catch was "fish", I later learned that these fish included mostly *bluegill*, *white perch*, *bream*, and the occasional *bass*.

It never occurred to me even to wonder how these fish came to be in this small pond (probably under an acre in size). It was a long time before I learned that Granddaddy actually had the pond stocked with fish just for us!

So, the moral of this story is: *Go fishing!*

No, wait.... That's not where I was going with this.

Actually, what got me thinking about all this was the combination of the fish pictures from my friend and my Bible readings this morning.

*On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. (Luke 5:1-6)*

First I thought about the fact that Jesus "stocked" that lake and "corralled" those fish just so that Peter would catch them. (Obviously, there is a very important spiritual lesson there about obeying Jesus even when you think you know better.)

*Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell*

<p>VOLUME XCIV April 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 3</p>
<p>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2</p>			

Then I thought about another “fishing” experience.

*Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.” (John 4:34–35)*

Forgive the mixed metaphor here. I know Jesus uses a farming illustration and I am using a fishing illustration. But the truth Jesus is communicating is that people need the Lord and when God prepares their hearts we are then given an opportunity to be involved in the joyful task of presenting the Gospel and witnessing the power of God at work in the lives of others!

Jesus did say, after all, that those who are witnessing for Christ are being *fishers of men* (Matthew 4:19).

There have been times when I have gone fishing and caught my limit! I have also at times come back with an empty stringer—I caught nothing. Being a *fisher of men* will yield similar results—sometimes people respond and sometimes they don’t. Ultimately my *fishing* success is dependent upon what the Lord has done in preparing the hearts of those to whom I speak. But one thing is certain: ***if I don’t cast a line, I won’t catch any fish!***

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **Go** therefore and **make disciples** of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. (Matthew 28:18–20)*

This is Jesus’ *Fishing Commission*! Jesus instructs you to **Go fishing!** And, don’t worry about whether you will catch anything; Jesus has already stocked the waters and you will catch exactly what (whom) He wants you to catch! But if you don’t cast a line, you won’t catch any fish.

Happy fishing!

Serving the Savior,

Pastor Keith



<p>VOLUME XCIV April 2019</p>		<p>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</p>	<p>PAGE 4</p>
-----------------------------------	---	-----------------------------	---------------

## How I Ought to Speak

Sheriff. Squirrel. Crayon. These are just a handful of words that folks in my family struggle to pronounce. (To protect their identities, I won't tell you who struggles to pronounce what – you can do your own research if you're so inclined.) Some folks highlight the cuteness of their toddlers learning to put their syllables together. The Walker clan... ahem... "highlights the cuteness" of their adults stumbling over words, too.

I recognize that some peculiarities are due to speech impediments or the transition from one language to another. We try not to make fun of those because things aren't entertaining if you're actually hurting folks by your jibbing.

Other pronunciations are dialectal. I have never lived in Texas (the longitudinally farthest south I've lived is Riverside, CA), but I have grown up in a home where Texan was spoken on a daily basis. I've caved on the whole "Nev-ah-duh" "Nev-aa-duh" business (so that our fine church family doesn't get distracted while I'm preaching), but I'll keep on pronouncing my birth state "Cah-luh-rah-duh" and Texas' neighbor "Looh-zee-ann-uh," thank you very much.

Still other word shapes are due to a mixture of a mental hang-up and good old-fashioned stubbornness (at least in my case). I know that when I speak quickly I tend to slur. Consequently (and perhaps due to that Speech class my mom forced me to take in high school), I do my best to enunciate when I'm talking. Enunciation is an excellent thing, but sometimes my enunciation works against me. When I see the letter combination "lk," my brain wants to make sure that that comes out clearly. I like to "talk" instead of just "tahk," to consider egg "yolks" instead of egg "yokes," and I am wont to introducing myself as Caleb Walker rather than Caleb Wahker. My sweet wife is not the biggest fan of this distinction of my diction. It does seem to be phasing out... Not too sure how I feel about that, but Jesus does tell me to love my wife as Christ loves the church. Perhaps I'll try to stop balking quite as much... There's nothing in Scripture about healthy debates concerning a *display* as opposed to a *display*, but there are a few stories about pronunciations.

The book of Judges is summarized as what takes place when people are given license to do whatever they want to (17.6 and 21.25). As a result, Judges is a dark book filled with perhaps the highest concentration of depressing (and awful) stories anywhere in Scripture. One of these fairly awful stories is in Judges 12. The head-strong Ephraimites went to pick a fight with the current judge Jephthah because, by their testimony, Jephthah had failed to call them for another fight where they could show off their fighting prowess. Jephthah responded poorly and the conflict escalated. Jephthah's faction the Gileadites captured a key crossing of the Jordan and summarily executed any of Ephraim who tried to cross there. What does this have to do with sheriffs, squirrels, or crayons?

*And the Gileadites captured the fords of the Jordan against the Ephraimites. And when any of the fugitives of Ephraim said, "Let me go over," the men of Gilead said to him, "Are you an Ephraimite?" When he said, "No," they said to him, "Then say Shibboleth," and he said, "Sibboleth," for he could not pronounce it right. Then they seized him and slaughtered him at the fords of the Jordan. At that time 42,000 of the Ephraimites fell. – Judges 12.5-6*


These Ephraimites who were so proud of their heritage ended up losing their lives because their speech gave them away. A bit of a high price for the way one's mouth works.

There's another stressful relation of an accent betraying a person over in Matthew 26.73. Do you remember that? One of Peter's denials of Jesus came, if you will, as a result of Peter's Shibboleth. In those dark hours of Peter's selfishness, he couldn't get away from his mother's tongue.

The Bible says plenty about our speech. I've taught a number of times on what comes out of our mouths. I need those reminders often and we must keep Scripture in front of us to guide us as we use our speech for God. To start out this month, I want us to consider one of the ways that Christians "ought to speak." Y'all know that I'm all for accuracy of speech and that I will defend the English language with all of its bizarrenesses.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 5**



<b>VOLUME XCIV</b> <b>April 2019</b>		<b>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<b>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4</b>			

That being said, I don't think that God is principally concerned with how we pronounce sill or parmesan (or whether we sound like Ephraimites or Galileans). How ought we to speak?

*At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison — that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak. — Colossians 4.3-4*

Certainly Paul is speaking of himself here, but the truth is applicable for us. Our "Christian accent" should be a clear one. Whatever words we use, we should be straightforward. The Good News of salvation is both weighty beyond imagination and gloriously simple. Education is a beneficial thing and not something to be scorned, but our dialect as Christians can and should be largely the same regardless of how many years we spent in school. Sometimes highfalutin words are useful (y'all know I love me some vocabulary), but the Bible is clear: *"Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..."* (1 Corinthians 15.3-4). Plain and simple. We ought to speak clearly.

*Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."*  
*— James 4.15*

Rather than distinguishing ourselves through the way our teeth and tongues form "th's," it should be clear to all those who hear us that we are fundamentally reliant upon God's sovereignty for everything that comes our way. If that means you start including a "Lord willing" after nearly every sentence, I don't think that'd be a bad thing. As Christians, our words should be saturated with submission and trust. What comes out of our mouths should make it clear that we don't presume to call the shots for our own lives and that we thoroughly rely on a loving heavenly Father to take care of us. We ought to speak trustingly.

*for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say."*  
*— Luke 12.12*

This one is a bit more complex, but let's walk away with two thoughts here. 1) We must express ourselves in a way rooted in Scripture (since one of the Holy Spirit's key jobs is to guide us into all truth [John 16.13]). If you do it wrongly, it can swiftly become pretentious, but there is certainly nothing wrong with incorporating the truth of God's eternal Word into our conversation. 2) We must ensure that our words come from lives that are filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5.18). Though I recognize I'm taking Luke 12.12 out of context, the principle holds true. As I am indwelt by God's Holy Spirit, the words that come out of my mouth will sound less like the selfish version of Caleb Walker (or Walker) and more like Jesus Himself. We ought to speak as those led by the Holy Spirit.

Next time you enjoy the fun of a Scottish brogue or hear the peculiar apologies of the Canucks (*sore-ee*), remember that God would have the feel of our speech to set us apart from the rest of the world. We ought to speak in such a way that He gets all the glory.

By God's grace,  
 Pastor Caleb



Africa Report March 2019  
Page One

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




Thank you for praying for the mission and ministry in Côte d'Ivoire, West Africa.  
Top: Abidjan > Students, Fri night 'live'!  
Bottom: Yopougon > Couples, Sat morning  
Workshops: Students > Biblical Sexuality  
Couples > "Seven steps to Successful Marriage for a Lifetime!" (married & engaged);  
Two of the couples attending were married in March, one the following Thursday.

The Navigators, P.O. Box 6079,  
Albert Lea, MN 56007-6679  
Mission Account #40956 Ph: 866-568-7827  
NEW MAIL ADDRESS: Sonnenstr 14, 66849 Landstuhl  
Germany  
<https://donations.navigators.org/SpecialPages/DonorMaster/staffDonation?id=S40956|40956>

Thank you for remembering the students and couples. Please view the attached Page Two for the rest of the report and more photos!



VOLUME XCIV April 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 7
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6			



Africa Report March 2019  
Page Two

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



All the full time Navigator staff and a key leader met in Yamoussoukro for a short retreat for prayer and time in the Word. Two couples and a new professor are teaming up to establish a new work at a university campus in the interior, at Daloa, four hours from Yamoussoukro.

At the close of the retreat, we invited others to have lunch with us in the village under a mango tree.



"Then it was said among the nations, *The LORD has done great things for them.* Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy. He who goes out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying his sheaves with him." Psalm 126



One of the many highlights was meeting up with our oldest son, Steven. He was also in Côte d'Ivoire, interpreting for a US military mission. He and some of his high school age friends enjoyed reuniting after 18 year at a birthday banquet for Karen!

Returning to Germany, we were reunited with two couples who participate in one of our growing in discipleship groups after a long training school in the USA!



Thank you for keeping these couples and many other couples and singles in mind when you pray for us. Your support is a way of 'sowing' in their lives, and ours. May you know the joy of the Lord in this harvest.

**Your partnership empowers us to proclaim Christ, to help others to know Him and to make Him known. Thank You.**

Mike and Karen Kotecki are Navigator Missionaries our PCC family supports

VOLUME XCIV April 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 8
---------------------------	---	----------------------	--------

## Guy & Jan Piersall's February 2019 Activity Report

### Individual Presentations

Guy talked with Roy Mankins, a successful and well known realtor/insurance agent in Pahrump, and a Rotary member, about going to Serbia and/or India with Guy to see the work GHNI does. He expressed an interest in going. We will have a follow up talk with each in early March.

Guy talked with Roy Bell (senior Deacon at our church, Pahrump Community Church) about going to Serbia and/or India with him. He expressed an interest in going. We will have a follow up talk with each in early March.

### Church Presentation

Jan went to the "If Gathering" a women's simulcast retreat at Shadow Mountain Church in Las Vegas, which is a Baptist Church. Met some women and shared about GHNI and gave them my business card. Jan stayed with a donor in Las Vegas and got to know her better.

Guy distributed 180 copies of the GHNI Feb monthly prayer letter to attendees at our home church, Pahrump Community Church.

### TV interview

Guy had an interview for WPVM, a local television station with Deanna O'Donnell promoting GHNI. You can check out the video on Facebook at WVPM. We hope to do follow up interviews.

### Group Presentations

Set up a time in April for a Rotary presentation in Pahrump about GHNI.

### Contacts

Visited with two separate GHNI donors in Pahrump, McCaslands and Hensons.

### Travel

We went to Orlando, FL, for training with Daphne, the GHNI Development Director, meet the staff and participate in the first meeting of the East Africa Council. Met some donors who are helping with this council. Also attended the Orlando Magic-Golden State basketball game, a meet and greet with donors. Golden State lost. Bummer. Good time visiting with East Africa Council and donors in a relaxed Setting.

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### Phone Calls

Talked with Mike Constance at Saddleback Church in CA about his possibly visiting one of our TCD training camps or visiting a TCD village to compare with their PEACE program. This was a follow up on a discussion he, Hal, and I had at the Finishing The Task meeting in December. Mike doesn't think it would be of value at this time. He is hard to make contact with. I left two messages and two emails before I reached him on my third call.

We participated in Daphne's monthly staff training program via internet.


**We Thank Daphne for all her direction and encouragement.**

### March/April Plans

Study David Pope and MENA UPG Initiative/Strategic Resource Group info. They provide funding for Middle East projects and David is in charge. I believe they have already given money to GHNI. I had set up a meeting at FTT with David for Hal, Jeff, Mike Constance and myself to explore joint work. It was decided I would be following up with David for 2019 and possibly join his committee. I had a phone call with David in late January. He encouraged me to study the MENA and SRG websites. I did a cursory look at them, but need to go back and look in more detail. There is a very looonnnnggg report in there I need to read (60 pages +).

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 9**



<b>VOLUME XCIV April 2019</b>		<b>THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF</b>	<b>PAGE 9</b>
<b>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8</b>			

Distribute March prayer letter at Pahrump Community Church.

Contact Phoenix churches/donors about late March or early April visit.

Contact CA donors about a possible April meeting.

Contact Roy Mankins and Roy Bell early March about commitment to Serbia and/or India.

Contact Pahrump Chamber of Commerce to explore a possible fundraising project for GHNI.

Contact our church pastor about an Easter Tree as a fundraiser for GHNI.

We are attending a weekly Rotary meeting in Las Vegas in March to meet some people for future follow up. We were referred to Jan Carlton, past president and a past district officer. Jan contacted her and she invited us to their Summerlin Rotary meeting. We are also attending the District Gala fundraiser in Las Vegas March 16 to hopefully meet some key people for follow up.

Our Rotary focus is to explore the possibility of a Rotary International grant. Guy spoke with the District Leader and gathered some information. We have explored the International website and will be following up. This is probably a long range project and will involve some of our GHNI overseas national leaders getting involved with at least one Rotary Club in their country. Our initial focus will be Serbia, India, and Nepal. In June we will be attending the International Rotary Convention in Hamburg, Germany two weeks before the Geneva International for Leadership and Public Policy meeting the UN in Geneva, which we have been asked to attend and participate. This conference is organized and run by Hal Jones, the GHNI President. It is to help government leaders from third world countries to transform their nations toward prosperity and liberty by teaching how to legislate and develop good public policy.

**Guy's & Jan's Praise & Prayer requests for March**

Thanks for a very successful conference in Orlando (East Africa Council) and training time with Daphne and staff.

Praise for a new church contact in Las Vegas.

Prayer for the new East Africa Council (including Jan and I) for wisdom and clear communications with staff in Kenya and Ethiopia.

Prayer for Jan and my safe travel to Phoenix and possibly Flagstaff late in March to meet with churches and donors.

Prayer for wisdom and direction in calls and meetings with existing and new potential donors in Nevada, California, and Arizona.

Prayer for funding for GHNI National Staff and impoverished villages in India. Sushil, our Indian National Director and his local village trainers all need additional income to live on. Likewise we have a few villages that need additional funds to help drill wells for safe water, buy seed for planting, and provide school supplies for their children.

That's all folks!!! Thanks for prayers and encouragement.

**Guy & Jan Piersall**

Guy and Jan Piersall are GHNI missionaries our PCC family supports





**Susan Mackert** <[susan@goodnewsclubsnevada.com](mailto:susan@goodnewsclubsnevada.com)>

Dear Praying Friends,

Every day we are reminded that we live in a broken world - health issues, strained relationships, chaos in our nation and around the world - just a few of the things that could cause us to lose faith, if it were not for the fact that we know this is only temporary. Our Lord reminds us that the battle is won, the victory is secure, and through it all, He promises His peace that passes all understanding. (John 16:33)

Prayer is such an amazing gift. Prayer allows us to sit at the feet of the One who knows, the One who is able, the One who is willing . . . to heal our wounds, dry our tears, and restore our hope.

**Please be in prayer for:** (I know there are many other needs. Please be sure to share with me or your Ministry Coach so we can be praying for you as well.)

Eric and Vicki McDaniel as Eric battles cancer that has spread throughout his body. The McDaniels are friends and co-laborers in the ministry of Good News Club. They have given their lives to minister to refugees who have settled in the Las Vegas valley.

Bill and Doris Roush as they walk through treatments for Bill's cancer. This dear couple is trusting God for complete healing. Let's join with them in that prayer. They are a part of the team at McDaniel Elementary and beloved prayer partners.

Vicki Hall, one of our Ministry Coaches, is now in San Antonio with her little granddaughter Reagan. Reagan is 3 years old and is battling leukemia. Pray that the time Vicki is able to spend with her family will be filled with hope, love and joy.

Pray for Ron and Rene Wallace. Ron is a new volunteer for our Clubs in Pahrump. Rene's father passed away last week.

Donna Pacileo, our faithful lead teacher at Lamping Elementary Good News Club, just found out her daughter, Christi, has

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 11*

VOLUME XCIV April 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 11
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10			

Speaking of Lamping Elementary, we were just notified that the school will not be allowing after school programs next year. Pray that God leads us to the school that He's already planned for this team.

**God reminds us to be joyful in hope! Thankfully we have many things to thank and praise Him for:**

Over 200 children who have professed faith in Jesus as their Savior in our Clubs this year.

Twenty nine families that have connected with a church as a result of their child(ren) attending Club.

Re-opening the Club at Hayes Elementary which is already producing fruit as a little girl trusted Christ last week.

Several new churches who see the value of this mission field and want to partner with us.

God invites us in. He loves to hear us pray. He promises to answer. Thank you all for taking time to bring these requests and praises before our almighty, loving Father.

To the Praise of His Glory!  
Susan

***Susan Mackert, Director***



2075 E. Warm Springs Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Office: (702) 396-8363 Cell: (702) 371-8252

GoodNewsClubsNevada.com

*Our PCC family supports Susan Mackert who is the Director of Child Evangelism Fellowship*



VOLUME XCIV April 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 12
---------------------------	---	----------------------	---------



## Wolf Mountain Sanctuary By Bob Jacobs

Of all the articles I have researched, I believe this is the most unique and interesting one that I have written or ever will write.

Wolf Mountain Sanctuary in Lucerne Valley, California is a 501c3 (non profit), all volunteer educational organization dedicated to the preservation, protection and proper management of wolves in the wild and in captivity. Their purpose and the ultimate goal is to save these great noble animals from extinction by teaching the public to advocate wolves and participate in activities that help the wolves

meet this goal.

### **REMEMBER, *EXTINCTION MEANS FOREVER!***

The Sanctuary is located in the high desert of Southern California. They rescue wolves from the movie industry, private owners and from breeders. They currently care for 11 wolves and are one of the few sanctuaries in Southern California where you can be very close to the wolves through viewing areas. They feel because the wolves will be captive for their entire life, they need to have human contact from their caretakers; and, receive all the love we can give them. The impression a 140-180lb wolf leaves on you is everlasting.

**NOTE:** You will get to actually touch a wolf and will most likely get kissed by a wolf (if you want to)!

**Tonya Littlewolf**, an Apache lady, aka **Mama Wolf**, is the Founder, Leader and Teacher of Wolf Mountain Sanctuary with a lifelong passion for wolves. She takes in wolves that are about to be destroyed because they no longer can be cared for; and, desperately need a home. She gives them both food and love and makes them available for the public to view. She has spent her entire life taking care of and fighting for the wolves. It is a very tough life to care for so many. Tonya is a very special person who loves everyone and has the biggest heart in the whole world. Tonya has been with wolves since she was only two years old. The wolves trust her and allow her to spend time with them in their den(s). As Tonya grew up, she spent all of her free time studying the wolves' behavior and learning their ways. She will always have a special relationship with them.

For more information on the Sanctuary; their contact information is listed below:

Web site: <http://www.wolfmountainsanctuary.net/home.html>  
Mailing Address: Wolf Mountain Sanctuary  
Post Office Box 385  
Lucerne Valley, California 92356

Telephone Number: (760) 248-7818 (8am to 6pm, please no calls on Monday)

Email: [info@wolfmountain.com](mailto:info@wolfmountain.com)

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 13**



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12



Tonya Littlewolf with one of her wolves (photos came from their website)



## **The Unborn...! To Defend or NOT Defend!**

Being a pro-life advocate can be challenging. The Center's mission is to defend the unborn which can sometimes be a battle. Some people have accepted the abortion agenda and have lost respect for life. Care-Net, one of our affiliates, has said, "While the abortion industry continues to fill the minds of Americans with lies, there is a critical need for reliable information about the abortion epidemic and its far-reaching consequences so that we, as pro-life supporters, can take action for the most vulnerable among us – the unborn. Each day that we remain silent, 2,500 babies die from abortion."

Science can tell us facts about life of how we are made, your heart will beat more than 3.2 billion times over your lifetime. Before you were born, your heart beat approximately 54 million times! But, while science can only speculate on life's origin, the Bible makes it clear, **Life is from God!**

I'm sure you are aware of what is happening in our country. It seems to be an epidemic starting...well being accepted...legalizing the killing of babies right up to birth. What's next? If I don't like the color of my babies' eyes.... "Go ahead and abort!?" Oh my!

I had the opportunity to talk to one of our faithful ladies who gives financially to the Center. She explained to me that when her children were little, no one heard of abortion. It was unheard of to give up your child even if it was out of wedlock. The world views have changed drastically.

What can you do to help? It simple! Support your local pregnancy center by:

- Volunteering
- Financial support
- Donate material items

Help our Center by financially supporting us. By the grace of God, we keep our doors open!

Give us a call. Check out our new website!

God bless,  
Nancy Erwin



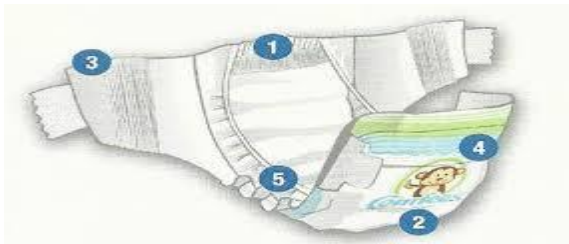


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

# Diapers....where???

## Diapers & Layette's Room Tiffini Thompson

We are **need** of diapers - sizes 4, 5, & 6 - and we are completely **OUT** of baby wipes (unscented only).



Thank you to all who have donated and supported the Center in this area.  
If you would like to donate please contact the Pregnancy Center at  
**751-2229**



VOLUME XCIV April 2019		THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF	PAGE 16
---------------------------	---	----------------------	---------



## EDITORIAL PAGE



Yes, this is me! And, this is the result of my month! I cannot begin to tell you - even if I had the impetus - of how “mind blowing” – (please note the word “blowing”) - the month of March has been. I know March is noted to be the “windy” one, but I am a victim of excessive “**wind abuse.**” It seems that everything I set my mind on this month to do has not only “blown” my mind but also “blown” me away.

Have you ever felt that you were in a never ending “nightmare?” For example: My phone rings and I check “caller ID” to see whose calling. At this point I don’t know if I even want to know whose calling. It read “out of area.” Now I don’t know what that means. “Out of Area?!?” Which area? What area? Whose area? So, I chance it and press “talk” and I got the sound of rushing wind. Now, I know a lot of people who

are full of “wind;” but I don’t know that they would/will admit it. I disconnect and look to see if I actually had my phone in hand.

I have experienced movies that were “Written on the Wind” and “Blowing in the Wind.” But, “talking **at** or **on** the wind” – up until this time - NEVER! This is something that I cannot explain.

As I sat writing this, I was looking out my window at the patio. I notice something strange. The wind was blowing under the cover of my grill. I have ties securely placed to prevent the cover from being blown off. But, at this point it seems to mean nothing. The wind was winning! My grill wasn’t too high you can’t get over it nor too low you can’t get under it. My grill was simply at the mercy of the wind. The bricks I had placed on the grill to assist in keeping the cover from flying away were helpless and hopeless as were the ties. The bricks smashed to the ground like crisp cookies! And, the ties just stretched and gave up. Oh well, I will sweep that mess up tomorrow.

Then, there was the Wednesday – “trash day” – when I was taking the trash out to the curb. NEVER – I SAY NEVER - has the top on the trash can blown open. But this time it gave it the old “college try!” WHOOZE! And, look - now, trash particles were flying all around my head. I guess I must have won the “trash” lottery because I have a treasure trove of trash blowing everywhere. (I hope my neighbors aren’t watching because some of the trash is blowing “their” way.) Oh, well, I stubbornly and solemnly gathered up what trash I recognized as mine and kept my head down to avoid recognition.

I had an appointment at the car dealers to get my routine maintenance done. I checked inside to see how “presentable” the interior was. The car mats were more than grungy. So, I took both

	CONTINUED ON PAGE 17
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front mats out to the hose. I turned the hose on and suddenly, a gust of wind came up and blew that very cold water back on the legs and cuffs of my old “garden” pants. Talk about cold!!!! I ran into the house and quickly disrobed.

I have thought many times of simply becoming a hermit until Spring but that is really unrealistic reasoning. I must go out of the house – there’s my mailbox and grocery shopping and Sunday “meetings.” So, onward and outward – no choice!

I do realize one thing – at least it isn’t raining! Now, that’s a real blessing! I guess there is at least one “truism” – “there is always something to be thankful for!”

Speaking of being “thankful” – I was able to get my car serviced and headed home and across the mountain before they closed the “pass.”

I will end my “tirade” here and declare that “March” is finally “marching on!”



**NOW THIS IS THE KIND OF MARCH I COULD  
REALLY GET INTO!!!!!!**