

VOLUME XCI
January 2019

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11

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:

**You
Said It**

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Contenders Discipleship Initiative (CDI) Begins

Last October I shared with you that PCC would soon be offering the CDI courses of study. We now have a launch date.

The first class will be held on February 4, 2019!

Let's review what this is all about.

The Contenders Discipleship Initiative (CDI) is a two-year program offered by Village Missions to equip Christians for ministry within their local church and to prepare those who are called for full-time ministry as missionary pastors.

CDI is a program that equips you to know what you believe concerning Christianity, why you believe it and enables you to "...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3 NKJV). The program enables you to grow in the Christian walk through rigorous studying without quitting your job or going into debt. It also prepares you for ministry, whether in your home, among your friends, in your local church, in a mission field, or as a full-time pastor.

CDI is also **tuition-free**. Students will pay no tuition! There will be only small incidental expenses for "school supplies" and a few books along the way. (Students are also asked to prayerfully consider donating to the ongoing ministry of CDI as we share these resources with churches and people throughout the country and the world.)

As Pastor of Pahrump Community Church I long to be found faithful to God's calling.

[God] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:11-12).

In light of CDI's stated objective of equipping Christians for ministry, the question you should ask is this: ***Is CDI for me?***

While admitting that CDI is not for everyone, I would also encourage you to take a serious look at this opportunity. Even if you have no intention of becoming a pastor or a vocational Christian minister, this is a tool that will benefit you by making you better equipped to serve the Lord utilizing your gifts and abilities. Serving the Lord is what the Christian life should be about for every believer!


[Jesus] said to them, If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all (Mark 9:35).

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ (Colossians 3:23-24).

After all, each of us should be diligently serving Him so that we will hear those wonderful words of affirmation:

Well done, good and faithful servant (Matthew 25:21).

CDI is not the only way to learn to live the life of a productive Christian servant. But those who choose to go through this equipping course will, no doubt, be blessed by this endeavor.

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If you think you may be interested, here are a few links you can use to get more information:

General information: <https://vmcontenders.org>

A brief introduction video of the first course: <https://vmcontenders.org/courses/bibliology-study-bible/>

Getting started: <https://vmcontenders.org/getting-started-students/>

If you are ready to register you can complete the online registration form here: <https://vmcontenders.org/register/>

By the way, this opportunity is not restricted to those who belong to PCC. Anyone in the community is invited to join us. If you know of someone whom you believe would benefit from CDI, please let them know about this opportunity.

I am looking forward to what God plans to do through CDI here in Pahrump!

Happy New Year!

Serving the Savior,

Pastor Keith

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“This... is a Great Idea”

Walkers, on the whole, are movie re-watchers. While I'm not sure how other families work, I have noticed that it's taken a bit of practice for my in-laws (and wife) to get up to speed in this realm. This is not to say that they're averse to rewatching. Rather, they're just not as adept at it as my folks and siblings and I are.

What motivates us to rewatch? I'm sure you could chalk this up to any number of reasons: the comfort of knowing what you're getting yourself into, the thrill of a proven good story, the ease of knowing that you can relax and zone out if needed... Perhaps the most compelling reason for me to rewatch films is to learn the lines. No, I don't quote entire movies (though I could get pretty close with two or three). Walkers, on the whole, are movie quoter. My sisters and my folks don't watch all the same movies, but my knack for recalling useless pieces of information helps me to keep up with them in the quoting realm. Certainly, there are some regrettable content issues with nearly every movie. Even so, some of the lines are still worth quoting (at least to us).

One of my dad's favorite movies is *Jeremiah Johnson*. This movie is somewhat easier to quote because there's only about seven lines of dialogue (I exaggerate... but not by much), but you might be surprised at how utilitarian some of those lines can be. Around the Keith Walker home, it's not uncommon to hear things like, “Feels like far.” “Mother Gue never raised such a foolish child.” From another movie that they enjoyed (which never grabbed me quite as much but that does indeed contain a handful of quotable lines): “When you gonna bring the pig back around?”

My sisters and I could probably make it through goodly chunks of *The Emperor's New Groove* (“Um, I've been turned into a cow... can I go home?” “Kuzcotopia! Do do do do do do do do do do”), *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (“They say you're a natural, true or false?” “Spitz... that's German, isn't it?”), and a handful of others.

I find *Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs* and *The Muppets* are useful in most contexts. *The Hunt for Red October* also has a surprising number of often relevant lines. Amy and I break our “No Christmas-Related Stuff Outside the Official Window” rule in quoting *White Christmas* throughout the year (“We've established that the fact that the Lodge is ideal”). You'd be hard-pressed for our family gatherings to be completely devoid of movie quotations.


How do we get to this point? How does a movie go from just an entertaining diversion to part of our everyday speech? (Ooo! I forgot about *The Lego Movie*... many quotes coming out of that one.) Well, we immerse ourselves in these movies. I can't tell you how many films I've watched in the theater whereupon leaving I think to myself, “Man, I can't wait for that to come out on blu-ray so that I can catch more of those great lines.” We spend time laughing and, on some occasions, being moved by portions of a given script so that we can have those things in our minds for later.

I know it's blatantly obvious, but I'd also like to point out that we don't memorize the lame lines. Unless a piece of screenwriting is embarrassingly bad (“Oh look, parachutes for the both of us! Not anymore!”), it doesn't really stick with us. The stuff that lodges in our minds is the stuff that we consider important. Importance doesn't always look serious. For my family and me, important often looks hilarious. We remember these lines because they make us laugh and we like getting to share that with others.

Sometimes we'll branch off from movies. My dad and I will share a *Pogo* or *Calvin and Hobbes* line with one another. Amy and I will quote some lines from tv shows we enjoy. A situation makes a connection in my mind and Mr. Monk often has something to say about it.

Remembering lines from *the Book* (“Scripture” does just mean “writings”) is a bit of a different thing. On the one hand, we never want to treat God's Word flippantly. It's called holy for a reason and we are to respect it as God's very breathed out message to us. At the same time, I wonder whether or not we can relay lines from our favorite movies more quickly than we can from the sacred Text.

Yes, it's time for another one of my sporadic exhortations to spend time memorizing Scripture. Now, I know that not all of you memorize quickly. I'm well aware that some folks can memorize with minimal effort and others can spend all year long working on the same verse. I know that some people like memorizing (or at least don't mind it) and others would rather do pretty much anything else. I'm also aware that not everyone memorizes movie lines (though I'm not sure why not) so the very groundwork on which I based this encouragement may be a non-starter to you. Whether or not that's true, let me give you a few thoughts to encourage you in this discipline in 2019:

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1) You'll memorize things that you think are important. I don't know any lines from *The Angry Birds Movie* because I haven't seen it and don't really care to. There may be a chuckler or two, but that movie is not important to me in the least. I know many lines from key super hero movies because I'm a big fan of those films. I'm not here to pronounce judgment on you (that's the Holy Spirit's job), but there's a chance that you haven't been memorizing Scripture because you don't see the value therein. We know that Psalm 119 is David's majestic hymn of thanksgiving for God's Word. "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" (Psalm 119.103). "The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces." (Psalm 119.72). If God's Words really are sweeter than honey and more valuable than thousands of dollars, why wouldn't you spend some of this year working on committing them to memory?

2) You'll memorize things that you spend much time reviewing. When my little sister and I were younger, we watched the same two movies virtually every week. We watched a cartoon on Tuesday night during my folks' date and we watched *You've Got Mail* every Sunday during prayer meeting. Haven't seen the cartoon in a number of years, but one year Lauri and I coordinated viewing schedules and sent one another texts trying to get the timing just right for upcoming lines from *You've Got Mail*. We know it because we spent time in it. Say what you will about different memorization tactics for different types of learners, but I'm standing by the tried and true method of repetition. You memorize when you spend time reviewing. You want to learn a verse? Read it fifty times. You want to know the general flow of Scripture and start absorbing particular phrases or thoughts? Read a given book over and over again. Try to remember the lines when you're falling asleep. "My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips, when I remember you upon my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night." (Psalm 63.5-6).

3) You'll memorize things when others help you. I know this may seem a little odd since memorization is, ultimately, a personal discipline. I wouldn't insist that this #3 is a hard and fast rule, but memorization is greatly enhanced when you have someone working alongside you. Movies are more fun to quote when you and your friend initially enjoyed them together. If you have a partner in memorizing Scripture, you can be extra blessed: blessed by having someone hold you accountable, blessed by having someone also being encouraged by the Scripture, and blessed by getting to be a blessing through your quoting Scripture. Talk to Mrs. Kim Walker about Topical Memory System. Find someone in your house who will start working with you. Start a memorization-based Fellowship Group.

I'm already running long with this article (sorry about that), but I would strongly encourage you to make a plan now for how you're going to memorize this year. Don't start with a grandiose plan – make it manageable while still challenging. Just pick something: a verse, a chapter, a theme, a short book. Find a brother or sister in Christ who will work with you.

I encourage our Awana leaders to memorize verses alongside our clubbers. The points we give their color teams aren't rooted in how well their brains work but in how much effort they've put in. If you're consistently working on memorizing... well... I'd say you're well on your way to that meditation that will cause you to be like a tree planted by streams of water. Can anybody name that reference?

May your 2019 be blessed with Scripture saturating your memories and your days.
 By God's grace and for His Kingdom,
 Pastor Caleb



THE AGRE FAMILY NEWS

"Serving with the Navigators"

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

This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your soul..." ***Jeremiah 6. 16***

The Grace and Peace of Our Lord and Savior be with you. In November 1-7th, 2018 I had the privilege to visit the Navigators ministry of Chad and to speak at a retreat of emerging laborers and leaders. Fifteen years ago, Omar & Mireille Dayan (from D.R. Congo) moved to Ndjamena (CHAD) to launch the Navigator ministry in Chad. It is encouraging to see the transforming power of the Gospel in the lives of several Chadians. It was thrilling delight and privilege to experience and hear many brothers and sisters share testimony of transformed lives and the burden to carry the Gospel to their own people. We thank God for the sacrifice of the Dayans and the brothers and sisters who are seeking to advance the Gospel of Jesus and His kingdom in the midst of several challenges (High group of focus people, economic crisis, high percentage of unemployment and unfriendly climate...). Many testified how Omar's life, ministry and personal example had impacted them, and has encouraged them to reach out and impact others. Dayans are underfunded! If you would like to support the Dayans kindly contact me.




Navigators laborers retreat-NDjamena (CHAD)



Omar, Mireille and Joseph Dayan (Missionaries from DR Congo)

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On the family front Ruth our last born is on physiotherapy for Scoliosis as well as wearing a corset. She constantly needs encouragement to persevere on this new journey, thanks for praying for her.

Daniella continues to enjoy music and she is pressing on with school.

Grace is studying Biochemical engineering at the university of Ottawa.

I would like to thank you for standing with us through prayer and financial support. Thanks again for everything! May you have a special holiday season as we celebrate together the abundant blessings God has given to each of us, most especially His Son Jesus Christ. We are humbled yet truly grateful for your precious role. 2019 is already looking very busy with upcoming trips, Gabon, D.R. Congo, Regional leadership team meeting, Mali, Chad in addition to pioneer team travel for which \$15 000 is needed. Could you kindly consider making a special gift to meet this need?

With deep appreciation for your partnership in the ministry of advancing the Gospel.

LA FAMILLE AGRE

06 BP 1130 Abidjan 06
Cote D'Ivoire, West Africa

lobagre@gmail.com
Jeremie: (225) 0954 5353

Home: (225) 22 50 72 94

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

Dr. Jeremie and Marie Clair Agre are Navigator Missionaries our PCC Church Family Supports



TALC MINES

By Bob Jacobs

I was on another hike a few days ago around Saratoga Springs which is in Southern Death Valley. There were a lot of "Talc Mines" north of the springs that we hiked to; and, some were active up until the early 1970's from what I have read.



I have attached a few photo's of that area; and, the first one is of Saratoga Springs itself. There was a lot of water there; and, it was one of the stopovers for the "20 Mule Teams" of yesteryear. I am sure it is popular with all the wildlife in that area.


Believe it or not, "Talc" actually has many uses including paper making, plastic, paint and coatings, rubber, food, electric cable, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and ceramics (*according to the internet*).



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<p style="text-align: center;">Auld Lang Syne</p> <p>I have often wondered about the word “tradition.” Just what does that really mean?</p> <p>Webster says:</p> <p>1a: an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior (such as a religious practice or a social custom)</p> <p>b: a belief or story or a body of beliefs or stories relating to the past that are commonly accepted as historical though not verifiable.</p> <p>2: the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction.</p> <p>3: cultural continuity in social attitudes, customs, and institutions.</p> <p>4: characteristic manner, method, or style.</p> <p>So, with that in mind, I choose to go forth with this dissertation on our “traditional” behavior on and of the “traditional” first song of the “New Year.”</p> <p>Wikipedia writes:</p> <p><i>The poem's Scots title may be translated into standard English as "old long since" or, more idiomatically, "long long ago", "days gone by", or "old times". Consequently, "For auld lang syne", as it appears in the first line of the chorus, might be loosely translated as "for the sake of old times".</i></p> <p>So, now that is what I want to write about “<i>for the sake of old times</i>” – the “tradition” of singing “Auld Lang Syne” as we ring/sing in the “New Year.”</p> <p>It is said that Robert Burns took his copy down from an old man. However, it is said that some of the lyrics were “collected” rather than composed by the Poet.</p> <p>There seems to be considerable explanations and discussions relative to the origins and translations of the song as well as when, how, and why it is sung.</p> <p>That is why I like to think we have valid and verifiable reasons for singing it at the beginning of each year <i>for the sake of old times</i>. The reason or reasons is because we rejoice over what we have endured – suffered – laughed – and prayed ourselves through in the prior year. We have also shared, paired and cared with others through prayers about ours, theirs and other significant trials. Should all this history be forgotten? Of course not! It is through these remembrances that we accumulate knowledge and foresight for the days ahead of us. It is also the reason we give thanks to our Heavenly Father for his watch care and tolerance over and for our lives. Should that be “forgotten?” I will have no doubt that many of us will give a glorious and loud shout of “NO!”</p>			
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Even the traumatic and grievous events have value. God has been with us through them. And, that certainly is NOT to be forgotten. We have endured the expected and unexpected trials in our lives. We have cried, been tried and sometimes become very tired of and over the events encompassing our lives. What say ye all? An unquestionable "AMEN." Sadness, gladness and happiness has occurred throughout the year, but we have come through each and every event – sometimes with smiles – sometimes with fears - sometimes with tears. Should these "old friends" be forgotten? And, even with the additional question of "can they be?"

Yes, our lives and years move on and each unforeseeable day has its apprehensions and tensions. But those old familiar circumstances will not be forgotten, and they will often be "brought to mind." Why? Because - "For auld lang syne", or "for the sake of old times". Therefore, I extend to you – for the sake of and memory of old times – a joyous and memorable year of 2019.

I

Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot,
and old lang syne?

II

And surely you'll buy your pint cup!
and surely I'll buy mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

Chorus:

*For auld lang syne, my dear,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.*

III

We two have run about the slopes,
and picked the daisies fine;
But we've wandered many a weary foot,
since auld lang syne.

IV

We two have paddled in the stream,
from morning sun till dine[†];
But seas between us broad have roared
since auld lang syne.

V

And there's a hand my trusty friend!
And give me a hand o' thine!
And we'll take a right good-will draught,
for auld lang syne.

Jacquie Hinton – **Editor**
Pastor Caleb Walker and Karen Crispell– **Copy Editors**
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