

VOLUME LXXXVI
August 2018

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF



GOOD LUCK THIS YEAR

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Submit your comments to our Editor, Jacque 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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WE ARE ON VACATION!



Pastor Keith and Kim



Recommendations: Song

Musical worship is a tricky thing. My guess is that I've done a bit more thinking about this than most because I am one of the musical worship leaders here at PCC. Along with my folks and the Suttons, I pick the songs we sing and I largely determine how we sing them. I've received some feedback from some of you regarding some things that you're enjoying and some things that you'd like to see done a little differently. Perhaps you, the illustrious readers of the Shepherd's Staff, are unaware that we get comments fairly regularly from both sides of the aisle. We have had people ask us to sing more new songs. Those folks think we sing too many hymns. Others have told us that we don't sing enough of the old hymns. They think we sing too many new songs. Some want more upbeat tempos. Others think we do things too fast. You see what I'm saying? Tricky.

God has blessed the Walker family with musical ears (and God has blessed this Walker with a musically excellent flautist for a wife). While there are a number of factors that go into how we musically worship, it's inevitable that one of those is personal taste. Some can't get past this. Though we may not put it into words, many of us start out with assuming two things about our tastes: 1) Everyone shares my tastes about music. 2) Dissenters are wrong (or at least severely misguided). For instance, I love what Amy and I call "99¢ Store Music." It's more or less smooth jazz. "Easy Listening," if you will. I get unrelenting trash for that music from pretty much everyone, but what can I say? They're just wrong. I like my music, and I have fairly restrictive parameters that define what sort of tunes I'll play as I'm driving around town. Music is largely a personal thing.

Then we get to church on Sunday morning. I have certain songs that I like to sing and there are other songs of which I'm just not the biggest fan. You have songs you like to sing and you'd probably be fine if we sang the same cycle of your seven or eight songs for the next four months. Another saint may have seven or eight different songs and you may not like six of those. Who's to say what to sing? Tricky.

Enter a book that needs to be on your shelf. We sing many of Bob Kauflin's songs in church. He was once a member of Glad (the band) and continues to serve the Lord in a musical capacity. He currently ministers as the Director of Sovereign Grace Music (which means that he directly or indirectly influences all of the Sovereign Grace songs we sing at PCC [and there are a number]). Without further ado, allow me to encourage you to read...

Worship Matters
by Bob Kauflin


Discovery

Two main things stand out to me about my time in my senior class, "The Pastor as Worship Leader." The first was that my professor told me at least three times that I needed to pursue an "economy of words" in my written work. (I had a sneaking suspicion that he had been told this in one of his classes and just liked the phrase, but I couldn't prove it.) I'm not sure whether or not I've advanced in the whole "economy" department, but the second thing that stood is the book being approbated today.

I made it through a good number of books throughout my time as an Applied Theology major. Of all the works that I read, I'm pretty sure I would name *Worship Matters* as my favorite. Granted, it was far less dense than much of what was assigned, but I think it was more than that. What I discovered in the spring of 2012 was one of the most joyful, hopeful, and (indeed) worshipful books across which I had ever come.

Summary

I should mention up front that *Worship Matters* is written specifically for worship pastors/leaders. I'll let you know why I still recommend it for you here shortly.

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Kauflin divides his book into four parts: "The Leader," "The Task," "Healthy Tensions," and "Right Relationships." The book certainly deals with the musical portion of worship, but music doesn't even make it into a chapter's title until chapter twelve. This is a deliberate step to emphasize that, for both leader and the saints in the pews, worship is far more than tunes, beats, and lyrics. Before considering his directing or even his song selection, the leader must look to his own walk with the Lord in its different facets: his thoughts, his doctrine, his service, his passions.

After this leadership assessment, Kauflin gives his extended definition of what it means to be the music minister: "A faithful worship leader magnifies the greatness of God in Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit by skillfully combining God's Word with music, thereby motivated the gathered church to proclaim the gospel, to cherish God's presence, and to live for God's glory" (55). Nearly one hundred pages of *Worship Matters* are devoted to developing these thoughts.

After this, he explores the appropriate balances worship leaders must maintain as they lead the corporate worship of the gathered church body. He concludes with a reminder that leading musical worship is ultimately about how we build one another up and how we expand the Kingdom "with one voice" (Romans 15.6).

Boon

When I read this book, I was blessed. There are a number of books that edify me, some convict me, and some teach me. Certainly these are all aspects of blessing, but *Worship Matters* was just a delight. The subtitle is "Leading others to encounter the greatness of God." The book certainly helped me in that encounter. Even where Kauflin and I diverge theologically, he managed to point me to Jesus. It granted me a clearer and more beautiful picture of musical worship than I had had previously.

I often fail to keep things in an appropriate perspective, but books like Kauflin's *Worship Matters* serve as healthy correctives. They serve to fix my thinking when I'm tempted to make anything other than the Messiah's glorification central to our Sunday mornings. The point of our musical worship (just like the point of everything else when our church gathers) is God's glory through the building up of His people. Kauflin's joyful unpacking of that priority was a much-needed tool in shaping my understanding of how the "worship service" ought to look.

Approbation

A few years after Kauflin wrote *Worship Matters*, he wrote a follow-up for a wider audience: *True Worshipers*. You ought to read that, too, but why am I approbating that you read the more "specialized" work instead of its sequel? It was a harder decision than you might expect, but I think there is particular value in your reading this book for musical worship leaders.

If you have ever been tempted to fire off a frustrated remark to one of our musical worship leaders, this book can both refine and expand your picture of what Sunday morning worship ought to look like. If you enjoy singing certain songs and not others, it will point you toward a bit more balance in your preference repertoire. If you want to know how better to pray for your musical worship leaders, *Worship Matters* will give you greater direction in your intercessions. If you want to know why worship matters, well... I'd encourage you to read this book.

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

GREAT ARE THE WORKS OF THE LORD; THEY ARE PONDERED BY ALL WHO DELIGHT IN THEM. GLORIOUS AND MAJESTIC ARE THE DEEDS AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS ENDURES FOREVER...PSALM 111. 3,4

FROM DALOA (Ivory Coast) TO ANTANANARIVO (MADAGASCAR)

May the Grace and Peace of Our Lord and Savior be with you. Great are the works of our LORD may He opens our spiritual eyes to recognize our LORD at work. Last April I had the privilege to speak at Cote D'Ivoire emerging leaders conference in Daloa. I spoke on the passion to know, to love and to become like Jesus-Christ. I also had an opportunity to minister with Mike and Karen Kotecki who discipled me many years back. The ministry of Cote D'Ivoire is growing and spreading to others campuses despite the challenges of inadequate funding and political instability.

Soon after that I traveled with Udobong from Nigeria and Denis from Uganda to Madagascar to encourage our local leader Andre Ramasivelo and his family. We saw clear evidence of the transforming power of the Gospel in individual lives, families and community. Many testified how Andre's life, ministry and personal example had impacted them, and they are being encouraged to also reach out and impact others.




Laborers retreat-Daloa (Ivory Coast). Navigators of Antananarivo(Madagascar)

Marie Claire and the girls are doing well. Grace is getting used slowly to the cold weather of Canada (currently enjoying the warm weather).

We thank God for his faithfulness and your partnership over the years. Thanks so much for your involvement with us in this work. We greatly appreciate your friendship and support.

Please pray for adequate funding for Andre and his family and the Nav ministry in Madagascar.
Please pray for the upcoming French speaking Women gathering in Cote d'Ivoire (August 1st-7th)

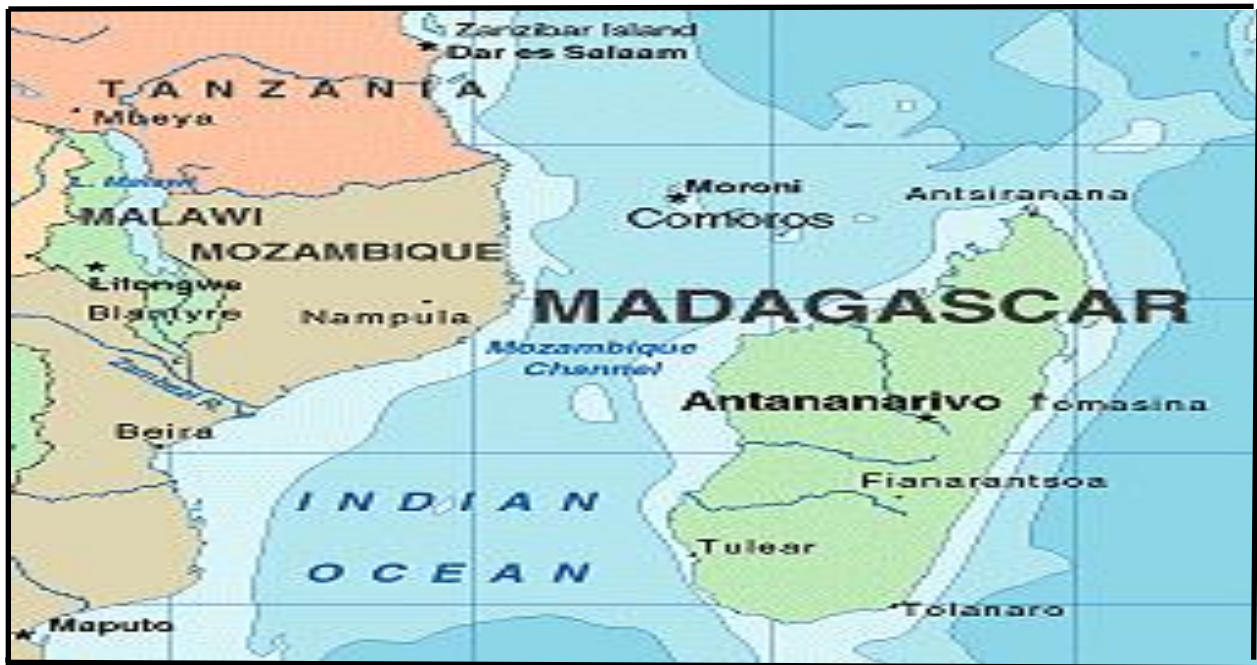
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With deep appreciation for your partnership in the ministry of advancing the Gospel.

LA FAMILLE AGRE

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Jeremie: (225) 0954 5353
Home: (225) 22 50 72 94

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



Dr. Jeremie and Marie Clair Agre are Navigator Missionaries in the Ivory Coast our Church Family Supports



Iglesia Evangelica de Avenal

New prospects for the missions

As it was of your knowledge, at church we have the School of Evangelistics Alberto Mottesi, in order to prepare people for the ministry. We are very proud to announce that both 5 certificate and 12 associate students who have been taking the courses graduated last February. The graduation ceremony, which took place in Los Angeles, CA was very nice. I am very excited to have so many of our congregation members be a part of this graduating class, and I am praying that God will lift up missionary couples from this class who will go out and continue to work for the Lord.

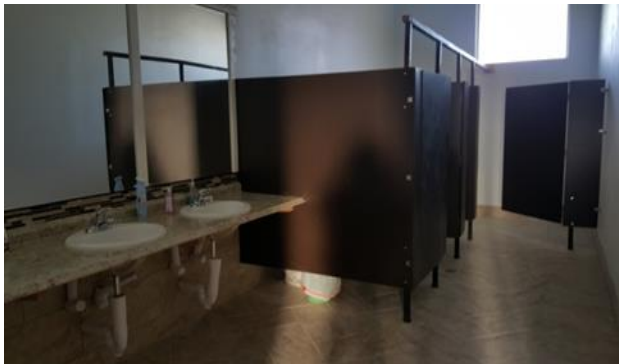


Church Building Progress

We have had many volunteers showing up to help with our church building project and we have made a lot of progress with it. They have worked on the plumbing for the restrooms; the insulation, sheet rock, and texture have been put in; the light fixtures have been installed; and the stage has been made bigger. I praise and honor God for allowing us to continue working on our building. I am certain that it will soon be finished and that it will be a blessing not only to our congregation, but to the entire community as it will stand as a lighthouse in the midst of darkness, in which those that need refuge will find His love and protection.



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Our Annual Church Conferences

We hosted our annual women's conference "God of impossible" and it was a great blessing. This was a great community out-reach activity as our sisters in Christ went out and invited many women from our small community. About 250 women attended this event. The preachers that were invited shared a powerful message from God and encouraged all of the women who attended to leave the past behind and to look towards the future and seek God with all of their hearts. The young ladies that attended also received great things from God on this occasion, I do not believe that any of them left the same way that they came in, and I believe that God gave them each a new, fresh outlook on their Christian lives.

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Also our annual men's conference "Courageous Men" was a great blessing. We all had the opportunity to praise and worship God in a special manner. The Pastors that shared the word provided us with a great message from God, they encouraged all of the men to continue seeking the Lord with all of their hearts and to continue sharing His love with others. I am certain that God is going to continue to do great things



Missionary Trip to Cuba

Last May, Teresa was invited to be a speaker for the annual women conference in a church of the country of Cuba. She returned amazed of the experience. The pastor's wife of the church told to her: -"Many people want to attend our conference, but every year I have to remember to other churches to do not bring more than five women to our conference, because we don't have too much space to accommodate them". Even though, more than 200 women filled up the small sanctuary. Praise the Lord!

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The most important thing of all occurred in this trip was that 6 women accepted Jesus as their Saviour (first picture). That's pay off all! Even though the church in Cuba has suffered persecution and restrictions, the people of God over there has been faithful and courageous, especially His pastors. Please pray for the people of God in Cuba.



Baptisms

As every year, this July, we baptized new believers. We praise the Lord for all these new members of our church family who give us encouragement through their conversions.



Raoul and Teresa Corona are Village Missions Missionaries our PCC family supports

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Calico Ghost Town, California

By Bob Jacobs

Calico was built during an 1881 silver strike, the largest one ever found in California. The town boomed until the mines started to play out in 1896. By 1904, it was a ghost town. With its 500 or so mines Calico produced over \$20 million in silver ore over a 12 year span. Today it's a tourist attraction. But, it has a lot of the original buildings still standing; and, it is well worth a visit.

Walter Knott (owner of Knott's Berry Farm's) purchased Calico in the 1950's. He architecturally restored all but five original buildings to look as they did in the 1880's. Calico received California State Historical Landmark 782; and, in 2005 it was proclaimed, by former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, to be California's Silver Rush Ghost Town.

CAUTION: Mines in the Calico area are EXTERMELY HAZARDOUS and must not be entered for any reason.

Today the park operates mine tours, gunfight stunt shows, gold panning, several restaurants, the historic narrow gauge Calico & Odessa Railroad, and over a dozen unique gift shops. Calico hosts an event for almost every holiday, including Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. They also have a film festival, Civil War reenactments and a bluegrass music festival. For more information telephone them at (800) 86-CALICO; or, check out their web site at:

<http://www.visitcalicoghosttown.com/>.

There is a charge to get into Calico but its reasonable. However, some attractions do charge an extra fee. Kids will enjoy panning for gold, riding the stagecoach and they love the Mystery Shack that has a mind-bending spot where optical illusions make water look like it's running uphill. They will also like riding the narrow-gauge mining railroad train that circles the town. How you feel about Calico depends on what you're expecting, and your age. Some adults like Calico for what it is, perhaps considering it to be more like a mini-theme park built in a historic mining tow. But it is not like the authentic ghost towns of the Eastern Sierras. If you're a ghost town fan who's been around, it's more like Tombstone, Arizona or Virginia City, Nevada than it is like Bodie, California or Rhyolite, Nevada. Many folks complain that it's too commercialized. But, as one online reviewer put it, "they have to support it somehow."

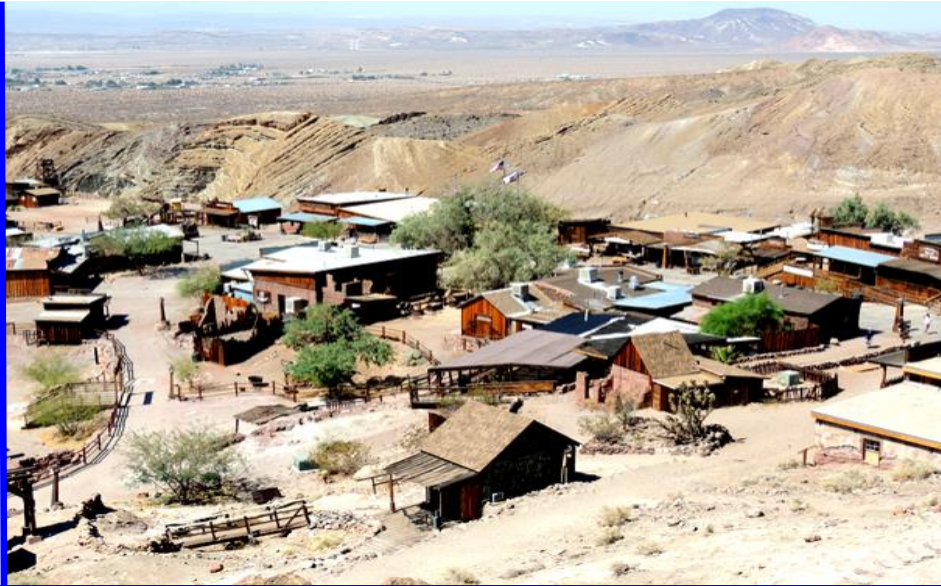
They also offer two unique tours that give you the ability to see and learn more about Calico and the surrounding area. Check out their "Silver King Mine Tour" and their "20 Mule Team Off-Road Tour". Want to stay more than a day? Calico Ghost Town offers over 300 campsites from dry camping to full hookups.

To get there from Pahrump take State Highway 372/178 to Shoshone, California then head South on State Route 127 in Shoshone to Baker, California. Get on Interstate 15 West in Baker and follow it all the way to the Calico Off-ramp, which is nine miles east of Barstow. This trip is a little less than three hours (one way).

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OVERVIEW OF CALICO



Main Street in Calico





EDITORIAL PAGE

Pride and Prejudice

I don't know how many of you have read Jane Austen's romantic novel—"Pride and Prejudice". "Pride and Prejudice" was first published in 1813. I have read it many times and watched one movie and one television series based on this book. Both versions were vaguely true to the novel. WONDERS!!! (*For some reason, most visual adaptations of novels tend to tarnish the author's technique and/or intentions.*)

The novel was first published in 1813. Since the setting was in England, it had **nothing** to do with the "pride and prejudice" that our own country was dealing with during that time. However, "pride is pride" and "prejudice is prejudice" no matter how many bodies of water separate one country from another.


I think a lot about people with their "uppity" (I like that word. It was one of my grandmother's favorite expressions in discipling me) attitudes. "Girl, don't get **uppity**" with me," she would comment if I dared question her authority.

I think a lot of Christians have an "uppity" attitude when it comes to understanding others and their ancestry or environment. Even some have that attitude about their fellow Christian brothers and sisters. But, Jesus didn't concern Himself with the attitudes nor social position of others. He knew that going after "the lost sheep" was one of His missions. But, his prideful judges said:

"This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Luke 15:2

I am really "floored" when I find this "pride and prejudice" attitude among our Christian brothers and sisters. One of the most challenging missions of our Christian lives will be to understand and accept the fact that God does not create "clones." He creates "individuals." Frankly, I don't think I could bear being around someone who was exactly like me. I have too many flaws that need "fixin'." And, I am not alone when I make that declaration. The fact is, some of my closest friends are the exact opposites of who I am. I believe God places those people in our lives who complement us – not duplicate us.

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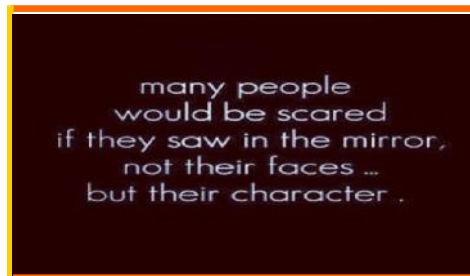
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I have been so blessed! God has placed so many variables in my life – people, attitudes, opinions and cultures. And, I have enjoyed every moment I am allowed or was allowed to be a part of these variables. For example, Pete is from the former Czechoslovakia. Antony is from Poland. Fernanda is from Uruguay. Of course, there have been others as well. I try not to judge their heritage nor flaunt mine. I feel sorry for my fellow countrymen and fellow Christians who feel the need to typecast or stereotype me. The greatest lessons I have learned is listening to those from a different culture. That rings true not only of those from other countries but from this one as well.

I do not want to feel there are internal walls surrounding me in my own country. I am an individual who enjoys “differences.” “Differences” are not only “different” but, interesting. I am so glad God has placed so many “different” people from so many “different” cultures in my life. And, that does not mean only from “different” countries. That, also, means from the “different” cultures within our country. I can truly admit that I am very glad I have lived in so many states within this country. Each state is a different culture and/or a blend of cultures that makes it unique.

Remember “the Berlin Wall?” This wall symbolized a “lack of freedom.” If we attempt to culturally build walls around each other then we lose our “freedom.” What a loss that would be! And, what a “slap in the face” that would be to our “founding fathers.”

Think before you categorize your Christian brothers and sisters! This may well place you in a “category” that is not flattering to you either as a Christian or as a human being. “Narrow minds” lead to “narrow lives.” You have nowhere to “branch out” and spread your wings. As your parents would say, “You are grounded!” And, with “**NO ALLOWANCE**” to be the Christian God wants you to be.



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