



THE LIFE LINE

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Monthly Newsletter of Lifeway Baptist Church

February 2021

THE ONLY LASTING ALLEGIANCE

By Frank Keeler

Last month my newsletter article focused on letting go of the sports trophies that I had won in my youth. I shared Dr. James Dobson’s observation that eventually life will trash your trophies so don’t treasure them too deeply. Unbeknownst to me at the time that I wrote that, there was a committee assembled determining that because Sir Francis Drake was a slave owning, colonialist who was also bad for some other reasons, my high school is now known as HS 1327 until a suitable name for the school can be determined. My former high school isn’t the only school to lose its name as 44 schools in San Francisco (just south of HS 1327) have also been targeted for a name change including schools named after George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. It is definitely strange to think that for four years I played for the basketball team, wrote and edited for the school newspaper as well as numerous other activities under the name and banner of a school that no longer exists.

I also did a quick internet search to see how the businesses that sponsored my championship baseball teams were doing and apparently if you want to purchase some carpet or laminate from Reno’s Floor Covering in Vallejo you still can. However, the 20-30 Club and U-Save market are no longer operating.



A painter removes the former name of HS 1327

I certainly don’t agree with the decision to change the name of my alma mater but it highlights the need to realize how much of our lives and what we do is temporary. Schools, organizations, political parties, nations, economic systems and empires that are here today will someday be gone.

In the Bible book of Daniel, there are visions of great earthly kingdoms that have come and gone just as the Bible says they would. Daniel reminds us that only one kingdom will last forever. Daniel 7:14 “and to him (Jesus, the ancient of days) was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and his kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.”

Also, it is important to remember that this eternal kingdom is not an earthly kingdom. Jesus said, **“My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”**

It reminds me of a very brief poem: “Only one life will soon be passed, only what’s done for Christ will last.”

So, what are you doing today?

*God bless,
Pastor Frank*



LIFEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

O grasp the strong life line for Jesus can save.

from "Throw Out the Life Line" words & music by
Edwin S. Ufford, 1888 & George S. Stebbins, 1890

This Month in the Life

DEVOTIONAL: SING, SHOUT AND PRAISE THE LORD

By Shira Campbell

PSALMS 95:1-5 THE MESSAGE
COME, LET'S SHOUT PRAISES TO GOD,
RAISE THE ROOF FOR THE ROCK WHO
SAVED US! LET'S MARCH INTO HIS PRES-
ENCE SINGING PRAISES, LIFTING THE RAFT-
ERS WITH OUR HYMNS!

AND WHY? BECAUSE GOD IS THE BEST,
HIGH KING OVER ALL THE GODS. IN ONE
HAND HE HOLDS DEEP CAVES AND CAV-
ERNS, IN THE OTHER HAND GRASPS THE
HIGH MOUNTAINS. HE MADE THE OCEAN-
HE OWNS IT! HIS HANDS SCULPTED
EARTH!

This last month was definitely a roller coaster of emotions. If we are honest with ourselves, how many of us just knew President Trump was going to

do something to save our America at the last minute? I know I was one, I just knew that this President loved this Nation too much to give it to those who want to destroy it.

However, that was not God's intent at all, say it again, it was not in God's will. You see, President Trump was not meant to be the Saviour of our Nation, that sole responsibility is God's. He is the Saviour, the King, the Father of the world.

My heart, my soul is at peace, no matter what. I will shout and sing "All is Well with my Soul", for the President is not bigger than my God, who surrounds me in his love.

Even in sleep, I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit singing over me.

Let's shout out Hallelujah and Praise the Lord, for soon the Trumpets will shout out and all people will bow before our King.

MEDIA MINUTE

Submitted by Pastor Frank

ChristianCinema.com is a site that allows you to view Christian movies and content on an on demand basis. Without having to pay for a streaming service you can pay individually for the programming you want. The information below is from their website.

"ChristianCinema.com was born out of a desire to meet a need to connect independent Christian filmmakers with people like yourself who are looking for faith-based movies. More than a decade and a half of developing relationships with independent filmmakers around the world brings you the best movies and documentaries. Every title is screened before we add it to the database to ensure a standard of quality and that it represents a Biblical worldview. The site started with just one movie and to date has grown to more than 4,000



titles in its database, making it the world's largest internet movie database for Christian movies.

ChristianCinema.com has expanded into a news and information platform for industry leaders including retailers, distributors, actors, producers and writers. Not only can consumers and industry professionals alike find the latest information on Christian theatrical releases and Christian DVDs, but insiders consider the site to be a leading indicator of the most popular Christian movies.

When you buy, rent, or stream movies from ChristianCinema.com, you're not just watching a movie, you're helping Christian filmmakers continue to make better films with a message that counts!"

Source: The Christian Post

MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

ANDY & RHONDA GREENFIELD—
BALTIMORE



In 2013, the Baltimore Ravens won the Super Bowl. Church planting missionary Andy Greenfield remembers the electric atmos-

phere within the city after the win. You could hear the cheers and excitement. As Andy experienced the elation, he could not help but imagine what it would be like for the city to be that excited about Jesus and the glory of God.

Nearly seven years later, Andy would become a missionary in the Ravens' home city, one that has endured the thrills of the Super Bowl victory and the deep anxiety of wrestling with racial tension. He and his wife, Rhonda, planted a new church in the Station North neighborhood of Baltimore.

THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM is the financial fuel for reaching every person for Jesus Christ in every town, every city, every state, and every nation. Your support through the Cooperative Program provides tools and resources for the Greenfields' work in the city.

PRAY for Andy and Rhonda as they minister to the city of Baltimore and navigate steering a young church plant through COVID-19 challenges.

Source: Southern Baptist Convention



The Church Around the World

Source: Open Doors USA, submitted by Pastor Frank

60% RISE IN CHRISTIANS KILLED WORLDWIDE IN 2020: OPEN DOORS REPORT Governments use COVID-19 as excuse for persecution of Christians

2020 continued a trend of rising persecution around the world, with governments often using COVID-19 restrictions as tools of repression, Christian persecution watchdog Open Doors USA announced in its annual report. Open Doors' 2021 report revealed two important persecution trends in 2020. The number of Christians killed has increased by 60% this year, mostly because of Islamic violence against Nigerian Christians. Secondly, anti-Christian governments around the world use COVID-19 restrictions to persecute Christians. "This past year 2020 has been a year of uncertainty and fear. We've been all fighting a virus that we cannot see with the naked eye. Less known but equally as viral has been the discrimination, isolation and violence against Christians by using COVID-19 as a leverage and as justification," Open Doors President and CEO, David Curry, reported in Nigeria, over 2,200 Christians were murdered by radical Islamists. This number makes up slightly less than half of the 4,761 Christians killed for their faith worldwide, according to Open Doors statistics. Most of the Christians killed in 2020 gave up their lives to extremist groups, not governments, Curry said. "Extremists [...] are emboldened by gov-



OpenDoors
Serving persecuted Christians worldwide

ernment weakened by COVID-19 restrictions, knowing that they can steal food and medical supplies from already embattled Christian communities around the world," he said. Violence by Islamists in Nigeria amounts to genocide, Curry said. Attacks have spilled over into neighboring countries. Across Africa, even countries with sizeable Christian majorities like Mozambique and Burkina Faso have suffered from Islamic persecution. It only takes a few extremists to commit violence against Christians. Other persecution hotspots around the globe include China and India, Open Doors announced. In China, the Communist Party has cracked down on Christians by using surveillance technology. In the last year, it has integrated its social credit and video security system, enabling it to track its people and punish them for attending church. In India, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party has encouraged persecution of Christians by sanctioning Hindu extremism, Open Doors research found. The party has told its nation that only Hindus are truly Indian, Curry told The Christian Post. Political leaders have discouraged police from responding to attacks on Christians. "I put the responsibility at the feet of the ruling party, the BJP, which is very nationalistic.

For more information on the Persecuted church visit:
www.persecution.com

SANCTUARY SIDEBAR

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Wednesday Night Bible Study

Our Bible study groups continue to meet on Wednesdays on Zoom only until further notice.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Email submissions to
newsletter@lifewaychurchvista.com

Newsletter Articles Due



Fruits Of Love

*Love is a miraculous treasure
That comes from Heaven above
Love is fruit of the Spirit!
It's what the heart is made up of!
Love is very patient
It will endure until the end.
Love is always good and kind
By sowing peace in the hearts of men.
Love rejoices in the truth,
It never seeks its own
Love draws others toward it
It never walks alone!
Love meditates on lovely things
it offers joy, and peace.
Love rejoices in gentleness
With a patience that won't cease
love bears all things, believes all things
Hopes all things and more...
Love helps those who are in need
It gives grace to the lost and the poor
When you walk in the spirit of love
And live in this spirit too.
God's "love fruits" from Heaven above
Will shower down blessings upon you!*

CHURCH STAFF

Frank Keeler
Pastor

Becky Kline
Church Clerk

David Kline
Deacon

Danny Zenner
*Music Coordinator,
Youth Ministry*

Barbara Jarvis
Financial Secretary

Christine Kline
Treasurer

Cheryl-Ann Calica
*Kitchen Manager,
Correspondence,
VBS Director,
Operation Christmas
Child Coordinator*

Donna Keeler
*Women's Ministry,
Special Events*

Dagna Stencel
*Librarian,
Media Worship*

Cathy Oquendo
Nursery Coordinator

Lina Cardenas
*Newsletter Editor,
Digital Marketing &
Webmaster*

Please direct any suggestions, corrections and/or articles for consideration to:
newsletter@
lifewaychurchvista.com

Prayer and Praise

- Anita Lozano—please pray for Anita, Alfred's sister-in-law (LaDonna's mother). She is fighting ovarian and liver cancer. Please keep her and the family in your prayers.
- Pastor Bob Chelli lost his 5-year battle with cancer very recently. Please pray for his family and church body.

"For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers..."

Verse of the Month

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2 (NIV)

The Culture Corner

Submitted by Frank Keeler

POLL: 76%, INCLUDING MOST PRO-CHOICE AMERICANS, FAVOR RESTRICTIONS ON ABORTION

A new survey has found that an overwhelming majority of Americans, and most who identify as "pro-choice," favor implementing significant restrictions on the legality of abortion in the United States. A Marist poll, released Wednesday that is sponsored by the Catholic fraternal organization Knights of Columbus, interviewed 1,173 adults in the U.S. about a week before President Joe Biden was inaugurated this month. Exchanges were selected to ensure that each region of the country was represented in proportion to its population. The sample was balanced based on the 2017 American Community Survey 1-year estimates for age, gender, income, race and region. The data features a sampling error of no more than 3.5 percentage points. According to the data, about three-quarters of all respondents said that they favor significant restrictions on abortion. At a time when there are many polarizing issues in American politics, the survey also shows that a majority of respondents who identified as "pro-choice" said they also favor implementing certain restrictions on abortion not backed by the Democratic Party. Among all respondents surveyed, 53% identified as "pro-choice," 43% iden-

tified as "pro-life," while 4% said they were "unsure." Respondents were asked to identify among four statements which statement best aligns with their opinions on abortion. Only 15% of respondents (27% of pro-choice respondents) selected the statement that abortion should be "available to a woman any time during her entire pregnancy." About 10% of respondents (17% of pro-choice respondents) selected the answer that abortion should be available "only during the first six months of a pregnancy." The data indicates that only 44% of pro-choice respondents believe that abortion should at the very least be legal during the first six months of pregnancy, if not throughout the whole pregnancy.

Source: The Christian Post