



THE LIFE LINE

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Monthly Newsletter of Lifeway Baptist Church

October 2020

The Color Scale

By Frank Keeler

I don't know if you've noticed but lately I feel as if I'm being held hostage to a bunch of color scales designed to keep us informed but truly only make life more confusing. It all may have started as a way to determine potential fire risk during fire season bringing us things like "red flag alerts."

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks we got a new color code which revealed the perceived threat of another terrorist attack. Watching cable news you could see the threat described from Green (low risk) to Red (severe risk) by a little color swatch in the corner of the screen. The problem

"In the end the only color scale that matters is that though are sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow because of what Jesus did on the cross."

I had with this color code was that when it showed red I didn't know what to do other than be really anxious. I don't think I ever saw the risk level at green before it was discontinued. Now, in the midst of the Covid 19 pandemic our various health agencies have created a color coded scale so that we can know if we are allowed to go outside or not. In this scale if we are purple we have to shut most everything down but if it's red we have a little more freedom. So I guess the moral of the story is that if it is purple that's not grape and if it's red we can still whine!

Then of course we've colorized the political system. I guess the words "Republican" and "Democrat" have too many syllables to pronounce so we now have Red States and Blue States.

So recently I'm sitting at home hoping that the fire scale isn't red, so that my house doesn't burn down and waiting to find out if San Diego County's Covid color is purple or red, so we know if we can have church inside and wondering if we will go red or blue in the coming election, which itself is

rather confusing because if we go red many people will be blue, but if we go blue our country will actually be closer to being red than if we had gone red. It's all quite perplexing!

As I was pondering this one of my favorite Contemporary Christian songs from the group Petra called, "The Coloring Song," came to mind. You can listen to it on YouTube but the lyrics are below.

*Red is the color of the blood that flowed down
The face of someone who loved us so
He's the perfect man, He's the Lord's own Son
He's the Lamb of God, He's the only One
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make the love between us flow
Blue is the color of a heart so cold that
Will not bend when the story's told
Of the Love of God for a sinful race
Of the Blood that flowed down Jesus' Face
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can keep our hearts from growing cold
Gold is the color of the morning sun
That shines so freely on everyone
It's the sun Above that keeps us warm
It's the Son of Love that calms the storm
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can turn our mornings into gold
Brown is the color of the autumn leaves
When the winter comes to the barren trees*

(Continued on page 2)



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

COLOR

*There is birth, there is death, there is a plan
And there's just one God and there's just one man
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make our sins as white as snow
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can turn our mornings into **gold**
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can keep our hearts from growing cold
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make the love between us flow*

Isaiah 1:18 (NIV) "Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow"

In the end the only color scale that matters is that though are sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow because of what Jesus did on the cross.

*God Bless.
Pastor Frank*

DEVOTIONAL: THE POWER OF LIVING FREE

By Shira Campbell

JAMES 5:13-15 ARE YOU HURTING? PRAY. DO YOU FEEL GREAT? SING. ARE YOU SICK? CALL THE CHURCH LEADERS TOGETHER TO PRAY AND ANOINT YOU WITH OIL IN THE NAME OF THE MASTER. BELIEVING PRAYER WILL HEAL YOU, AND JESUS WILL PUT YOU ON YOUR FEET. AND IF YOU'VE SINNED, YOU'LL BE FORGIVEN — HEALED INSIDE AND OUT.

There are so many of us who are not just sick in body, but we are sick in mind and spirit, that only Jesus can cleanse, forgive and heal. We hurt because of past experiences that we struggle to move on from, that we have buried so deep inside that we have learned to just live with the memories rather than leave it at Calvary and walk away. It can be a memory, an affliction, addiction or a past situation.

I am here to tell you, whatever emotions, affliction and addiction you are struggling with, through prayer and praise, release it to God. Feel the power of living free from your burdens, of living your life with complete joy and contentment.

Challenge for you: Gather a group of your closest friends, those you know whose lives, not just words, but whose lives reflect a strong and close

relationship with the Lord, confide, release, pray and praise daily. Watch, see and feel how dramatically your life will change, how your relationship with your Savior will change, how you will view the circumstances your Father is bringing you through change. Watch your whole life and attitude of life change from deep inside you, spilling out for all to see the Glory of what God has done and is doing in your life.

Cast Satan and the thoughts he survives on in your life. You have been given that power, as a child of God to cast him from you through the blood of the Lamb, who was sacrificed for you, who chose death for you.

Hallelujah! Praise Him for all things, sufferings and healing, draw close to Him, live and breathe his word, feel the difference between living in this world and living in Jesus, there is a difference.

Oh love to you all, and may His "Son" shine fill your battery up so your inner-light comes beaming through the darkness for others to seek, find and accept the grace, mercy, forgiveness and love that is freely waiting for them as well, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

MEDIA MINUTE

Submitted by Pastor Frank

DISNEY THREATENED TO PULL OUT OF GEORGIA OVER ABORTION LAW, BUT FILMED IN REGION WHERE CHINESE UIGHURS ARE IMPRISONED

Disney is facing criticism for filming where China's Uighurs are allegedly being interned more than a year after CEO Bob Iger suggested the company might be forced to cut ties with Georgia after the state passed an anti-abortion law. In the credits for the live-action version of "Mulan," Dis-

ney thanked a Chinese agency called Turpan Municipal Bureau of Public Safety, which is allegedly responsible for running internment camps housing individuals from the country's Muslim minority groups, the BBC reported Monday. Disney filmed the movie in Xinjiang, China, where Uighur people have reportedly been imprisoned.

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MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

TODD & KATIE MILLER—THAILAND



If you read the news, you know there are millions of displaced people in the world.

This month in our prayer time we are going to

look at eastern Thailand, near the border with Myanmar, once called Burma. The Shan people make up about 10 percent of Myanmar's population. But in recent years they have clashed with the government. Thousands have moved to Thailand and live in refugee camps, searching for jobs and better conditions.

We have sent two of our missionaries, Todd and Katie Miller, to reach the Shan people in Thailand. Our church supports the Millers through our Cooperative Program giving.

Most Shan people are Buddhists. Todd and Katie see them visit temples to ask for blessings. But some of the Shans have begun hearing about the Christian gospel. When Todd and Katie drove into a village recently, a man flagged them down. He pleaded with them to come to his home and tell him about Jesus. Later he prayed to receive Christ.

Today let's ask God to keep Todd and Katie and their three children safe as they serve in Thailand. Let's pray they will reach many of the Shan people for Christ.

Source: Southern Baptist Convention



The Church Around the World

Sources: The Voice of the Martyrs, Christian Solidarity Worldwide Christian Post, Int'l Christian Concern and submitted by Pastor Frank

FOCUS ON SYRIA: CHRISTIAN REFUSES TO TURN OVER CHRISTIAN

Radwan Muhammad is a Kurdish teacher and headmaster for a Christian school in the city of Afrin in northern Syria. He was ordered by the Sham Legion (Faylaq al-Sham) – a coalition of Sunni Muslim groups – to turn over the school building for an Islamic school. According to local sources, Radwan told them, "I will hand you the building in one case only: if Jesus Christ comes to earth again."

On July 30th, Radwan was detained by the group and has been accused of apostasy. Sources say that he is being held at their headquarters in Afrin and have expressed concerns for his life, fearful that he may be executed. The Sham Le-



The Sham Legion is a group of 19 Islamist rebel groups in Syria.
Photo: Wikipedia

gion is controlled by Turkey and associated with the Muslim Brotherhood. Many of the fighters are former al Qaeda and ISIS members. The city of Afrin has been under Turkish control since 2018.

Please pray for Radwan's safe release and that the Christian school will be able to continue. May the Turkish authorities respect the rights of people residing in the Afrin area and restrain the agenda of militia groups under their control. Also intercede for the believers of the Kurdistan region – bordering Syria, Turkey, Iraq and Iran – who are presently facing oppression from all sides.

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

MEDIA MINUTE

Iger told Reuters in May 2019 that it would be "very difficult" to do business in the state of Georgia after Republican Gov. Brian Kemp signed a law banning abortion if a doctor can detect a fetal heartbeat. Disney has made several movies in the state, including "Black Panther" and "Avengers: Endgame." The law took effect in January of 2020. Georgia offers film studios tax credits and the film industry is responsible for creating more than 92,000 jobs in the state, according to the Motion Picture Association of America. More than 450 productions were shot in Georgia in 2018, Reuters reported, citing state data. "I rather doubt we will," Iger said during an interview in 2019, referring to whether the company will stay in Georgia. "I think many people who work for us will not want to work there, and we will have to heed their wishes in that regard. Right now we are watching it very carefully." He added: "I don't see how it's practical for us to continue to shoot there" if the law takes effect. Washington Post columnist Isaac Stone Fish criticized Disney

in a column Monday. "Why did Disney need to



Disney filmed the live-action version of "Mulan" in Xinjiang, China, where Uighur people have reportedly been imprisoned. Pictured: The Dolby Theatre March 9, 2020, during the world premiere of "Mulan" in Hollywood. (Photo: Charley Gallay/Stringer/Getty Images)

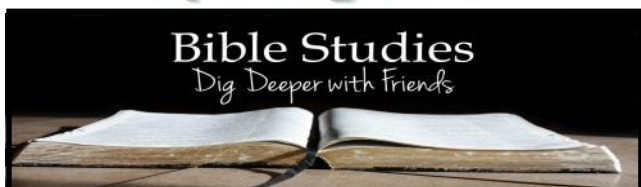
work in Xinjiang? It didn't. There are plenty of other regions in China, and countries around the world, that offer the starkly beautiful mountain scenery present in the film. But in doing so, Disney helps normalize a crime against humanity," he said. "While the CCP is committing crimes against humanity in Xinjiang, @Disney thanked four of the propaganda departments that are

lying to the world about these crimes," Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher of Wisconsin wrote in a tweet Tuesday, referring to the Chinese Communist Party. Numerous reports have shown Uighurs being held in concentration camps and being subjected to forced sterilization. Chinese officials deny any wrongdoing in Xinjiang, and claimed in an April statement that there is no "detention of a million Muslims from Xinjiang." The Chinese government is working to lower the birthrates of Uighurs while encouraging other native populations to have more children, an Associated Press investigation published in June found. The study was based on interviews with former detainees, family members, and a former detention camp instructor, as well as government statistics and documents, AP said. Meanwhile, Disney opened a \$5.5 billion entertainment resort in Shanghai, China, in 2016, Variety reported. Iger called Shanghai Disney the company's "greatest opportunity since buying land in Florida." Disney partnered with a state-owned company, Shanghai Shendi Group, for the resort.

SANCTUARY SIDEBAR

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Bible Studies Dig Deeper with Friends



Bible studies will resume on **Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30 pm**. The women's study will be in Luke. The men will finish Zechariah and then study the *Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper*.

Proverbs 16:9 (NIV) *In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration was scheduled for September 20. Those plans have long since be postponed. Pray that God will direct our steps and use us as we continue to move forward and get the word of God out to whoever will listen. Pray that we will trust in Him alone who knows all things including the future!

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

Email submissions to
newsletter@lifewaychurchvista.com

Newsletter
Articles
Due



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Webmaster*

Please direct any
suggestions, corrections
and/or articles for
consideration to:
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Prayer and Praise

- **Thaddeus de la Peña**—quick recovery and healing from an infection on his left leg. Praise for his landing a job at O'Reilly in Escondido.
- **Angela Baumbach's mom**—continued prayers for her mental and emotional state.
- **Elsie Perry**—praise report that the infusion in her heart has completely healed, her heart looks great and she doesn't need a cardiologist anymore.

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

Verse of the Month:

For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Hebrews 10:30-31 NIV

The Culture Corner

Submitted by Frank Keeler

GOVERNOR NEWSOM SIGNS BILL GIVING SEX PREDATORS
EASIER ACCESS TO YOUNG TEENS

Governor Gavin Newsom has signed a controversial bill that would make it harder for churches, youth organizations, and the average citizen to protect teens from young adults who seek them out for sex. The new law removes the mandatory sex offender registration requirement for adults convicted of homosexual sex acts with minors as long as the sex is consensual, the victim is 14 or older, and the perpetrator is within 10 years of age of the victim. That means a 24-year-old teacher or coach convicted of sex acts with a 14-year-old eighth-grade student wouldn't necessarily be on the sex offender registry that youth programs, churches, or schools use to avoid hiring someone with a history of predatory behavior towards minors. Judges can still require sex registration within these parameters, but they aren't required to.

Surprisingly, California's legal code already gives the same judicial discretion on statutory rape cases involving young adults who commit heterosexual sex acts with willing minors using the same age criteria. The bill author, Senator Scott Wiener (D-San Francisco), and the law's co-sponsors, Los Angeles District Attorneys and Equality California, used this inequity in the law to justify the need for this change in the legal code. "It's appalling that in 2020, California continues to discriminate against LGBTQ people, by mandating that LGBTQ young people be placed on the sex offender registry in situations where straight people aren't required to be placed on the registry," said Senator Wiener in a statement released after the Governor signed SB 145.

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey made the same argument explaining her support. "This bill brings much-needed parity to California's sex offender registration law," District Attorney Lacey said in a statement. "Senate Bill 145 allows judges and prosecutors to evaluate cases involving consensual sex acts between young people, regardless of their sexual orientation, on an individual

basis. I drafted this bill because I believe the law must be applied equally to ensure justice for all Californians." But Republicans and some Democrat legislators weren't buying these arguments. First California minors can't legally consent to sex with adults because of how easily they can be taken advantage of. Secondly, most Californians don't put 24 to 27-year-old adults in the same category as 14-17 year-olds, even if Lacey categorizes these two age groups as "young people." Assembly Appropriation Committee Chair Lorena Gonzalez (D-San Diego) held up the SB 145 in her committee for over a year and protested strongly against the bill when it came up for a vote on the floor of the Assembly.

"Any sex is sex. I don't care who it is between or what sex act it is. That being said, I cannot in my mind as a mother understand how sex between a 24-year-old and a 14-year-old could ever be consensual, how it could ever not be a registerable offense," Gonzalez said, her voice cracking at times with emotion. "We should never give up on this idea that children are not, should be in any way subject to a predator. And that is what it is.... Give me a situation where a 24-year-old had sex with a 14-year-old, any kind of sex, and it wasn't predatory. Any example and I have yet to see it." ([Watch the Assembly Floor testimony here](#))

Jones said he is open to a debate about whether a 19-year-old should register as a sex offender for having a consensual sexual relationship with a 17-year-old minor. "But a 25-year-old and a 15-year-old? There is no room for conversation," Jones insisted. "The majority of Californians agree that is inappropriate."

Now that the governor signed the bill into law, Jones says the only viable option is to put an initiative on the ballot to fix this. California laws have been "broken" for a long time regarding this issue. "The legislators will not do it, so it is up to the people of California to make it happen."

Source: California Policy Institute