



# THE LIFE LINE

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Monthly Newsletter of Lifeway Baptist Church

September 2021

## IDOLS

By Frank Keeler

Exodus 20:4-6 says, "You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand [generations] of those who love me and keep my commandments."

Growing up as someone who accepted Jesus as my savior at an early age and believed the Biblical worldview, I never truly understood the concept of idols- I mean we have a real God who loves us and want to have a relationship with us so worship a pile of rocks or stone statue on my first trip to Israel when I was 21 years old we spent the night in the Sinai desert. One night we camped right on the Israeli Egyptian border. Although deserts are supposed to be hot that night was the coldest night of my life. Literally, the coldest night I can ever remember! I felt like I laid for hours waiting for the sun to come up. When the sun did finally come up, I did NOT worship it that morning, but I had an understanding of why ancient cultures and to some degree cultures today worship the sun. It gave me something that I desperately needed at that time -WARMTH! Sadly, it is all too easy to worship something based on our perceived immediate needs.



Dictionary.com defines "Idol" as "an image or representation of a god used as an object of worship." My online search of the word "idol" mostly revealed a lot of information about an American Idol style "reality television" show that exists in many countries in the world. The sad truth is that we are always looking for something (sometimes it seems like anything) to idolize. Yet the Bible is quite clear- "Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

When we exchange the worship of God for anything else we make a very, very poor trade. As Paul writes in Romans 1:21-23, "For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles."

*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

## MEDIA MINUTE

### KENDRICK BROTHERS RELEASE "SHOW ME THE FATHER" ON SEPTEMBER 10

Submitted by Pastor Frank

The upcoming documentary "Show Me the Father" created by the Kendrick Brothers will be released on September 10. The Sony Pictures' Affirm Films flick will explore in detail the fatherhood of God. "Everyone has a father story, but not everyone has learned how to redeem it for their own good and the good of others," Stephen Kendrick said of the film. "Even though fatherlessness is directly connected to so much brokenness in today's world, we wanted to go beyond traditional documentaries and show how God is the perfect Father and can amazingly provide the love and healing to anyone at any stage in life." In an interview with The Christian Post at the National Religious Broadcasters convention in Grapevine, Texas, in June, Kendrick revealed that "Show Me The Father" was birthed in prayer. "God said, 'You need to make this documentary about fatherhood.' So we moved forward by faith, and we were able to connect with some of the coolest, most emotional stories about fatherhood. We took some of the most powerful truths about the fatherhood of God, put it all together and prayed over it," he said. "We want people to learn how to relate to God as the perfect Father they've always wanted and longed for, but never had," he added. "The fatherhood of God was the design for God creating fatherhood on Earth. All the roles that dad is supposed to play on Earth come from God's roles in our lives." Kendrick said he and his brothers were greatly impacted by their own father's commitment to Christ. "I didn't stumble upon my

dad looking at pornography growing up. I stumbled upon him on his knees in prayer, crying out to God," Kendrick testified. "I saw his faithfulness to my mom because of what Jesus had done in his life. I saw him keeping his promises. He never lied to me. His legacy is what transformed our family." "Show Me The Father" will feature an original score and include insights from bestselling author and Pastor Tony Evans. The film features a father's blessing as an example for men to emulate in their own families. "We show how a father's blessing is modeled in Scripture, and Tony Evans talks about how he gives men at his church a father's blessing. It's an emotional part of the story because everyone longs for that," he told CP. Despite focusing on fatherhood, the "Fireproof" filmmaker said the upcoming film, "Show Me The Father" is for everyone and will impact each viewer differently.

Source: The Christian Post



## FROM THE BOOKSHELF

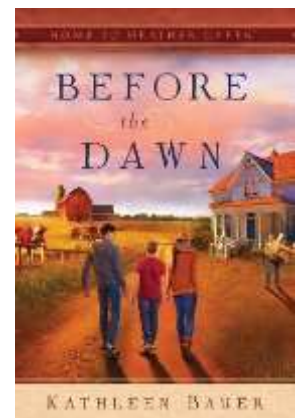
By Dagna D. Stencel

I took a small book from the library shelf, "Before the Dawn" by Carolyn Aarsen.

This is the first of a series of Guideposts books named Home to Heather Creek.

The book opens with three children moving from San Diego to a Nebraska farm to live with their grandparents, Charlotte and Bob Stevenson. Sam, 16, Emily, 14, and Christopher, 6. Their mother Denise had run away from home when she was young and moved to California. Charlotte had heard very little from her in the years since then and now she has been informed that Denise a single mom, has died in a car accident. So, the kids come to live at Heather Creek Farm with little social media connections and a very rural life. Have Charlotte and Bob bitten off more than they can chew by bringing their grandchildren to live with them? She feels she failed when it came to raising her children how can she cope with raising a new generation of children, will she make the same mistakes? She must deal with her own grief for her daughter and these children who do not want to be stuck in the boonies as they call it. Even if their Uncle Pete owns horses.

Please stay safe and read.



## MISSIONARY HIGHLIGHT

### Jay and Kathy Shafto

Most people have two main concerns when it comes to sharing the Gospel: not knowing what to say and facing rejection. IMB missionaries Jay and Kathy Shafto address these concerns as they equip believers in the Congo Basin to share the Gospel confidently and continually.

Working with existing churches in the area and training leaders in local churches is the central focus of Jay and Kathy's work as the territory where the majority of their work takes place is about one-third the country's size and home to 400 language groups. Their goal is to train pastors and church leaders to reach hard-to-reach people groups using oral-intensive training methods.

**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 assists missionaries like the Shaftos in their work to train local believers to disciple others.

**PRAY** for wisdom for the Shaftos as they continue to train leaders in the Congo Basin for ministry and that the leaders will be bold in sharing the Gospel with their respective people groups.

Source: Southern Baptist Convention



# The Church Around the World

Submitted by Pastor Frank

## FOCUS ON AFGHANISTAN: HOW TO PRAY FOR AFGHANISTAN TODAY

Afghan members of our Christian family treasure our prayers during this time of upheaval and violence. Here are some specific ways you can pray for them:

1. **PRAY FOR GOD'S PROTECTION.** The situation on the ground is fluid right now. Pray for God's protection over His people.
2. **PRAY FOR WISDOM.** Ask God to bless our brothers and sisters with discernment as they decide whether to stay or go and even with whom they should talk.
3. **PRAY FOR FELLOWSHIP.** Believers in Afghanistan often must keep their faith a secret — even from family members. Pray that God will help each Afghan believer to connect and fellowship with at least one other believer in person, by phone or through some other technology. Pray that God will remind them that they are not alone, but are part of the global body of Christ.
4. **PRAY FOR SAFE PASSAGE.** Pray that God will provide safe passage to those who feel led by God to leave Afghanistan and provide for their immediate needs in their new location.
5. **PRAY THAT MUSLIMS WILL MEET CHRIST.** The Taliban claim to be "true Muslims," strictly adhering to Sharia (Islamic law). As Muslims in Afghanistan see this cruel face of Islam, pray that they will be drawn to Jesus Christ, the shepherd Savior who doesn't oppress but instead chose to lay down His life for His sheep.
6. **PRAY FOR CHRISTIANS TRYING TO HELP.** For decades, VOM has provided help and encouragement to Christians in Afghanistan. Pray for the wisdom of front-line workers and pray that God will open new pathways for them to continue their work under Taliban control.

For more information on the persecuted church visit:

[www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)



## SANCTUARY SIDEBAR

### Announcements and Upcoming Events



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

**7:30 am—1:00 pm**

Please speak to Pastor Frank/Becky to see how you can help.

Wednesday Night  
6:30 pm *Bible Study*

- The men will begin a study on Biblical Covenant on September 1
- The ladies will return to their study in the Gospel of Luke on September 8

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

Email submissions to  
[newsletter@lifewaychurchvista.com](mailto:newsletter@lifewaychurchvista.com)

Newsletter  
Articles  
Due



**MONDAYS AT 7:00 PM**

**ONLINE**  
*prayer*  
MEETING



## **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**

- Please refer to "Church Around the World" to see how you can specifically pray for Afghanistan.
- Praise report for Chrissy Kline's sister, Jamie, who is recovering from COVID. Please pray for her as she also battles Lyme's disease.
- Pray for Elaine Noel's daughter's friend, Haley, an RN at Scripps Encinitas and her husband, a firefighter in Orange County. They are both slated to lose their jobs due to the vaccine mandate.
- Dennis Maze is back in the hospital. They think he has pneumonia. Please pray for his healing and recovery.

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

## **Verse of the Month**

How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you.  
You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them  
before the watching world.

*Psalms 31:19*

## **The Culture Corner**

Submitted by Frank Keeler

### **60% OF U.S. ADULTS UNDER 40 SAY JESUS ISN'T THE ONLY WAY TO SALVATION; EQUAL TO BUDDHA, MUHAMMAD**

More than 60% of born again Christians in America between the ages of 18 and 39 believe that Buddha, Muhammad and Jesus are all valid paths to salvation and over 30% say they either believe that Jesus sinned just like other people when He lived on Earth or aren't sure, according to a new study.



There's a "striking decline" in evangelical religious beliefs and practices over the last 10 years, as the number of self-proclaimed believers to hold these beliefs has increased by nearly 25%, says Probe Ministries in a statement announcing the results of its Religious Views & Practices Survey. The study, which interviewed 3,100 Americans ages 18 to 55 in 2020 and looked at various other previ-

ous studies, saw a drop in "basic biblical worldview" — God's attributes, the accuracy of the Bible, salvation and Jesus being sinless — from 47% in 2010 to 25% in 2020 among born again Christians. The drop in the "expanded biblical worldview" — beliefs about Satan and morals being objective — went from 32% in 2010 to 16% in 2020. "So, the percentage of Born Again Christians with a biblical worldview (of either type) has been cut in half over the last decade," says the study, which compared the 18–29 age group from 2010 with the same age group 10 years later, now 30–39. "This result is a startling degradation in worldview beliefs of Born-Again Christians over just 10 years. "This means, even born-again Christians "can have a false view of Jesus Christ and embrace a pluralistic worldview," Kerby Anderson, president of Probe Ministries, said. "Pastors and church leaders just can't assume any longer that the members of their church or Christian organization have a biblical worldview."

Source: The Christian Post