

Autobiography by Ole J Klegseth (aka Kleg Seth)

ONCE UPON A TIME IN HOLLYWOOD....GOD



I have a lot to thank God for, especially my family, my son and best friend Nathanael, daughter-in-law Ashley, grandson Aiden, and granddaughter Selah who was born on my birthday! Also blessed with my daughter Sarah and granddaughters Jayden and Jehiah who live in Oregon.





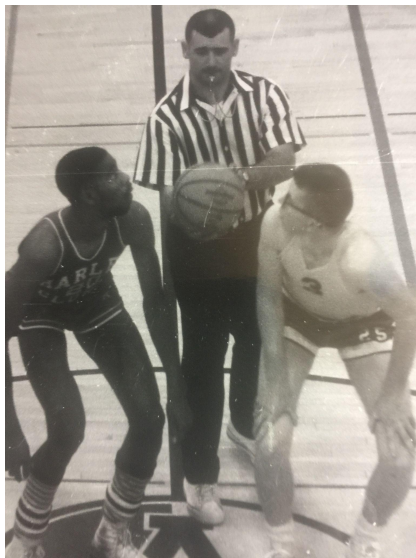
Christine and Jorgen Klegseth Jorgen Ole Christine



Selbu, Norway

Both my parents migrated from Selbu, Norway which is in central Norway near Trondheim. I could not have had a more godly mother who devoted her life to the church and raising me which at times was not an easy task. My dad, Jorgen Klegseth was born in Norway in 1900 and emigrated to the U.S. in his early 20s settling in southeast Washington near LaCrosse where others from Selbu, Norway had settled. I was asking myself the other day why I didn't ask my mother Christine Slind Klegseth questions about my dad. Then I realized that whenever I had mentioned my dad to my mother she would start crying. They were married in 1939 and I was born in 1941. My dad was a very hard worker and was able to buy a farm near Dayton, WA. When I was three he went in for a routine gallbladder surgery and did not survive. The one memory I do have at age 3 is standing by the side of his hospital bed and hearing him say "Take care of your mother". I thank God that I was able to care for her the last ten years of her life until she passed at age 97. She was not only a blessing to me but to my son as well.

LIMON, COLORADO



Mother moved to Limon, Colorado a couple of years after my dad passed away to keep house for her dad and brother Gunder Slind. Limon, which I referred to as the entertainment capital of eastern Colorado, with one theater, a bowling alley and two pool halls. A great place to grow up out on the eastern plains. One highlight for me was winning the state basketball championship in our division my senior year of high school in 1959.

MY FATHER / WARNING TO CHURCH FROM HEBREWS

My hope is that I will see my dad in heaven and I believe I will. I do know that he attended Selbu Lutheran Church near LaCrosse and would sing on occasion. I had also met in Los Angeles in the 1970s his former pastor and good friend Rev. John Trontvet who had the heart of an evangelist.

I had been going through old boxes and came across a book Pastor Trontvet had given my dad in 1930. The book A Better Life by Samuel Miller is a devotional study on the book of Hebrews. In reading the book I am blessed knowing that at one time my dad was holding this book in his hands and being inspired by its message.

As I was reading the book I came across what the author called “The Five Warnings” that I believe speak to the spiritual condition of our country and the church today.

THE FIVE WARNINGS (scripture references are from Hebrews)

- 1) Neglect of the Word (the Bible) leads to drifting into sin. (2:1-4)
- 2) Sin leads to unbelief, a great hindrance to spiritual growth (3:1-10)
- 3) Spiritual backwardness leads to apostasy. (5:11—6:20)
- 4) Wilful sinning leads to treading Christ under foot. (10:26-30)
- 5) Refusal to hear leads to judgement. (12:25-29)

GROWING UP IN THE 1950s

It would be hard for young people to imagine that when I grew up in Limon in the 1950s if someone had mentioned drugs my only thought would have been to take a prescription to the drug store. I never once heard about marijuana all through high school. But out of high school I was drawn to alcohol and Saturday night parties. In fact my second year in college I started majoring in ‘parties’ and when you do that forget about getting good grades. Rather than flunk out I dropped out of college and my friend Francis Harmon convinced me and two other friends to join the AirForce.

WHERE WILL I GO WHEN I DIE

I attended church through my school years and thought that was what made me a Christian. However, my life was not centered in Christ nor doing God's will. My life was centered in me having a good time. I thought living the Christian life would be a dull life! And that may have been because I never met anyone my age excited about living for God. However, my mother loved God and was praying that I too would come to know God and love Him. I believe as an answer to her prayers when I joined the Air Force I started to think about where I would go when I died. Very unusual for a 20 year old to have this on his mind! I did know that the Bible talked about a heaven and a hell. I thought 'well, I am a pretty good guy so I probably will go to heaven' although I had my doubts. Then I started to question "Is there really a God and if so the God of what religion?" I finally decided I would read through the New Testament to see if I thought it was God's inspired Word as the Bible claims. I had just turned 21 and was stationed in Northern California between Sacramento and San Francisco. I wasn't too far from the casinos in northern Nevada. The first time I gambled I won \$65. Compared to my Air Force pay in the early 1960s that was pretty good. I enjoyed the casino environment especially playing Black Jack and the entertainment. I quickly saw how someone could get addicted to gambling and alcohol. The first time I went to Reno I won \$65 at Black Jack. That was the first and the last time I won. On more than one occasion if I had not filled my car with gas when I arrived at the casinos in Reno I would not have made it back to the base.

LOOKING INTO THE BIBLE

A strange thing started to happen, the more I read the Bible the more I realized I wasn't such a good guy after all. I realized my life was totally centered in me and doing what I thought would make me happy rather than seeking to live for God. The more I read through the Bible the more I thought Jesus had to be God in human flesh to teach what He taught and perform the miracles He did. So one day alone in my room in the barracks I

very simply asked Jesus to forgive me and come in and take over my life. As the weeks went by I found myself desiring to be around other believers and to be involved in things that were pleasing to the Lord. There were some things that changed right away like my language, drinking to get drunk. gambling to get rich and other things that changed over time. It must have been a few months before I had the assurance that if I were to die I would be with God in heaven. I had read in the Bible *These things are written that you may know that you have eternal life*. I started to experience what I knew was *God beginning a work in me both to will and to do His good pleasure*. And to my surprise I didn't find life dull but exciting knowing that God was real and His love has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Although I lost my earthly dad at age 3 at age 21 I found a Heavenly Father. The Bible promises us that when we have received Jesus Christ we are adopted into the family of God and the best awaits us in the future in eternity. The greatest security in the world is not social security but eternal security.

MY MOST JOYFUL CHRISTMAS

The most joyful Christmas I ever experienced was when I was 22. Earlier that year I had received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I returned to Limon to spend Christmas with my mother and uncle Gunder. I could not have been more excited about celebrating Christmas. And that was because I realized the message the angel gave to the shepherds out on the hillside was also for me and for everyone. *Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people, for unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord.* (Luke 2:10-11)

I realized that Jesus came into this world as a baby to save me from the penalty I deserved for the sins I had committed. He saved me from hell and promised me heaven when I put my trust in Him and received Him as my Lord and Savior.

FINISHED COLLEGE

And after receiving Jesus while in the Air Force I did something I never thought I would do. I went back to school and graduated from California Lutheran College majoring in Theater Arts.

While in college at California Lutheran in Thousand Oaks I started to see Hollywood as a mission field that influences the world. I had been accepted at a seminary but in praying I asked God to connect me with someone in Hollywood if going there was His will. I had a small part in a summer theater production at the college playing an old man. The director was from Hollywood and after seeing me act told me that if I came to Hollywood he would help me get an agent. I felt this was an answer to my prayer. After graduating from California Lutheran College in 1967 I moved to Hollywood to pursue acting and script writing. My desire was to become a successful actor and be an influence in people's lives for Jesus Christ. In talking with the director who was going to help me get an agent he suggested that I change my name. I did not want to make a legal change but told him instead of using Ole Klegseth I would divide my last name in half and go by Kleg Seth. So today when someone addresses me as Ole I know it is either a relative or a classmate from years ago.

PURSUED ACTING AND WRITING IN HOLLYWOOD

The director did help me get an agent who landed me a small part in a Walt Disney movie Blackbeard's Ghost as a runner on a high school track team who came in last. Yes, 'type casting.' Dean Jones and Peter Ustinov were the stars in the film. In 1968 I wrote a tv script Tragedy Near A Small Town that was produced by This Is Your Life, a religious dramatic series.

LIVE IN COUNSELOR AT A GROUP HOME FOR JUVENILE BOYS

I took a job in the summer of 1967 as a live-in counselor at a group home for juvenile boys most who had been placed in the home by the courts. The majority of the boys were Black and Hispanic with a few who were white. The back of the home was next to an on ramp for the Santa Monica Freeway off Hoover near downtown Los Angeles. This was a time when racial tensions were running high in Los Angeles. I quickly realized the boys would challenge the counselor's authority and try to get away with whatever they could. There was another counselor working in the home from Texas and he was as white as I am except he had a southern accent. He didn't always think before he spoke and one day I thought one of the boys was going to do him bodily harm after the boy misunderstood what the counselor meant. A Black lady with a heart for the boys was the director of the group home assisted by her son who was in his early 30s. It was a challenging job and frustrating at times. However, it made me more aware of the negative family environments many of the boys came from. There was often a lot of drama that went on with the boys in the home which meant the job was never dull.



Kleg standing in front of the group home for juvenile boys he worked at as a live-in counselor.

SURVIVAL AT DEARBORN

Thinking of some of the humorous things the other counselor went through with the boys, I decided to write a screenplay that would give viewers greater empathy for the hopeless circumstances many troubled youth face today. Survival At Dearborn is a comedy that asks the question “How can a white counselor at a mixed racially group home for juvenile boys in the center of Los Angeles in the late 1960s survive the boy’s rebellion and pranks — or can he?”

Don Murray (actor, writer, director) who I worked with on The Cross And The Switchblade after reading my screenplay wrote me the following:

"I think it's an excellent film property. Your characters are so rich, so real and interesting that it's obvious that the film script came from a true life experience of the author. No one's imagination alone could create such characters and circumstances."

I was encouraged with Don’s positive comments about the screenplay and decided to see if I could interest a Hollywood production company. I went in to meet with a story editor at a studio and told him I had a screenplay that had a lot of drama with juvenile boys and a positive message at the end. The story editor told me if my screenplay did not have a lot of sex and violence he didn’t even want to look at it. I went home and put the screenplay on the shelf and started to get more involved in ministry.

DAVID SCANNEL

One of the few white boys in the group home was David Scannel. In my entire life I have never met anyone more depressed than David. Shortly after starting to work at the home David asked me if he could share one of his poems with me. He also told me that he had written songs which he sings accompanying himself on the guitar. Show Me is the title of the poem he shared with me the first time I met him.

Show me the word that I want to hear

Give me the things that to me are so dear
Cause the only thing I want is you near
Show me the whiskey stains upon the floor;
Show me a mother who because you drink it
wants you around no more
Show me a boy who lies in bed;
While visions of insanity dance through his head;
Show me a boy who is alone,
Even though he is a man, almost full grown.
Show me a mother who lies in bed,
She is alive but she might as well be dead.
Show me a boy whom this dragon he tried to slay;
Show me a boy who because of it threw his life away.
Show me a boy who walks in the hot sun;
He looks up to God and says what have I done.
Show me a boy who sits on a bench alone,
And he says that this is all he has known
Show me a boy who says no one likes me,
And there is no one in this world can penetrate this misery;
For he is ugly in his mind you see.
Show me a father who is a good man,
But he won't leave her, he won't understand;
That by staying with her he causes all his misery,
I guess he don't want to be a man that's free.
But I suppose that his love is blind,
And he would never leave her behind.
Show me a mother who stays awake all night;
Show me two parents who all they do is fight
Show me a little boy who lies in bed,
He closes his door but he still hears what they've said.
Show me two parents who are now dead;
Show me a boy who wishes he was dead;
Show me a man with no place to go,
Show me a man without a deed to sow.

After David shared his poem with me I didn't know what to say as I knew I had just been given a window into David's hopeless outlook on life.



After leaving the counselor job at the group home I went to work as a youth director at a church in San Gabriel. I stayed in touch with David letting him know I was his friend. I would take him to a coffee house where he could sing his songs accompanying himself on the guitar. Like his poem his songs were an expression of his hopelessness. The following are a few verses from his song My Record Company.

I got a chip on my shoulder; At people's faces I can't look.
And my life sounds like something from the Mad magazine book.
Alfred E. Newman is pounding at my back door;
Saying tell me great hero I need to know more,
I need some laughs for my magazine you see;
So won't you let me take a tour of your record company.

Well it all started off in the past afar;
When I learned how to play drums and taught myself guitar.
I started writin' songs and one day a man said to me;
I can make a star out of you if you want to be.
And then when you make a million dollars for me;
Then you can own your own record company.

The wino and the junkie are recording right now.
What a wonderful talent that God to them did endow.
And the social worker comes my old friend from the past;
And he looks around and laughs and says you've made it at last.
Plastic people with plastic faces;
Trying to make me think about lost forgotten places.
I know my friend I'll do a favor for you;
I'll let you record in my record company too.

When David turned 18 he could no longer stay in the group home. He called me to ask if there was any way I could help him. I told him he could come and stay with me for a while as long as there was no alcohol, drugs or smoking in the apartment. I wish I had said no AC/DC, Kiss or Led Zeppelin. It turned out to be an education for me in the lyrics youth were listening to. Sad to realize that the lyrics being listened to today are even worse than the lyrics of the 60s.

One night I came home from a meeting at the church and David was drunk. I got righteously angry and scolded him for breaking his promise. Suddenly he became very angry and I thought to myself 'this is not working.' Concerned that he could get violent I quickly went into my room.

David was with me for a couple of months before he was able to find a place to live. While he was with me he did take part in some of the church activities. One place where David had a room later on was called La Casa Diablo. I could see there was a lot of spiritual warfare going on in David's life.

I had occasional contact with David over the next seven or eight years. My guess is he was receiving disability as he was able to have his own apartment. He had also gained a lot of weight which I believe was probably due to his drinking. It would have been in the mid 1970s one night when I pulled up in front of the Hollywood Free Theater. A group of people were standing out front waiting for someone to open the doors. As I stopped my

car I could see David weaving back and forth and immediately I could tell he was drunk. When he saw me he started yelling at me saying he wanted to fight me. Right away a verse from Proverbs came to my mind, *A gentle word turns away wrath*. I got out of the car and calmly told David "Come on I'll give you a ride home." I hurried around to the passenger side of my car and opened the door before he was within arms reach of me. I then quickly went back to the other side getting behind the wheel. As David is approaching my car he is yelling that he wants to fight me! I had a two door and when he went to get into the car as he was taking a swing at me he pushed the passenger seat forward and fell into the back seat. He tried to take a swing at me but missed. His apartment was only a few blocks from the Hollywood Free Theater. As I started driving he was telling me he wanted to kill me as he was banging his fist against the side window in the back seat. I then calmly said, "Yes David you could do that but that would not take away my love for you and it would not take away God's love for you." Spiritually it was like a knife pierced his heart. Crying he said, "Man, you're the only friend I've ever had." I only drove him a few blocks but when we reached his apartment he thanked me as he got out of the car and seemed to be sober. I know that was the work of the Holy Spirit.

THE CROSS AND THE SWITCHBLADE

Someone gave me the book The Cross and the Switchblade by David Wilkerson. I had never read or heard about a true story where God was miraculously changing lives. And The Cross and the Switchblade was about a violent gang leader by the name of Nicky Cruz and heroin addicts who were miraculously set free from their addiction. The book related how the country pastor David Wilkerson went into the ghettos of NYC to tell the gangs that Jesus loved them and wanted to give them a new life and a new future. Although Nicky had told David that if he ever came back he would cut him up into a thousand pieces. David's response was "yes, you could do that Nicky and every piece would cry out God loves you!" Nicky Cruz was the first one to give his life to Christ at a crusade David held in uptown Manhattan. The Black and Puerto Rican gangs agreed to come to the

crusade being held in an auditorium because they were told there would be no police there. They had decided that would be a perfect place to have a big gang fight. I met a guy in the 1980s in Las Vegas who had been in one of the gangs. He said we all had weapons on us and were prepared to fight. But he said when he entered the auditorium he felt this aura of peace that he had never experienced before. Just as the fight was about to break out as David Wilkerson was preaching about Jesus giving His life on the cross to pay for the sins of every gang member there Nicky Cruz went forward to give his life to Jesus followed by other gang members. David Wilkerson and other believers had prayed the Holy Spirit would fill the auditorium with the presence of God and many gang members would get saved. Nicky Cruz is still sharing his testimony today and he must be in his 80s.

VISITED LOS ANGELES TEEN CHALLENGE

David Wilkerson started Teen Challenge, a year-long live-in program to disciple Nicky and other gang members who had given their lives to Christ. When I visited the Teen Challenge Center in Los Angeles I became more excited than ever about the power of God transforming lives. I was blown away by their 40 men's ex addicts choir directed by an unknown at the time by the name of Andre Crouch. Not only was the singing exciting and powerful but so were the testimonies of the men who had been set free from heroin addiction. Hearing these men share their testimonies gave me a desire to share the Good News of Christ with others especially those who had no hope. My prayer also was 'God, if a movie is ever made on The Cross and the Switchblade I would love to work on it.'

MEETING TOM HARRIS

While working as a youth director at a church in San Gabriel I received a letter about a film being shown at a theater in West L.A. about Tom Harris, a boxer who had been an alcoholic and an enforcer for gamblers in Las

Vegas who had become a Christian. I took some of the youth from the church to see the film. After seeing the film I spoke to Tom Harris and as I was talking to him he told me he was an associate producer on a film to be shot later in the summer in New York City, The Cross And The Swirchblade. Excited, I told Tom I would love to work on the film. His reply was "Not a chance! The production staff is set and I have friends who I've known for 20 years who want to work on it but can't."

THE IMPOSSIBLE HAPPENED

Approximately two weeks later I decided to call Tom and see if I could meet with him. I met him at his office in Beverly Hills. I told him I had been in New York the previous summer (1968) and I knew how to get around the city. And that even if I couldn't be part of the production staff could I have his permission to watch it being filmed? Tom didn't answer me, he just said "Come on". I followed him to his car and he drove over to Twentieth Century Fox studios on Pico Blvd. He drove onto the lot and stopped next to one of the trailers. We walked inside where Don Murray (writer, director, producer but best known as an actor) was seated. I was surprised when Tom said, "Don, I think I can use Kleg as my assistant in New York." Don had no idea who I was but politely responded with his approval. On the way back to Tom's office he told me he and his wife would be staying in a two bedroom apartment and I could share it with them. What an answer to prayer!



In assisting Tom Harris and Don Murray I would scout for talent by going to acting workshops and invite Black and Puerto Rican actors to meet with Don Murray for parts to play gang members. I called a talent agency and asked them to send over any actors that would fit the part of Nicky Cruz. One of the actors they sent over as soon as he sat down I knew that he was the right person to play Nicky. So I recommended Eric Estrada to play Nicky Cruz to Don Murray who made the final decision. And Eric gave a great performance that I believe helped to launch his career. It was also a special blessing to spend some time around Pat Boone who was praying for the film to impact many lives for Christ. I couldn't imagine anyone better than Pat to play the part of David Wilkerson the country preacher called to the gangs in NYC.

Don Murray asked me to be in one of the scenes as a courtroom photographer and also gave me the credit of casting director on the film. Meeting the real people who lived the story and the actors who played them was a special blessing. The filming was done in some pretty rough

areas in Manhattan and Brooklyn where the real story took place. On occasion there was more drama going on behind the camera than in front but even with the gang fight scenes I was not aware of any injuries during the filming.

Since its release in 1970 worldwide The Cross And The Switchblade has influenced tens of thousands of lives with many coming out of gangs and drugs.

PAT BOONE CALLS MY AUNT

I was very impressed with Pat Boone's love for the Lord and passion for souls. After working on the film I went with my mother to spend a week with my aunt Caroline who had terminal cancer and was in a hospital in Salt Lake City. I had sent Pat a note to let him know that my aunt would love to get a card from him or a phone call. One afternoon my aunt's phone rang and as she answered the call she had a surprised look on her face then turned to my mother and me, "It's Pat Boone!". Pat was on the phone praying and talking with my aunt for well over 30 minutes. Right after she hung up the phone the nurse came in to take her blood pressure. The nurse told my aunt that she couldn't understand why her blood pressure was way up. My aunt replied, "Well, yours would be too if you'd just gotten a call from Pat Boone!"

EQUITY SHOWCASE OF THE GAMBLERS

In January of 1970 I returned to New York to do an Equity showcase of a two act play I had written in college. The Gamblers is about two couples from San Francisco who find themselves snowed in their cabin located near the casinos in Lake Tahoe. A local pastor who finds himself stranded due to the snowstorm seeks shelter at their cabin. One of the couples is very much anti God which makes for interesting conversation over the next two days.

An Equity showcase allowed me to do six performances without having to pay the actors. So the challenge was to find a theater that we could use for two weekends. And in New York City this is almost an impossible task unless you have the funds to pay for a theater. I immediately started checking all the entertainment publications like Variety. I spotted a notice that a church with a theater located close to Madison Square Garden was starting a program to assist new writers showcase their plays. I was the first one to contact them and since I already had my cast I was given use of the theater for the six performances. I also directed the play and was pleased with the audience response. The message of the play was that the greatest gamble a person makes is on where they will spend eternity.

MEETING RICHARD AND SABINA WURMBRAND

I returned to Hollywood in February of 1970 and took a job as a lay pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on 6th Street in Los Angeles. The pastor was Myrus Knutson who was great to work with. A few years earlier he had been pastoring an American church in Oslo, Norway and while there managed to help Reverend Richard Wurmbrand, his wife and son Mihai leave Romania and eventually come to Los Angeles where they attended Pastor Knudson's church. Richard had just finished spending 14 years in a communist prison in Romania. His story is told in the book and the movie Tortured For Christ. What a blessing for me to have met them and be part of the same church they were involved with.

If there was ever a person I met who knew the reality that the battles we face are not against 'flesh and blood' but against demonic forces it would be Rev. Wurmbrand and his wife who also spent several years at hard labor in a communist prison.

The following article was in the devotional book Extreme Devotions (April 3, 2014)

Romania: Pastor Richard Wurmbrand

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

“My wife is sleeping in the other room because she has been ill,” Pastor Richard Wurmbrand began. “She and I are both Jewish. Her family perished in the same Nazi concentration camp where you just boasted of killing Jews with children still in their arms. Perhaps you murdered my wife’s family.”

Upon hearing this, the pastor’s guest, a soldier, became very angry and stood to leave. But Richard stopped him. “Wait. I want to propose an experiment. I want to tell my wife who you are and what you did. But my wife will not curse you or even look at you angrily. She will accept you.” The man sat with his mouth open, but speechless. The pastor continued, “Now if my wife, who is only human, can forgive you, then how much more will Jesus love and forgive you?”

The man buried his face in his hands. “What have I done? How can I go on living with the guilt of so much blood? Jesus, please forgive me.” The soldier went on to give his life to Christ. Then Richard went and woke his wife Sabina. “This is the murderer of your sisters, your brothers, and your parents,” he introduced the man. “But now he has repented.” She wrapped her hands around his neck and kissed him on the cheek. The key for all of us is yielding our will and lives to the Holy Spirit so the forgiveness and love of God can flow through us and touch and change other lives.

BROTHER HERALD / JUSTIN TIME

I find it interesting that when I think of places I have lived I am reminded of the people I met there and the influence they had on my life. I lived in Palm Springs, California for several months in the early 1970s.

The first time I saw Brother Harold he was standing on a street corner on Palm Canyon Drive where tourists shop, visit art galleries and patronize restaurants and bars. Brother Harold who was in his 70s looked like an old prospector with his bushy sideburns. Daily he would be handing out Gospel tracks with a big smile on his face as the tourists walked past him. He told me that he fell in love with the Lord Jesus when he was 14.

Harold would often frequent a Christian Coffee House where people stopped in to learn about God or just fellowship with other believers. It was also on Palm Canyon Drive. I remember being there and listening to Harold answer questions someone was asking him about the Bible. Not only did he answer the questions but with each answer he gave the person where to find it in the Bible, chapter and verse.

I was about to start working as a Youth Director at a church in Palm Springs so I asked Harold if he had a scripture for me as I started this new position. Without hesitating he told me he had several. The first one was on the importance of praying for others. *As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by failing to pray for you.* (1 Samuel 12:23) The second verse he gave me was from (Colosians 3:17) *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. And the next was* (1 Corinthians 10:31). *So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* And the last one he gave me was (1 Corinthians 16:14) *Do everything in love.* What great verses to live by!

The director of the Coffee House went by Justin Time. I never did ask him but I seriously doubted that was his real name. After returning to Hollywood I attended a night club on the Sunset Strip that the owner let Christians use

one night a week for Christian concerts and ministry to reach the lost. This was during the Jesus Movement era in Hollywood when a lot of street people were getting saved. I can't remember the name of the nightclub but it was well known. Alcohol was not served on the Christian night. The night I attended Justin Time was there sharing a testimony. He shared about a night when he and his wife were at the Christian Coffee House On Palm Canyon Drive in Palm Springs ministering when three rough looking men came in. One of them was a Hell's Angel. One of the other men started using profanity. Justin politely told him that this was the Lord's house and he couldn't use that language in there. He didn't stop cursing. Justin told him if he didn't stop he would have to call the police. He just kept cursing. When Justin went to the phone and picked up the receiver the guy grabbed it out of his hand and threw it down. He then directed some profanity at Justin's wife. Justin shared that when he did that he could no longer contain his composure and was ready to go off on the guy. However, instead he just told Jesus "I give it to you" and walked out onto the front sidewalk. The guy followed him out and tripped him knocking Justin to the sidewalk. He then started kicking Justin in the groin. After each kick Justin said "God bless you. God bless you." And he said that he did not feel any pain after each kick. The man finally stopped and walked away. As he was leaving Justin yelled at the guy "God loves you!" Later that same night the Hell's Angel came back to the Coffee House and told Justin he wanted what he had and committed his life to Jesus Christ. And after Justin finished sharing this testimony at the NightClub in Hollywood the Hell's Angel joined Justin and shared his part of the testimony. Again a great example for me of how the love of God transforms lives.

LOVE STORY MIRACLE

In 1970 the film Love Story was also released. After viewing the film I was upset because I saw it having an ungodly influence especially on college age youth. In frustration walking to my car after viewing the film I cried out to God "God can't you reach the people making these films?" It was over a year later that I woke up one Monday morning with the thought of working as a chauffeur. My second thought was 'Lord, what do you want me to do?' Suddenly the phone rang and the lady on the other end asked, "Is this the person looking for work as a chauffeur?" Surprised, I explained that someone else had placed the ad and I did not know how to contact that person. I told her I had never worked as a chauffeur before, but asked her if I could be interviewed for the job? I was surprised when she said I could meet her and her husband at their home in Palm Springs the following day. I was hired to drive Howard and Sylvia Minsky back and forth between Palm Springs and Beverly Hills over the summer. Shortly after starting the job Mr. Minsky told me he had produced Love Story! They knew I was a Christian from my resume. My thought was after I had worked with them for a few months then I would be able to share my faith with them. A few weeks later I was talking with Mr. Minsky in their home and he told me he believed in God. And that God had helped him make Love Story. My immediate thought was if I tell him what I think about Love Story I will be out of a job. But if I don't he will think I am agreeing with him. So in a very respectful way I told Mr. Minsky that I did not think God helped him make Love Story because I believed the film led more people away from God than to God and here's why. The moment I finished Mr. Minsky turned and walked out of the room without saying a word.

Not only did I not get fired but editors working on another film Howard Minsky was completing told me Howard and his wife respected me. They could not have been nicer people to work for and a friendship developed that lasted beyond the time I worked for them.

PRISON MINISTRY AT YTS

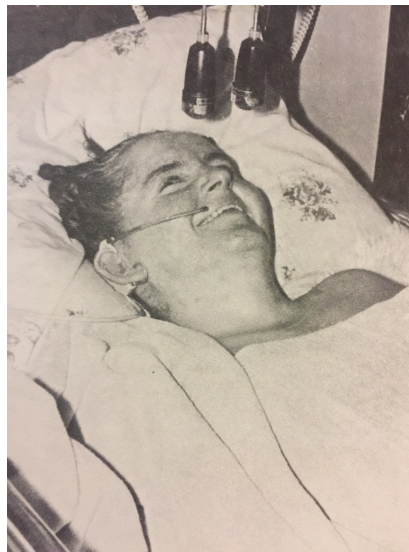
I am sure that on more than one occasion someone has wondered Why does Kleg enjoy going into the jail so much? The reason is because of the power of the Gospel that changed my life and I see changing other lives. My first experience in prison ministry began in 1972 at YTS, the Youth Training School prison near Chino, California. Tom Harris, who I had worked with on The Cross And The Switchblade, invited me to minister to the inmates at YTS. It wasn't long before a group from The Hollywood Free Theater were going out weekly to spend about two hours talking with inmates in the activity room in various units. Over a period of several years we were in every unit in the prison sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we had someone who would sing and play guitar like Wendell Burton and Keith Green. Or we would bring a play from The Hollywood Free Theater. One play we presented was The Uninvited Guest. As a result of seeing the play Jack, a 18 year old inmate received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior. When he was released from prison he became involved with us at The Hollywood Free Theater and in 1977 helped Tim, Armando and myself start the crisis intervention ministry Centrum of Hollywood.

ESTHER LEE

If there are two things I would like to see in the lives of my family and friends, as well as for myself, in the years ahead it would be good health and joy. Especially the joy of the Lord which the Bible says is our strength. This brings to mind one of the most joyful persons I have met in my lifetime. Her name was Esther Lee Barham. I believe it was around 1973 in Palm Springs when George Maclean said he would like me to meet Esther Lee, a friend of his. George was an L. A. architect who built mansions for the stars and shopping centers for the public. George led a weekly Bible study in Beverly Hills. He helped five time academy award winner music composer/conductor John Green come to know Jesus as his Messiah. George pointed out that the prophecies in the Hebrew scriptures about the coming Messiah were all fulfilled in Jesus. After John received Jesus as his

Messiah he and his wife Bonnie opened up their swimming pool for us to baptize guests from our crisis home for women at Centrum of Hollywood.

As George and I were walking up to a small older home in Palm Springs he told me about Esther Lee. "She is blind and paralyzed with only slight movement with her thumb. Because of her medical condition she has to lay flat all the time." As George is sharing this I am thinking "Lord, please help us in some way to cheer this lady up".



Esther's husband James met us at the door. He then took us into a nearby bedroom for me to meet Esther Lee. I must admit I was taken aback, not by her health condition but by her radiant joyful countenance as well as her sense of humor and laughter. She thanked me for coming with George and wanted to know more about me. However, I wanted to know as much as I could about her. She shared how as a young adult her health started to decline and the doctor's experimented on her but with each new treatment her condition got worse until she was totally paralyzed and blind. She shared that for years she was bitter and angry at the doctors. Then one day a lady came to visit her and asked Esther if she could read to her the book Prison to Praise by Merlin Carothers. After she finished Esther Lee asked her to read it again and then again. Esther Lee was willing to try anything even though the idea of praising God in the condition she was in didn't

make any sense. However, as she tried to praise God it seemed impossible for her to do. Then God gave her a message 'If you forgive you will be forgiven. If you love you will receive love. And if you give it will be given to you.' It was a hard decision but she finally decided to forgive the doctors and others who had wronged her in the past. She then asked God to help her love others. "Give and it shall be given to you". She owned nothing so what could she give? She then decided that she was going to visualize pouring all of her negative thoughts and the things that had hurt her from the past into a garbage bag and place it at the foot of the cross. And as she started to praise God the Holy Spirit filled her with joy and joyful songs that she would sing. In fact on my first visit with her she sang one of her songs The Joy Came Down By The Bucket Fulls. After visiting Esther Lee I realized how much she had blessed me.

Esther Lee Barham, although blind and paralyzed, was one of the most joyful persons I have met in my lifetime.

I was involved with the Hollywood Free Theater in the 1970s. HFT was a Christian theater that provided free classes in acting, voice and dance. Plays were also written, produced and performed free to the public. A group from the theater wanted to meet Esther Lee after hearing what I had told them about her. So a small group of us from the theater drove down to Palm Springs to meet with her. She shared what Jesus had done in changing her heart and filling her life with joy as she praised the Lord. She believed that any day God would lift her up and she would be 'walking and leaping and praising God'. Just as we were about to leave we asked Esther Lee if there was anything we could pray about for her. She said to pray that the Lord would give her and her husband a motorhome so she could go out and share her testimony. She could get into a motorhome on an ambulance cot and lay flat. With her condition she could not stand or even sit up. Tony Monaco, who had come with us, told Esther Lee that he was working in television in Hollywood and he would see if he could help her get a motorhome. And I think it was only a matter of a few months before in front of the small rented house where Ester Lee lived was a beautiful large motor home.

Although Esther Lee had to be carried on an ambulance cot and set on the floor wherever she shared it didn't matter to her because she wanted everyone to know that regardless of their circumstances they could experience God's love, joy and peace. She shared her testimony at Merlin Carother's church who had written the book Prison to Praise that turned Esther Lee's life around. She shared at the Hollywood Free Theater and at a Bible study at Pat Boone's home in Beverly Hills as well as at numerous other places.

I was involved in an outreach at the time with the Hollywood Free Theater at a youth prison located half-way between Hollywood and Palm Springs. I will never forget the second time Esther Lee came to the prison to share her testimony with inmates who were between the ages of 16 and 26, many from gangs. A group of us from Hollywood met Esther Lee and her husband James at the entrance to the prison. We joined them in the motorhome and James drove us into the prison yard. Once we reached the unit we were scheduled to be in myself and another person went inside to make arrangements for Esther Lee and the others to come in. As soon as we got into the unit a correctional officer said they were having trouble in the unit and there would be no program that evening. Then he said he would have to lock us in the dining hall for a few minutes. I must admit my first thought was how disappointed Esther Lee would be, especially since she would not be able to see an inmate in that unit who had received the Lord when she had come into the prison for the first time a year ago. I then asked the person with me, "What do you think Esther Lee would suggest we do?" So I continued, "She would say just praise the Lord". So that's what we did until the officer returned to let us out. Although I knew programs had to be scheduled days in advance. I asked the officer if I could call another unit to see if we could go there and have Esther Lee share. The officer in the unit I called told me that we had to be scheduled in advance. I ended up calling a unit known for more hard core inmates. The officer in that unit said there were only two inmates in the day room but if you want to come in you can. We drove over to the unit and I went into the day room where the two inmates were watching tv. Without explaining

anything I asked them if they would come and help carry Esther Lee in who was on an ambulance cot. They did not know what to think about what was happening and very carefully carried Esther Lee into the day room and set her on the floor in the center of the room. It was only a matter of a few minutes before inmates from the rec yard and from their cells started coming into the day room to see what was going on. We started with a couple people sharing who had come out from Hollywood. When it was time for Esther Lee to share there must have been over 50 inmates in the room. I must confess I was thinking these inmates pride themselves on how tough they are, how are they going to relate to Esther Lee? I will never forget what Esther Lee said when she started speaking to the inmates. She said, "I can identify with you young men because you know what it's like to be lonely and I know what it's like to be lonely. And I can identify with you young men because you know what it's like to be in prison and I know what it's like to be in prison. I am in the prison of this broken down body. But inside Jesus Christ has set me free. I have His love, I have His peace and I have His joy." And after she finished sharing the inmate that she had wanted to see in the other unit came up to her as he had just recently been transferred to this unit!

Esther Lee and her husband traveled across the U.S. in their motor home sharing her testimony and giving out cassette tapes with her testimony on one side and songs that God had given her on the other side.

We don't praise God for bad things that happen to us or to our loved ones. We praise Him that in this broken world He promises to be with us through whatever we go through and to know ultimately that *All things work together for good for those who love God* (Romans 8:28).

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. (Psalm 150:6)

ANSWERING THE CALL

I was thinking about the need for revival in churches across our country. In 1981 I wrote a treatment for a screenplay titled The Call. It is a musical comedy about a clumsy gang of con artists who bring in a phony preacher and take over a church. You soon see that the con artists aren't the only ones in the church who need to be saved. I had more than one person write their own screenplay from the treatment with the hopes of getting it produced. I went ahead and also wrote my own screenplay. Although it still hasn't been produced I think it would be entertaining and help viewers see the need for revival in the church.

The following is a synopsis I wrote for Answering The Call:

On the lam from the law in Nevada after trying to steal money from a casino the five occupants in an older Cadillac are able to outrun the Nevada State troopers crossing the California border. Traveling at a high rate of speed they narrowly miss hitting a vehicle that careens out of control overturning and killing the driver. The five shysters are stunned when they see the deceased driver is identical in appearance to Homer, one of their 'con family'. Max, the leader of this little 'con family' is in his 60s. He rescued Homer and his sister Sammie off the streets of San Francisco when they were in their early teens. They are now in their late 20s. He has been like the father they never had but used them to help him with his fraudulent schemes. Ed, who used to work as a bouncer, helps protect Max from people he has swindled. Hank is a piano player who accompanies Sammie when she sings in clubs. Max once again comes up with one of his hair brained schemes and that is for Homer to 'answer the call' of the deceased pastor so they would soon take off with whatever finances the church has. At first none of the others like the idea but as usual Max wins out. Homer tries to convince Max that he would have no idea how to preach a sermon. Max replies that all you have to do is tell a Bible story. Eventually they discover you can't con God.

Once in the church it soon becomes apparent that they are not the only ones who need to be saved. The first sermon Homer nervously gives he shares a scripture and then he gives it his own unusual interpretation. Several members of the church board can't believe what they've just heard which one board member said is a message you would expect to hear on skid row. An emergency meeting of the board is called to discuss firing the new pastor and the uncouth volunteer staff he brought with him. However, Don McAlister the president of the board said that this was the first Sunday his son had been in church in a long time and he told Don that he will be back next Sunday. Don then told the board that Homer's unorthodox style may be what is needed to reach the youth. Not everyone agrees but the motion to fire Homer is tabled. There was also criticism of Sammie's jazzed rendition of the hymn Amazing Grace.

Leroy 'Luci Pherio' Lundy who has a rock band asks Max if they can use the church Fellowship Hall to practice. Observing one of their practices Max notices a large number of teenagers who came around to hear the band. Max thought that if the band could play at their Sunday worship service doing something sorta religious that this could bring in a larger offering. Leroy agrees to do two songs. Leroy grew up in a Pentecostal church but when he got involved in drugs he turned away from believing in God. However, at the first service Leroy's band is going to perform as Homer is reading some scriptures Leroy becomes convicted by the Holy Spirit and goes to the altar crying out to the Lord for forgiveness for making a pact with Satan. Nobody in the church knows what to do since somebody going to the altar to get saved or delivered has never happened before. Elsie Clearwater an elderly Black lady goes up to Leroy and puts her arms around him and prays for him. After that Leroy turned his band into a Christian band playing at each service and drawing more people to the church. Tony Ricardo, handsome and in his mid 30s joins the church as the choir director. Although Sammie is attracted to him she believes all Christians are hypocrites. She eventually sees that Tony lives his faith.

With the church prospering Max decides this is the time to abscond with the church's finances. However the other members of his con family have found the church to be a home they don't want to leave.



Katherine DeMille Quinn

You know you are getting old when you were friends with the daughter of one of the founding fathers of the film industry in Hollywood having produced the first feature film in Hollywood The Squaw Man. The producer was Cecil B DeMille who produced 70 films and received two Academy Awards. Katherine DeMille Quinn, his daughter, was an actress performing in over 30 films. I think it was at a Bible study led by George Maclean that I first met Katherine. George was a Beverly Hills architect who designed mansions for the stars and shopping centers for the public. George had a desire to reach the lost in Hollywood and became involved with Centrum of Hollywood. Centrum was an all volunteer 24 hour crisis intervention ministry I was also involved with. Katherine also had a heart for the lost and became a board member at The Hollywood Free Theater which provided free acting, voice and dance classes and put on plays in a Christian setting. Katherine also became involved with the HFT in a weekly outreach at a youth prison. She went in just to tell these youthful inmates that Jesus loved them and He could change their life. Then in 1977 Katherine became involved with Centrum of Hollywood as a board member.

In 1983 I moved to Las Vegas to work with Centrum of Las Vegas. Like Hollywood, Centrum of Las Vegas had a 24-hour hotline and a crisis home for women and one for men. One weekend Katherine came over to see the ministry and stay at our women's home. On this particular afternoon she was visiting the Hotline office which overlooked the Las Vegas strip near Sahara Ave. A call came into the hotline from a middle aged lady who said she was going to take her life. In talking with her she said she would be willing to come into our hotline office and talk with us. She arrived at the hotline about 30 minutes later and was very depressed explaining she had no reason to go on living. Katherine sat down next to her and shared her testimony of how she came to Jesus Christ and what God had done in her life. She asked the lady if she would like to begin a new life with Jesus Christ. She immediately said she did. Katherine then led her in the sinner's prayer. Although I had seen this happen before yet this was just as amazing when after the prayer the lady's countenance changed, no longer depressed but very peaceful. Two young women were just leaving the hotline office to attend a church service and the lady asked if she could go with them. We also stayed in communication with her as she continued to grow in her relationship with God.



Cecil B DeMille

DeMille's most popular film was The Ten Commandments (1956). It was also his last film as he passed away a few years later. He had also had a heart attack while directing The Ten Commandments. Imagine the pressure of directing a film that had 14,000 extras and 15,000 animals! DeMille saw in The Ten Commandments truths relevant for everyone and every generation.

"Between these two, the calf of gold and the law of God, the struggle for man's mind and heart continue to this day. The outward form of the struggle changes but it goes on in every age, facing all men with the question, which do you put first, material values or spiritual values?" (Cecil B DeMille)

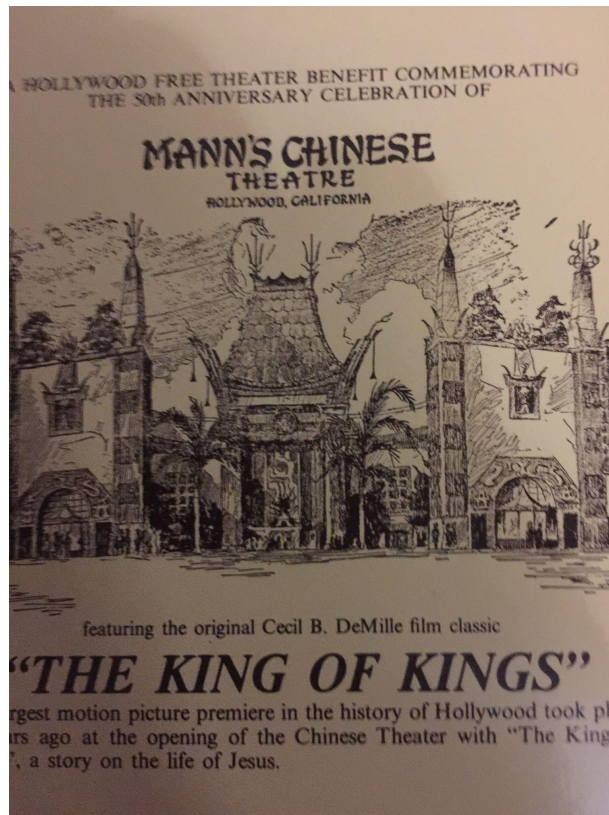


WE DO NOT DO BENEFITS

“The Chinese Theater does not do benefits!” This was the blunt response from the secretary of William Hertz the general manager of the Mann Theater Chain in the spring of 1977. My suggestion that the Hollywood Free Theater see if we could have a benefit at the Mann’s Chinese Theater showing the 1927 Cecil B DeMille film King Of Kings seemed to be an impossible dream even though Katherine DeMille Quinn was on our board of directors. The Chinese Theater being one of Hollywood’s biggest tourist attractions and the Hollywood Free Theater being small and relatively unknown. The HFT produced plays performed at the theater and also at the youth prison near Chino. The theater also provided professional acting, singing and dance classes. Praying for the needs of young people on the streets of Hollywood was also a regular activity at the theater. The Hollywood Free Theater was a place where people were excited about using their talents for God.

MIRACLE AT THE CHINESE THEATER

About two weeks after talking with the secretary at the Mann Corporate office I received a call from her. She told me that Mann’s general manager said that if we can guarantee that we will have a packed theater they will close the theater the day before they open Star Wars, And we could have one showing of King Of Kings in the evening. A time capsule ceremony would be held at noon with Katherine DeMille Quinn and information about our theater would be placed in the time capsule. Prior to the showing celebrities would arrive in classic cars and walk up the red carpet. And Mann’s would take care of the publicity and pay all the expenses. Wow! Was I dreaming!



The night of the benefit the Chinese Theater was packed. It was obvious there were a lot of believers in attendance since every time Jesus performed a miracle in the movie there was cheers and applause. After the showing Katherine shared about the making of the film by her father Cecil B. DeMille. One thing she shared was during the filming of the Last Supper scene as the camera was zooming in on the chalice a white dove that had gotten out of its cage flew into the scene and landed on the chalice. You can find the scene on the internet.

So what caused Mann's Theater Chain to do 'something they never do'? I did not know at the time that the Chinese Theater had opened 50 years earlier (1927) with the premier of Cecil B DeMille's silent film King Of Kings. So for the theater it was celebrating their 50th anniversary. Talk about God's timing!

I have always admired Cecil B DeMille because he demonstrated his respect for the Bible in several films he produced and knew the influence

films can have on its audience whether good or bad. He stated, "It is a sobering thought that the decisions we make at our desks in Hollywood can affect the lives of human beings, men women and children throughout the world."

MOVIE SET TRANSFORMED INTO A CATHEDRAL

I came across this article in a newspaper years ago:

MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS EVE by Cecil B DeMille

Not long ago I was asked to recall my most unusual experience in motion pictures. I did not have to search my memory.

It was Christmas eve (1926) on the set of The King of Kings. We had just finished the scenes depicting the crucifixion and the earthquake which followed. It was late and we were just about to quit for the day. Everyone was tired and hungry. Some had been rolled in the dirt. It had been a long and trying scene. They had seen the three men on the cross – the good thief and the bad thief, and in all its agony, the crucifixion. They had been taxed emotionally and they had been worn physically. They were anxious to get home. Among the two thousand people on the stage, every class and faith and type of human being could be found. There were atheists, those who believed in nothing. There were rough, tough, burly individuals who had been portraying Roman soldiers. It was truly a mixed multitude. The stage was made of glass and the light was beginning to fade as I turned to them. I called their attention to the fact that we were standing beneath the cross on Christmas Eve. "So let's take five minutes out to think," I said. "It will be five minutes of silence. Those who want to can pray. Those of you who don't believe and are just waiting, think of your mothers, or whatever it is that you find it inspiring to think about." You could see the different expressions. Some of them were annoyed and anxious to get away. The light continued to fade and soon the only light was on the cross. An organ on the set had been playing to create "atmosphere" while we were

shooting. The organist started to play again, very quietly. I still don't know whether it was a hymn. One by one people dropped to their knees. Others began to sing. Some crossed themselves. Soon almost a third of the company was on its knees at the foot of the cross. Some of the others bowed their heads. And then, those who were left standing dropped to their knees. The light was almost gone. The cross could be seen against the sky. Even today I cannot recall that scene without emotion. I saw tears on the faces of hard boiled extras, some of them the Roman soldiers who, only a few minutes before, had been rolling dice at the foot of the occupied cross. And I heard women sob. In five minutes that huge Hollywood stage had mysteriously become converted to a cathedral. It was as though the presence itself had come to the stage. By then everyone's face was stained with tears. I have never seen anything more moving. It was the most memorable Christmas Eve of my life.

FIRST MET SAMMY

I believe it was in 1974 that I first met Sammy Welmas who would have been 24. Sammy was a member of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. With less than 25 active members the impoverished Cabazon tribe's reservation was located near Indio, CA with their only income being a small payment from the BIA. Sammy had been living with Dick and Mable Craig who had taken him in several years before I met him and treated him like their son. I had just moved to Palm Springs to work as a youth director at a church and the Craigs invited me to stay with them until I moved into my own apartment.

I found it difficult to enter into conversation with Sammy as he was always very solemn, seldom smiling and not engaging in conversation. I wasn't sure if that was his personality or if he didn't want my friendship. Although he was always polite. Mable Craig shared with me that they were concerned about Sammy due to his being diabetic and alcohol problem. She told me that an older brother of Sammy's had just died as a result of diabetes as well as some of his cousins.

I was surprised when Sammy asked me if I would attend his brother's wake with him. It was held in a small adobe building at night out on the Morongo reservation. There were about 15 men all Native Americans except for me seated in a circle facing the coffin. I was thankful Sammy had asked me as it also indicated our friendship.

MOVED BACK TO HOLLYWOOD

I eventually moved back to Hollywood and got involved with a talented group of actors, writers, singers and stuntmen at The Hollywood Free Theater. The purpose of the Free Theater was to provide a Christian environment where free classes were offered for acting, voice and dance as well as the production of plays for the public.

CENTRUM OF HOLLYWOOD - THE BEGINNING

The miracle that was the most important to me and many others occurred on 7-7-77. After every weekly business meeting at the Hollywood Free Theater we would have a time of praying for special needs. At the top of our list was praying for God to open up homes where runaways, prostitutes and others in crisis on the streets of Hollywood could go to get help in a Christian environment. Being single and having a passion to serve God I remember at one of the prayer meetings praying that I would be able to serve the Lord 24 hours a day. I ended up going to bed around midnight and as I did my phone rang. It was Jack who asked me if I could come down to the lobby as he needed to talk to me about something. My first thought was, I'm tired and don't want to get out of bed. Then I remembered the prayer I had just prayed a few hours earlier, Lord I'd like to work for you 24 hours a day. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.

We also started praying with Duane Pederson for homes to open up to help youth in crisis. Duane was one of the leaders during the Jesus Movement in Hollywood. He printed and handed out thousands of copies of The Hollywood Free Paper that promoted Christian concerts, bible studies and had testimonies of miraculous conversions.



1970 Jesus People Movement (L to R)
Bob Yerkes, Pat Boone, Bob Biehl, Duane Pederson

BOB YERKES

Bob Yerkes for 70 years worked as a trapeze artist and stuntman. He shared with me that he couldn't count the number of bones he had broken. One of the stunts he performed was to be shot from his own human cannon.. I asked him how he got the canon. He said he bought the cannon after the previous owner missed the net after being shot from the cannon. Bob had gotten saved when he was a young man and his passion was to see others come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. I cannot think of a ministry in Hollywood that Bob was not involved with. He was involved with the Bible study in the Hollywood hills at Gary and Suzi's log cabin. He was involved with The Hollywood Free Theater and Centrum of Hollywood and helped produce the documentary Hollywood's Delusion. He was also very involved with Media Fellowship International. When a large cross that could be seen from the Hollywood Freeway was removed by people who found it offensive, Bob rented a helicopter and hired a crew to help him replace the cross in the middle of the night and he had lights put on it.

MEN'S CRISIS HOME

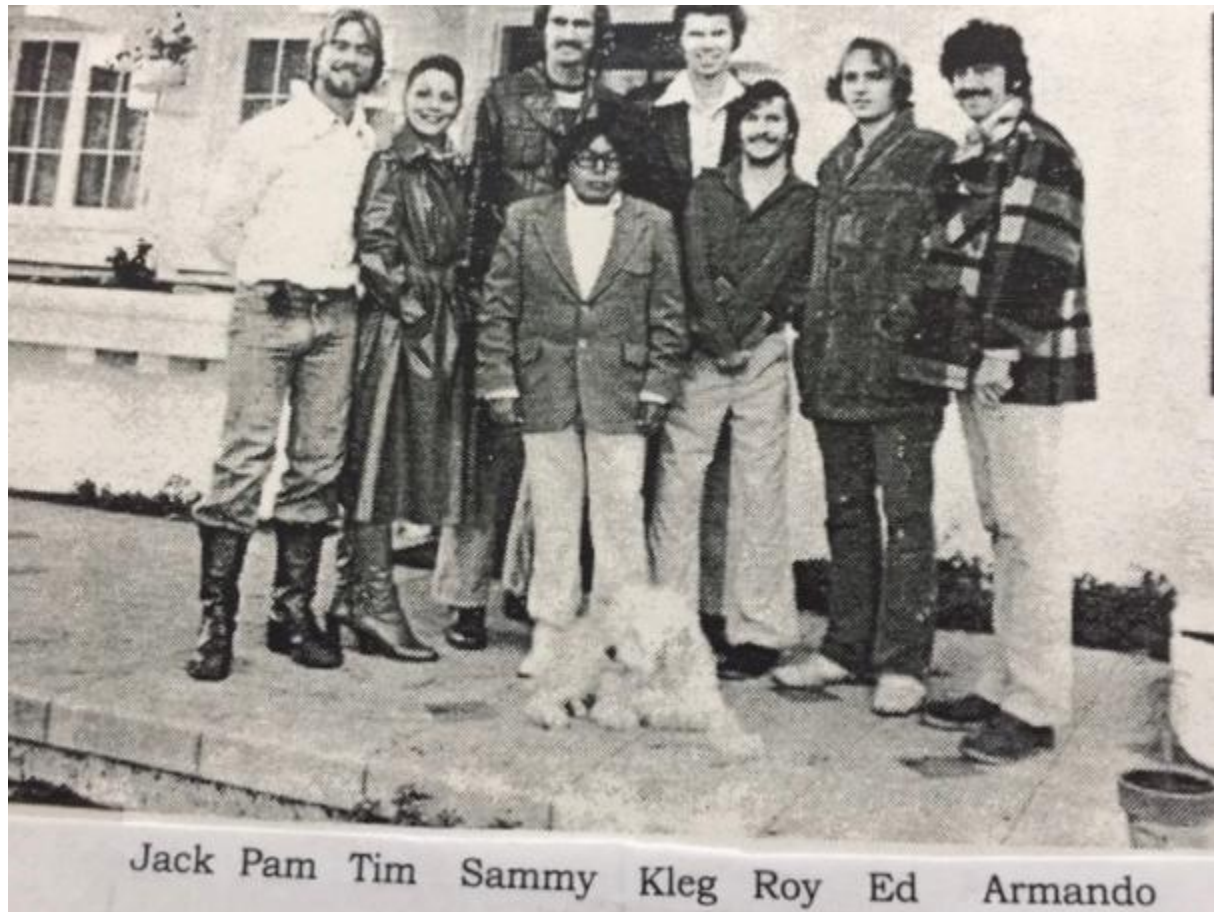
I believe it was around the first of July 1977 that Jack Young came to me and told me that there was an old two story house for rent just off Hollywood Blvd on Sycamore Ave a block from the Mann's Chinese Theater. Jack said it would be perfect for a men's crisis home. I met with the owner who said he would hold it for us for a couple days but on June 6 would need first and last month's rent totaling \$1,000. A year earlier I had lost a \$1,000 deposit on a home I had thought others were going to join me in renting. So this time I prayed "Lord, if this is of you then I believe you will provide the \$1,000 and I won't have to ask anyone for it." The night before the payment was due I had a Bible study in my apartment which was in a high rise building behind the Chinese Theater. Just as the study was ending I received a phone call from Robert Munger. He had been at my apartment once the previous Sunday to take part in our Youth prison

outreach near Chino. In his call he said I can see the light on in your apartment from my office on Hollywood Blvd and I can use some fellowship. "Sure, come on over," was my response. Robert had his own advertising firm and was involved in the production of the film The Omen. We had talked about the opportunity to rent the Sycamore house on our way to the prison the previous Sunday. Robert asked me how things were going with the house and if there were any needs. I told him just \$1,000 by tomorrow. He then said, "Stop by my office tomorrow and I'll take care of it."

The next day we paid the first and last month's rent on the Sycamore House and started working in the house the following day which was 7-7-77. The inside and outside of the house and the yard were in need of a lot of repair. Jack rolled up his sleeves and with the help of some men off the street who needed a place to stay cleaned out the house, painted it inside and out, planted grass in the front yard and put up a fence. He even built a large dining room table that could seat around 14 men.

The first day on 7-7-77 Jack, Tim and Armando moved into the house. I wanted to help out anyway I could but my desire was to keep pursuing my media interests to try and get one of my screenplays produced and continue working with the Hollywood Free Theater. I then set out to find the right person to direct the ministry. Duane Pederson recommended a friend of his who had been involved a lot in street ministry, was good at evangelism and would make a perfect director. I then spoke with Jack, Tim and Armando and they asked me to let him come and live in the house for two weeks to see how they all got along before making him director. I thought that sounded reasonable and when I mentioned it to the person to my surprise he said that he would not do that. It wasn't long before I believed God was calling me to direct the ministry which was named Centrum of Hollywood. I have to admit that leaving my comfortable apartment and moving into the Sycamore House and bunking in the same room with men just off the street was not a desirable thought. And then I knew it meant letting go of my pursuing the production of my screenplays.. I also knew that the most important thing in my life was to follow the Lord's

leading and I knew devoting full time to Centrum of Hollywood was God's direction.



Living in the Sycamore House soon became very exciting as God brought other full time staff when we first began like Roy, Eddie and others. Roy was handicapped with the inability to bend his knee and elbow joints but no one around the ministry had more joy than him. Armando with his warm smile was great at greeting men that came to the house who needed assistance and he was great at making them feel welcome. Although I asked Tim to be the director of the Sycamore house, his main passion then and still today is handing out Gospel tracks to people on the street. He also made up some signs with scriptures and with a few volunteers started picketing the Ivar Burlesque Theater just off Hollywood Blvd. Even before Jack had completed remodeling the house men came to us for help and

seldom did they object to being in a Christian environment where there were Bible studies and testimonies of lives transformed by Jesus.

WOMEN'S CRISIS HOME

It wasn't long after Jack had finished the improvements at the Sycamore house that he came to me and told me there was a large vacant house a block west of the Sycamore house on El Cerrito Place. I checked with the company that owned the property and they told me eventually the property would be redeveloped but after seeing the improvements Jack had made at the Sycamore house they would rent it to us for \$250 a month. A six bedroom house with a one bedroom cottage in back in the heart of Hollywood for \$250 a month! We were in the home for two and a half years. Another answer to prayer and blessing was Pam coming to be the director of the Women's crisis home. The first guest in the women's home was Andres who was reached through Tim's picketing at the Ivar Burlesque Theater. More staff and volunteers were coming to help out at both the Women's crisis home and the Men's crisis home on Sycamore Ave.

THE HOLLYWOOD LIFELINE

A few weeks after the Women's ministry at Centrum began I received a phone call from Paul Cedar, one of the pastors at the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood. He had heard what was happening at Centrum and asked if we would like to take over their church's 24 hour Hollywood Lifeline. Right inside the front door of the Women's home off the living room was a separate apartment that was an ideal location for the Lifeline. Now within a few months Centrum of Hollywood was an all volunteer 24 hour crisis intervention ministry. I started out taking the overnight shift on the Lifeline but after a few months Roy volunteered to take that shift. Michael and Terry became full time staff serving on the lifeline. Terry also was a big help in assisting me in going out to help those who were in a crisis situation on the street.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers started helping from a variety of Bible believing churches not only in the homes, on the Lifeline but in going out to someone in trouble on the street such as a prostitute who needed to get away from a pimp. Working at Centrum I soon lost my interest in being an actor because every day God was working miracles and lives were being changed. I could not imagine doing anything more exciting.

Once a guest came into our crisis home we would try to help them experience God's love and move them in a direction that would best meet their needs. If they were addicted to drugs we would encourage them to go into a year-long discipleship program like Teen Challenge or Victory Outreach. If they were a runaway we would put them in touch with their parents and help them get back home. If they were suicidal and did not respond to prayer we would take them to a hospital.

CENTRUM OF HOLLYWOOD REACHING THE LOST

Centrum of Hollywood soon became very busy and it was amazing to see people coming off the street receive Jesus Christ. I have always been a night person so responding to late night calls on the Hollywood Lifeline was something I enjoyed. The majority of time it was picking up someone who was in a crisis situation and needed help getting off the street. It could have been a runaway or a prostitute needing to get away from her pimp or someone new to L.A. who had been robbed or beaten up. I always enjoyed telling whoever we were helping that the help was coming from people and churches who love Jesus. We maintained a Christian environment in our crisis homes with contemporary Christian music, Bible studies, prayer and people sharing their testimonies. It was an amazing time as many coming off the street into our crisis homes were excited about their new found faith. And me being interested in drama there was always plenty of drama going on around the ministry. And a lot of spiritual warfare dealing with strongholds and demonic powers keeping many in bondage who came to us for help.

When I wrote SAMMY, the screenplay on the early days of Centrum of Hollywood, my problem was what dramatic situations not to use since there were so many to choose from. I think of Ellen, a 16 year old who called the Hollywood Lifeline. She said her boyfriend brought her to Hollywood and told her if she ever left him he would kill her. She then said that if someone could come and get her within the hour she could get away from him. We responded to her plea immediately and brought her to Centrum's crisis home for women. She loved the home and received Jesus and was excited about living for God. Several weeks went by and then one day when I was talking with Michael, the director of the Hollywood Lifeline, Suddenly there was a loud knock at the front door. Both Michael and I opened the door to see a very angry young man. We stepped outside, closing the door behind us and moved off the front steps. He was in his early twenties. He then demands, "I know my girlfriend is in this house and you had better get her out here right now!" I told him that we couldn't do that, He then very angrily said "You'd better get her out here right now or you are going to regret it!" Michael, remaining very calm then said, "Well, let's pray about this" and held out his hands for the three of us to hold hands while Michael prayed. I must admit I was surprised when the young man took our hands and was quiet while Michael prayed. After Michael finished praying I asked Ellen's former boyfriend if Ellen came out and told him she wanted to follow Jesus and not be with him would he leave peacefully, he said he would. I then told one of the staff at the women's home to ask Ellen to come down and let her boyfriend know she was through with him. When the staff person told Ellen I wanted her to come down and tell her boyfriend they were through Ellen said, "No. he will kill me and then he will kill Kleg." The staff person said, "You don't have to worry Kleg is there." I wish she had said "God is there" instead of "Kleg is there." Ellen came down and told the boyfriend "We're done. I am following Jesus!" and turned around and went back into the house. The boyfriend after hearing that starts walking down the street loudly saying "Ah, she wasn't any good anyway!"

Every day God was answering prayer. Volunteers would come to Centrum of Hollywood to do shifts on the Hollywood Lifeline, go with Centrum staff to pick up someone off the street or help out in the homes perhaps by giving a

Bible study. We would have people drop off food at the homes. Other volunteers would go out on Hollywood Blvd and hand out Gospel tracks with Tim. The volunteers were from a variety of Bible believing churches and ministries like Youth With A Mission that provided a lot of volunteers. We also had some great Gospel music at our Men's crisis home with Moe on the guitar and Scotty on the banjo. We always wanted to have bed space for new people coming in off the street so we would try to move most of those we were helping onto places where their needs could best be met. If they had an addiction problem we would encourage them to go to live in discipleship programs like Teen Challenge or Victory Outreach. Also, some went to the Youth With A Mission Discipleship School. We always tried to get runaways united with their parents. I am always blessed when I hear from someone who has been at Centrum either as staff or as a guest. For those who were full time at Centrum I think they would agree with me that what was happening at Centrum was something that God was doing. It was a very exciting time.

A MIRACULOUS TOUCH

I asked Sammy if he would like to come up and spend a week with us at the Sycamore House, our crisis home for men and he accepted my invitation. Before the week was up Sammy volunteered to stay with us and be our breakfast cook.

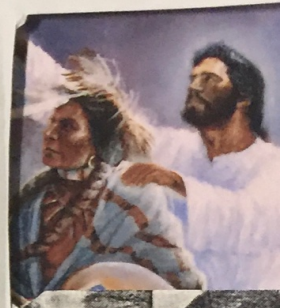
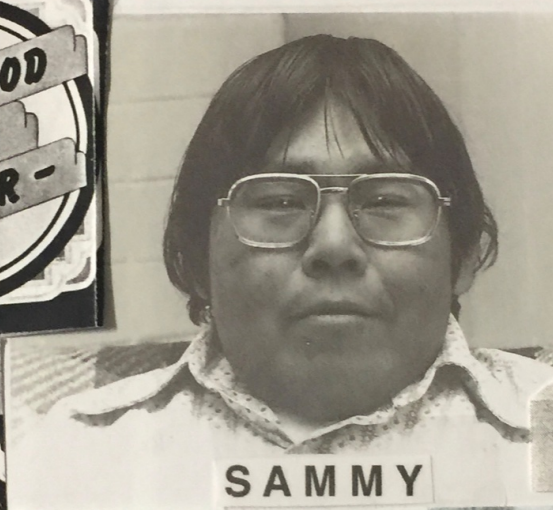
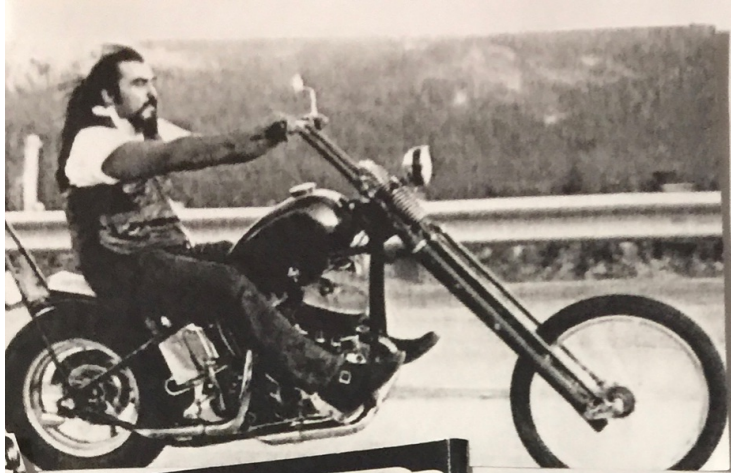
At Centrum, Sammy continued to be somber, seldom smiling or entering into any in-depth conversation. But that changed after he came back from visiting Palm Springs over a weekend. Suddenly he was outgoing, laughing and wanted to take calls on the Lifeline. Sammy shared with me that he had been touched by God. He said he had gotten into an argument with Mable and told her he was going to the bowling alley. Mable's response was "Yes, just go join your drinking buddies!" Sammy said he went out the back door and as he was opening the gate to go out onto the street he felt a hand on his shoulder causing him to stop. He then heard a voice in front of him "Come on Sammy. Come on Sammy." He knew the touch he had felt

was from God and he turned around and went back into the house and went to bed.

SAMMY RETURNS TO WORK WITH HIS TRIBE

Sammy's tribe had hired a business manager who assured the tribe he would help them prosper. He also wanted Sammy working with the tribe which he started to do part time going back and forth between Hollywood and Palm Springs in his Monte Carlo. I felt uneasy about the direction the Cabazon's new general manager was taking the tribe selling liquor by the case and opening a Bingo Gambling Casino. I was very concerned about Sammy when he went back to work with the tribe full time being around the alcohol with his diabetics. And most of all not having the Christian support and fellowship we all need.

I went down to Palm Springs to encourage Sammy to come back to Centrum. He indicated he had been thinking about it. My meeting with Sammy was within a few weeks of my getting a call from Mable Craig informing me Sammy was in a diabetic coma and not expected to survive. Roy Silvernail, one of Sammy's best friends at Centrum and I were standing at the Cabazon Indian Reservation Cemetery, Coachella, CA as Sammy was laid to rest (April 6, 1981).



TROUBLE AT THE CABAZON RESERVATION

I did not realize that the spiritual battles going on in Sammy's tribe were far more deadly than the spiritual battles we were fighting on the streets of Hollywood. A member of the tribe, Fred Alvarez, who was a friend of Sammy's was banned from the tribal office by the tribe's new general manager. Fred had an appointment to meet with a reporter from the Palm Springs newspaper to reveal what he said was important tribal information. Before he could keep that appointment Fred, his girlfriend and another friend of his were killed execution style (July 2, 1981). No one was ever convicted of the murders.

LEGALIZATION OF GAMBLING ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS

The goal of the Cabazon's General Manager was accomplished with the U.S. Supreme Court Case Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, 480 U.S. 202 (1987), This decision legalized gaming/gambling on Indian reservations across the U.S..

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)



Christine Klegseth, Don and Mildred Noonan, Kleg Seth

Another blessing to me and Centrum was Don who came to work full time with us at Centrum. Centrum was an all volunteer ministry. I was also blessed to be his best man at his wedding. From Centrum he became involved with Church On the Way in Van Nuys, California and went through their Bible College where he became a pastor. He and his wife Mildred live back east where Don still is serving the Lord. Don at Centrum. was always willing and ready to serve wherever the need was. One day I asked him if he would go with a prostitute who had just come into our crisis home for women to pick up her belongings at a motel where she had been staying with her pimp. Don and Kathy, a volunteer, left in our van with the prostitute to get her belongings.. I received a call from Don about an hour later "Kleg, my glasses are broken!" This was a result of the pimp trying to force the prostitute to go with him and punching Don. Fortunately Don was able to defend himself and protect the girl. Don was definitely the right person for that assignment.

I AM ALREADY DEAD

God calls all who profess to have faith in Jesus Christ to love our enemies and pray for those who mistreat us. Right now we need an explosion of God's love in our nation defeating hate, racism, violence, gangs, murder of the unborn, addictions, bringing hope to those who are suicidal. Just as darkness is driven out by light so hate is driven out by God's love.

This reminds me of a time in the early 1980s when I was with a group from YWAM (Youth With A Mission) handing out Gospel tracks on the corner of Hollywood Blvd and Western Ave. A guy who had been at our Men's Crisis Home, the Sycamore house, at Centrum of Hollywood several years earlier had fallen back into street life and alcohol and drugs. When I first saw him approaching me he had a very stern angry look on his face. When he reached me he grabbed my shoulders with a firm grip and said he had been seeing us Christians out on Hollywood Blvd. We had just recently opened a thrift store on Hollywood Blvd less than a block from Western Ave. Then he said "I have been thinking of all these different ways to kill you." Just before we went out to share Jesus with people on Hollywood Blvd we had spent time worshiping the Lord so I believe the Holy Spirit was in control of my life. Otherwise when he said he was planning on killing me I probably would have fainted. But instead I had no fear and said "I am already dead." I believe he knew enough about God's Word to know I was referring to the verse "I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless it is no longer I who lives but Christ lives in me." Even though I had peace I knew the reality that even as a child of God it did not mean that I might not get killed or beat up, but what it did mean was that nothing would happen to me unless God allowed it to happen. Well, he kept calling me names that I won't repeat and then he said, "Yeah, if I killed one of you Christians God would probably level this block." I was glad to see he still had some 'fear of the Lord.' People do evil things today because they have no fear of the Lord. They don't realize that there is a penalty for sin that has to be paid. The Good News is Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. But if we reject Jesus and His payment for our sins then we will pay for them ourselves in eternity. I also knew the reality of God's Word that *greater is He (the Holy*

Spirit) that is in me than he that is in the world'. Finally I told him "I want to pray for you." Suddenly he stopped cussing me out and bowed his head still with a firm grip on my shoulders. After I finished praying he let go of me and walked away. I had a second encounter with him a few weeks later where he grabbed me and said the only reason he didn't beat me up was he had too bad a hangover from celebrating New Year's Eve. This was New Year's Day 1982. The only time I have praised the Lord for a hangover. Again his threats stopped when I said "I want to pray for you." But then there was a third encounter a few weeks later. Centrum of Hollywood's crisis home for men called me to let me know this same guy was there because he had rededicated his life to Christ and wanted to go into Teen Challenge's year discipleship program. So my third encounter was giving him a Bible and a hug and putting him on a bus for Teen Challenge San Francisco. 'God has not given us a spirit of fear but of power and of love and a sound mind.'

Sharing our testimony of what God has done in our life accomplishes three things. It encourages others, encourages yourself and it brings glory to God. The most important part of our testimony is the salvation we have received through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

THEY CHOSE JESUS OVER HOLLYWOOD

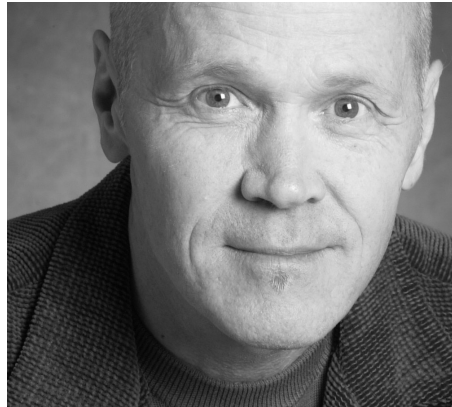
During my time in Hollywood in the late 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s I am so thankful for the people I met who inspired me in their love for God and were an encouragement to me in my relationship with the Lord. One person who has lived his faith in Hollywood his entire career is Pat Boone. I was blessed to get to know Pat working on The Cross And The Switchblade.

SUSAN STAFFORD



Susan Stafford who I first met in Hollywood in the early 1970s.. She was a model, actress and the original hostess of the American game show Wheel of Fortune. She discovered that something far more rewarding than success in Hollywood is serving Jesus Christ. She went to Fuller Seminary and is a licensed counselor who has ministered to lepers in India and offering hope to her many Hollywood friends. She is one of the leaders in our Media Fellowship ministry here in Las Vegas. She has gone from Wheel of Fortune to her ministry Wheel of Grace.

WENDELL BURTON



Wendell Burton I first met at Gary and Suzi's Bible study in the Hollywood hills. He was doing well as an actor having co-starred with Lisa Minnelli in The Sterile Cuckoo. It was shortly after returning from India where he had hoped to find 'enlightenment' through a guru that he gave his life to Jesus Christ. He then focused on serving God through his music ministry and was involved with the Hollywood Free Theater, our prison outreach and Centrum of Hollywood. He continued to be involved in ministry the rest of his life.

Although Susan and Wendell who I just mentioned were successful in the entertainment industry there were countless others who inspired me through their love for God and desire to serve others. Among those would be the staff and volunteers at Centrum of Hollywood and Centrum of Las Vegas and our 24 hour crisis intervention ministry volunteers as well as the many I met who came to Centrum for help and who I am still in touch with today.

KEITH GREEN



Like Wendell I met Keith and his wife Melody at Gary and Suzy's Bible study. They were both new in the Lord and had a passion to see souls saved and honor God with their talents. God raised Keith up so that through his ministry he influenced thousands in a matter of a few years.

The following is an article by Barry Alfonso at
musicianguide.com/KeithGreenBiography

Dedicating his reawakened creativity to glorifying God, Green founded Last Days Ministries in 1977. He and his followers evangelized to young rock music fans, street people, and others not being reached by conventional churches. At the same time, he made his debut as a Christian recording artist, signing with Sparrow Records and releasing the album *For Him Who Has Ears to Hear*. This song collection displays the essentials of Green's musical style: exuberant singing, piano-based melodies, and well-crafted pop/rock production. Among the best-known tracks on Green's first album are "You Put This Love in My Heart," "No One Believes Me Anymore," and "Your Love Broke Through." Balancing the warm-hearted testimony of these tunes are some humorous moments, including "No One Believes Me Anymore," a mock lament sung from the Devil's point of view. Overall, *For*

Him Who Has Ears to Hear introduced Green to the Christian music market as a gifted musical evangelist of enormous potential.

Turning away from the California Christian music scene, Green relocated to Lindale, a small east Texas community, in 1978. In addition to maintaining Last Days Ministries, he decided to launch his own record company, Pretty Good Records. Through this label, he released his next album, *So You Wanna Go Back to Egypt*, in 1980. This eclectic effort pokes fun at weak-spirited believers in its title track and offers a personal confession of need in "I Want to Be More Like Jesus." The most enduringly popular track proved to be "Oh Lord You're Beautiful," a powerful hymn that became a favorite at Christian worship services. In a bold move, Green announced that *So You Wanna Go Back to Egypt* would be sold for a variable price, even given away for free to those unable to pay. This decision sent shock waves through the Christian music industry, causing other artists to reconsider their album and concert pricing policies. An estimated 200,000 copies of the album were eventually distributed on a "pay what you can afford" basis.

Keith's life was cut short just as he began to hit his stride as a musician and minister. On July 28, 1982, he boarded a small Cessna aircraft for a brief sightseeing flight around his property in Lindale. Also on board were his son Josiah and daughter Bethany, along with the pilot and eight other passengers. Overloaded, the plane crashed shortly after takeoff, killing everyone on board.

On November 27, 2001, Green was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. The honor served as an acknowledgment of his continuing influence in Contemporary Christian music some 20 years after his death. Green's intensity and dedication have continued to make him a role model for younger Christian performers, such as Rebecca St. James, who paid tribute to him in a Sparrow Records press biography. "I think what touched me most about him was that he was so committed to loving God and living for Him," she said of Green. "I know he was very strong-willed and people were sometimes offended at what he did and said, but it all came out of a

pure motive of trying to be committed to Him in every part of his life. He wasn't going to back down just because of what people thought of him. That, to me, says that he was more focused on pleasing God than on pleasing man, something I think we should all try to focus on."

THE DEPARTURE OF ROGER SCOTT

The video [The Departure Of Roger Scott](#) which I wrote and produced is a 41 minute film. At the time in 1982 being involved in crisis intervention ministry in Hollywood I was very concerned about the agenda of the homosexual community in Hollywood to infiltrate the motion picture, television and music industries to bring about the acceptance of the gay lifestyle on a par with the heterosexual lifestyle. And in doing so having more LGBTQ involved in film and tv as producers, directors and actors and having more gay characters in film and tv. [The Departure Of Roger Scott](#) is about a young man living the homosexual life who receives Jesus Christ through a street ministry and goes to live at the ministry to be discipled. Several months later Roger returns to Hollywood to move his belongings out of the apartment he had been sharing with Mark, his homosexual partner. Roger had been attending a homosexual church in Hollywood at the time he got saved through the street ministry. The end of the video is a confrontation between Roger's former gay pastor and the director of the ministry where Roger is being discipled. Although the gay pastor tries to convince Roger he cannot change from being a homosexual Roger states that through Jesus Christ he is being changed and accepts the Biblical reality that homosexuality is sin.

God has given us guidelines in His Word to live by so we might have a healthy life physically and spiritually. Being involved in homosexuality is not a healthy lifestyle. The following is something you will seldom hear in the media.

Negative Health Consequences Of Same-Sex Sexual Behavior by Andre Van Mol, MD The health effects of same-sex sexual behavior are many.

The public, government, and judiciary are being led to believe that same-sex sexuality is a normal variant with interactions and results equivalent to heterosexual sexuality. However, this position runs contrary to professional literature and the track record of history.... In conclusion, we see a substantial body of scientific literature repeatedly confirming that same-sex sexual behavior carriers with it increased rates of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, alcohol abuse, tobacco use, depression, anxiety, eating disorders, suicidality, obesity, hepatitis of various forms, numerous sexually transmitted infections, various cancers, and domestic violence, with substantially shorter life expectancy. Several years ago the American Cancer Society's web page Cancer Facts for Gay and Bisexual Men specified that gay men are at increased risk for lung, testicular, colon, and anal cancers.

My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you. (Proverbs 3:1-2)

CENTRUM OF LAS VEGAS

I worked with Centrum of Hollywood for six and a half years and then in 1983 was invited to come to Las Vegas and start a Centrum of Las Vegas operating a 24 hour Hotline and crisis homes for men and women. I was in Las Vegas for two and a half years and when I left Glen Bucklew became the director and disciplined men in Las Vegas and Pahrump, Nevada for over 30 years. He directed the men's crisis ministry at a two story home referred to as the green house located on Carson St. just a few blocks from Las Vegas Blvd and one block from Fremont Street. He then opened a place to discipleship men outside of Las Vegas in Pahrump, Nevada. In addition to being a good friend Glen was an example to me of a man of great integrity.

Like Centrum of Hollywood, Centrum of Las Vegas was very active with calls on the 24 hour Hotline, people in crisis coming into our crisis homes and volunteers going out to assist people in crisis. There were a lot more

suicide calls when I was in Las Vegas than I experienced through the Hollywood Lifeline. If the person who was suicidal couldn't come to us we would go to them. I would pray for the Holy Spirit to take control of the situation and set the person free. Late one afternoon a call came into the Hotline from a lady in Henderson who sounded drunk. She said she was going to kill herself. I told her I would like to meet with her and would come out to her home if she promised me she wouldn't harm herself. She agreed. I then called a pastor at a church in Henderson to see if he could go to see her until I got there. By the time I got to the lady's home the pastor had already been there and left. I always wanted to have someone else with me in this kind of a situation. When the lady opened the door I sensed a demonic presence and felt very uncomfortable. She directed me over to the kitchen table where we both sat down. There were two girls, ages around 5 or 6, playing together. I looked around the kitchen and did not see any sign of food. As I was about to ask the lady some questions she reached under the table and pulled out a large butcher knife and held it in front of her with the blade pointing up. I thought to myself "That is a large butcher knife!" Before I could say anything she stood up and walked to a nearby door that led into a bathroom. Once inside she closed the door and I immediately began looking for a phone. Then from inside the bathroom I hear her say in a muffled voice "Don't make me do it!" One of the little girls heard her and started to open the bathroom door. I quickly asked her and her friend to go into the bedroom next to the bathroom and close the door. I then slowly opened the bathroom door and saw the lady on the floor with the blade of the knife next to her throat. I could see that she hadn't cut herself. I then found myself saying "I'll bet your daughter hasn't eaten in a while. Let's go out to McDonalds." She gave me a blank stare and after a few seconds handed me the butcher knife and got up. Without her seeing me I put the knife as high up as I could in a cupboard. Once we got to McDonalds I called the Hotline to have two young ladies come out to stay with the lady and minister to her. I never knew what was going to happen when I went out on a suicide call but I never had a bad result for which I Praise the Lord.

BACK TO L.A. AND CHAUFFEURING

I moved back to Los Angeles in the late 1980s after working with Centrum of Las Vegas. Centrum of Las Vegas was an all volunteer 24 hour crisis intervention ministry just like Centrum of Hollywood.

I was able to get a job at Carey Limousine in Beverly Hills that catered mostly to business clientele. Although it was a good job I had more joy picking up a person in crisis off the streets of Las Vegas and before that in Hollywood because I could share about God's love with them. However, working as a chauffeur my prayer was that I would be able to be a witness for Christ.

DRIVING WALTER ANNENBERG

I was given the assignment of driving Walter Annenberg and his wife for a few days while they were in Los Angeles. He had been a former ambassador to the UK and one of the wealthiest men in the U.S. at the time. Since the Ambassador had a hip problem he sat in the front seat of the Lincoln Town Car I drove. While driving the Ambassador to a restaurant I started to share about believing in God. He then said, "I would rather say a belief in Jeffersonian principles." He then said, "And the Bible has been misinterpreted as it has been handed down over the centuries." Very respectfully I said, "That is not true. I have studied the history of the Bible and the Bible has been uniquely preserved going back to antiquity." As we were just about at the restaurant I told him about Jewish music conductor/composer five time academy award winner John Green. He had looked at the prophecies about the coming Messiah in the Hebrew scriptures and his friend George Maclean pointed out that they were all fulfilled by Jesus. John checked them out and came to the conclusion that Jesus had to be the Messiah. George was known as the 'architect to the stars'. Both John and George and their wives were involved with Centrum of Hollywood. George was convinced that the Bible was the Word of God when he saw that science and the Bible were not in opposition. The Bible stated that the earth is a sphere, floats in space, the stars are too

numerous to count, blood is the source of life and there are streams in the ocean long before science came to realize these scientific facts. What I found interesting is that I received a phone call from John Green's wife Bonnie to inform me that a day or two after I had the conversation with the Ambassador he came over to them at a gathering at Universal Studios to let them know I had been chauffeuring him.

How many people who don't believe in the Bible have taken the time to look into its history? The following is a good summary of the historical accuracy of the Bible I copied from Bible Answers on the internet.

"The Hebrew Old Testament has been hand copied meticulously by teams of Jewish scribes over the centuries. Jewish scribes developed intricate methods of counting words and letters to ensure that no errors had been made. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls confirmed the astonishing accuracy of Old Testament books. The scrolls were some 1000 years older than the previous oldest scrolls yet other than some minor issues, agree with the modern text."

There is even greater evidence with thousands of manuscripts, far more than in any other ancient work of literature, to support the accuracy of the New Testament.

LIVING IN OREGON IN THE 1990s

My son was ten months old when we adopted him in Romania in 1991. He was an answer to prayer. I had seen a program on TV about the thousands of unwanted babies in Romania who were in orphanages. My prayer was Lord show me if there is anything I can do. I was hosting a local Christian tv program in Salem, Oregon and one of my guests shared that she was taking a group of people to Romania in a few months to adopt children. My wife and daughter traveled with her to Romania to adopt a child for us.



The communist dictator Ceausescu had been overthrown in December in 1989. For the first time in years making it possible to adopt a child from Romania. I will always be grateful to Nathanael's birth mom who struggled to keep Nathanael safe until she could have him adopted. We named him Nathanael which I found out later means 'God has given.' And Nathanael has been a very special gift in my life as is his family, wife Ashley and my two beautiful grandchildren. I am also very grateful for my daughter Sarah and granddaughters Jayden and Jehiah who live in Oregon.

I became a single parent just before my son turned three. It was a challenge that turned into a great blessing. Both Nathanael and I were

blessed to have my mother (Christine Slind Klegseth) living with us the last ten years of her life living in Keizer, Oregon.

I knew my son was gifted when he would join me singing Amazing Grace when I did worship services at the Union Gospel Mission in Salem, Oregon. Everybody at the mission loved to hear him sing. We had a piano in our home but I never saw Nathanael take an interest in playing it. One day we were watching the movie Chariots of Fire. The theme song for that movie is one of my favorites. When the movie was over my son said "Dad I can play that on the piano." In disbelief I said "Okay?" He sat down at the piano and played it perfectly!

We moved to Las Vegas after my mother passed away in 2002. I had lived here in the 1980s working with the crisis ministry Centrum of Las Vegas. When my son was 15 he bought a German Shepherd puppy and trained it up as a protection dog since our home had been broken into a couple of times. Never had a problem with a break in after that. I believe it was the same summer that Nathanael picked up the guitar at the beginning of the summer and by the end of the summer had taught himself to play the guitar so that he could lead worship at chapel services at the school he was attending. Another big surprise was when, I think my son was 15, he started singing Broadway songs and produced his own demo album. You can hear him sing some of these songs at www.thechristianstudio.com. But since then I discovered Nathanael can sing any style of music from Christian to country and play any style of music on the acoustic or electric guitar. I like to say my son's choice of music went from Broadway to 'the narrow way' (Christian worship music).

In 2015 Nathanael told me he would like to try to connect with his birth mom who we had not had any contact with since the adoption. Nathanael made it known on FB and the next day a tv station in Romania contacted Nathanael and said if they can locate his mom they will fly him and I to Romania and surprise his mom on live tv. You can view the surprise meeting on Romanian tv at www.thechristianstudio.com. He also met his brother and found out the source of most of his health problems. Ashley,

Nathanael's wife, could not go to Romania because she was expecting so I went in her place.

I have been blessed with wonderful times over the years with my son, playing basketball, trips to our farm in southeast Washington, summer trips to Denver, attending camp meetings in Oregon and I could go on and on.

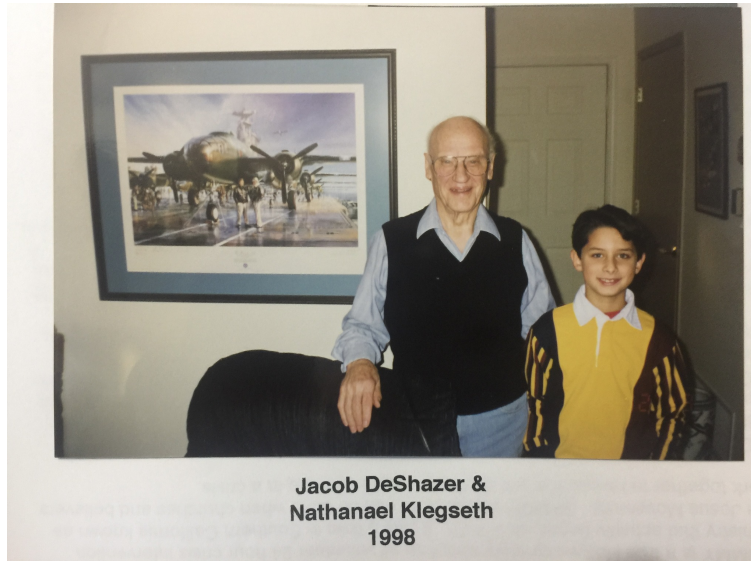
Nathanael is working as a master dog trainer and like his musical talent is amazingly gifted as a dog trainer. Ashley is working at a Christian preschool. My granddaughter Selah was born on my birthday. What a great birthday present! My grandson Aiden is two years older than Selah. .

My son Nathanael and I lived in Keizer, Oregon during the 1990s with my mother who passed away in 2002. We both have fond memories of very enjoyable experiences visiting the family farm during the summer as well as taking mother to visit Aunt Cora and the Ropers in Denver. And with a park right outside our back door both Nathanael and I enjoyed playing basketball.



In 1990 we moved from Topanga Canyon which was a great place to live in the hills above Malibu to Oregon. I had always wanted to stay close to Hollywood as I still wanted to see stories produced that like The Cross And The Switchblade could impact lives for Christ. I could have not imagined

that in Oregon I would meet a man who had a story that as a film could influence the world with the reality of God's love transforming enemies into friends.



In the 1990s living in Oregon my son and I enjoyed numerous visits with Jacob and Florence DeShazer at their home in Salem, Oregon. I felt like I was sitting in front of history as Jacob told me his war experiences. A DooLittle Raider, he was a bombardier on the 16th plane to take off the aircraft carrier Hornet and surprise the Japanese who knew we did not

have a bomber that could fly from Hawaii to Japan. His plane ran out of fuel and he was captured by the Japanese. As a POW he was tortured and starved for over 40 months. One of the guards gave him a Bible to read for a few weeks. Jacob was not a Christian but the more he read the Bible he came to realize he was a sinner. I never will forget Jacob saying that when he received Jesus as his Savior he knew Jesus was God. He knew he was God because the hatred he had for the Japanese that was driving him insane turned to love and compassion. So much so that after the war he returned to Japan with his wife where they spent 30 years as missionaries.

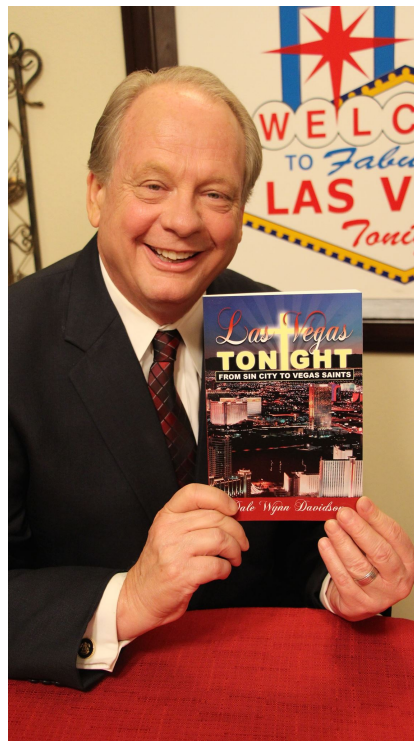
Jacob had a track 'I Was A Prisoner of Japan' that he handed out on the streets of Japan. Mitsuo Fuchida who was the lead pilot on the raid on Pearl Harbor picked up a track and after reading Jacob's testimony got a Bible. Fuchida also spoke with a Japanese military man who had been in a POW camp here in the U.S. who told him about a college age girl that came to the camp to help the Japanese prisoners. He asked her why she was so kind to him and the other prisoners. She told him that her missionary parents had been killed by the Japanese and she loves the Japanese people. After hearing that Fuchida started reading the Bible and received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Fuchida not only became a Christian but an evangelist and he and Jacob conducted some evangelistic meetings together.

WOUNDED TIGER by T. Martin Bennett

It was a few years after my visits with Jacob that I read Wounded Tiger, a novel by T. Martin Bennett and I also read his screenplay which I immediately thought has to be made into a movie. Everything that Jacob shared with me about his war experiences was in Wounded Tiger. A historical novel that could not be more accurate, WT follows the war experiences of Mitsuo Fuchida while telling Jacob DeShazer's miraculous survival and redemption. The novel and eventual film have the potential to inspire and influence millions of lives worldwide with the reality that God can replace hate with love and transform enemies into friends. A story our society and the world needs today.

Although I have screenplays of my own I would like to see produced, I know of no other story that could have a greater influence on the world, especially with the racial divide today, than Wounded Tiger. It is my hope and prayer that this will be the year that will see God's truth impact our nation through the media with true stories like Wounded Tiger.

LAS VEGAS TONIGHT



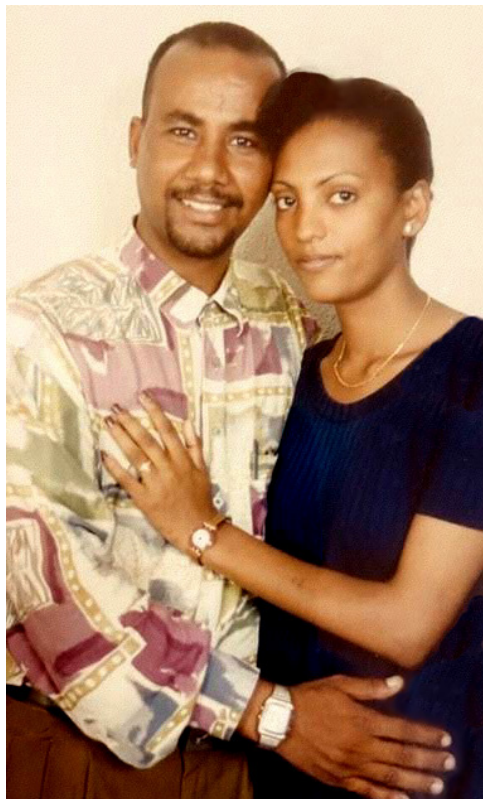
Dale Davidson

A good friend of mine Dale Davidson hosts a weekly television interview show Las Vegas Tonight. Dale interviews interesting guests with the majority of his guests sharing how Jesus Christ changed their life. Dale does a great job of conveying that even in 'sin city' God's grace abounds. Las Vegas Tonight can be seen in Las Vegas on channel 17 on Friday nights at 7:30 p.m.. It can also be seen on other tv networks and various apps throughout the world.

TRINITY LIFE CENTER

My son and I moved from Oregon to Las Vegas in 2003 after my mother passed away. For the past 20 years I have been blessed with some wonderful friends here in Las Vegas. It has been a special blessing working with Trinity Life Center in doing jail ministry, Senior Adult Fellowship and sharing at Bible studies. I love being part of a church that has a vision for revival and ministry to help the poor and needy.

A JOURNEY - LOVE NEVER FAILS



Pastor Biniam and Teshaynesh Asefaw

Sunday June 4, 2023 was a special day at Trinity Life Center here in Las Vegas. The Sunday morning message at the worship service was given by Pastor Biniam Asefaw. It was also a celebration of the years he and his family have been at Trinity Life Center and his pastoring an Eritrean church here. He and his family are now relocating near Dallas, TX where he will be pastoring another Eritrean church. Pastor Biniam is also in demand as a teacher and speaker as he frequently travels to other cities here in the U. S. as well as to other countries where he trains other pastors. Ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit he also has a healing and deliverance ministry. About eight years ago when my son and daughter-in-law were not able to have children, Pastor Biniam prayed for them and within two weeks she became pregnant giving them a beautiful son.

Over the last 50 years I have written screenplays and sought out stories that once produced as a film can impact the viewing audience for Christ. I was motivated all the more after working on The Cross And The Switchblade (1970) starring Pat Boone and Eric Estrada. This film over the years worldwide has been responsible for tens of thousands of lives being changed with many coming out of gangs and drugs. I received a letter from Pat Boone recently and at 88 years of age he still plays golf, tennis and swims. I do not know of anyone in Hollywood who has exemplified the Christ centered life more than Pat.

There are two stories that I believe once produced as feature films have the potential to have a world wide influence for God. One is Wounded Tiger, the novel and screenplay written by T. Martin Bennett who owns all the rights. The other is Pastor Biniam's story which is told in the screenplay A Journey - Love Never Fails.

Biniam was born in Eritrea, East Africa, a small country that borders Ethiopia and Sudan. The current president took office in 1991 and there have been no presidential elections since then. He appoints all the government officials. Eritrea is on the list of one of the ten most oppressed countries in the world and is known as 'the North Korea of Africa.' As a teenager Biniam fell in love with Jesus and eventually pastored his own

church. In the 1990s at one of his worship services the authorities came into the church and took everyone to jail. The next day everyone was released except for Biniam. In the 1990s usually only pastors were sent to prison but today anyone who is an evangelical or pentecostal Christian can be sent to prison. Biniam was sent to a military prison out in the desert with 5,000 inmates.

Biniam had fallen in love with Teshaynesh, a beautiful young lady who had started attending his church. When Biniam was arrested she was able to get a note to him saying she accepted his proposal for marriage. Although as the weeks and months went by Teshaynesh was told by other men who wanted to marry her that Biniam had to be dead as no one had heard anything about him. She rebuffed their advances and believed by faith that one day she and Biniam would be together.

Depressed and discouraged in a prison that had no buildings for the inmates, Biniam cried out to God, "God I was serving you and I don't understand why this is happening. I don't want to die here. But if this is your will I will serve you here and let others know about your love." When Biniam prayed that it was as though a cool breeze went through his body which he knew was the refreshing of the Holy Spirit. Biniam was able to lead many to Christ while in that prison.

Could things have gotten any worse and more dangerous? Well they did with all the inmates taken to the front lines to fight against the Ethiopians in the border war they were having with Eritrea. Once again God's hand of protection was on Biniam with his miraculous survival and escape from the war to Sudan.

Teshaynesh joined Biniam in Sudan where Biniam started pastoring a church. Teshaynesh became pregnant but it appeared as though she had a miscarriage due to losing a lot of blood. They prayed and believed for the survival of the baby. Eventually they realized Sudan was not a safe place for Christians so they decided to join a caravan of three trucks and cross the Sahara Desert to Libya. It would take them 16 days. On the 14th day

the truck they were on broke down leaving them without water and stranded in the desert. One of the truck drivers said they would send someone back for them but that possibility seemed remote. It was here that a demon possessed person told Biniam that he was going to die here in the desert. Completely exhausted, Biniam called on Jesus to rebuke the demon. He later found out that where the truck broke down was near a mountain known as Mountain Of The Dead.

A truck did arrive to rescue them. Once they crossed the border into Libya both Biniam and Tsehaynesh were arrested and put in prison. But the Lord was with them and Biniam found favor with the warden who let him go out of the prison during the day and find work. Once their healthy baby daughter was born they were released from prison.

Could things get any more dangerous for Biniam and Teshaynesh? In order to reach Italy and freedom they had to sail on a crowded boat that was not seaworthy across the Mediterranean Sea. Fortunately they survived however Teshaynesh's sister on a later voyage did not survive.

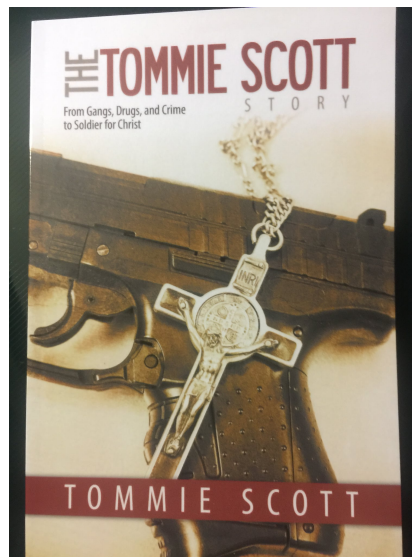
You might be asking how they got to Trinity Life Center in Las Vegas. Again a miraculous chain of events that enabled Pastor Randy Greer to extend an invitation for them to join Trinity Life Center. To God be the glory!

JAIL MINISTRY IN OREGON AND LAS VEGAS

In the 1990s when I lived in Oregon a good friend Mike Ross and I started a Bible study at the Marion County Jail we called The Overcomers (based on Revelations 12:11). Now for almost 20 years I have been involved at the Clark County Detention Center (CCDC) in downtown Las Vegas and at the Henderson Detention Center.

TOMMIE SCOTT

Another very good friend of mine is Tommie Scott. The novel and 23 minute documentary The Tommie Scott Story has Tommie talking about his life growing up in the gangs in Los Angeles. From a young age his life was gangs, drugs and crime. He had been in 17 correctional facilities (jails and prisons). He moved his family to Las Vegas about 15 years ago and again got caught up in drugs, alcohol and crime. And once again was arrested and ended up in the Clark County Detention Center in downtown Las Vegas.



Before being arrested he had been thinking about killing himself because he had no hope of having a future. The second day in jail he had an opportunity to attend a Bible study that myself and a friend Tim Berends were leading. Even though Tommie didn't know if there was a God he was desperate for something to give him hope. He walked into the Bible study depressed and suicidal. He heard the message from the Bible that God loved him. He then heard that Jesus suffered and died the death of a criminal on the cross to take the punishment he deserved for the sins he had committed. In the Bible this represents the justice and mercy of God available for everyone in the world. Tommie had been burdened down with the lives he saw either doing long prison terms or not alive as a result of

being in the gangs. I closed the Bible study with a prayer giving Tommie and the other inmates an opportunity to ask God to forgive them and invite Jesus Christ to come into their life and make them a new person. After praying that prayer Tim prayed for Tommie to receive the Holy Spirit. In less than two hours Tommie's life was changed. No longer depressed or suicidal but experiencing a love and joy that he had never experienced before. No longer a gang member but now a child of God. The rest of his time in jail every day he was praying, reading the Bible and telling others about what Jesus had done in giving him a new life.

After he was released from jail Tommie and I did a basketball outreach in the gym at the City Impact Center where young men and teenagers off the street would play full court basketball and hear Tommie's testimony as well as others like boxing referee Kenny Bayless sharing what God had done in their lives.

So over the years I have been greatly blessed with friends like Tommie, Jack and so many others who came into my life as a result of being involved in jail and prison ministry.

You can view a 23 minute documentary [The Tommie Scott Story](#) at my website thechristianstudio.com under Stories of Redemption or on YouTube. Innovo Publishing also published Tommie's story.

BOBBY A LIFE TRANSFORMED

Everywhere I have lived (California, Oregon, Las Vegas) since 1970 I have been involved in prison, jail or crisis intervention ministry. I thank God for the joy I have received sharing the Good News of God's Word with many who were hopeless or caught up in a destructive lifestyle. Recently I listened to Pastor Bobby Bocchciamp from Sunrise Baptist on the radio give a great message on being a witness for Christ. I think it was about twelve or thirteen years ago when I first met Bobby who was an inmate at the county jail in downtown Las Vegas. When he came in to attend the

Bible study that Tim Berends and myself were leading he was depressed and said "I've tried this before but I guess I'll try it again." He also had some very serious health problems. As I recall from age 18 to 30 the only address where he stayed over 6 months at a time was the downtown jail. But every week he came into the study over a period of several months he was more excited about what he was discovering in the Bible. The day after he was released from Jail which was a Sunday he came to Trinity Life Center, the church I am involved with and he was baptized. He then got involved with Sunrise Baptist Church where he was discipled and attended Bible college and now is a pastor. He also had a miraculous recovery from his serious health problems. It is great to see his passion for the Lord.



Pastor David Eads and Eddie Blackwell

A few years ago I had the honor of conducting a Memorial Service for Pastor David Eads. He was a good friend and an inspiration to me and to many others. But what an amazing testimony of God's power to transform a life.

The first 30 years of his life he spent half of it locked up. The state of Indiana classified him as incorrigible (no hope of being reformed). He made the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list after escaping from a jail where he was charged with murder. He said that of all his arrests that is the only crime he did not commit. By the time they caught up with him they had discovered that someone else had committed the murder. Expecting to go free he ended up doing five years for escaping from a jail.

It was while in prison he learned to play the guitar. Once released he formed his own band and ended up playing with a lot of entertainers out of Nashville including Jerry Lee Lewis, Micky Gilley and others. His life playing in night clubs consisted of alcohol, drugs and women. David had a praying wife and at the age of 45 at a church meeting in Houston, Texas Jimmy Swaggart, the cousin of Jerry Lee Lewis, prayed he would receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was a miraculous change that caused him to stop playing in the clubs and enter Bible college with a passion to share the Good News with others about what Jesus Christ had done in his life. The last 45 years of his life (passed away at 90) he pastored churches and held revival meetings with his wife across the U.S.. Before the pandemic I was blessed to meet weekly with Pastor David, Eddie (pictured wearing hat with Pastor David) Tim Berend's and others for prayer, weekly Media Fellowship lunches and Trinity Life Center's Senior Fellowship.

Regardless of what background a person comes out of, my faith has been encouraged every time I hear a testimony of a life changed by Jesus Christ.

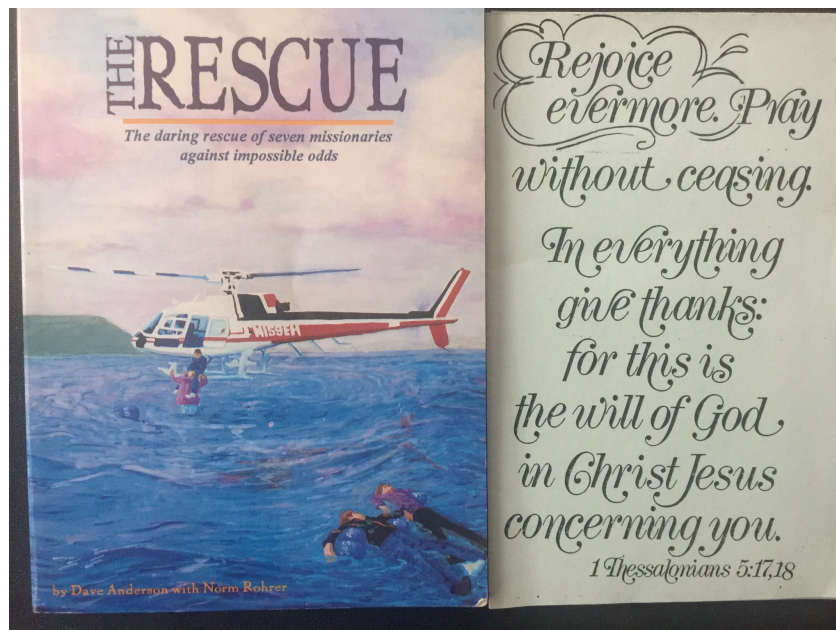
Eddie also found a new life in Christ when he was 65. He grew up in the Bronx among gamblers and gangsters. Like Pastor David he also escaped from jail but in less than two days was back in confinement. When he received Jesus he was immediately delivered from cursing, drinking, smoking and gambling. He is 87 and involved in Joni Eareckson Tada's ministry to provide the handicapped with wheelchairs and walkers especially in third world countries. He picks up bread weekly to give to seniors on low income and takes seniors to doctor's appointments. He is also involved in Media Fellowship here in Las Vegas.

THE RESCUE

I am reminded of a friend of mine Dave Anderson and his wife Barb and a member of their ministry team who yelled out "*This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it,*" in the midst of the worst of circumstances.

It was Friday, August 13, 1993 and Dave and Barb Anderson and their ministry team and Missionary Aviation pilot, totaling 7, boarded the small 8 seat two propeller Piper Navajo plane to leave Provideniya in Eastern Russia for a flight across the Bering Sea to Nome, Alaska. Dave is an evangelist and he and Barb also minister through music and had been ministering in villages in Eastern Russia bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to people who previously had not heard the Gospel.

Before departing empty 5 gallon gas cans were being loaded on the plane with little space for all 15. They would eventually be filled with gas and returned to Eastern Russia since the quality of the gas in Russia wasn't that good. Dave was a little irritated when one was placed on his lap but he was able to place it in the aisle.



The plane made one brief stop in Gambell on Saint Lawrence Island before departing for Nome, Alaska. The plane climbed to 7,000 feet with some turbulence encountering strong head winds. Barb happened to glance at the fuel gauges and was concerned when both gauges were almost on empty. Everyone was startled when the right propeller stopped. The pilot said that they could still fly with one propeller. He radioed the tower at Nome to alert them that he was dangerously low on fuel and to give them his approximate location. The pilot had descended to 3,500 feet just before the second propeller stopped. Dave said everyone was praying and preparing for a crash landing in the Bering Sea. None of them on board the plane knew that no one had ever survived a plane crash in the Bering Sea. Survival time in the 36 degree water was usually around 15 minutes. The plane was going 90 mph when it hit the water. The first miracle was that the plane did not break up or they would have all been killed. The next miracle was they were all able to get out of the plane within 30 seconds before it was totally submerged. There were no flotation devices on the plane but there were empty 5 gallon gas cans and everybody grabbed one and held on for dear life. A commuter plane running an hour late that day just happened to be flying over the location where the plane went down and saw the tail of the plane just as it disappeared under the water. A passenger on board the commuter plane spotted people in the water. Dave said, as they all started to drift apart in the four foot swells, a young man on his team yelled out "*God is our refuge and strength, a very pleasant help in time of trouble.*" And then he yelled out "*This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.*" And David is thinking 'that is not a scripture for today!'

Two helicopters were dispatched from Nome but were small helicopters used mostly for mail delivery and had no equipment for rescuing anyone. Not expecting to find anyone alive they only had brought 8 body bags. It was approximately 45 minutes before the helicopters reached Dave and the others. With volunteer firefighters hanging from the rails of the copters one by one they were plucked out of the Bering Sea and dropped off at a nearby island until they were all rescued. When the copters with all seven reached the Nome Airport ambulances were waiting to transport them to

the hospital. Miraculously only two were held overnight and then released the next day.

When I heard Dave share this amazing testimony he ended by saying “Whether you are drowning in the Bering Sea or drowning in a sea of troubles Jesus is the one who can deliver you.”

Let everyday through good times or through not so good times be a day we *Rejoice in the Lord!*

NEWSPAPER: MISSIONARIES MASSACRED IN ECUADOR

I was 14 in January of 1956 and walking downtown to sell newspapers in Limon, a small town out on the eastern plains of Colorado. A great place to grow up. I haven't forgotten the newspaper headlines to this day. FIVE MISSIONARIES MASSACRED IN THE JUNGLES OF ECUADOR. And in smaller print on the front page CALLS FOR THE MILITARY TO GO IN AND WIPE OUT THE SAVAGES.

Jim Elliott and four other men that included Pete Fleming, Ed McCully, Roger Youderian and pilot Nate Saint had established a base camp in Ecuador to attempt to reach the Auca Indians known for their violence. All of the five men were just out of college, athletic and had a passion to reach the lost for Christ. Jim's wife Elizabeth and infant daughter lived at the base camp with the other families.

As Nate Saint flew their small plane over the jungle one day they spotted an Auca hut. For several days they flew over this area dropping gifts from the plane. They then spotted a stretch of beach that they could land the plane on. To their delight an Auca man and two women came out to meet them. Jim and the others tried to communicate with them by using gestures showing their friendship. The five men returned to their base camp that night. Prior to leaving the next day they shared with their wives they were hopeful they would be invited to the Auca village. The radio call to their

families at their base later that afternoon never came. They had all been speared to death. How could this have happened to five young men who loved God with all their heart?

Two years later in a city in Ecuador Jim's wife Elizabeth met a woman from the Auca village whose men had killed Jim and the others. She offered to take Elizabeth, her daughter and Rachael Saint, Nate Saint's sister, to the village to live with the Aucas. Elizabeth had never stopped praying the Aucas would receive Jesus Christ, the one who would set them free from their violent lives. Elizabeth's daughter Valerie was three when they along with Rachael Saint trekked through the jungle to live among the very men who murdered the five missionaries. Elizabeth and Rachael by learning how to communicate with the Aucas and the demonstration of what true love and forgiveness is from God saw the tribe change with the majority receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Elizabeth and her daughter stayed with them for two years while Rachael remained with them the rest of her life.

Nate Saint's son Steve as he grew up would come and spend summers with his aunt Rachael at the Auca village. As he got older he and his family even lived there for several years. Mincaye, the very man who killed Steve Saint's dad baptized Steve when he was a teenager and became like a grandfather to his children.

The five missionaries who died had the knowledge and promise *To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord*. Their testimony has impacted tens of thousands of lives through the testimonies of the Aucas, books, documentaries and the movie The End Of The Spear.

"He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose."
Jim Elliot

ADDENDUM FOLLOWING

ADDENDUM - Truths From God's Word

GOD BEGINS A WORK IN US

I believe the reality today for most people who say they can't believe in God is not that they can't but they don't want to submit to God's will. Jesus said in John 7:17 *"if anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority."* To the natural mind living by God's Word seems impossible—love your enemy; forgive those who have wronged you; bless those who persecute you, etc. The good news is when we surrender our life to Jesus Christ He begins a work in us by the Holy Spirit and gives us His love and the ability to do His will.

WHAT HAPPENED TO OUR NATION?

I grew up in the 1950s and after the Korean War it was a time of peace and prosperity. What is it that has brought about such a radical change in our society? Whether we are in the end times or not I don't know but much of what is happening today the Bible says will happen either before God brings judgment on a nation or approaching the end times. Major changes started to take place in the 1960s. Prayer was taken out of the schools in 1962 and the Bible in 1963. Since without the Bible there are no moral absolutes. The killing of the unborn was made legal in 1973. A friend of mine shared with me recently that before he received the Lord he saw nothing wrong with abortion. But immediately after receiving the Lord he knew it was wrong.

The definition that God gave for marriage in the Bible was changed legalizing same sex marriage in 2015. And rejecting God and the identity He created us to have has produced a movement in our society that encourages a child to take on the opposite sex if he or she wishes. The Bible says the devil blinds the minds of those who are perishing. It also

says in Romans *they chose to worship the things created rather than the creator and God gave them over to a depraved mind, men being with men and women with women.* I have several friends who were in the gay life for years and through Jesus Christ were delivered out of that lifestyle. I had a friend in Hollywood who was a transsexual and through Jesus Christ became a transformed transsexual. The Good News of the Bible is that God loves everybody and His desire for everyone is that they find their identity in Him as a child of God. I feel it is important to mention if a person is a follower of Jesus they will love everybody regardless of their race, background or beliefs. I became a child of God in the Air Force at the age of 21 and that simply means that I am a sinner saved by grace.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

Hell is a Bible topic a lot of people don't like to think about let alone hear a sermon about its reality. And actually it is not a subject you hear about in a lot of churches. The reality is Jesus spoke more about hell than anyone else in the Bible. Jesus declared, *Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)*

The irony is many people want justice for there to be a penalty when a crime is committed but they don't want a just God who will demand a penalty or punishment when His law is broken. Unless a person truly repents and puts his faith in Jesus Christ the Bible says he will pay for his sins in hell.

Trinity Life Center the church I attend here in Las Vegas and do jail and Senior Ministry with put on a drama for a Sunday morning service. The drama was about people who were in hell and various reasons why they had rejected God's free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Not very

many churches or pastors would be open to having this message presented in their church. I can imagine some of the reasons why. It's not a popular subject. People don't want to hear about or even think about hell. And for some churches they don't believe there is a hell or that a loving God would send anyone to hell.

What was the reaction to the drama about hell at Trinity? The altar was packed with people who came forward to receive Jesus Christ! There are some who would say they don't believe in using fear tactics to have people receive the Lord. We read in the Bible *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom* (Proverbs 9:10). I believe you can't fully understand the Gospel (good news) until you know the bad news. The 'bad news' of the Bible is that we are all sinners *For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God*, (Romans 3:23) and *The wages of sin is death...*(Romans 6:23). Jesus said *And these will go away into eternal punishment...*(Matthew 25:46). Jesus, in Luke 16:19-31, told about the rich man who after dying was in torment in Hades and the beggar Lazarus was with Abraham in Paradise. The rich man cried out asking if Lazarus could just touch his tongue with water and he was told there was no way Lazarus could cross over to where he was. Then the rich man cried out that he might go back and warn his brothers so they didn't end up where he was. He was told if they don't believe the writings of the prophets they won't believe even if someone returns from the dead. Jesus was crucified, died and was buried and on the third day rose from the dead. And consider all the people who still reject Him!

Yes, God is a just God, a God that requires justice. When God's law is broken the sin must be paid for. And the Good News in the Bible is that God has made provision for all of our sins to be paid for. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only son (Jesus) so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world but that the world might be saved through Him.* (John 3:16-17) *For the wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.* (Romans 6:23)

So repent [change your mind—your old way of thinking—put your trust in Jesus] and return [to God—seek His purpose for your life], so that your sins may be wiped away [blotted out, completely erased], so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord [restoring you like a cool wind on a hot day] (Acts 3:19 AMP Bible)

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. (1 John 5:13)

There is no greater security in this world than knowing when you leave this earthly body you will go to be with the Lord in heaven. *To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8)*

GOOD NEWS IN THE BIBLE

But the good news of the Bible is Jesus came to be that sacrificial Lamb and suffered and died on the cross to pay for our sins and give us the promise of eternal life in heaven with Him. *For God so loved the world that He gave his only son so whoever believes (trusts in) will not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 AMP).* God sent Jesus to give everyone the opportunity to be saved.

God wants all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4).

Things have changed a lot over the years in our country. But the God I believe in and know is *The same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8).*

BIBLE IS FOOLISHNESS TO THOSE PERISHING

To the person who does not know God and have a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ they consider numerous teachings in the

Bible as foolishness. A few examples would be Jesus instruction to 'love your enemy', 'forgive those who have wronged you', 'God's definition of marriage is only between a man and a women', 'life begins at conception', 'intercourse outside of marriage is sin', 'to be great in God's Kingdom be a humble servant'. For more examples read Jesus' Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.

But a natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14)

In the letter of James in the New Testament here is a statement hard for many to comprehend. *Consider it a joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials* (James 1:2). One thing that makes it possible to do this is believing Romans 8:28 *All things work together for good for those who love God.*

IF THE BIBLE IS GOD'S INSPIRED WORD

If the Bible (Old and New Testament) is God's Word written by men who were inspired by God then the following from the Bible is extremely important. 1) Human life begins at conception. 2) God created and defined marriage as a union between one man and one woman. 3) Sexual involvement outside of marriage is sin 4) God has given man laws to live by, such as the ten commandments, and we have all broken every one of them. 5) The Bible says it is appointed unto man once to die and after that the judgement. 6) God will judge a nation that rejects God's Word just as He did the nation of Israel 7) Beyond this life there is a place of torment called hell that Jesus spoke about numerous times where sins will be paid for. The Bible also says God does not want anyone to end up in hell but desires that everyone be saved. 9) And the Good News of the Bible is that because of God's love Jesus came to earth to live a life without sin and then suffer and die on the cross to pay for our sins and give us eternal life in heaven. 10) We can receive the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, to become

a new person in Christ (to be born again) and live a new life that brings glory to God.

Instead of a symbol of man's pride the rainbow stands as a symbol of God's mercy. Jesus said in Mark 10:6-7 *But from the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife.* Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever and so are his teachings. God's moral standards do not change.

GOD'S JUDGMENT ON OUR NATION

Why do I think God's judgment has already begun? Our country is seeing a huge increase in lawlessness and homelessness. A few days ago in the news 14 people were shot in Austin, TX. USA Today reported that last year there were 611 mass shootings here in the U.S.. In 2020 gun violence killed nearly 20,000 lives according to the Gun Violence Archive. CDC Online reported there were over 81,000 drug overdose deaths for a 12 month period ending May 2020. And very alarming is that in 2020 the number of suicides was 44,834 reported by the American Association of Suicidology. According to thetrevorproject.com suicide is the second leading cause of death for young people ages 10 to 24. Since 1981 there have been 675,000 deaths in the U.S. from HIV/AIDS. In 2019 there were 15,815 AIDS related deaths reported by HIV.gov. I read today AIDS is the 9th leading cause of death for ages 25 to 34 and the 10th cause of death for ages 35 to 44.

At the age of 21 the Bible changed my life. And over the years I have seen the Bible change lives from every background and every walk of life. I have seen and experienced the God of the Bible miraculously answering prayer. And God is still miraculously answering prayer today.

The reason for writing this is to bring an urgency to the times we are living in. The Bible states in numerous places that a nation that rejects the Word

of God will suffer the consequences for their sin. God's Word is the same yesterday, today and forever. As a nation we have changed God's laws and many today ignore God's timeless laws (ten commandments). We have taken away the value of an unborn life in the womb, redefined God's definition of marriage and are seeing a move now in our society to make changing one's gender perfectly natural. Without the Word of God, the Bible, there are no boundaries that God has given for a society and a person's protection and health.

*Hear, O earth: behold, I am bringing disaster on this people,
The fruit of their plans, Because they have not listened to My words,
And as for My law, they have rejected it also. (Jeremiah 6:19)*

BAD NEWS AND GOOD NEWS

Yes, the Bible has what many perceive as 'bad news', There are consequences for sin and there will be a judgment day. And a nation that turns away from God and His Word will eventually be a nation of people who have lost their freedom. How many in our nation today are in bondage to drugs, alcohol, marijuana addiction as well as gambling and sexual addiction?

The Good News of God's Word is that even though all of us are sinners Jesus came to this earth to live a life without sin and die on the cross to pay for every sin we have committed. As we repent, turn our life over to God with all our heart, the Bible says we are forgiven and given the promise of eternal life. How does one change their life? God is the one who changes our life as we draw close to Him through His Word, through prayer and through being part of a good Bible believing church or fellowship. There is

nothing greater than knowing *For it is God who is at work in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.* (Phillipians 2:13).

My greatest concern is that, as a nation, unless we return to the God of the Bible things will only get worse. What can we do about it? Be a loving caring person to those who don't know Christ. *The kindness of God leads to repentance.* (Romans 2:4) May it be that we believers will be known as loving caring people. I like this statement "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Share with compassion and love what God's Word says about homosexuality (Romans 1), life beginning at conception, all the evidence that exists that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. Far too few people are standing up for righteousness these days.

Righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a disgrace to any people (Proverbs 14:34)

We are involved in spiritual warfare so make sure you put on the full armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-20). And most important PRAY for the church in America, for those in positions of authority including our president and those who influence millions (sports and entertainment celebrities) to come to Christ. Also very important to pray for the poor and needy and ask God to show you ways to help them.

And if you offer yourself to the hungry, And satisfy the need of the afflicted, Then your light will rise in darkness, And your gloom will become like midday. (Isaiah 58:10)

What is needed greatly in the world today is believers filled with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in a person's life gives him the ability and desire to love his enemy even if being persecuted. The Holy Spirit can give a person joy and the ability to rejoice in the Lord even when facing trials. And the ability to have peace when going through the storms and trials of this life. It helps a person be patient and kind to someone even when they are unkind and hurling insults. Being faithful to God's Word and being gentle even

when another person isn't exemplifies a Godly character. And with the help of the Holy Spirit maintaining self-control which can help avoid a lot of problems. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Yes, the work of the Holy Spirit is miraculous, being able to love our enemy, to be patient and kind when someone is yelling insults at you and seeking to do good to those who are hateful to you. How will they know we are a Christian - by our love!

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:2)

How many churches believe the Bible is not the inspired Word of God? How many denominations ordain those who are LGBTQ? How many pastors avoid talking about the destruction of millions of the unborn in the womb? Who did Jesus have the harshest words for when he walked the earth? Was it the woman caught in adultery, the Samaritan woman who had had five husbands? No, the ones he rebuked the most were the religious leaders!

If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. (2 Chronicles 7:14)