

The Messenger



MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Volume 28 Issue 2

February 2015

The Secret to Living Well - The Home Edition

Today I want you to meet a very successful person who wants to help you succeed at living well! This person I want to introduce you to was internationally renowned for his extraordinary ability to resolve conflicts.

He came from an extremely dysfunctional family where hate and defiance ruled there home. Among the siblings there was rape and even murder. This family might have been among the least likely to produce a son who would demonstrate so much wisdom.

Consider that, both his father and mother were unfaithful when the two of them had an affair. This affair resulted in the conception of a child. Rather than face the situation straight on, his dad had her husband murdered! With her husband out of the way, he promptly pardoned himself and then he took her to be his wife.

The child conceived by the affair died soon after birth. We know they had two more children after they were married. His dad had four wives in all and several children by each of them. It's

no wonder hate and jealousy were so prevalent within the family.

As you can see, this first person I want you to meet came from a much less than an 'ideal' home background. God was still able to impart amazing wisdom to and through him.

You might have also come from a much less than 'ideal' home background but God is still able to communicate amazing wisdom to and through you also.

The 1st key to succeed at living well is to learn to listen. Whether it's listening to people's disputes so you can give fair judgments or to give good counsel, the wisest thing we can learn to do is to listen.

When we need good counsel the key is still to learn to listen. In view of his home background, it's somewhat surprising that this guy says we need to listen to our Mom and Dad.

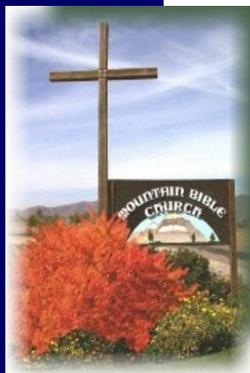
It's true that no one on earth wants you to be succeed at living well more than your Mom and Dad. Sometimes a parents counsel will

be to direct you to what they feel you should do. Remember your parents know you better than you know yourself. Most often your parents will know what you will succeed at even more than you.

Sometimes your Mom or Dad will counsel you to learn from their mistakes. This is also very valid counsel. We shouldn't have to make every mistake ourselves. If you think of this guy's Mom and Dad, they most likely said, "Don't do what I've done," many times.

Most kids seem to ignore the "Don't do what I did" kind of advice, but on occasion, there's one with exceptional wisdom who will pay close attention to what Mom or Dad are saying.

There's good reason to believe that this guy's mother had a very strong influence on the writing of Proverbs 31. So Bathsheba must have been very effective in communicating that her life wasn't defined by her horrible mistakes early on. Also, he witnessed firsthand the terrible consequences of the sins of his parents. Listen to our celebrity as



Living Well continued...

you read his words of counsel to you and me.

Listening to your parents is the key to many aspects of living well. He starts by asserting; *“For I, too, was once a son, tenderly loved by my mother as an only child, and the companion of my father. (4) He told me never to forget his words. ‘If you follow them,’ he said, ‘you will have a long and happy life. (5) Learn to be wise,’ he said, ‘and develop good judgment and common sense! I cannot overemphasize this point.’ (6) Cling to wisdom—she will protect you. Love her—she will guard you. (7) Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And with your wisdom, develop common sense and good judgment. (8) If you exalt wisdom, she will exalt you. Hold her fast, and she will lead you to great honor; she*

will place a beautiful crown upon your head.” Proverbs 4:3-8 (TLB)

The 2nd key to succeeding at living well is to learn to be wise. He didn't say if we learn we would be wise, rather he said, learn to be wise. Knowledge and wisdom are two separate entities. No one is born wise, we all have to learn wisdom. He reaffirms that wisdom is the most important thing you can do for it's out of wisdom that common sense and good judgment flow.

“My son, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life. (11) I would have you learn this great fact: that a life of doing right is the wisest life there is. . . . (18) But the good man walks along in the ever-brightening light of God's favor; the dawn gives way to morning splendor,

(19) while the evil man gropes and stumbles in the dark. (20) Listen, son of mine, to what I say. Listen carefully. (21) Keep these thoughts ever in mind; let them penetrate deep within your heart, (22) for they will mean real life for you and radiant health. (23) Above all else, guard your affections. For they influence everything else in your life.” Proverbs 4:10-23 (TLB)

The 3rd great key is that wisdom involves doing. Because Proverbs speak to real life situations the challenge isn't in understanding what they say and even what they mean, the challenge is to actually do what they say.

Our celebrity made many mistakes in his life but following the counsel of his Mom and Dad was not one of them. It's of little wonder that later in his life

when he succeeded his father David as King of Israel, Solomon was given a “Blank Check” by God and told to fill it in however he wanted. Because Solomon chose to receive wisdom to know how to rule the Nation of Israel instead of riches or fame God gave him all three.

That's a great example of Solomon listening and learning the counsel of his parents. Both his Mom and Dad would have reason to counsel him to pay less attention to how much he has and more attention to how he acquired what he has. Then, what is he doing with what he has! Are you giving care to those unable to care for themselves?

Plan to be a part of our church activities this month. We need you and you need us!

Your Pastor, Marv

The Guest Of The Maestro - by Max Lucado

What happens when a dog interrupts a concert? To answer that, come with me to a spring night in Lawrence, Kansas.

Take your seat in Hoch Auditorium and behold the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra—the oldest continually operating orchestra in the world. The greatest composers and conductors in history have directed this orchestra. It was playing in the days of Beethoven (some of the musicians have been replaced).

You watch as stately dressed Europeans take their seats on the stage. You listen as professionals carefully tune their instruments. The percussionist puts her ear to the kettle drum. A violinist plucks the nylon string. A clarinet player tightens the reed. And you sit a bit straighter as the lights dim and the tuning stops. The music is about to begin.

The conductor, dressed in tails, strides onto the stage, springs onto the podium,

and gestures for the orchestra to rise. You and two thousand others applaud. The musicians take their seats, the maestro takes his position, and the audience holds its breath.

There is a second of silence between lightning and thunder. And there is a second of silence between the raising of the baton and the explosion of the music. But when it falls the heavens open and you are delightfully drenched in the down-

pour of Beethoven's Third Symphony.

Such was the power of that spring night in Lawrence, Kansas. That hot, spring night in Lawrence, Kansas. I mention the temperature so you'll understand why the doors were open. It was hot. Hoch Auditorium, a historic building, was not air-conditioned. Combine bright stage lights with formal dress and furious music, and the result is a

Maestro continued...

heated orchestra. Outside doors on each side of the stage were left open in case of a breeze.

Enter, stage right, the dog. A brown, generic, Kansas dog. Not a mean dog. Not a mad dog, just a curious dog. He passes between the double basses and makes his way through the second violins and into the cellos. His tail wags in beat with the music. As the dog passes between the players, they look at him, look at each other, and continue with the next measure.

The dog takes a liking to a certain cello. Perhaps it was the lateral passing of the bow. Maybe it was the eye-level view of the strings. Whatever it was, it caught the dog's attention and he stopped and watched. The cellist wasn't sure what to do. He'd never played before a canine audience. And music schools don't teach you what dog slobber might do to the lacquer of a sixteenth-century Guarneri cello. But the dog did nothing but watch for a moment and then move on.

Had he passed on through the orchestra, the music might have continued. Had he made his way across the stage into the motioning hands of the stagehand, the audience might have nev-

er noticed. But he didn't leave. He stayed. At home in the splendor. Roaming through the meadow of music.

He visited the woodwinds, turned his head at the trumpets, stepped between the flutists, and stopped by the side of the conductor. And Beethoven's Third Symphony came undone.

The musicians laughed. The audience laughed. The dog looked up at the conductor and panted. And the conductor lowered his baton.

The most historic orchestra in the world. One of the most moving pieces ever written. A night wrapped in glory, all brought to a stop by a wayward dog.

The chuckles ceased as the conductor turned. What fury might erupt? The audience grew quiet as the maestro faced them. What fuse had been lit? The polished, German director looked at the crowd, looked down at the dog, then looked back at the people, raised his hands in a universal gesture and . . . shrugged.

Everyone roared.

He stepped off the podium and scratched the dog behind the ears. The tail wagged again. The maestro spoke to the dog. He spoke in German, but the dog seemed to understand. The two visited for a few sec-

onds before the maestro took his new friend by the collar and led him off the stage. You'd have thought the dog was Pavarotti the way the people applauded. The conductor returned and the music began and Beethoven seemed none the worse for the whole experience.

Can you find you and me in this picture?

I can. Just call us Fido. And consider God the Maestro.

And envision the moment when we will walk onto his stage. We won't deserve it. We will not have earned it. We may even surprise the musicians with our presence.

The music will be like none we've ever heard. We'll stroll among the angels and listen as they sing. We'll gaze at heaven's lights and gasp as they shine. And we'll walk next to the Maestro, stand by his side, and worship as he leads.

These final chapters remind us of that moment. They challenge us to see the unseen and live for that event. They invite us to tune our ears to the song of the skies and long—long for the moment when we'll be at the Maestro's side.

He, too, will welcome. And he, too, will speak. But he will not lead us away. He will invite us to remain, forever his guests on his stage.

NIGHT OUT DANCING

A HUSBAND, WHO IS NOT THE MOST OUT-GOING GUY, RELENTS TO HIS WIFE'S MONTHS OF NAGGING TO TAKE HER OUT DANCING. DURING THE EVENING ONE GUY ON THE DANCE FLOOR IS GIVING IT LARGE - BREAK DANCING, MOON WALKING, BACK FLIPS, THE WORKS.

SEEING THIS PERFORMANCE, THE WIFE TURNS TO HER HUSBAND AND SAYS, "SEE THAT GUY? TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO HE PROPOSED TO ME AND I TURNED HIM DOWN."

HER HUSBAND REPLIES, "LOOKS LIKE HE'S STILL CELEBRATING!!!"



Are You Charlie?

By now the echoes of the murders in France have reverberated around the world. Twelve people were slaughtered in the offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris.

In solidarity, the hashtag #JeSuisCharlie (I am Charlie) has gone viral, echoing the famed rallying cry “We Are All Americans Now” from the French newspaper Le Monde following the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

But are we truly ready as an American culture, much less a global one, to mean such a thing? To say “je suis Charlie” is to say that all voices are meant to be free, regardless of what that voice might say. Charlie Hebdo, after all, was not a tame publication. It took on religion in all its forms, not just Islam, and was equally mocking of it all.

But this is more than religion being open to satire. To say “je suis Charlie” is to say that people should be free to espouse personal convictions, allowed to take personal moral stands, enabled to live in and through a stream of democratic ideals.

As Brian Pellot reflected, “I do not consider myself racist, homophobic, Islamophobic or misogynistic. ‘Being Charlie’ doesn’t mean being any of these things, despite what you think about the magazine’s tact and tone...As advocates for freedom of expression we must sometimes

defend views we find repulsive. This doesn’t require us to endorse them. In this case, we must protect what gunmen tried to kill, a satirical magazine some deem offensive. #JeSuisCharlie simply means, ‘I defend freedom of expression.’”

Yes. But it’s easy to side with such a sentiment when it comes to the exercise of free press in the face of senseless terrorism which seeks to silence it. It’s not so easy when it comes to allowing people to live by convictional standards that seemingly draw into question your own.

Kelvin Cochran was recently suspended for 30 days and then fired “following complaints that he promoted anti-gay views in a 2013 self-published Christian book.” Cochran was a thirty-four year veteran including serving as the presidentially-appointed fire administrator for the nation in 2009. His book simply stated his belief that sex was designed by God for a man and a woman.

Residents in Georgia are calling on the city to reinstate Cochran, maintaining that the firing violates his First Amendment rights to freedom of speech and belief.

Are we going to “be Charlie” to him?

Most observers of the American cultural scene know exactly where I am going. Our culture is all for the

freedom of expression until that expression calls into view a differing moral stand.

As David Brooks wrote in The New York Times, “There are a lot of people who are quick to lionize those who offend the views of Islamist terrorists in France but who are a lot less tolerant toward those who offend their own views at home.”

If we are going to uphold the right for others to say what they feel and stand for what they believe, then be consistent. It is hypocrisy at its highest to say “je suis Charlie” when you then want to penalize an individual or group for taking a stand to which you disagree.

So whether it’s allowing people to not bake a cake for a gay wedding, allowing a college Christian group to actually have Christian leaders, or allowing a school to be used by faith groups – to name just a few stories in the news of late,

...the question remains:

“Are you Charlie?”

Let’s hope the answer becomes an unequivocal, across-the-board, universal,

...je suis.

James Emery White

Sources

Kate Shellnutt, “Bible Citation Costs Atlanta Fire Chief His Job,” Christianity Today, January 9, 2015, read online.

Brian Pellot, “So what if Charlie Hebdo *is* racist? I’m still Charlie,”

Religion News Service, January 9, 2015, read online.

David Brooks, “I Am Not Charlie Hebdo,” The New York Times, January 8, 2015, read online.

Note

James Emery White is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, NC, and the ranked adjunctive professor of theology and culture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, which he also served as their fourth president. His latest book, *The Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated*, is now available on Amazon. To enjoy a free subscription to the Church and Culture blog, visit www.churchandculture.org, where you can view past blogs in our archive and read the latest church and culture news from around the world. You can also find out more information about the upcoming 2015 Church and Culture Conference. Follow Dr. White on twitter @JamesEmeryWhite.

God's Wife?

An eye witness account from New York City, on a cold day in December, some years ago: A little boy, about 10-years-old, was standing before a shoe store on the roadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold.

A lady approached the young boy and said, 'My, but you're in such deep thought staring in that window!'

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand, went into the store, and asked the clerk to get half a dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her.

She took the little fellow to the back part of the

store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with the towel.

By this time, the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she purchased him a pair of shoes.

She tied up the remaining pairs of socks and gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, 'No doubt, you will be more com-

fortable now.'

As she turned to go, the astonished kid caught her by the hand and looking up into her face, with tears in his eyes, asked her.

'Are you God's wife?'

My Testimony

"I first received Christ as my personal savior at M&M's (Music and Ministry). Every week Cappy (Stephens) would ask if anyone would like to let Jesus in their heart. She would say, 'Say this prayer in your head after me...'

One week, Cappy said, 'Brooke, have you ever let Jesus in your heart?' I said no. She said, 'Would you like to do that now?' I said yes. Then she prayed with me and gave me a book. And as I got older I met others who influenced me in my beliefs."

Brooke Boyd (2007)

My Life Before Christ...

"I was raised in the First Baptist Church. My mother, two sisters and I went to church and Sunday school every Sunday. When I was about 14 or 15 I decided that I no longer wanted to

go and found it boring. I never lost my belief in God and continued to talk to Him and believe in Him. I stayed away from attending church for twenty-five years. Nine years ago I came to Mountain Bible Church and found out how much I had missed by not having fellowship with other Christians and what an amazing family this church has."

How I Met The Lord...

"I accepted Jesus when I was about nine years old. I was baptized with a group of my Sunday school friends on a Sunday morning in our church. We had this beautiful baptismal, you walked down steps into the water and it reminded me of a river bank where people during Christ's time would have been baptized. I had a wonderful Sunday school teacher who encouraged us

to learn many Bible verses. She made it fun."

My Life After Becoming Christian...

"For me the last nine years have not been easy. There is no way that I could have made it without the Lord. He has given me strength and provided for me. He led me to a wonderful church family who has encouraged me and given me so much support. My faith has deepened so much during this time. I still have a long way to go to be the person God wants me to be and I make plenty of mistakes. I try to remember to put my life in His hands and let Him take care of me, but that is not always easy. I am so humbled when I think about what He did for me by dying on the cross so that my sins would be forgiven."

Peggie Sumter (2007)

FOUR LITTLE WORDS

HEATHER AND MARCY HADN'T SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE, SO THEY DECIDED TO MEET FOR LUNCH.

THE TALK NATURALLY GOT AROUND TO THEIR RESPECTIVE LOVE LIVES. MARCY CONFIDED THAT THERE REALLY WASN'T ANYONE SPECIAL IN HER LIFE. HEATHER, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS BEAMING ABOUT THE NEW MAN SHE HAD FOUND.

"HE'S PERFECT. HE'S HANDSOME, AND LAST NIGHT WHEN WE WENT OUT TO DINNER, HE SAID THE FOUR LITTLE WORDS I'VE BEEN WAITING TO HEAR A MAN SAY TO ME!"

"HE SAID, 'WILL YOU MARRY ME?'" MARCY ASKED.

HEATHER REPLIED, "NO, HE SAID, 'PUT YOUR MONEY AWAY.'"

Cathy Mortenson Passes

Mountain Bible Church mourns the loss Cathy Mortenson. Vern and Cathy Mortenson were the leaders of Child Evangelism Fellowship in Bakersfield for years and were the missionaries we prayed for until their retirement.



Catherine (Cathy) took her trip to Jesus at the age of 75, having served with husband Vern for 52 years as his ministry partner in Child Evangelism Fellowship, Christian Camping and various church ministries. She was known as a fantastic cook for 9 years in 4 camp con-

ference centers.

She accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior at an early age while attending a Good News Bible Club in Lowell, Indiana. Her joyful countenance always attracted the children to her. As a result of her teaching about Jesus, thousands of children were introduced to Him through the years. Unable to have children of her own, she kidded that they probably would have been lost in the shuffle with all the ones she was involved with.

Although it was difficult leaving the ministry be-

cause of the onset of Alzheimer disease, she continued to relate to the kids in various ways. Her ability to laugh at anyone's silliness or stupidity was a delight to all. She blessed many with her afghan making talent, and loved to collect shells and giraffes.

She will be extremely missed by her loving husband Vern of 53 years of marriage, 1 brother and 3 sisters, plus all those who have known her and benefited from her character and teaching ministry. Even Cathy's name from Greek culture relates: "esteemed and pure one".

Dress a Girl Around the World

Imagine a World where every little girl owned at least one dress?

What if that dress was made by you?

Help us change a life by sewing a simple pillow case dress for a girl in need.

On Saturday, February 21st, 2015, Mountain Bible Church will be having a Sew Day for the Dress a Girl Around the World charity, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. If you have a sewing machine and can sew a straight stitch, we would love you to sew a dress for a little girl. It's a very simple pattern based on using a pillowcase. If you don't sew, but would like to help out with food or

set up, please sign up. We will be having a potluck lunch.

RSVP or questions, you can call Debbie Schmidt @ 972-1079 or Linda Harris @ 822-3962

The Dress a Girl Around the World Program wants each little girl to have at least one new dress in their life. Dress a Girl Around the World is a Campaign under Hope 4 Women International (a 501 (c) 3 organization) bringing dignity to women around the world since 2006.

Hope 4 Women International is a nondenominational independent Christian organization. The Dress a Girl Around the World website has photos of the girls wearing the dresses. If you would like to learn more, you can visit their web site at: <http://www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com> and Hope 4 Women International at <http://www.h4wi.org>





THE FLORIST

A NEW BUSINESS WAS OPENING AND ONE OF THE OWNER'S FRIENDS WANTED TO SEND HIM FLOWERS FOR THE OCCASION. THEY ARRIVED AT THE NEW BUSINESS SITE AND THE OWNER READ THE CARD, "REST IN PEACE." THE OWNER WAS ANGRY AND CALLED THE FLORIST TO COMPLAIN.

AFTER HE HAD TOLD THE FLORIST OF THE OBVIOUS MISTAKE AND HOW ANGRY HE WAS, THE FLORIST REPLIED, "SIR, I'M REALLY SORRY FOR THE MISTAKE, BUT RATHER THAN GETTING ANGRY YOU SHOULD IMAGINE THIS. SOMEWHERE THERE IS A FUNERAL TAKING PLACE TODAY, AND THEY HAVE FLOWERS WITH A NOTE SAYING, 'CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW LOCATION!'"

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

LET'S NOT JUST TALK ABOUT LOVE; LET'S PRACTICE REAL LOVE. (1 JOHN 3:18) WATCH WHAT I DO, AND THEN YOU DO IT, (EPH. 5:1-2) LIKE CHILDREN WHO LEARN PROPER BEHAVIOR FROM THEIR PARENTS. (1 JOHN 3) MOSTLY WHAT I DO IS LOVE YOU. (JOHN 3:16) KEEP COMPANY WITH ME AND LEARN A LIFE OF LOVE. (DEUT. 6:4) OBSERVE THROUGH CHRIST HOW I LOVED YOU. (ROMANS 5:8) MY LOVE IS NOT CAUTIOUS BUT EXTRAVAGANT. (ROMAN 8:38) I ENJOY LOVING YOU EXTRAVAGANTLY, UNENDING, UNFAILING. (EX 20:6) NOT TO GET SOMETHING FROM YOU BUT TO GIVE EVERYTHING OF MYSELF TO YOU. SO MOST OF ALL, LOVE EACH OTHER AS IF YOUR LIFE DEPENDED ON IT. LOVE MAKES UP FOR PRACTICALLY ANYTHING. (1 PETER 4:8) LOVE LIKE THAT.

YOURS FOREVER,
GOD

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

**MAY GOD'S PROMISES, SPOKEN GENTLY AND TENDERLY, BE ENOUGH FOR US.
THE YOUTH!**

For Help and Answers

Call the church office-----822-7541
Crisis Prayer requests-----Call Carol, 822-5479
Change address or phone-----822-7541
Doctrinal questions-----822-7541
Wedding questions-----822-7541

Hospital visits-----822-7541
Counseling Information-----822-7541
Child dedication Service-----822-7541
Student Ministries (Junior High to College)-----822-7541
Membership/Baptism-----822-7541

The Messenger of Mountain Bible Church

Office Manager and Editor: Donna Eastham
Contributing Writers: Debbie Schmidt, Pastor Slifer
Distribution: Neya Kuithe

Sunday Morning Services at Mountain Bible Church: 8:30 and 10:30

Children's Programs are available at the same times.

Infant care (0-2 years) is available in the nursery

Senior Pastor: Dr. Marvin D. Slifer
Children's Ministries Director: Lori Henry
Youth Ministries Director: Christy Boyd
Human Resource Director: Christy Boyd

Trustees for 2015: Andy Eloff, Robert Garcia, Paul Hughes, David Lange, Chuck Reuter, Paul Smith, Paul Smith, and Ed Weston

Elders for 2015: Dennis Collins, Dae Lantz, Tom Lichtenwaldt, Darrin Mason, Andy McCain and Andy Ohmit

The Messenger is published monthly. All submissions to *The Messenger* are due the twentieth (20th) of each month. We would like contributions of news articles, photos and other information from the Youth Group, Men's and Ladies Bible Studies, Missions Team, Let's Eat Cafe, Energizers and Praise Team. Please remember to put your name on the article so we can give proper credit.

The Messenger is published by:
Mountain Bible Church 630 Maple Street Tehachapi, CA 93561 661-822-7541

MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

630 Maple Street
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Phone: 661-822-7541
Fax: 661-822-8557
www.mountainbiblechurch.org
E-mail: info@mountainbiblechurch.org

