



Nutrioso Bible Church

STREAMS IN THE WILDERNESS

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Front Page News

It's Christmas Time On the Mountain

Christmas is a time for family, friends, and food. It is also a time for giving and receiving presents. I love watching people open their presents. I like getting presents as well, but I love watching people, especially children, open their presents.

God gave us a gift about 2000 years ago, we call Him Jesus. As this tiny gift burst forth from its package I imagine that there was pain and crying mixed with tears of great joy, and finally of praising God for the gift of this little child. I can also imagine that God took great joy in the gifts of the wise men from the east. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were given to this little child. What follows is a short story concerning these three gifts. I pray that this will speak into each of our lives as we celebrate this wonderful Christmas event on our little mountain in Arizona. In 1868 a child was born into this world, his mother and father named him Charlie. And so it was that Charlie was to grow up a member of the Bassing clan. What no one saw the night of his birth, was that God had laid 3 gifts at the foot of his bed: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gold was not the gold of wealth (for wealth he never had) but rather the gold was for the richness of his heart so that he might share all that he did have with others. God laid the frankincense at the foot of Charlie's bed so that his life would be flavored

with the grace of God. Grace describes God's unmerited favor, and so Charlie was to live a life that showed grace, mercy, and compassion into the lives of all he met. Finally, God laid myrrh at the foot of Charlie's little bed. Myrrh is a burial spice used at the time of Christ. The spice signified that at some later date, Charlie too would breath his last breath of life on this earth and then pass into eternity. In the early spring of 1940 my grandfather, Charlie, did indeed breath his last breathe on this earth. Each of us, when we are born, are given those same three gifts by God. God gives us freedom in the way we use, or don't use, those gifts. The richness of my heart is to be able to share God's love with all that I meet. My life has indeed been blessed with the aroma of God's great mercy; and His desire is that I would show others that same mercy. Jesus said, "**Blessed are the merciful...**" Last, each of us has a time in which God has appointed that we would leave this earth and step into eternity.

Just as God took great joy in the gifts. His perfect desire is that we allow Him to use those gifts in our lives to honor Him. If I can manage to trust Him with my life, then I can trust Him with my death. And if I can trust Him with everything, He will give me an even greater gift that I will have for all eternity. Thanks grandpa; and thank You God!



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The Nutrioso community potluck is Saturday, December 12th at 5:30 PM.

The Christmas concert is Sunday, December 13th at 6:30 PM at the church.

Scripture Reference

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace... Isaiah 9:6-7a

A Quick Thought

There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child.

— Erma Bombeck

For What It's Worth

At various points in our lives we all want to be Center Stage. We want to be at the center of the stage with the supporting cast of our lives taking the bow in the shadows of our spot light. Our wanting to be center stage is much more prominent early in our lives. As we grow older being at the center of the stage loses its appeal. We become much more comfortable in the supporting role. Several years ago a young lady named Mary was at the time in her life when she should have been in the "staring role." She should have been the center of attention in her family, in much the same way we make our children the focal point in our own families. But instead, she was asked to play a sup-

porting role. It would be a difficult task to set aside her own goals and aspirations, her own moments of glory and play this rather unique, but nonetheless supporting role.

Who was this young lady that was asked to make the sacrifice? We know her only as Mary, the mother of Jesus. In our traditions of Christmas and in some religions we give her great honor. I do not find fault in honoring what Mary did, because she did what we are all called to do. We are asked by God to set aside our own lives, our goals, and our aspirations and to play a supporting role. We have the most marvelous opportunity in our lives to set "us" aside and to live our lives in such a way as to make God the cen-

tral character in our life's story. It isn't easy you know; giving up all those dreams. I wanted to be a doctor, a lawyer, a U.S. Marshall, a fireman, a cowboy, and President of the United States. I've changed my mind on all but the cowboy. I have the privilege of God working with me to shape my life—in effect, to change me from what I was, to what He wants me to be. And now, in that supporting role, I stand on stage right and I point toward the leading Character and say thank You for touching my heart. Thank You for allowing me to be a part of the family of cast members that support Your leading role. Thank You Jesus, for Your staring role. Let us all Celebrate Christ!



Articles may be submitted for publication. Articles will be accepted provided they meet the needs of the community or support the ministry of the Gospel of Christ. Additionally, editorial discretion will be used for all submissions.

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A Proverb

My son, if you will receive my words And treasure my commandments within you, then make your ear attentive to wisdom, and incline your heart to understanding...

Problems, Praises and Prayers

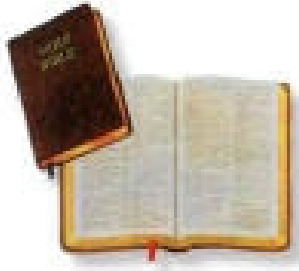
Problem: The politicians are destroying our nation and can care less what the people think or want.

Praise: In less than 1 year we can change the course of our nation without even firing a shot.

Prayer: Lord, help us to seek change in our nation, that will honor You and that will keep our hearts, minds, and souls focused on You and You alone.

Punny Humor

- ◆ My only skill is knowing driving directions, but they tell me that's not going to get me anywhere in life.
- ◆ The boy's guitar teacher helped him pick up his skills.
- ◆ While having a hard time water-skiing, the boy commented, 'This is such a drag.'
- ◆ With only one piece of wood, I tried to convince the fire to light by use of a monologue.
- ◆ The ice cube boiled with anger, then let off some steam.
- ◆ At a job interview, I decided to lie and say I had experience as an illusionist and as a window cleaner. They saw right through me.



Tips For Success (Part 3)

This is the third installment in a series on “Tips for Success.” The first three tips were, to remain focused on the goal, develop a sound methodology, and to have great courage as you seek to attain the goal.

The fourth Tip for Success is to be an encourager and also be able to receive encouragement. It sounds simple, it may even sound irrelevant; but let me assure you that neither is the case.

One definition of the word encourage is, “to inspire with courage.” The logic is simple. If it requires great courage to run life’s race, then I need to be willing to receive all the help I can in acquiring this courage. Remember that Webster defines courage as the “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.”

I need all the help I can get; but I was not always this way. There was a time in my life that I thought God had made the world for me. I thought of this little globe as a unique little toy that I could manipulate to accomplish what I desired.

Needless to say, the world had a thing or two to teach me. Now, I know that I must focus on the goal, eternity. I know that I must have a sound methodology, achieving my goal for eternity through the power of Christ. I know that I must have courage to face life’s challenges, and that the strength to persevere and to face life’s challenges comes from God. He is my greatest source of courage. He is my encourager.

Before I detail the encouragement that God has for each of us, I want to start with the easier task of how we can encourage each other and how we need to be ready to receive that encouragement

as well. The Bible is the greatest source of information on how we can help and receive help from each other. In Philippians chapter 2 Paul writes, “make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.” In essence, what Paul is saying is for us to form a team, a group of people that are focused on attaining the goal, a group of people that are willing to encourage one another.

In another letter written by Paul, he says, “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things *put on love*, which is the perfect bond of unity.”

The focus of the passage is to have a “heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;” The next phrase is critical, “bearing with one another.” That means to sustain, or to ‘hold up’. We do not find weakness in these characteristics, we find strength. When we can give the person in need a helping hand and words of encouragement, we are showing strength not weakness. The ability to help others is one of the great attributes of this area. But, as a community, we tend to show up in times of difficulty. As individuals, let us always endeavor to be an encouragement to each other at all times.

These ideals can be incorporated into each of our lives, whether a believer or not. As a matter of fact that can become the core values by which we live our lives.

However, what is even more difficult at times is to receive encouragement. When we are having a pity party, we do not want encouragement. We feel that no one could possibly understand what we are going through and we reject their help. Sometimes we reject the help because we don’t like the type of help being offered. Sometimes real help comes in forms that we do not like and from people that we reject as being able to help. Open your eyes, examine the help, analyze what is being offered and make your decision.

For the believer, we have one additional source of help. That help comes from God. Jesus said, “...and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Paul tells us that, “If God is for us,” no one can stand against us. In essence, no one and no thing can separate us from the love of God. That should provide great comfort. If I am sailing along in life, not having any problems, and life seems grand—then it is easy to say that God loves me. But when life is difficult, and I am in the foxhole, trying to weather the attack of the enemy; can I still say that God loves me? Do I still believe that God is the Sovereign King of the universe? Am I still ready to receive encouragement from His word, from Him (the encourager), and from His followers?

May it be that we are able to receive the encouragement that God offers by giving us direct access to Him through our prayers, the courage inspiring presence of His love in our hearts, and the powerful help that comes from our fellow believers as they seek to hold us up and to help us toward the finish line.

Remember, the goal is eternity, and that spent with God. May God bless you with His richest blessing this wonderful season, as you seek to celebrate His gift of love that we find in Christ.

The Bumper Sticker..

1. May your teenage head banger meet The Ageless Heart Knocker!
2. A Faith that Fizzles before the Finish had a Flaw before the First.
3. Men will die, this is sure, sin the cause, Christ the cure.
4. If you don't have anything to pray about, thank God you don't.
5. Faith goes where eyes can't see.
6. When you don't witness, you just did.
7. We always find time for the things we value most.
8. If you can't stand the heat-- better make plans to avoid it.
9. The perfect church-- for those who aren't.
10. Redemption: God's recycling plan.
11. Salvation is free-- but not until you ask for it.
12. God answers prayer--- not advice.
13. Our strength is seen in the things we stand for.

<http://sblom.com/cbs/PAGE4.HTM>

Sunday Church Services
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM

Wednesday Prayer Time
7:00 PM

NBC

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COME CELEBRATE CHRIST!

Boxholder
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“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”