

The Word Of

VICTORY



Publication

Seasons & Change

In this issue:

A NEW SEASON

by: Pastor Tom Pickens

DONNA'S D-LITES

Ministry Highlight:

Capital Stewardship
Campaign



The Power of One

We've prayed about it. We believe on it. We purchased the land. We developed the campaign. We formed the committees. We sponsored the banquets and concerts and took the necessary steps to move forward by faith. Our goal; to raise \$3 million dollars to help build new church facilities on our 80 acres of land located at Avenue L and 30th St. East in Lancaster, CA.

Not an impossible goal to reach. Not a far off goal to realize. It is a right now and rightly obtained goal, one gained through the power of prayer and faith in Jesus' name.

So here it is—take a look for yourself—the artist's rendering for the first three facilities that we will build on our 80 acres. The building to the left will be a two story Youth Center Facility (Phase I) that will serve as a hub for programs, seminars, workshops, and services designed to minister the Word of God into the lives of Sr. High and Jr. High youth within our surrounding communities. Antelope Valley Christian Center is committed to mentoring our youth to lead productive more prosperous lives through ministry of the word of God, tutoring, college prep seminars, career building workshops, athletic programs, mentoring programs, etiquette classes, instruction of the arts, and much more.

Now the building to the right will be our Educational Center which comprises Phase III of this endeavor. We will erect a facility which will house a fully equipped Nursery, Preschool, Day Care, classrooms for Grades K - 6, and classrooms for the Life Training Bible School. Immediately behind this facility will be a playground area for our children to play, exercise, and relax during recess and lunch sessions. The Life Training Bible School (AVCC's teaching and discipleship training ground for the perfecting of the saints to do the work of the Lord) will be housed on the second floor of the Educational Center.

Finally, that large and impressive looking structure in the middle (Phase II), is our main Worship Center with a seating capacity of 2,000. It will be used to host weekly church services, community outreach programs, special events such as concerts and plays, and dynamic conferences for men, women, single adults, young adults, married couples, and seniors, all for the purpose of ministering the gospel of Jesus Christ. This visually stunning structure will also house an expanded Word Shoppe Bookstore and Gift Shop, offices for the Pastors, Ministers, and Church Staff, as well as reception halls for our visitors and distinguished guests.

So what more needs to be done? Well, donations are still needed and welcome. We invite you to fill out and submit a Commitment Pledge card or bless the ministry with a onetime lump sum donation. Pray and believe with us by faith that the finances needed to develop our 80 acres are received and available. Pray and believe that God's word will flourish in the desert and that His people shall inhabit the land.

Eighty acres, three facilities, and you. It's time for a change because God's word compels us to be a witness of His goodness. There are more people who need to be brought into the kingdom of God and we need the facilities to house them. We also need you. Call (661) 949-7200 or visit www.avccusa.org to find out more about Antelope Valley Christian Center's Capital Stewardship Campaign and how you can get involved. One person can make a world of difference. Step into the power of one!

The task is great, because this structure is not for man, but for the Lord God. With all my resources, I have provided for the temple of my God.

- 1 Chr 29:1-2 -

4

A New Season

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." (2 Cor 5:17)



inside
Issue #9 Summer 2007

Ministry Highlight.....2

Donna's D-Lites.....6

Ministry Partners.....7

The Father's Business.....8

Starting Over.....9

Kids' Page.....11

Youth Page.....12

As For Me And My House....14

Word Shoppe Highlight.....16

Staff and Contributors

PUBLISHER

Pastor Tom Pickens

PUBLICATIONS COORDINATOR

Deborah D. Sullivan Ford

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Dianna E. S. Anderson

FEATURE WRITERS

Pastor Tom Pickens
Minister Donna Pickens
Minister Al Andrews
Pat Andrews

STAFF WRITERS

Pastor Gerald Shaw
Michelle Shaw
Minister Sherree' Pickens
Deborah D. Sullivan Ford

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Courtney Bessent
Tatiyana Wesley

EDITORS

Dianna E. S. Anderson
Marzella Gatling
Pastor Tom Pickens
Courtney Bessent
Deborah D. Sullivan Ford

Send all mail to:

WORD OF VICTORY MINISTRIES
P. O. Box 2905
Lancaster, CA 93534

Email us at avcc@avccusa.org or use the website address: www.avccusa.org.

ABOUT THE COVER:

"While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease."

- *Genesis 8:22* -





a *New* SEASON

by: Pastor Tom Pickens

There are different seasons where nature is concerned, and symbolically we go through different seasons in our lives. However, while seasons change, I believe there is one season which remains constant and that is the season to win souls to Christ.

At a certain time of year when I look out my back window I can see the leaves falling from the pistachio trees. It's interesting to see how those leaves fall from the trees every year during the autumn season and then in the springtime they begin to grow back. This is but an example of signs of change. There are signs of change everywhere, and the changes we see in nature point us to the fact that we are moving from one season into the next.

For whatever season you find yourself in now, there were signs to indicate that you were entering into that season. You

may not have observed the signs, but the signs were there. Prior to the transition from one season to the next—there are always signs.

These changes that we see, such as the leaves falling from the trees, grass turning green, and flowers beginning to bud, all represent changes that we observe in nature. Even the pollen and fragrance of the flowers in the air are signs of change. There are signs when the weather begins to turn hot, turn cold, and even when rain is on the way. But, do you know that God has a good season for you?

God will take you from one season of glory to the next and He will give you the signs to indicate that you will not remain in one season all of your life. You come out of one season and go into the next season because you do what it takes in order to make that transition from a season of lack to a season of

plenty; from a season of depression, to a season of joy; from a season of no relationship, no husband, no wife, to a season of a good wife or a godly husband.

God will give you signs along the way to show you that you are not going to stay in a given season. So, start saying what the word of God says. Stop allowing the devil and people to be a negative influence by telling you that you will always be the same. Stop allowing them to tell you that you'll never be able to change. Let me tell you something friend. Anything that is alive will grow. You are alive in Jesus Christ and the word of God is alive in you; therefore, you must *grow*. Growth is inevitable. Don't be afraid to change. Have no fear in entering your next season.


The prosperity season is designed for the body of Christ to prosper like never before. The season of prosperity is one wherein God brings us to a point in our lives where we can be the head and not the tail; where we can literally be above and not beneath.

Although the prosperity season is important, we must never forget the main season, and that is the season to win souls for Jesus! This season of harvesting souls is constant all of the time because the seed of God's word is always going forth. The Bible says that God will give you the wealth that is hidden in the darkness (Isaiah 45:3) and within the darkness, it is the souls of those individuals that have been blinded by Satan. God is saying that He will give us the souls [for His glory] if we are willing to go in and to redeem them.

God wants us to understand that the greatest season of all is the season to harvest souls because the word of God

continues to go forth. God is calling on men and women to repent of their sin and to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. There is no more important thing for the believer to do than to tell the sinner that Jesus died for them.

Hell is a real place, it is a literal place, and it is a horrible place. Hell is a place of continual eternal damnation. Remember that God brings us into relationships in order to use us as a channel. Our vocation in life is to share Jesus. It doesn't matter what we do as an occupation; our vocation is to be a harvester of souls—that is who we are; that is what we do. (2 Cor 5:17-21)



Growth is inevitable.
Don't be afraid to change.

God is using you as salt of the earth. God has strategically placed you where you are with other individuals, to whom you can be a positive influence, to tell them about Jesus Christ. When we tell people that God loves them and when we tell them that Jesus came and He died for them, we begin to affect change. This change can lead to a sense of expectancy like that of the man at the Gate Beautiful. (Acts 3:2-5) He looked on Peter and John and this man began to expect something from them.

People look to us [Christians] with a spirit of expectancy when we don't put them down. Harvesting souls isn't about telling someone, "You ought to stop drinking. You ought to stop smoking. Don't you know you're going to die and

go to hell?" Tell them something different. Tell them God loves them. Tell them Jesus died for them. Tell them that He's coming back for them. Tell them that all they have to do is believe on the name of Jesus Christ; believe on the name of the Son of God and accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior, and then they too can become a part of the body of Jesus Christ.

In Genesis 8:22 the Bible says, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." Where there is seed sown there is a harvest that shall come forth. God needs harvesters to harvest the fruit when the seed has been sown. Someone sowed the seed in your life. Maybe you didn't respond immediately, but at some point at some time, that seed began to do what it was naturally designed to do when it was sown in you—it began to grow. The seed that was planted began to minister to you and at some point in your life, the fruit came forth.

Examine your own life. God gives you indications that change is coming. It could be in the form of a personal relationship. Maybe the season of change is about to take place in something that you already spoke the word of God over a while ago when you confessed, "Lord I thank you. I believe for my right husband—my Boaz—in Jesus' name." You might have even confessed your faith one or two years ago. Now if you don't know what you should have been doing in those two years since your confession, then I'm going to tell you right now.

You should have been developing your relationship with the Lord and preparing yourself for the manifestation of your harvest. When your harvest comes, it will be based on the fact that you planted

...our vocation is to be a harvester of souls—
that is who we are;
that is what we do!

seeds way back when—and *now* you can harvest those seeds which you've already planted. This is true for every area of your life.

“God said, let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years.” (Genesis 1:14) Look for the signs that your season is about to change. Thank God that He will take you from one season of glory to another season of glory.

The harvesting of souls is the primary fruit that God is looking for. In Psalm 1, the fruit that the psalmist speaks of is the fruit of the soul of the sinner. In order for us to be good reapers or harvesters, there are three basic things that we need to understand: urgency, passion, and commitment.

Have you ever seen an evangelist, a true New Testament evangelist, when he or she ministers the word of God? It is with such immense passion! We must tell people about Jesus because Jesus told His Disciples to go and herald the good news and they left with an urgency to share the gospel. We today, should still have a passion to win souls for Jesus Christ.

God is looking for us to understand that the most important season is the season of harvesting souls. If you understand the importance and the urgency and the necessity of this season, and you commit to it, then you must have the passion to equip yourself with the word of God so

that you can effectively share Christ with others.

Don't be a Christian that sort of meanders in uncertainty about the issues and about the subjects that we are responsible for sharing with the sinner. You must learn what the word of God says concerning being born again. You must have the scriptures in you. You must know what the Bible says when it comes to receiving Jesus so that, if needed, you can successfully usher someone to Jesus on the spot.

The word of God must become rhema to you—a fiber of your very being. Be prepared to tell people the Bible says that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe with your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9) Tell people what 1 John 5:13 says, “These things have I written unto you who believe on the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe on the name of the Son of God.” You ought to be able to tell people that John 1:12 says, “But as many as received him, to them He gave he right [authority] to become children of God, [even] to those who believe on His name.”

“Neither is there salvation in any other.” (Acts 4:12). Salvation is not in Mohammed, Confucius, or Mormonism, but in Jesus! He is the Savior. He is the Messiah. He is the Soon Coming King. My friends, the time for us to reap a mighty harvest of souls is right now!✝

*Donna's
D-Lites*

Let Go & Let God!

by: Minister Donna Pickens

*As children bring their
broken toys
With tears for us to mend
I took my challenges to God
Because he is my friend.*

*But then instead of leaving Him
In peace to work alone
I hung around and tried to help
With ways that were my own*

*At last I snatched them
back again
And cried, “Oh God, how can
you be so slow?”
“My child,” He said, “What
could I do?”
“You never did let go!”*

Here's how you let go of the problem and give it to God: find the scriptures that promise you the victory and begin to quote them. For example, if you're in need of healing, open the Bible and find the scriptures on healing. Begin to say that Jehovah Rapha is the Lord that healeth you; that He took sickness out of the midst of you; that His word is medicine to all your flesh.





Ministry Partners:

Welcome to our family!

Pastor Tom & Donna Pickens

We are excited to share with you the opportunity to become a Word of Victory Ministries Partner. By partnering with Pastor Tom Pickens and the Word of Victory Ministries you will be supporting the Word of Victory Television Broadcast, Evangelistic Outreach and Witnessing programs, and Foreign Missions ministries. As a partner you will also be asked to keep Pastor Tom Pickens, Minister Donna Pickens, and the Word of Victory Ministries in your constant prayers that we may be able to reach more people far and wide throughout the world and share with them the good news of Jesus!

What does it mean to be a partner?

To be a partner means that together, we agree that God's word is without error and means what it says, and that we will work together toward soul saving and kingdom building.

A Word of Victory Ministries Partner is someone who prayerfully supports the ministry of the gospel of Jesus. Our partners keep us aware of prayer needs and praise reports, and they commit through prayer, faith, and finances, all for the continued growing needs and successes of the ministry of Christ Jesus.

That is what we invite you to be—a partner with the Word of Victory Ministries. As a partner you will be kept informed of current ministries and outreach programs offered by the Word of Victory Ministries. You will receive regular prayer from our team of ministers. You will receive monthly messages and updates from Pastor Tom Pickens and Minister Donna to include messages of ministry, praise reports, encouragement, thanks, and much more.

How do I become a partner?

To become a partner you must first be born again or desire to receive Jesus into your life as your personal Lord and Savior. As a partner, the level of your financial giving is between you and God. So begin to pray about God's will for you with regard to partnering with the Word of Victory Ministries. Begin to seek God's direction with the knowledge that your financial seed will be sown into fertile ground. Then, simply complete the information below and mail it to the listed address.

WORD OF VICTORY MINISTRIES PARTNERSHIP REQUEST FORM

Yes, I would like to become a Word of Victory Ministries Partner!

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Daytime Phone _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Evening Phone _____

Enclosed please find my financial seed in the amount of \$ _____ which I commit to be used by the ministry without restrictions for the furtherance of the Gospel of Jesus.

As a Word of Victory Ministries Partner, I commit myself to the following level of giving:

Frequency of donations: Weekly (\$ _____) Monthly (\$ _____) Annually (\$ _____)

My Prayer Request/Praise Report is:

ABOUT THE FATHER'S BUSINESS



by: Deborah D. Sullivan Ford

Thomas Frederick Pickens III, born July 28, 1983 to Tom and Donna Pickens, knew at the age of fifteen that he was called into the ministry to be a pastor. After graduating from Desert Christian High School in Lancaster, California, Tommy attended Rhema Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Originally enrolled in the two year Ministry and Evangelism program, Tommy knew he was meant to attend the third year Pastoral School of Ministry. This realization came when he and three friends attended a service at The Body of Christ Church International (College Park, GA), pastored by Dr. Joseph Ripley. Rev Kenneth E. Hagin was a guest speaker and during the service he invited Tommy to share a few words. Tommy instinctively began to speak about graduating from Rhema, attending Oral Roberts University to pursue a four-year degree, and assisting his father in the pastorship. Tommy vividly remembers telling the people about being about the Father's business and quoted to them 1 Cor 13:11.

Tommy recounts a reaffirmed and unshakeable belief in what he would do. Putting faith into action, Tommy took afternoon general education classes at Tulsa Community College while still enrolled at Rhema. Upon graduation from Rhema, he enrolled in ORU and pursued a Bachelor's Degree in Business

Management. Tommy graduated with Cum Laude academic honors in May 2007 from ORU where the graduation address was delivered by ORU Alumni Joel Osteen who emphasized dreaming big and living a life worth remembering.

Tommy relates strongly to this speech and to always dreaming unusual dreams. Realizing his gifts and the compassion he has for others, Tommy was drawn to the pulpit. Growing up in a pastor's home, he realized the cost, counted it, and fully understood that pastoring was something he not only wanted to do, but also had a desire to do. It was one of fervor and passion driving him every step of the way.

Now at the tender age of 23, Tommy is married to the lovely Monique Annette Pickens (nee Anderson) who is also a graduate of Rhema and ORU with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and concentration in Special Education. Like her husband, Monique graduated with honors (Magna Cum Laude). Tommy is the proud father of Thomas Mark-Caleb Pickens IV, he is a graduate of Rhema Bible Training Center and Oral Roberts University, he is pursuing a Masters Degree in Business, and in the summer of 2007, Tommy will return to Lancaster, California, and step into the next phase of his journey as an Assistant Pastor at his home church, Antelope Valley Christian Center—in

ministry with his father, doing the Father's business. †

A message from Tommy III, Monique & Li'l Tommy IV:

"Monique and I are overwhelmed with joy and gratitude for our new son, Thomas Mark-Caleb Pickens IV. God has shown Himself so mighty before our very own eyes. We have completed the task that was before us, while out here in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and are more than eager to return back home to AVCC. I look forward to adding much value to the ministry as I will be accepting the task of Assistant Pastor and general accounting duties. This has been a lifelong dream of mine as well as my wife, and we are thrilled. My wife and I have spent the past six years at Rhema Bible Training Center and Oral Roberts University studying and training for the season that has arrived. I know that our education has played a vital role in preparing us for "such a time as this." We have put God's purpose first, just as Matthew 6:33 states, and we are convinced as a family that our time has arrived to enter our "Promised Land." We intend to unleash our fullest potential to assist Pastor Tom and Donna (our lovely parents) in taking AVCC and the greater Antelope Valley area to the next level!"



Starting Over:

The Good, The Bad & The HOLY

by: Courtney Bessent

*“God
loves us.
Period.
He puts no
qualifiers
on
His love.”*

Imagine that you’ve just heard the shot ring out signaling the start of a race. You spring into action, running fast and strong, sure that you’ll win. Then you hear an alert indicating there was a false start. You have to return to the blocks even though the race was going just fine for you. Or maybe it happens a different way. Maybe as soon as you spring into action, you trip over your untied shoelaces and tumble to the ground. The rest of the runners leave you in their dust, but then you hear that same noise indicating a false start.

Where we are in life when we have to start over tends to determine our attitude toward that change. God, however, wants us to recognize His grace in beginning again—no matter what the circumstances may be.

THE GOOD

(When We Need to Start Over)

Can you count all the mistakes you’ve made in your lifetime? I know I can’t, but there have been

plenty of times that I’ve wanted a “do over”—another chance to do things the right way. The Bible recounts numerous situations when people had to start over because of their own damaging actions. The children of Israel ignored God’s commands and broke their covenant with Him. As a result, they had to wander the wilderness for 40 years. King David, a man after God’s own heart, lost his first child after committing adultery with Bathsheba and having her husband killed. Then there was Jonah, who so begrudged God’s mercy towards the people of Ninevah that he refused to warn them of God’s impending judgment. He had to spend days in the belly of a fish.

These people desperately needed to start over and acknowledge God’s sovereignty. Sure, the consequences of their actions were evident, but God’s grace was also abundant in their lives: the children of Israel did enter the Promised Land; Jonah warned the people of Ninevah; and David bore Solomon, who would become the

wisest king to ever live. When they called on God, obeyed Him, and trusted Him, He was right there to guide them—just like He’s here for us.

Our mistakes, and more often their consequences, reveal our own desperate need for mercy. Confessing our sins to God is how we open the door to forgiveness. And that forgiveness means that we have a clean slate. I like how someone put it:

When we take our sins to God, He casts them away to the bottom of the sea and plants a sign along the shore that says, “No Fishing Allowed.” In Him, we really can start over! (See Micah 7:19 and Psalm 103:12)

THE BAD

(When Starting Over is the Last Thing We Want)

You did nothing wrong. Things were going just fine. You were living according to God’s word and BAM! Your spouse is gone, your nest is empty, or you’ve lost your job or business. Life seems to have taken a turn for the worse, and you’re forced back to that spurned place called *square one*.

Just as the Bible tells of individuals who needed to start over, it also tells of those for whom a new start may have been undesirable. Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son, and that fact made his 11 brothers so angry that they sold Joseph into slavery. Esther was a loving and loyal woman, yet she lost both her parents and had to essentially start her life over. Job, a great man of God, lost his health, his family, and everything he owned. The changes in their lives were major, but so was their trust in God. In all of these cases, God had something better waiting for them after the pain and loss. Job was blessed far more than he had been before. Esther became a queen and eventually saved the entire Jewish people from death. Joseph

went on to be second in command of Egypt, a position that would help save the lives of the very brothers who had despised him. Joseph even told them, “And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. . . . But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” - *Gen 45:5, 7*

“Our mistakes, and more often their consequences, reveal our own desperate need for mercy.”

Sometimes, like for Joseph, God’s purpose for us starting over becomes clear only after we’ve done it. Other times (as in Job’s case), it seems as though God has forgotten how faithful we’ve been; how consistently our eyes have looked to Him. The truth is that we may never know exactly when, why or how we’ll have to start over, but God promises to hold us through our changes. The Bible puts it this way, “For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.” - *2 Cor. 1:5*

THE HOLY

God loves us. Period. He puts no qualifiers on His love, but He does show it in many different ways. One of those ways is through His mercy. Each and every morning He extends to us new mercies to start the day. (Luke 1:78) Maybe you didn’t talk to Him yesterday. Maybe you didn’t apologize to that person you offended. Maybe you grumbled all day long about your problems. God’s mercy gives us a “do

over.” Even if your yesterday was wonderful, and even if you don’t necessarily need the chance to start over, God gives you the opportunity anyway. He’s *that* gracious! He promises that there’s always another glory to get to (2 Cor 3:18), and a new day is another opportunity for us to reach it. Titus 3:5 tells us, “He saved us because of His mercy, and not because of any good things that we have done. God washed us by the power of the Holy Spirit. He gave us new birth and a fresh beginning.”

There’s power in starting over. God, our loving Father, knew that we needed a Savior. He sent his Son to die for us so we all could have the opportunity to start over, to be born again. That doesn’t mean we live life free of mistakes or trouble; it means we live life with the One who comforts and delivers us from that trouble. God’s promise to Joshua as he led the children of Israel into Canaan holds true for us too: He is with us wherever we go—even if it’s back to the drawing board.

If you are born again, then you have already taken the most important step toward not being shaken by those times in life when starting over is necessary. This is because God equips his children to handle whatever situation you find yourself in! The Bible says that God renews our strength (Is 40:31), our minds (Eph 4:23, Rom 12:2), our “inward man” (2 Cor 4:16), and our knowledge (Col 3:10). Each new chapter in our lives is a part of His sovereign plan (Eph 1:11).

The Master of the seas knows when your boat has capsized. He also knows whether you tipped it over; but we can rest assured of God’s love and protection. (Rom 8:28) God has always been more interested in changing us than He is in changing our circumstances, but sometimes he does the former by first doing the latter. †

WORDforce KIDS



funny bone Zone



BE THANKFUL

List 3 things that you thank God for.

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Ahab.
Ahab who?
Ahab a cold in my nose.

Knock Knock
Who's there?
A herd.
A herd who?
A herd you were home so I came over.

Knock Knock
Who's there?
Ben.
Ben who?
Ben knocking so long my hand hurts.

Hey kids! We need your cool jokes and riddles.

Send your jokes and riddles to:
Word Force Kids
c/o AVCC
304 W. Lancaster Blvd.
Lancaster, CA 93534

Please include your name and age!

Hey Kids, did you know that there are two words that you can never say enough? No they are not MORE CANDY. The words are *thank you!* The Bible tells us that we are to **give thanks** to the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1) God loves us so much that He provides us with opportunities to thank Him. He gives us food, a place to sleep, toys, friends, and people who love us. That's why it's important to say "Thank You Lord" every day. When good things happen to us we should be thankful for God's blessings. When it seems as though you are having a bad day you should thank God that He gives you the strength to make it through. All of David's life was filled with praise and thanksgiving to God. Even when his boss, King Saul, was trying to kill him, David kept on praising God. Whew! Now that's thankfulness! So when you get an "A" on that spelling test, a PS3 for your birthday, or see another sunrise...remember the first words out of your mouth should be, "Thank You Lord!" You will see that the more thanks you give, the more God will give you to be thankful for. *(Read Psalm 103:1-5)*



R	C	P	L	S	R	U	M	U	S
L	O	G	S	O	L	Q	E	N	K
I	D	E	C	D	V	S	R	J	N
H	L	A	T	R	K	E	C	W	A
B	X	C	Q	A	F	F	Y	L	H
E	D	U	T	I	T	A	R	G	T
P	R	A	I	S	E	E	I	N	W
G	G	Q	F	N	X	F	T	Z	J
E	T	A	I	C	E	R	P	P	A
W	F	T	W	F	W	B	N	N	F

cryptogram

Directions: The top is the KEY. Each of the letters comes with a number. The bottom part has a secret phrase. Each of the blanks has a number underneath it. To solve the secret phrase, fill in the blanks with the letters that go with the numbers found in the KEY.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
4	14	13	9	18	20	17	1	25	10	2	16	6
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
3	12	22	24	26	5	19	21	23	7	15	8	11

APPRECIATE
GRATITUDE
MERCY

BLESS
LOVE
PRAISE

12 1 17 25 23 18 19 1 4 3 2 5

21 3 19 12 19 1 18 16 12 26 9

20 12 26 1 18 25 5 17 12 12 9





REALTALK youth camp

// BY TATIYANA WESLEY

Where can you skateboard, show off your ballin' skills in a basketball tournament; play flashlight tag in the pitch dark; write, direct, and act in your very own short film; eat lots of food; share your gifts in a talent showcase; hear life changing messages; have meaningful and thought provoking discussions; and so much more? Yup, that's right—at RealTalk Youth Camp 2007.

This year's camp began with a bus ride that we could never forget. Very anxious to arrive, we constantly peeked out the windows enjoying the beautiful mountains, or as some thought, the mountains that would so generously give us a one way ticket to heaven.

Once we arrived at camp, we anxiously found our bunks, dropped all of our things, and ran straight to the dining hall. Not only did we eat a great meal, but we received more than our stomachs could handle. It was a buffet!!!

That evening we attended a service which included a powerful message and a dynamic time of praise and worship. Sunday Casey said, "On that first night during praise and worship the other teens and I were inspired to step forward, not being ashamed or embarrassed to love and worship the Lord as He was leading us to another level." The first day was long and although

everyone was tired, it was so dark and foggy outside that there was no way we could pass on an old skool game of flashlight tag. Afterwards, we had late night discussions where we shared wisdoms based on our personal experiences.

The next morning we read and discussed a daily devotion from the *One Minute Bible* that each of us was blessed to receive as a gift. This daily devotional Bible will help us grow mentally and spiritually in the Lord. During our devotional time, many questions were discussed and answered and the Lord's presence was definitely there. Next everyone broke into groups, and created a short film based on the different types of temptation that teens are confronted with. Afterwards we were able to stay in our groups, while being given the option to do a number of different things during our free time like playing volleyball, basketball, skateboarding and archery.

That afternoon was so much fun, but what was in store for us that night was even better. A talent showcase! As ordinary as that may sound, because of the talent that lies within our youth ministry, it was anything but ordinary!!! There was poetry, singing, dances, and even krumping. Although these things are great, what we cherished most was that we were showing our talents through the Lord while exalting and praising His name.

After service, we had evening devotion. Then the girls, along with one of the Youth Leaders, planned an attack on the boys' dorm which started a serious war! Who won? Well me being a girl, you know I'm gonna say we did!

Before we went to bed, everyone received a t-shirt with the question, "I believe, do you?" and it's to be used to share our faith with others. The shirt was so tight, I couldn't wait to wear it the next day.

The most powerful and meaningful day was our last. During the morning devotion with the girls, we talked about loving ourselves and the Lord while believing that we can do all things through Christ. We also received inspirational messages from our group leaders on self-esteem and peer-pressure. This really made us question our lives and lifestyles. We then began to lift our hands and worship God. It was amazing to be in the presence of God and to experience many heart touching, emotional breakthroughs. That day we left camp knowing that we believe, do you? ☺

“The purpose of this year's Youth Camp was for our teens to be **saturated** with the **power of God** while receiving a **renewed excitement** in their *daily walk with Christ*. I am so excited and thankful to the Lord that with many of our teens this goal was met, which resulted in this being **the most life-changing** RealTalk Youth Ministry Camp yet!”

- Minister Sherree' Johnson

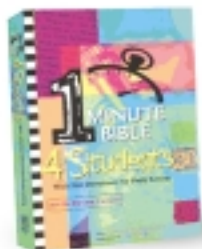


purchase your shirt


T O D A Y

@ the Word Shoppe!

For more information check out
www.ibelievethemovement.com



The **One-Minute Bible 4 Students** moves you through the entire Bible—from Creation to Revelation—in just one year. However, make sure you understand it is not intended to take the place of the Bible. It's a good idea to begin making side trips to the Bible itself to see what came before and what comes after the passages read on a particular day. You'll soon find that these quick sips of *scriptural* milk will increase your appetite for God's meaty *word*.
Purchase your devotional Bible online at www.avccusa.org.



So the
NEXT GENERATION
Would Know...

by: Minister A. L. Andrews

“I will open my mouth in parables: I will utter hidden things, things from of old: what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide [them] from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power, and the wonders He has done.

So the next generation would know [them, even] the children yet to be born; and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God, and would not forget His deeds, but would keep His commands. They would not be like their forefathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to Him.” - Psa 78:2-4, 6-8 -

We attempt to see that our kids get to church and are involved in Christian youth activities; but what are they really getting out of all that? Discussions and teachings on principles pertaining to living a pure and productive life; the need for a consistent prayer life; and reading the word of God are indeed very important. But are we neglecting the most important elements needed for understanding their Christian life: the goodness of

God, His love for them and His mighty deeds and wonders. Are they only getting input that sounds like what God demands of them and not all the wonderful things God has and is doing for them?

Unless we take definite and regular action to be sure our children hear of the goodness of our Lord and the wonders He does, we may see them embracing other things and

walking away from the God of their fathers. According to that part of Psalm 78, the only thing that will keep the next generation from becoming stubborn and rebellious and help them to be loyal and faithful to God is hearing about His praiseworthy deeds, His power, and the wonders He has done.

The subject of God's love, which is expressed in His mighty and wonderful deeds, mighty works, and great provision, should really be a main focus. We must be sure that we do not focus only on subjects that relate specifically to the believer's responsibilities in their Christian walk, which can become mostly self-awareness rather than God-awareness. Once anyone gets a glimpse of just how great God's love is for them, it is easy for them to reach that place where they want to please Him and do the things that God has directed them to do.

No church or any youth program (no matter how good it may be) can substitute for the role—duty—entrusted to parents. There is absolutely no greater influencing factor in a child's life than the parents. God made it this way and, therefore, empowered parents beyond what many of us recognize. This is a truth that we must persistently acknowledge and act upon. God will honor and empower every parent who is committed to "train a child in the way he should go" (Pro 22:6) and "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." (Eph 6:4b)

Not only should we tell our children about the love and wonderful deeds of our God, we should also let them see and experience His love for themselves. How, you ask? We should involve them in our prayers for the needs in our family and those around us. They then will be involved when God's action or provision manifests. They will have a front row

seat for watching God at work and will not be simply distant bystanders. The only truly effective antidote to the barrage of worldly and sensual inputs our kids are subject to daily is for them to experience a real, vital, and loving God.

It is also essential to pray and believe with them that they receive from God what they ask of Him. (I John 5:14-15) When they have concerns and issues—no matter how trivial they may seem to us—it is important that we demonstrate our confidence and trust in the Lord (Pro 3:5) by praying with them about their concerns and issues. Yes, as awkward it may seem

at the moment, pray with your teens. Their concerns are important and they need to know that we care and that God cares! When they see the result, they will connect back to the prayer and trusting the Lord. Nothing beats practical experience and seeing their God work firsthand.

If we, the parents, fail to tell the next generation about our God, then who will? If we don't tell them, will we be in jeopardy of losing that generation to the world? I for one do not want to take the chance. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord and tell of His living kindness and wonderful works. ✝

“There is no greater influence in a child's life than their parents.”



Sundays at 5:00 pm

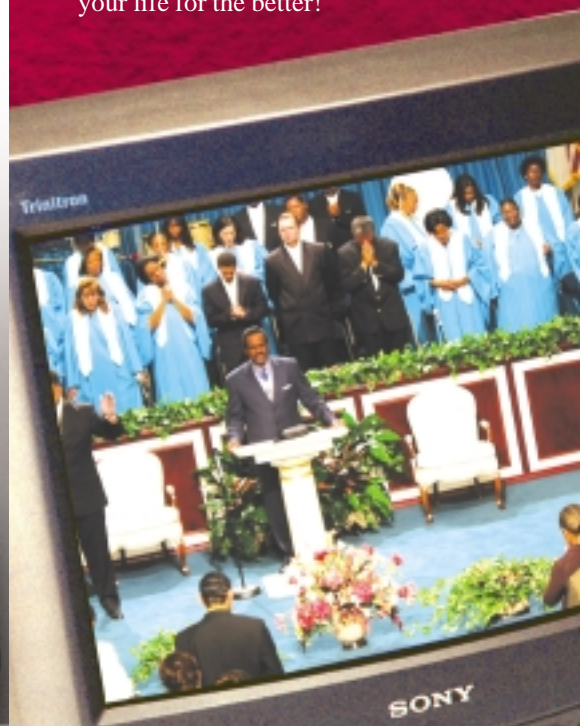
Time Warner.....	Ch. 14
Time Warner EAFB.....	Ch. 14
Charter Cable - Rosamond/Mojave.....	Ch. 03
Direct TV.....	Ch. 64
Charter Cable - Boron.....	Ch. 08
Charter Cable - California City.....	Ch. 08
Capps Electronics, Inc. - Lake Hughes..	Ch. 06
Time Warner (Wednesdays @3:30pm).....	Ch. 16
Dish Network.....	Channel 8019

We invite you to watch the Word of Victory Television Ministry in your area. If this televised outreach ministry has been a blessing to you or someone you know, please consider becoming a Word of Victory Ministries Partner. You can do so by forwarding your financial donations to:

Word of Victory Ministries
c/o ANTELOPE VALLEY CHRISTIAN CENTER
304 West Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, CA 93534


The Word of Victory Television Ministry is viewer supported. Therefore, whatever financial donation is placed upon your heart to support this dynamic outreach ministry is greatly appreciated and tax deductible.

We pray God's blessings upon you and your family. We stand in faith that something within the broadcast encourages your walk with Christ and helps you make life-affirming and life-changing decisions which will enrich your life for the better!



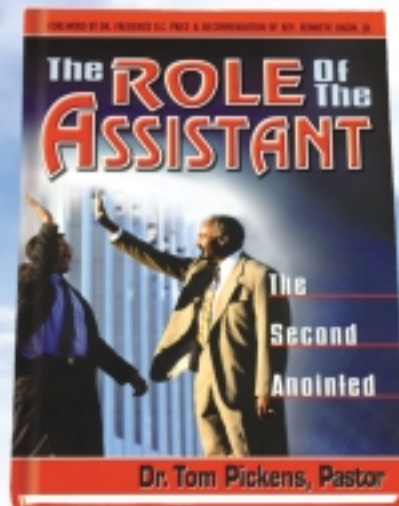


THE
WORD SHOPPE
Highlight



*“Indeed, the role
of the assistant is both
an office and a calling.
I highly recommend
this book to **everyone**
who is called
to the ministry.”*

*Dr. Frederick K. C. Price
Crenshaw Christian Center*



Support Your Leader...**Know Your Role!**

Tom Pickens is Founder/Sr. Pastor of Antelope Valley Christian Center and Victory Christian Center in southern California. Dr. Pickens says, when he began laboring in the ministry, he could find no books on the role of an assistant from the viewpoint of an evangelical or charismatic minister. He confesses the basis for “The Role of the Assistant” came from the Bible and was inspired by his own experiences serving as an assistant in ministry for Dr. Frederick K. C. Price for many years. Within this dynamic book, Dr. Pickens uses biblical scriptures and teachings to reinforce the basic tenets of what it means to be an effective assistant.

Price: \$12.95 (\$14.35 Canada)
plus shipping and handling

To order, visit www.avccusa.org
or call **(661) 949-7200**

The
Word of
Victory
ministries

304 West Lancaster Boulevard
Lancaster, California 93534
(661) 949-7200
www.avccusa.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit #74
Lancaster, CA