**REND COLLECTIVE**

**Coming to Spokane**

This is our BIO. “We wanted to push boundaries because our God is not safe or small: He has a wild imagination.”

REND Collective have never lacked imagination. From the bewildering array of children’s toys and whimsical, handmade oddities they call instruments, to the hare-brained and wonderfully impractical scheme of recording a live album on the beach around a campfire, to the safety-defying audacity of shooting a music video on a fully-operational fishing boat in the turbulent Irish Sea, this fascinating worship community have always pursued the colorful and unexpected.

Fittingly, the genre-blurring artists have an unusual backstory. Hailing from the small coastal town of Bangor in Northern Ireland, the Collective developed organically, outside of the influence of the music industry and CCM culture, as a self-described “group of confused twenty-somethings trying to figure out faith, life, God and community.”

They gathered at Rend, a ministry for spiritually hungry young adults, desperately seeking an answer.

(Con’t Page 2)

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**Building Trust, Breaking a Cycle**

By Lynn Yount
Union Gospel Mission

Time was running out on any chance Melissa Eggers had to see her kids again. “I was blinded by my addiction,” she says. “By the time I realized that I needed to change something, it was almost too late.”

Melissa’s parenting had reflected how she was raised, in a super-strict household with very little affection: “Drill sergeant type of parenting,” she calls it. And her drug addiction only exacerbated her inability to express real love to her children.

(Con’t Page 3)

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**The GOD Who NEVER CHANGES**

This past year has been a tumultuous one for our country and our world. Then again, when hasn’t it been a time of great change and confusion for those who do not have faith in Christ? I’m not saying that I don’t wonder at what is taking place. I’ve had great concern for all that is taking place and sometimes wonder why these things happen.

Yet I take great comfort and am assured that God never changes. Hebrews 13:8 states, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.” (NASB) For me this is part of my foundation. I also am blessed to serve at KMBI Moody.

(Con’t Page 5)

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**Scott & Dee Morning Show**

Moody Radio NW

By Joe Gonzalez, Station Manager of KMBI 107.9 in Spokane

Sandra Moats
Executive Director
New Hope For Adopted International Kids

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REND COLLECTIVE
Coming to Spokane

authentic, raw and real expression of church, which was informally pastoried by bandleader, Gareth Gilkeson. This honest and genuine movement of prayer and missions was accompanied by the birth of a new breed of worship songs that became the foundation for their first and critically acclaimed 2010 album, "Organic Family Hymnal."

Since these formative years, the folk-influenced troubadours have, to their surprise, been thrust onto the world stage as leading voices in the evolution of modern worship. Following the 2012 release of artisanal alt-pop project, "Homemade Worship by Handmade People," the band has gone from strength to strength. Their endearingly raucous live show has brought out thousands of fans to sold out tours on both sides of the Atlantic, and they have shared stages with some of the biggest names in Christian music, such as Chris Tomlin, Matt Redman and Tenth Avenue North. Foot-stomping revival hymn, "Build Your Kingdom Here," proved to be a mold-breaking hit at Christian radio and, with views numbering in the millions, the accompanying concept music video was honored with a Dove nomination.

Refreshingly, the international spotlight has little altered the heart of the Irish worshippers. "We aren't really so much of a band as we are a family," explains Rend member Chris Llewellyn. "People are more important than music, art or apparent success."

This defining passion to foster community is embodied in the intimacy of their live acoustic-folk project, "Campfire."

"Is there anything quite like a campfire?" Gareth asks. "The community that's built there by people sharing their stories and songs? There's the smell of burnt marshmallows in the air and it's like being 10 years of age again and telling all your secrets to your best friend. That's why we wanted to record an album around the campfire - that kind of openness and vulnerability is exactly what we should see in the greatest community on earth: the church."

This rootsy, indie-folk style record was a ministry-defining success, rising to number one on the iTunes charts in both the UK and US. The profound, yet simple message of "worship and community reimagined" clearly resonated with a generation seeking a fresh expression of faith and belonging.

Anyone who has experienced the (barely!) controlled chaos and infectious wildness of a Rend Collective performance will know that celebration and joy have always been core values for the worship artists. "We at Rend Collective have a confession to make," says Gareth.

"We are not actually an indie-folk band - despite all the beards and bow-ties and banjos. We are a celebration band. It's just a coincidence that folk music and celebration make a great pairing!"

"This record is an attempt to reflect something of the irrepressible laughter in the heart of God," continues Gareth. "It's a call to the cynical to once again choose celebration over condemnation and a reminder to the broken that 'the joy of the Lord is our strength.'"

Having developed something of a reputation as tastemakers and pioneers within the worship music scene, hints as to the musical direction of The Art of Celebration have been eagerly anticipated by fans and music media alike. True to their personality, the experimental musicians are resistant to categorization.

"We would far rather be defined by joy, fun, freedom and laughter than any genre title or pop-culture label," says Gareth. "The biggest clue as to what The Art of Celebration sounds like is in the title. We tried to make it sound like fun. It's what the Psalmist calls, 'a joyful noise.'"

"Our process was to just pick out the instruments that seemed like fun to us and let the genre definition work itself out," says Chris. "We use an arsenal of the weird, wonderful, whimsical music toys that we're still not too old to love, our native Irish folk instruments, some good old-fashioned rock 'n' roll guitars, and even some synth-pop inspired elements. (And it goes without saying that Gareth once again wields that awesome, homemade weapon of mass celebration we know only as 'the Jingle Johnny'.)"

"So what can we expect from the multi-instrumentalists' latest recording? "Come expecting all the ramshackle, foot-stomping energy and freedom you've heard from us before but freshly reimagined," adds Chris. "Come expecting playful, worshipful sounds that raise a smile."

"This isn't the science of modern worship or the formula of industry: this is The Art of Celebration."

From www.rendcollective.com
See ad on back page for Rock and Worship Roadshow
Building Trust, Breaking a Cycle

Even when she had custody, yelling was her primary interaction with them. “All I knew how to do is just yell at [them], and that stems from how I was raised. I didn’t know any better.”

But she had barely seen them in two years: 9-year-old Jayza and 2-year-old Julius had been in foster care. A hearing was scheduled to terminate her parental rights and make them available for adoption. Desperation drove her to seek lasting change.

“I just knew that I needed some long-term help… My counselor [in substance abuse treatment] told me about Anna Ogden Hall, and… from the second I came to orientation, I knew this was the place for me.”

Coming to Anna Ogden Hall was just part of an involved and difficult process: Paperwork, court dates, supervised visits, family therapy. But once she took it seriously, the process paid off. The children were allowed to come live there with Melissa.

“I was like, ‘No way!’ I couldn’t believe it,” she says. “I went from not having any contact with them for almost two years to… within three months of me being here I was able to get them back.”

Reunification was just the beginning of an educational process, as Melissa still had to learn how to be a loving parent – a vital piece of UGM’s holistic approach that seeks to break cycles of addiction and/or abuse within families.

Julius had been a baby when he was taken away and was able to bond with his mom relatively quickly, but Jayza was justifiably skeptical.

“I just thought that they were little troopers, and it wasn’t until I got them back that we went through a three-month transition period… it was terrible. My daughter just didn’t – and I don’t blame her – didn’t trust me, didn’t think I was a safe person, and so we battled it out.”

Melissa’s time in jail and prison, plus the other conflict and instability fueled by her addiction, had made Jayza a skeptic. She needed to see a consistent difference in Melissa to believe it, to respect her as a mom. “She was always guarded, like, ‘What’s going to happen next?’”

Jayza expressed her insecurity in all kinds of rebellious behavior. But it was a blessing in disguise, a lesson that was invaluable for the family’s future.

“God taught me so much through that about my parenting, what I wanted to be as a parent,” Melissa says. “And it taught me a lot about her, too – that she does have a voice and she is angry about some things.”

Melissa understands it will take time, faith, and consistent effort to break the unloving “drill-sergeant” cycle she previously perpetuated from her own upbringing. She wants to understand her children’s personalities and needs instead of yelling.

“I think the trust building is going to come over time, but I have a little bit of trust, [Jayza] trusts me a little bit now. We’re building an attachment again because we really didn’t have that, and just learning about each other and communicating.”

And she wants to teach them about the one who changed her own life and can give them life: “I want them to know about Jesus. I think that’s got to be #1.”
God sent us one confirmation after another to stay put.

During the 2 years we helped care for our son we visited many local churches, which was something we had never done before. We settled into a dynamic church with precious loving people while waiting on God for clear direction. About a year ago God began to stir within us a deeper desire to be part of a visitation of God again. Still there was no direction to move.

During the last six months God has put an increasing prayer burden in my heart for North Idaho and the local pastors. In January of this year, while meeting with a prayer group, a clear word from God settled in my spirit. The Lord said, “I am going to visit this area with a great move of My Spirit. It will be something that has never happened before. It will be a spiritual Tsunami that will begin in the rural area churches, and even in home churches, and will flood the whole area.”

Revivals are visitations of the Holy Spirit that renew the fire and love for Jesus Christ and the Bible. Awakening are when the lost are divinely awakened to new life in Jesus Christ. The churches are again filled with new believers, baby Christians.

Many visitations of the Holy Spirit have followed patterns in the past. There have been visitations that came in waves like the 1970’s awakening known as the Jesus Movement. On the heels of the Jesus Movement came the Charismatic Renewal. That renewal or revival touched many Christians with a new fire to win the lost and to dig deeper into God’s Word. Our whole family was touched deeply during that time. My mother, 2 grandmothers and my grandfather gave their hearts to Jesus, and my husband’s parents and a brother also came to the Lord. I was healed of a chronic kidney disease instantly when prayed for in a meeting.

There have been visitations of the Holy Spirit that came like a bomb and took over the whole area such as the 1904-1905 Welsh Revival engulfing the whole country. The country was so taken over by the Spirit of God, and there was so much change, that the police had to form singing quartets because there was no police work to do.

There have been visitations that touch down like a tornado that hit the area and scatter Christians to other nations in the aftermath, such as the four Great Awakenings and the 1906 Azusa Street revival. Many denominations came out of these visitations.

Then in the 1990’s began what I call the spreading revival, something like an egg that is cracked and spreads out. God’s visitation upon the nation of China is still spreading out throughout that nation. It has been happening for the last 15 years, and still is the largest awakening the world has ever known. Over 30,000 people a day come to know Jesus Christ in China. I have been blessed to be part of that great visitation.

Now it is time again for America to experience a great visitation that will turn our country back to God, in a way that no human being could ever do. If a large area is completely soaked with the Holy Spirit our whole nation will be changed. A visitation that is like a tsunami would be something that has never happened before. I cannot even imagine what it would be like. That is exciting to think about, and even more so, to think that we possibly could be part of it.

In the natural realm I know that great earthquakes trigger tsunami’s. Huge earthquakes usually shake up the land and disrupt the whole area. Before the land is settled, the tsunami wave comes and covers the land with a huge wave that goes far inland.

In past visitations there has been a spark minister or even ministers that are used in the general area where the visitation breaks out. Something like where the earthquake epicenter is.

Evan John Roberts was the spark minister for the Welsh Revival. He was a young man who was well known to be a man of prayer. I don’t know whom the spark minister or ministers are for the North West, but I do know that God has His plan for that job and it will be a believer or believers who know how to pray and walk with God.

We were blessed to be part of the Charismatic Move in California following the Jesus Movement, where thousands of hippies gave their hearts to Jesus. It was a lot of work even though we had a trained church. It took everyone doing their part to keep up with the baby Christians whose lives were being changed. Throughout the California region we joined hands with other pastors in the harvest field.

Pastors joining hands with other pastors in the harvest field will be essential for healthy baby Christians who will be born during this visitation. In Holy Spirit visitations doctrinal barriers fall to the dust. What stands is helping the lost find Jesus Christ as their Savior and helping them find their place in the body of Christ as a living church member.

Many times we sent baby Christians to other churches where they would fit in better, and other times we were sent baby Christians from other churches because they fit in with us better. The lines of competition fell to the ground during that time. The important part was each of us taking hands with other believers in the harvest field.

The Bible tells us first in the natural and then in the spiritual things happen. In the 1990’s, God spoke to me about a large earthquake that would happen in the North West. I heard the words, number 9 on the Richter scale. Since that time I have prayed for the North West. Until I heard those words a few weeks ago about a coming tsunami visitation I had not connected that prophetic word with a possible happening in the natural that would usher in a great revival coming to the North West.

When the visitation comes there will be a huge need for Christian workers. It is no coincidence that He has gathered Christians in the North West to be workers in His harvest field. With that thought in mind for those who haven’t known why they are in the North West, you might consider that God has you in the North West for such a time as this. Let us be faithful to pray and be His workers.
Radio Northwest, where the entire Bible is our foundation. Did you know that we have been declaring the Good News in Spokane since 1974? For 43 years, our listeners and supporters have been coming alongside KMBI, because you see the importance of proclaiming the Word of God. Yes, the teachers have changed, the music has changed, but the message remains the same: Jesus Christ is Savior and there is no other. Salvation is by God’s grace through faith in Jesus, and thus we are born again and a part of His family. Because of your prayerful and financial support:

- We've let people know about local ministries who are sharing the Word of God.
- Our Church in Action (CIA) highlights and honors churches doing excellent work in our community.
- We are able to be involved in events such as Bloomsday, where we share the love of Jesus with over 40,000 people in one day.
- Productions such as “Christmas with C.S. Lewis” are presented in a Broadway manner.
- We are blessed to work with Christian organizations who are doing missionary work that affects us all—not only in Spokane, but across our country, and often times around our world.
- In the month of January, in recognition of the Sanctity of Human Life, we interviewed and made the body of Christ aware of multiple ministries reaching out to help those with crisis pregnancies.
- We work with Moody Bible Institute here in Spokane as they prepare the next generation of Christian leaders, and Moody Aviation as they train missionary pilots, to reach others around the globe with the Gospel.
- God has blessed us at KMBI because YOU see the need. Thank you for partnering with us to fulfill the call that God has given to us.

Did you know we have the only live and local morning “wake up” show—Mornings with Scott and Dee? Not only did they grow up in the area but both have wonderful testimonies of coming to know the Lord. They share the Word with a daily devotional, help present the news in the light of eternity, and interview authors, musicians, pastors—and you—as you call in with your thoughts about the many issues affecting us all.

Moody Radio airs programs that not only share the Word of God on a daily basis but also has great talk and call-in shows such as Equipped with Chris Brooks, Chris Fabry Live!, In the Market with Janet Parshall, and Kurt Goff Live.

March 14th through the 17th will be the week of this year’s “Share” campaign—“Share the Word”. We humbly ask that you, God’s people, would pray for us and consider financially supporting us for another year. We welcome your financial gifts at any time, but during those days in March we need to meet our local and national goals to continue to “Share the Word”.

I thank you for your support, and may we all remember that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me—Joe Gonzalez, Station Manager of KMBI Moody Radio—by phone at (509) 448-2555 or email joe.gonzalez@moody.edu. Our website is moodyradio.org/northwest. May the Lord continue to give you His peace that passes all understanding and may we all “Share the Word”!
GETTING IT WRONG WHILE LOOKING FOR ‘MR. (OR MISS) RIGHT’

By Kameel Majdali
Teach All Nations

For any thinking, caring, concerned individual, we should all be interested in the welfare of marriage and family. Famously called ‘the building block of society,’ when marriage and family prosper, everyone prospers, including those unmarried and those never-married. The reason is that marriage and family provide stability, nurture, identity, and training for present and future citizens, who go on to make a contribution to society. When marriage fails, it is not just a tragedy for the couple and their children, but we all have to carry the can with increased welfare payments, court costs, societal dysfunctionality, higher crime, and more.

Recently I received some sad news from a long-time acquaintance: their 3 year marriage is over. This person is a solid, dedicated Christian, accomplished in their career, a faithful member of their local church. Having been married before conversion, they looked forward to having a ‘Christian spouse.’ Eventually, they did marry a ‘Christian’ but within a short time it all went sour. Though they waited years to remarry, once done, it was quickly over.

As tragic as this is, it need not be terminal for the believer. We all make mistakes and our faith in Christ can pull us through to victory, provided we ‘follow the instruction manual,’ namely the Bible.

Nevertheless, it is worth asking the question: How can any decent, mature, thinking person, especially of faith, get it so wrong while looking for Mr. or Miss Right? More positively, when it comes to finding a spouse, how can we increase the chances of ‘getting it right’?

In this blog, Part 01, we would look at the pitfalls.

Our world today makes it easier to ‘get it wrong.’ Here’s why.

1. A corrupt, sex-saturated culture: Secular humanism has done an effective job of detaching western society from its moral Judeo-Christian foundations. Add to this a 50 year old cultural civil war between the so-called progressives versus the so-call.

tical conservatives. The sexual revolution, women’s liberation movement, abortion on demand, rise in cohabitation, and postmodern relativism, means our society has a distorted, devalued view of marriage and family. Unless you have a strong spiritual walk, you will be adversely affected by the culture around you.

2. False gods: Everybody worships somebody or something. Whenever that somebody is not Almighty God Himself, we call such worship ‘idolatry.’ The Apostle Paul calls covetousness ‘idolatry’ (Colossians 3:5). Some of the modern idols include:
   A) Materialism;
   B) Narcissism (more about this in a moment);
   C) Statism (‘big government’ that will ‘take care of you’ - socialism and progressivism are in this category);
   D) Selfism (the religion and worship of self).

Let’s face it, in Australia, one of our biggest idols is sport. When Sir Donald Bradman died, Cathy Freeman retired, Ben Cousins pulled a hamstring, and/or the horses caught the equine flu, for some it was Armageddon. We even have a public holiday to celebrate a horse race! Yes, sport is good - just don’t worship it!

3. Opportunism: People who are perceived as being monied and successful will be tempting targets for opportunists - those who want to ride the financial and social coattails of that accomplished person for their own selfish gain. The Book of Proverbs says, tongue-in-cheek, that if you want many friends - then get rich (Proverbs 14:20)! However, when the riches sprout wings and fly away (Proverbs 23:5), so will those friends. If a person is showy about their assets, be careful of those who hang around.

4. Narcissism: This is about a distorted, fanciful self-image which has little to do with reality. Narcis-

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GETTING IT WRONG WHILE LOOKING FOR ‘MR. (OR MISS)’ RIGHT

sells love to attract attention to themselves (hence, the posting of 300 ‘selfies’ on social media), practice seduction and rejection, and have no problem lying, intentionally or under their own deception, in order to prop up their desired image. Indeed, the narcissist is adept at putting on the mask and speaking the party-line for a considerable period of time. Some do it so well they would earn an Oscar if they were in Hollywood. However, the facade will eventually give way to reality. The big question: will it come down before you say ‘I do?’ You don’t want to marry an ‘image’; you want to marry the real deal.

5. Pornography: This is the scourge of our time. Once restricted to ‘dirty magazines’ in questionable bookshops, the hard copy version are now going out of business – simply because pornography is freely available online. Let’s forget the notion that porn is ‘what men do’: porn addictive-ly weakens when men should be strong; devalues women and sex when men should be protective, and provides a slippery slope to more hard-core imagery, when a man should be self-controlled. This author sadly remembers a nice Christian man, married to a beautiful Christian woman, who discovered his father’s pornographic magazines in the garage at young age. He could not shake the addiction. In time, his lust was no longer satisfied merely by viewing the pornographic pictures. Ultimately, the stimuli caused him to seek a ‘3D version’ - he visited a prostitute. The bondage and shame were so great it led this man to commit suicide. Make no mistake about: pornography is addictive and dangerous. If you are hooked and can’t break the habit, seek help (hint: fasting and prayer can do wonders in this area).

6. No fear of God: When there is no concept of personal accountability towards God, people will do ‘whatever it takes’ to get ‘what they want,’ including nabbing a rich spouse for self-centered reasons. If we took the commands of Scripture seriously and remember, as Romans 14:12 says, that everyone of us will have to give account of themselves to God, then we would think twice before ‘telling a whopper,’ ‘jumping into bed,’ or ‘moving in first.’

7. Ignoring Wise Counsel: Proverbs 11:14 says it all: ‘Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.’ Don’t try to muddle through on your own, hoping to ‘get it right.’ Seek wise counsel from spiritual, mature people. And don’t overlook family, especially parents. Our parents are in an optimal place to assess the suitability of a potential spouse. This even applies if you are a Christian and your parents are not. If your parents clearly love and care for you, then listen to their counsel. It could save you a lifetime of grief. He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD - Proverbs 18:22 (NKJV)

8. Seasons: Ecclesiastes says to everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven. There’s a time to be born, a time to die, a time to plant, a time to pluck (3:1-2). There is also a time to marry when your season comes. We have a season of singleness which is a gift from God: during this time we grow, develop, form our values and prepare for our future. As maturity and commitment set in, there is a time to marry. With so many waiting until their late 20s and early 30s before marriage, the possibility is strong that they had been in their season long before they actually marry. This can present complications. In other words, don’t wait too long because seasons change.

9. Decision: First, we need to make a decision to marry even before we meet someone. Everything flows from decision. It is amazing how many people entertain the idea of marriage, but allow life to flow by without actually doing anything about it. Men especially need to ‘prepare to launch’ by deciding that the time of friendships and floating around is finished: it is time to be a man and find a wife. As Proverbs 18:22 says that the man who finds a wife finds a good thing and the favor of God will be on him. At the age of 25, I came to the conclusion that my time for marriage had come. Weeks later, the Lord identified to my future spouse. Having made the decision to marry, it was no effort to ‘make a move’ once I knew who it would be.

Have realistic expectations: It is almost entertaining how people have ‘fairy-tale’ criteria of whom they are going to marry: a certain educational background, physical appearance, social status, the perfect gentleman etc. The problem with these things is that they are 100% natural, not spiritual. Proverbs 31 describes the amazing virtuous woman; note that it says little about her appearance. Her spiritual life and ‘fear the LORD’ is what made her suitable. Whoever God has for you will be ‘a work in progress’ (just like you), so don’t see them as they are, but how God will make them.

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by Jay Adams

“I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”
Philippians 4:13

Holy be to God for the life I now live! I grew up with a wonderful family that did their best to raise me right, they taught me good morals and respect.

I have rodeoed since the age of 8 and have been very successful. But around the age of 17 I was introduced to the world of methamphetamine; which I know believe was sent to earth by the devil to steal, kill and destroy. I used it for fun for the first year or so, until it had complete control over me. I went to college on a full rodeo scholarship. But because of the drugs, I quit school and let my life take a complete downward spiral. Over the years of my addiction I got a pure hatred for this awful drug that controlled every aspect of my life. I could not stop! Didn’t know how! I alienated myself from my family and friends; mostly because I was ashamed of myself. I couldn’t bare the hurt I knew I had caused. I am and have always been my own worst critic and I knew better.

I went to rehab and got clean for a while but I had the little notion in the back of my mind that “I could play with the devil and win” with that belief, I went right back to the addiction. Many nights I sat alone hating this drug and what it had brought me to, from an all-around cowboy to a junkie. I didn’t know how to defeat what was taking my very soul and hurting my family so badly. I came very close to committing suicide many times; thinking it’s the only way I could win the only way I could quit hurting everyone I love. Thank God, He had a great plan for me. I continued using until I got busted for drugs. I got put on probation which made me stop; until I could get by with using again. Eventually I got busted again and sentenced to 13 years in Texas Department of Criminal Justice. During those 3 years, before I was granted parole, I only learned more to have hate in my heart. More times than not, officers treated us inmates, with complete disrespect and were very degrading. To them you were just another number rather than a human. I feel it did more harm than good at that point. After 3 and a half years, I was released and had the mind set to stay away from this demon. I felt I was strong and could handle this addiction. But once again, I gave in and began using again and had an even quicker downward spiral losing everything. I ended up back in prison with another charge. This time I was trying to find myself and I had no idea how I had even gotten to that point again. As I went back to prison I decided that I was completely powerless over this drug! I made my mind up that I was done with it FOR-EVER. Once I made this decision I realized I had never truly decided to be done with this drug and to release the chains it had on me. I had said I would quit but never truly gave it up.

I was baptized at a young age and had known and become very close to God and felt His presence multiple times. But now I believe God heard my heart and knew I was sincere in asking for His help to be delivered from this evil drug. I spent the next 4 years in prison in both TDJC and the Federal System. In the Federal system, I enrolled in a very good program called RDAP. I had thought deeply about why I was actually using after the fun had worn off, and realized my main issue was feeling like a complete failure in life. I was not a good son; I was not a good father to my two daughters. I was not a good partner in my relationship. I gave up my dreams of rodeo and quit roping. I was just failing at everything in life. In finding this out about myself I began checking out and reading books on these issues. I would spend hours watching videos on how to be a better parent and a better partner. I took the tools they gave me in classes and used them in my daily walk; because I was tired of losing this demon that I battled. I spent time reading daily devotionals and standing on the word of God. I was released from prison in 2013 and could proudly say today that with the grace of God, I have NEVER touched the drug again. I have maintained a good job, am married to a good woman and I have an (Con’t Page 9)
amazing relationship with her. She has a son that calls me dad. I have gained rights back to my youngest daughter and we have built an amazing bond together. Lord willing I will have custody of her in the near future. My oldest daughter and I have also built a bond together, although she lives many states away. I have started team roping again and won my way to the World Series of Team Roping Finals in Las Vegas, where I qualified in 5 of the 7 roping events. I did not win any money at the finals but it is amazing when you can finally understand that sometimes God puts you through things you may not understand; so that you can truly appreciate how He blesses you. I sat at an outside roping in Vegas and with tears in my eyes thought back at the years of my battles. I looked around at the amazing mountains that God created. During the years of my addiction, my family had split, and I was locked up when my parents divorced. My sister whom I was not close to most of my life because of this drug, moved away and no one would speak to each other. While in Vegas my father who is happily remarried, my mother who is also happily remarried, and my sister who is married with two awesome boys, two of my aunts and my parents in laws came to support me. Some strong prayers of mine were answered. I prayed with my mother and broke down some walls that had been up for years. Then I realized making the finals wasn’t only about me achieving a life long dream of mine. It was also about mending many wounds in between me and my family that had been done over many years. Just as God used me and those circumstances, I believe he has even more plans for me in my future to help others that may be battling demons in their own lives. It may be someone in addiction or just struggling with life, or maybe a family member of an addict or just someone who needs to know how great God is.

I have now been clean of meth for 7 years and I thank God, every day. To this day my wife and I pray at every meal and ask God not only to bless us, but more so, to let us be a Blessing to Him! I give God all the glory for the many blessings He has given me. I pray that me sharing my story will touch at least one person and be a blessing to them.

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Happy Valentine’s Day

February 2017 / 9

Good News Northwest
The True Grace of Christian Camaraderie

By John Piper

By Silvanus, a faithful brother as I regard him, I have written briefly to you, exhorting and declaring that this is the true grace of God. Stand firm in it. She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does Mark, my son. Greet one another with the kiss of love. Peace to all of you who are in Christ. (1 Peter 5:12–14)

Peter sums up “what I have written” as the “true grace of God.” Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully (1 Peter 1:10).

Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13).

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered (1 Peter 3:7).

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace (1 Peter 4:10).

After you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you (1 Peter 5:10).


So also the apostle John, in a good Advent text, John 1:14 — “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Link “true grace of God” with “full of grace and truth.” Grace is God’s pursuit of our undeserved good.

Truth is what is really good for us: the truth about God and self and the world that will lead us to eternal joy, what is good for us.

“The true grace of God” implies there is a “false grace of God.”

Certain people have crept in . . . who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. (Jude 4)

“True grace does not lead to lawlessness or licentiousness. It is both pardon so we can survive and power so we can stand.” Tweet Share on Facebook

“True grace of God” leads us to “stand firm in it.”

True grace does not lead to lawlessness or licentiousness. It is both pardon so we can survive and power so we can stand.

God does not save us from works but for works:

By grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:8–10)

The personal touch of grace and what it means to stand:

Peter mentions Silvanus as a faithful brother. He mentions “she who is at Babylon” and “my son, Mark.” Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Christians are a divine family with strong and manifest afflictions. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart (1 Peter 1:22). Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor (1 Peter 2:17).

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind (1 Peter 3:8). Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).
Different Kind of Valentine

By Elijah Raines

I imagine that one day soon I will find myself pacing the card aisle at some store, and thinking to myself about what kind of a card to get my wife. I'll have to push and shove my way, because most every husband waits for the last moment to go find "The Card". Valentine's Day comes once a year and we don't have to do this to ourselves, it's on the calender but we act surprised every time, we all wait until the early morning before the sun gets up... well, on Valentines Day all the cards are half price.

As I imagine myself in that store aisle, I think to myself "WKOCWJB"? Interpretation: 'What Kind Of Card Would JESUS Buy?'. I think I'll imagine going back two thousand years and I'll see Jesus through Peter's eyes...

"He had called each one of the twelve of us in a different way, but once we had looked into his eyes we had known that things would never be the same. I remember when I first saw him I told him I was a sinful man and I asked him to de-

part from me. His gaze said more than his words, but he told me to follow him and that he would make me a fisher of men. Jesus accepted me and called me, a crude fisherman with dirty hands, not only grime from fishing, but dirty with sin. Life had been a hard journey of sin and schemes to take advantage of the people around me. That was how he first called me out of the life I lived. I followed him with the others he called, each of us in his own way. Jesus never compared us to one another; his only goal was to do what the father was doing and to raise people up to that standard. We all hung on his every word. Sometimes we thought we understood what he meant; then he would blow us away with his insight, when you think you understand then you see as he speaks that there is a whole new level to his words. "We traveled with him for three years, we gave up everything to follow him, but we gained so much more than what we lost. We never felt lack as we looked at him and followed his every word. You may say that the last three years were the most fulfilling years of my life. Every time we worried about where our next meal would come from he would do something amazing and we would end up having more than enough.

"Jesus is the messiah, the promised one we waited for to declare his kingdom and to set all things right. I had my sword at my side and we thought that this meal was going to prepare us to march with Jesus to take over the empire, to overthrow the Romans and set things right in the temple.

"We gathered together for a meal, the 12 of us, with Jesus of course. As we sat and shared another meal with our teacher, we all seemed to feel this was a different sort of a meal. Jesus took the bread and broke it and passed it around like he had done many different times over the years. He spoke as he passed it out. He said, "This is my body, which will be given up for you." "We all looked at each other, wondering what he was talking about. We sat at the table with the bread in our hands not knowing what was next. Jesus ate and motioned to us and we ate along with him. This meal was not like every other. Jesus had to much to say that day. It grew dark as Jesus spoke, and after Judas was sent on another errand, Jesus took us out to the vineyards spoke to us more and more. He said every word with such purpose, he did not notice the lateness. We were tired & cold, but we still hung on his every word. "He spoke about him leaving, but for us not to be troubled because he would send a comforter. He said he could not send the comforter if he did not go. We left everything to follow and now he is going to leave us? We were all confused and felt lost even though he was still there. We had no idea what to do with ourselves if he left us. All we did for the last three years was follow, if he was not here to follow then what would we do. "It was the coldest part of the night, and we huddled there at the fire, not knowing what was next. Did I hear silence? Jesus was finished talking and we sat there processing,

(Con't Page 14)
Hear, Understand, Believe, Confess & Receive

1. God loves you and has a plan for you!
The Bible says, “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).
Jesus said, “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly”—a complete life full of purpose (John 10:10).

But here’s the problem:

2. Man is sinful and separated from God.
We have all done, thought or said bad things, which the Bible calls “sin.” The Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).
The result of sin is death, spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:23).
The good news!

3. God sent His Son to die for your sins!
Jesus died in our place so we could live with Him in eternity.

“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).
But it didn’t end with His death on the cross. He rose again and still lives!

“Christ died for our sins. He was buried. He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures.” (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).
Jesus is the only way to God. Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6).

4. Would you like to receive God’s forgiveness?
We can’t earn salvation; we are saved by God’s grace when we have faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. All you have to do is believe you are a sinner; that Christ died for your sins, and ask for His forgiveness. He knows you and loves you.
What matters to Him is the attitude of your heart, your honesty. We suggest praying the following prayer to accept Christ as your Savior:

“Dear Lord Jesus,
I know I am a sinner, and I ask for your forgiveness. I believe you died for my sins and rose from the dead. I trust and follow you as my Lord and Savior. Guide my life and help me to do your will. In your name, amen.”

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Different Kind of Valentine

what he had said. It seemed that Jesus took a breath.
As we sat the silence of the night was broken, we heard
marching, soldiers marching with torches and clubs in
hand. In the front of the group of soldiers was Judas, and he
came straight to Jesus and gave him a kiss on the cheek.
‘Teacher!’ he said.
After the soldiers grabbed Jesus, we were terrified, and
we ran just out of sight. When was going to happen next?
Was Jesus going to overthrow the Romans? What was his
plan? How far was he going to fall before he rose up to
conquer?
‘The next day was the worst
of all. Jesus had his trial and it seemed that no one could
agree on what to do with Jesus. The priests hated him
and wanted him dead, but the
rulers sent him from one court
to another. Finally it was or-
dered that he should be
beaten.
After the beating the priests
stirred up the crowd. They
began to shout out ‘crucify
him!’ and ‘let his blood be on us
and our children.’

He was released to be cru-
cified. Jesus was taken to a hill
called the Skull, with two other
prisoners to be crucified.
Roman soldiers are cruel in the
execution of prisoners. They
take a cross and nail the pris-
ners to it and stand the cross
in the sun. Prisoners are thirsty
and sweating and bleeding,
sometimes it takes days to die.
Jesus was there hanging in the
middle. He did not yell at the
guards like the others, but he
cried out to God.

“We stood there in disbelief.
Only hours ago we shared a
meal with our teacher, enjoy-
ing his words and his fellow-
ship, and I had felt on top of
the world. With Jesus my
Messiah, we were going to
take over the world.

“This had turned into the
longest day of my life. I could
not process all that happened.
It seemed like everything was
lost. We stood at a distance,
not knowing what to do. Had
we missed it? Did we get
taken in by his gaze? He
loved much. He loved every-
one that he came into contact
with. As I was thinking about
these things, I heard him say,
‘Father, forgive them, for they
do not know what they are
doing’...

Fast forward two thou-
sand years and commercial-
lism tells us that we
have to buy a card to tell
someone that we love
them. Valentine’s day is a
day for couples to show
their devotion to each
other. But what can one say
with a card that has not
been said a thousand times
before? Jesus said, “Father,
for them for they do
not know what they are
doing.”

Can you see Jesus at the
card shop looking for the
card that cost the most?
Jesus words echo for etern-
ity and they are for all
people. Can you hear Jesus’
words to the homeless, to
the stressed out business-
man, or his words to the
housewife that can’t catch
up with her duties? Jesus
came to seek and to save
all people. His plea to the
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Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.
Matt:7:21-23
The Journey of Love
by Sharon L. Reidenbach

When did a four-letter word called "love" start to define us: From those wonderful, elementary Valentine parties? Remember? Our decorated sack stood with the others waiting for the mounds of cards — which never materialized. While the popular, smart, athletic kid's sacks overflowed.
Impression: We're defective, unlovable.

God’s View: “You are altogether beautiful, my love, there is no flaw in you” (Song of Solomon 4:7, NKJV).

But as we grew older we wondered: “What if I gave gifts, money, or more of my time for love? Impression: Can I buy love?

God’s View: “But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by [our] works of righteousness which we have done . . .(Titus 3: 4-5).

Then someone, whom we’ve trusted with our love, betrays us! Impression: A lonely, broken heart.

God’s View: “The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart” (Psalm 34:18). “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes” (Revelation 21: 4).

But what about those trying to find that elusive word “love” like me? Should I join them? They’re different, outside the norm.
Impression: Misfits appear happy.

God’s View: “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me” (Psalm 27:10).

“It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118: 8-9).

But non-conformists have a price, too. And once again I feel like I have to perform: “If I’d be like so-in-so, change this or that, try harder. I’d be welcomed and loved.

Impression: Measuring up takes work.

God’s View: “For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they measuring themselves by themselves, comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise” (2 Corinthians 10: 12b).

Praise God, Christ defeated Satan’s world damaging view of love. Jesus suffered a humiliating death on the cross because of his profound, unconditional LOVE for us: “. . .not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4: 10).

He paid it all.

- An empty Valentine sack does not define me.
- There is nothing I can do to earn His love, or others.
- No longer will I need to measure up.
- Now I’m dressed in His righteousness.
- He’ll never betray me.

Does this mean loving others will be easy? No, but He is only a heartbeat, a prayer away to sustain us through: “There is a friend that sticks closer than a brother” (Proverbs 18:24b).

This year may we love others as God has loved us; accepted, and free with no strings attached: “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (John 4: 11).

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