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He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." - Mark 16:15

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WHEN *Hope* WAS BORN



## The Way of Peace That Began With Christmas

Every year when December rolls around, it is the most wonderful time of the year, especially for us Christians. This is a short but blessed time when everyone notices the celebration of the Christ child coming to the Earth as a baby, Jesus of Nazareth.

*Continued on Page 5*

## God With Us From Despair to Deliverance

Christmas is known for many things: presents and lights and family traditions and decorations and Christmas music. Others have a more difficult time when Christmas rolls around. When it looks like *everybody else* is having a great time, it intensifies the despair you experience. Despair is defined as "the complete loss or absence of hope." Many feel despair during Christmas season.

*Continued on Page 2*

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## Leave it to the Pros - Cornerstone Pros

By Karen McBride



There's an old saying "Don't be penny wise and pound foolish". This is a good reminder when it comes to finding someone to service your home. The cost of maintaining a home can be burdensome and too often a homeowner may look for a less expensive way to resolve an issue. However, hiring a less qualified person to service the problem or someone who may use parts of lesser quality can end up costing homeowners much more than they bargained for.

Choose wisely and call Cornerstone Pros. The family owned and operated business began as an air conditioning service company in 2006, later adding plumbing, electrical, and whole home generators for a one stop business.

"We are a one-stop location for all your major home and business systems," said Dana Spears. Dana manages the business while husband James provides hands-on training with field staff. In addition to her husband, Dana's mother Dolores, daughters Morgan and Hannah, son Josh, and sons-in-law Michael and Ronnie also work at Cornerstone.

One of the keys to the success of the busi-

ness are the employees and the care Dana takes in hiring. She knows the importance of having trustworthy, skilled technicians that customers will feel comfortable with entering their homes. A background check and drug screening is performed on each new hire as an added comfort level for their customers.

The technicians are certified in their field of expertise and are encouraged to continue their education and certifications. Cornerstone offers certification courses for their technicians to keep them up to date on the state-of-the-art equipment.

Cornerstone makes every effort to ease their client's concerns, and the technicians will take the time to answer any questions the clients may have, without all the technical jargon, so the client has a clear understanding of what needs to be fixed. The technicians take pride in their workmanship, and the work is covered under warranty.

Another drawback to hiring a less qualified handyman to service your home is that he/she may not be around when an emergency arises,

or you need warranty or repair work done. Cornerstone is available 24/7 to help.

Smaller companies or one-man shops may not have the parts needed for the repair. Cornerstone has a 6000 square foot warehouse on their existing property in order to better meet their customers' needs. The additional space contains a fully stocked warehouse of water heaters, water treatment systems, generators, air conditioning units, and more. This allows the company to meet the demand better. Each morning, the vans are fully stocked with everything their technicians need. With the proper high-quality parts and tools needed, the technicians are highly efficient and can, oftentimes, resolve the clients' problem on the first visit.

For the last 8 years, Cornerstone has scored the highest ratings on Angie's List, an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau, received the Brighthouse Business Award, and received the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year Award for 2016. In 2018, Cornerstone was presented with the "Heart of Pasco" award by the Community Affairs Committee of the Central Pasco Chamber of Commerce. It is given to a business that exemplifies the Chamber mission for business advance-



ment, economic growth, and job creation. Most recently, Cornerstone received the 2019 People's Choice Best of the Best award, from the Tampa Bay Times.

Cornerstone is located at 4946 Land O' Lakes Boulevard, Land O' Lakes, FL 34639. To schedule an appointment, call 813-990-0155 or visit their website for more information at <https://cornerstonepros.com>.



## God With Us

Continued from Page 1



Keith Chandler  
Journey Christian Church

It may be because for the very first time, there's a loved one or a family member that is *not* around the table.

The Christmas story is all about moving from despair to deliverance.

God's message to His people throughout Scripture and to us is that, *even in the midst of our struggles and in the midst of our despair, He has promised us deliverance.* That's what Christmas is all about!

Our problems began back in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned.

Some people think, "as long as my good deeds are more than my bad deeds...then God somehow owes me heaven."

And yet, if we're guilty of breaking even one command we're guilty of breaking all of them. If you had a window that had one rock or ten thrown through it, it's still a broken window and it needs to be fixed.

In Isaiah 9, God is going to make three very clear promises: **Promise #1. In the darkness of despair God promises light. "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."** Isaiah 9:2

Every time you see "darkness" used in the Bible it's always used as a metaphor to describe what life is like without God.

That's why we have light switches to bring light to a room filled with darkness. Don't you wish it was as easy as flipping a switch and your fears would subside? It's no coincidence God's very first recorded statement is: **"Let there be light."** Genesis 1:3

It's *no coincidence* there was a northern light that guided the wise men and the shepherds to the birth of Jesus, where we see God's heart for humanity. It's *no coincidence* Jesus calls Himself *"the Light of the World."*

And it's *no coincidence* Jesus calls us His followers, *"the light of the world."*

That's our job. Our light is to reflect Jesus. Rather than cursing the darkness, *why not light a candle?* God will reward you for shining your light. You shine your light when you act like Jesus.

**#2. In the pain of despair, God promises joy. "You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder."** Isaiah 9:3

Four different times in that one verse, there's a derivative of *joy* or *rejoicing* found. The nation is going to shrink before God can make it grow again and prosper. God's reminding them, "You have not been abandoned."

When it's the darkest, God's light shines the brightest. It might not look like you'll be victorious, but in the end you will.

Happiness is based on happenings and circumstances. Joy is *different* than happiness. Joy is lasting, deep, and comes from within. At Christmas we don't sing, "Happiness to the world!" We sing, "Joy to the world!" Why? Because "The Lord has come. Earth receive your king."

He's a game-changer. He can overcome the odds, and He can do it regardless of the setting and the situation you find yourself in. If you're in a season of despair, I want to tell you there's hope. Hold onto hope. Life is *hard*, but God is *good*. Because in the depth of despair, He promises light, joy, and **3. He promises us a Savior.**

The people needed a lasting hope. They didn't need another King.

**"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** Isaiah 9:6

When the lights fade and the tensions rise and the feelings of inadequacy and pain and

anxiety begin to creep in, we realize that our deliverance was made possible through the gift of Jesus Christ.

On *this side* of heaven, we don't know how long we'll have to wait. We don't know how long we might be in that particular season. But here's what we do know: "Unto us a child was born. Unto us a Son was given." He has changed everything. One day He will come again and He will take His followers to be with Him to where He is.

God made the Gospel simple so that a person *like me* could understand it. Here's the Gospel: All you need is Jesus and you'll win. That's the story of Christmas. If you've got Jesus, you win. It really doesn't matter what we go through in this life and on this earth. Whatever your despair, or your disability, whatever death of a loved one you're working your way through—

at the end of time you'll be victorious if you put your trust and your faith in Jesus Christ.

If you swallow your pride and allow Him to change you from the inside out, through the power of His Spirit *He will turn fear into faith, insecurity into confidence, and despair into hope.*

Because deliverance isn't the answer: The Deliverer is the answer. And His name will be called "Wonderful counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting God, the Prince of Peace." And His kingdom will have no end.

Until next month,  
Keith

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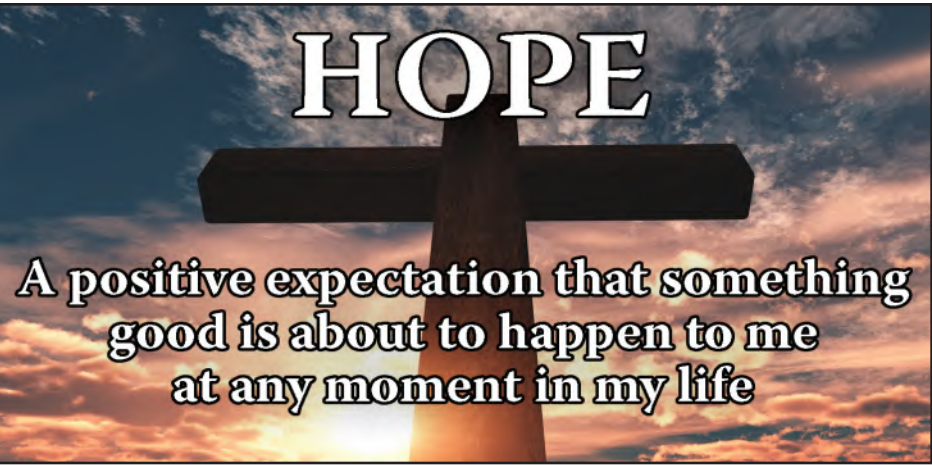
## Embrace Grace

River of Life Church at 410 E. Chapman Rd. in Lutz, will be hosting our next Embrace Grace group starting in January. It is a 12-week support group with baby showers for single young women with unplanned pregnancies. We want the church to be the first place they turn to for support. We accept financial donations, new and gently used baby clothing, and other baby items. For registration/information, contact Naomi Holloway at 813-431-1706.

**"I am completely wonderful, and eternally free! The anointed one has set us free—not partially, but completely and wonderfully free! We must always cherish this truth and stubbornly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past."**

— Galatians 5:1





Kidz Corner: Relief Maps



Hi My name is Harley, and today I will be talking about relief maps. Relief maps are basically maps of countries and continents that show the elevation. Elevation basically means how high or low something is. Prairies are our low elevation and mountains are high elevation.

If you were interested in making one, it's a very easy. You just use salt, baking soda, cream of tartar, flour, and water. When you mix it up with

your hands, this is a very fun experience! Then you spread it on a poster board or foam. Then you build the elevations and also you can do like not a lot of the clay mixture for prairies but build it really high in the mountainous areas.

In the end when it's dry, you can paint it. You can do one color for the prairies then another color for the hilly areas and then another color for the mountainous areas. Also you can put little flags on your countries and things after you paint like for example Mount Everest or the South Pole. To make a flag, just use toothpicks and paper. You glue the paper onto the toothpicks and then you stick the flags in to the country or continent.

We did relief maps as a school project, and I did the country of Nepal because there's a missionary there and he preaches to the people of Nepal. There are missionaries all around the world and the importance of being a missionary is that you can tell other people about Jesus and then they'll go to heaven.

Harley Isabel Smith is a 1st grader who has been featured on TV as a philanthropist, has a heart for evangelism, and writes monthly for the Gazette's Kid's Corner.

For more information on this story or others, visit <https://harleyisabelsmith.com>.



Train Up: Be a Nelson

Denice McClure  
dmcclurehawk@aol.com  
813-431-8033

You are in a classroom. You did your research. You are confident on your subject. The teacher stands. He asks the group the question, "Who would like to present first today?" Crickets. Quick, what are you going to do? What is your best way to respond to this question?

One of my favorite speakers, Simon Sinek, has much to say about this question in his series on Youtube called Be the Last to Speak. According to him, when you cultivate the skill of learning to listen to everyone else before rendering your own opinion by choosing to speak last, you will become a more effective leader. When I think of who I know that best encompasses the leadership skill that Simon is addressing; one name comes up quickly. But before I talk about her, I think that Proverbs 18:4 combined with Sinek is my best way of describing Suyen Stevenson, who is a deep well of knowledge and flows like a brook with great wisdom.

We talked about a Business Coach being a key member of your team when you launch a business. Today, we are going to talk about another key member of the team: your graphic design company. These are two key members overlooked many times because a business is under-capitalized. These two members are worth every dollar they earn if you intend to become wildly successful. And of course I want that for you, so I'm sharing these lessons.

Suyen Stevenson, the owner of Yen Graphics, is on my team as a graphic designer. She has a cool education background. She's from New York and she lets me talk and actively listens before she speaks! My mind goes so

fast as I'm a shiny penny chaser at heart, so between her and my business coach, they get me to slow down and focus on the objective.

The coach is keeping you focused on the vision while the graphic designer focuses on how to tell your story to create your brand. A few years ago, I had an idea, and I wanted to see what Suyen could do with it to make it come to life. After she listened to everyone's ideas on my team, she came back with a design that blew my mind! The design included members of my teaching team in a way I never saw done. Each member is portrayed as silhouettes in yoga poses that make up a sweat droplet.

The collaboration of a team, her deep knowledge of graphic design and her ability to listen and speak last resulted in a design that will be on mats, towels, spray bottles, and t-shirts that will be sold all over the world and will soon be at a high end all-inclusive resort company that has 25 Caribbean resorts.

Suyen is a small example of why it's important to cultivate the skill of speaking last. Sinek is right! Speaking last is such a powerful leadership skill. For a bigger example, Google Nelson Mandela to find out why he is one of the greatest leaders across all continents and of all time. He is worth your time to read as much as you can about his life and his effect at changing the word for the better. My holiday wish is for all of us to each be the leaders we were born to be.

Train Up is an article for young entrepreneurs with the intention of making the Biblical verse Proverbs 22:6 come to life. "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."


Contact Denice at [dmcclurehawk@aol.com](mailto:dmcclurehawk@aol.com) with comments.

**"You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand." — Psalms 16:11**

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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

There are many stories that we could share from our Christmas season of generous donors giving sacrificially. Every Christmas our children feel so loved by our community that we cannot help but share these stories of generosity; however, there is one story that we must share above all others. It's a TRUE story of an amazing man that did something life-changing for the world.

Many years ago, there was a young woman named Mary, and she was chosen by God to give birth to a baby. Her fiancée, Joseph, was contemplating if he should marry this woman or not, but he did not want to make her a public example. One night, an angel appeared to Joseph and said, "...fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

This was only the beginning of many miracles that led up to the event of Jesus' birth. There was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay, until God provided a humble stable. There was a king that was trying to have baby Jesus killed, but God protected Him. This child would grow up without having ever sinned, and then one day die for each of us so that we could go to heaven.

This Christmas story is not only miraculous, but it is also why we are able to celebrate as a Christian. What a beautiful story indeed!



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## Why My Business Looks Like It Does



**James H. Willis, III**  
Founder and President  
The Willis Agency, Inc  
813-948-9109  
[Jim@TheWillisAgency.com](mailto:Jim@TheWillisAgency.com)  
[www.TheWillisAgency.com](http://www.TheWillisAgency.com)  
*1 Peter 5:7*

It has been 31 years in the business of Retirement Planning, and I know I act different from many other Financial Planners, if you please. I’ve known why most of my entire career, and it is obvious that it is perhaps unique. Now, I never really thought of it as odd because I know what I am doing and why, but as I look around, I have found it unique and very personal.... Okay, here we go.

### Why Does My Business Look Like It Does (5 Reasons)?

**1st My Family** - I would like to say there some major awesome point here, ha, ha, but there is not really. When my very energetic 3 kids were 4, 6, and 8, they were a handful! So, one August day in 1988, I told them, “Okay, you all have so much energy you are going to play sports. You two boys are going to play football, and you little girl are going to be a cheerleader, and you all are going to do it whether you like it or not!” As a parent, I did several things I didn’t think through. All the games were on Saturdays!!! I worked in retail clothing for 12 years, weekends!! I was going to miss all the games. I couldn’t handle that, so I changed my career.

**2nd My Faith** - I went from being a Bi-Vocational Pastor to full-time work over night. Yes, it was because of their sports, but it was also because we were poor, low income. I didn’t even have the 3 x \$25 for registration fees for football and cheerleading. But, we did it. I also went from two salaries to 100% commission, no base pay, nothing!!! We were broke every Monday, and I had to make money every Friday, PERIOD.

I was in the ministry working at churches as an Associate Pastor & Youth Pastor, and when I went to full-time work, it really bothered my spirit. But I had an amazing encounter with God one day about “Am I doing the work of a minister? Was I sharing about the Lord? YES. Was I praying with the hurting? YES. Was I giving to the needy? YES.” Hmmm.... Then, a verse became real to me from years ago. “And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.” I have been content ever since then.

**3rd My Finances** - I did work hard, but I also believed God would work, and boy did He! Praise God from whom all blessings flow. He/we didn’t miss one week, and it continued for months, years and decades. Wow, more people should try trusting God, it is awesome to be in the middle of it all. I am not broke on Mondays anymore. The business of helping others with their retirement has been a blessing. I have even been able to practice what I preach for my own retirement planning. Way back when, I don’t even think it was a dream.

**4th Your Future** - I love helping people! I have learned how to do things most people do not know how to do. Maybe it was upbringing or lack thereof, or maybe it was simply my need for survival, but I learned and understood money at a very young age. I have since come to understand federal programs and financial principals to help my customers safely achieve their dreams throughout their retirement years. I have even helped 2nd and 3rd generation customers by now. To me, it is fun to put the pieces of the puzzle together.

**5th My Philosophies** – As crazy and daring as I am personally, I am naturally very conservative with money, I am also not a very good guesser of investments, I myself have done several and most have been at best poor and you do not want that from me. So, I have purposely picked a safe and guaranteed savings and income vehicle. No one is going to call me on Monday saying, “What happened to all of my money?” Actually, NO one has ever lost a dime in 31 years! I have been successful simply because most stockbrokers and financial planners do not recognize that some people do not like risk anymore. Also, many people should not have 80% - 90%, (all their money) at risk! Financial Principle 101 says, “Have your money match your age.” Example, if you are 65 years old, then 65% of your assets should be Safe, then invest the rest where you want, but establish that safety net and foundation through retirement. It is a must! Things do happen!

And finally, I honestly do....  
Care for you and yours,  
Jim

## Tampa Breakfast Sertoma Club



Tampa Breakfast Sertoma Club arrived at Liberty Manor for Veterans for a Steak Night for all of the veterans in commemoration of Veterans Day. Sertoma believes in purpose: to meet the needs of communities through volunteer service. The vision of Sertoma is to create communities of change under common leadership and with a common voice that will serve the many in need and the mission is to improve the quality of life today for those at risk or impacted by hearing loss through education and support. The Tampa Breakfast Sertoma Club has made it a regular part of their mission to incorporate our veterans into their mission.

The mission of Liberty Manor for Veterans, Inc. is to promote the developmental and social needs of disabled and honorably discharged veterans who have fallen victim to homelessness providing transitional, supported housing and establishing objectives designed to attribute to self-sufficiency. Anyone interested in assisting this meritorious initiative, please contact Connie Lindsay (813) 900-9422.



Liberty Manor for Veterans was the proud recipient of the Daughters of American Revolution.

## The Great Florida Outdoors: Blue Dasher

Dr. Robert Norman, Clinical Professor, Dermatology, Nova Southeastern University



What type of dragonfly is this?

1. Band-winged dragonlet
2. Metallic pennant
3. Needham’s skimmer
4. Blue dasher
5. Hairy potter

The blue dasher (*Pachydiplax longipennis*) is a very common and widely distributed dragonfly through the United States and into the Bahamas and is in the skimmer family. This beauty rested on my bike chain as I took a break from the trail. I believe dragonflies are quite curious, and it was looking at me with its compound eyes with nearly 360-degree vision and about 24,000 ommatidia (photoreceptor cells) in each eye as much as I was looking at it. Blue dashers live near still, calm bodies of water, such as marshes, ponds, slow-moving waterways, and ditches, preferring warm areas and low elevations. Adult blue dashers roost in trees at night.

The species name *longipennis* means “long wings”, but their wings are not substantially longer than those of related species. When examining a female, you may note she has a short abdomen that makes the wings appear comparatively longer. Males are easily identified, given their vibrant blue color, yellow-striped thorax, and metallic green eyes. Females are less colorful than the male due to sexual dimorphism. The female has a matching yellow-striped thorax, but their abdomen has a distinct brown and yellow striping that differentiates them from the male, along with contrasting red eyes. With age, both sexes develop a frosted color.

Dragonflies are carnivorous and capable of eating hundreds of insects every day, consuming up to 10% of their body weight each day in food, including nearly any flying insect such as mosquito, moth or fly. The dragonfly nymphs feed on aquatic larvae, small fish, and tadpoles.

Dragonflies and their relatives are an ancient group with the oldest fossils of 325 Mya from the Protodonata of Upper Carboniferous of Europe. The fossil record ends with the Permian–Triassic extinction event about 247 Mya. The group *Meganeuropsis permiana* included the largest insect that ever lived, from the Early Permian, with a wingspan of around 30 inches.

As a huge fan of biomimicry, I challenge you to find a species that we could use to model our flying machines after that is better than a dragonfly. Given that they are one of the first insects to inhabit this planet, they’ve had a long time to perfect the art of flying. What makes this spectacular flying ability? The dragonfly has two sets of wings with muscles in the thorax that can work each wing independently, allowing them to change the angle of each wing and demonstrate amazing aerial agility. It can hover in a single spot for a minute and fly in any direction, including sideways and backward. Eating is survival, and a dragonfly is the ultimate effective stealth predator, moving in on unsuspecting prey from any direction.

Where can you find these dragonflies?

### Get out and look for them in the Great Florida Outdoors!

Dr. Norman is an advanced master naturalist graduate of the FMNP program from UF and a board-certified dermatologist based in Tampa and Riverview. He can be reached at 813-880-7546.



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## Women-n-Charge Monthly Meeting



President Mary Adele Cluck welcomes new member Louise M. Richardson, Reflexologist, along with Membership Chair Kay Dunn.

Join the vibrant ladies of Women-n-Charge on **Friday, December 6th** from 11:15am-1:30pm at **Plantation Palms Golf Club** (23253 Plantation Palms Blvd., Land O’ Lakes, FL 34639). The meeting includes lunch, a presentation, and time to network. We share our talents, build relationships, and share our resources with other women in business.

The cost is \$15 for members and \$18 for guests who RSVP by Monday prior to the meeting. Tuesday and after, the cost is \$20 for members and \$23 for guests. Please register at <http://www.women-n-charge.com/meetings>. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Judy at 813-600-9848 or [info@women-n-charge.com](mailto:info@women-n-charge.com).

**Our December meeting will feature our Annual Christmas/Holiday Party and Chinese Auction Gift Exchange (bring a gift valued at \$10).**





Samantha Taylor  
Samantha Taylor Fitness

**Do I Have a Metabolism Anymore?**

The word “metabolism” is usually associated with how well we lose weight. However, it is much deeper than that. Your metabolism is a series of chemical reactions in your body that are necessary to maintain life, so we all have a metabolism or we would be dead! Even though it does comprise of reactions in our body that keep us alive, how well we process food and convert that food into either usable energy or stored body fat is what most are interested in.

We have trained over 7,500 women in my personal training business, and many of them have been in their 50’s to 70’s. Usually a frustrated woman says to me in our first meeting, “I feel like my metabolism has slowed down so much and I don’t lose weight like I used to.” In some ways this is true, however in most ways it’s not just age that is the culprit, it’s what we have or have not done to our bodies over the years that causes this problem.

When we age, the two most important factors that can affect our metabolism are: 1) Our bodies become more insulin-resistant as we age, and more so dependent on how we eat. 2) We lose about a pound of muscle every year we don’t do something to stop it (you can stop this loss by working out with weights).

So the first one I mentioned, we become more insulin-resistant. When this happens, our body tends to store more fat. Proof of this is that most women as they age see that they store fat more in their belly. The less our body can process sugar properly and is constantly having to release insulin to bring down the blood sugar because it is constantly spiked with sugar, excess carbs, and gluten, the more

our bodies can become insulin-resistant. In many cases, this IS reversible. I have seen it happen over and over.

We had a client who was 74 and was pre-diabetic and her doctor wanted to put her on medication. He let her give our program a shot first and within 8 weeks, she was no longer pre-diabetic! They were both SO excited! Actually, that happened to me 2 years ago, even my blood work came back close to being pre-diabetic and I was so frustrated, for I wasn’t even overweight. I knew it was from all the sugar, excess carbs, and gluten I was eating and sure enough, now it’s perfectly healthy from making some small nutrition modifications.

The second one I mentioned is muscle loss with age, and I say with age because when we are younger we maintain it more naturally. When we age, we have to work at maintaining it or we WILL lose it. The term “Use it or lose it” really applies in this situation because muscle loss is one of the fastest things that will age our bodies. This happens because muscle gives our body shape and helps keep our figure, gives us strength, and helps with balance. You should see some of the women on our website that are in their 70’s. They look and feel amazing!

You do NOT want to lose muscle, and of course ladies, I am not talking about being bulky here, just having tone, lean muscles so you can stay young and fit. And keep in mind that 1 pound of muscle burns about 50 calories a day at REST. This is a very good thing for your metabolism.

I encourage you to start a program now so you are ready for the new year. We have some specials for those that start in December. Merry Christmas! Join my free webinar Jan 4th where I will be going over a goal-setting workshop to help you get focused for 2020.

[www.SamanthaTaylorFitness.com](http://www.SamanthaTaylorFitness.com).

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*Merry Christmas*

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**Age 67**  
Lost 63 lbs.



Dr. Doug Wingate,  
Ph.D.  
Life Christian  
University

Christians pray that the Lord of the harvest would be able to enlighten peoples’ understanding during this season and help them decide to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord. At the same time, we are painfully aware that most will blare through the holiday, oblivious to the great salvation that is available to everyone through one simple prayer.

Every Christmas, I return to the book of Luke, which has an amazing description of the birth of our Savior, and I read it over to see what subtle nuance of the Christmas story that I may gain. We remember the primary story of the angel Gabriel first coming to Zacharias, the future father of John the Baptist, and then to Mary, the future mother of Jesus.

In this encounter, Zacharias doubted the words of Gabriel that God had answered his prayer and that he and his wife Elizabeth were going to have a son. Their son would be a great prophet who would prepare the way of the Lord. Gabriel told Zacharias that he would be mute and unable to speak until the child was born because he doubted his word. A person of faith would understand that this was a faith proposition from God, and no words of doubt and unbelief would be allowed to mess things up.

When Gabriel announced to Mary that she would conceive in her womb and bring forth a Son and shall call His name Jesus, she simply asked how it would be done, since she had not yet consummated her marriage to Joseph. According to the customs, that would not be done until after their wedding feast. No one had heard of someone having a child without an earthly father before. While Mary was curious about how this would happen, she did not doubt the word

**The Way of Peace**  
*Continued from Page 1*

of the angel was the Word of God.

Gabriel’s answer in Luke 1:35 is the absolute core of the whole Gospel. **“The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”**

Here Gabriel explained that the Holy Spirit would come on her, and that the power of the Highest, God the Father, would overshadow

her, manifesting human flesh created by God. This is exactly the same way that He created the first man, Adam. Now this incorruptible seed in Mary would mature and be born, and become known as the Son of God.

Gabriel finished his words to Mary by saying, **“For with God nothing will be impossible.”**

Mary’s response was, **“Behold the maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word.”** Hearing Mary’s answer of faith, Gabriel departed, knowing that the message had been delivered and received by faith. The Holy Spirit came upon her, the power of the Father overshadowed her, and Jesus the Son of the Living God was conceived in her womb.

Eventually, we find a wonderful thing happened after John the Baptist was born. Zachari-

as was healed of his inability to speak in order to name his son. He suddenly began to prophecy to the newborn infant about his role in preparing the way of the Lord. In Luke 1:76 he said, **“And you, child will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways.”**

Then in verse 78 and 79 he describes this Holy One, the Lord as, **“This Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”**

We did not just gain peace with God when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. God was never at war with us. We simply thought before we knew Him that He was angry with us. No, God loved us even when we made ourselves His enemy. The peace that we gained was not peace with God. It literally was the peace of God.

This is the way of peace that Jesus came to deliver to us. He had to destroy the works of the devil that kept us blinded from the love that God the Father had for us. That is what the apostle John told us in 1 John 3:8, **“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”**

I like asking Christians if they believe that Jesus was successful in accomplishing His purposes in coming to Earth. Did He really destroy the works of the devil? Remember that John also described Him in John 1:14 saying, **“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”**

Yes, Jesus fully destroyed the works of the devil for everyone who will believe. But His great victory is of no effect though, for those who refuse to believe. Faith in Jesus is a choice.

Welcome to the family of God.

Dr. Doug Wingate  
President and Founder  
Life Christian University

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## Keeping Your Children Healthy Through the Holidays

By Karen McBride

The holidays are a busy time for most families and the last thing you want is for your child to become ill. Grocery stores and shopping malls are flooded with people, and this provides more opportunities for germs to spread. Preventative medicine is the first step in maintaining your good health. Eating healthy meals, with fresh fruits and vegetables is essential. Daily exercise and fresh air are equally important. Washing your hands frequently and using sanitary wipes on shopping carts can help reduce the spread of germs. And never underestimate the power of a good night's sleep! What else can you do? Consult with your doctor about getting the proper vaccinations for illnesses such as the flu and whooping cough.

### Is it too late to get a flu shot?

The Center for Disease Control ("CDC") recommends that "everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season with rare exception". Generally, it is better get the flu vaccine in September or October, before the season begins. However, it can be beneficial throughout the entire flu season as a means to better protect yourself from the illness.

There are different vaccines to choose from. The vaccine can be administered through a

shot (ages 6 months and up) or in a nasal spray (for ages 2 to 49 years old). The CDC does not recommend one over the other. It is best to consult a doctor.

Whooping cough, or Pertussis, can be a serious disease. Pertussis can cause uncontrollable, violent coughing, which make it hard to breathe. There are two types of vaccines to fight against this disease. DTaP is for children younger than 7 years old, while older children, teens and adults get Tdap. Consult a physician to determine the need for this and other vaccinations.

Dr. Michele Johnson-Towson, at Pediatric Place of Tampa, is a board-certified pediatrician with 30 years of experience in caring for children ages newborn to 21 years old.

Dr. Johnson-Towson and her staff are dedicated to keeping patients both healthy and educated on changes in children's health care. Pediatric Place of Tampa offers Urgent Care hours to accommodate sick children after work, school, and/or daycare. Urgent Care hours are available Monday – Friday until 7pm, and Saturday 8:00am until noon.

Pediatric Place of Tampa is located at 1338 W. Fletcher Avenue, Tampa, FL 33612. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call 813-264-2288.

## Christmas - An Amazing Time of the Year



It is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ. One of the ways we do that is by giving and receiving gifts, and as we do, it reminds us that Jesus is the greatest gift of all. Pure giving is one of the most beautiful things that we do, and I always encourage people to make every day Christmas as far as giving is concerned. Let's live in the spirit of Christmas all year round!

If you just open up your eyes and look around, you can see that it's true. There is nothing that lights a person up like Jesus. He puts so much joy in your soul! Without Jesus, we would have no love or compassion to share with others. But because He lives in us, we can shine the light of His love throughout the entire world. That is the purpose God has for us. In other words, he has chosen us to shine his light in the world. It's very encouraging to know God doesn't expect us to be perfect before his love and light can

shine through our lives. You could say that you and I are like cracked pots.

We will always have weaknesses and imperfections, but we never have to hide them from God. The light of God actually intensifies in us as we allow him to work in us.

There are so many ways to shine his light. It can be as simple as wearing a smile. As you go about your daily life, especially during this special season of celebration, I encourage you to let aside a portion of your time, energy, talents, and resources to share that light and serve others.

After all, this is what Christmas is really all about. Just as Jesus came to love and serve all of us by giving the greatest gift, his very life, we can give of ourselves because His life and light is in us. He is Emmanuel, God with us!


[www.joycemeyer.org](http://www.joycemeyer.org)

## Salvation Army Women's Program

On December 3, 2018, the Salvation Army Tampa Adult Rehabilitation Center opened its women's program. Within weeks, all thirty-two beds in its new women's residence became occupied and the path of recovery commenced. Now on the program's first anniversary, 21 women have graduated from the faith-based, twelve-step, six-month program, determined to no longer allow their past brokenness to control them.

To help more women become free from drugs and mental and spiritual anguish and claim faith, hope, and love for themselves, please donate unwanted items. Call 1-800-SA-TRUCK or visit [satruck.org](http://satruck.org) to schedule free truck pickups. Recycle items to recycle lives.





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**Sunshine Animal Hospital Offers a New Way to Help Animals in Need**

Sunshine Animal Hospital has enrolled in the AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund, a program created by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) to support veterinarians in offering low or no-cost services to clients facing extraordinary hardships, as well as a way to support animals from abuse and neglect. Sunshine Animal Hospital donates considerable time and money each year to local, animal health-related charitable endeavors in the Tampa Bay area. As a participant in the AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund, Sunshine Animal Hospital will be empowered to provide charitable care to those in need.

Sunshine Animal Hospital encourages community members to make tax-deductible charitable contributions to the Veterinary Care Charitable Fund ([vccfund.org](http://vccfund.org)) or at **Sunshine Animal Hospital at 8008 W. Waters Avenue, Tampa, FL 33615.**

**Those helped by your donation include, but are not limited to:**

- \*Animal victims of abuse or neglect
- \*Injured or abandoned animals found by Good Samaritans
- \*Elderly clients needing limited assistance for pet care
- \*Disabled veterans in need of care for their service dog
- \*Pet owners experiencing medical challenges or financial hardships

**Poe's Story**

Poe is a 9 year old domestic cat that was brought into Sunshine Animal Hospital with severe intestinal problems. Poe was losing weight, had very little appetite and his overall quality of life was not very good. The cost of doing the necessary diagnostics including exploratory surgery and biopsies was beyond the means of Poe's owner. With the help of the "Animal Fund" Sunshine Animal Hospital was able to perform the necessary tests and procedures for Poe.

Today Poe is doing fine, she is still on medication for her condition and is expected to live a long and healthy life. "The Team at Sunshine Animal Hospital was wonderful and helped save my cat for which I am very grateful". M.M Tampa

The Veterinary Care Charitable Fund is a program of the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, the charitable arm of the American Veterinary Medical Association

**TO DONATE**  
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1) Hit "Donate Now" 2) Under Donate hit "Donate to a veterinary practice" 3) Select State (FL)  
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## ACE Hardware and E.L.L.A. Boutique Family Owned and Operated

By Karen McBride



Carrollwood ACE Hardware recently celebrated its grand opening. You can find everything you need for your home improvement projects. Come in and find the perfect paint color or faucet for your kitchen or bath. Lighting is essential to any décor, and ACE Hardware has a variety to choose from. No project can be completed without the proper tools, so be sure to check out the wide selection of high-quality tools available.

Scott and Tina Andrews, along with Scott's brother, Todd, and his wife, Andrea, own the Carrollwood store. The family opened Lutz ACE Hardware store in 2012 and felt it was time to expand. The Carrollwood area felt like a perfect fit. The Andrews family first went into business together when they began a pool supply and maintenance company and later grew to include ACE Hardware in Lutz and E.L.L.A. Boutique.

"When we needed parts to repair pools, we

realized the closest place was way over on Dale Mabry. And we knew that we really needed a hardware store in Lutz," said Scott.

When the opportunity arose to open ACE Hardware, they jumped at the chance. The former Walgreens space became available, and it was the ideal convenient location for their customers.

Tina grew up in Lutz. "To think that I learned to ride my bike in the back parking lot of the store, and this is where we came to buy candy. I have so many memories of coming to this store as a little girl and now here I am owning it! It is thrilling!" said Tina.

Adjacent to ACE Hardware in Lutz is E.L.L.A. Boutique. The 2000 square foot store carries a variety of unique gifts. The boutique was named after Todd and Andrea's daughters, Elaina and Liliana, and Scott and Tina's sons, Luke and Alexander.

The shop has jewelry, novelties, and of course, holiday decor. This time of year, it looks like Santa's wonderland with beautiful Christmas decorations. Find the perfect gift for your family member, whether is it bath soaps, soothing lotions or comfortable slippers, E.L.L.A. Boutique has it all.

Carrollwood ACE Hardware is located at 4531 Gunn Highway, Tampa, FL 33624. Lutz ACE Hardware and E.L.L.A. Boutique are located at 18469 N. US Highway 41, Lutz, Florida 33549. Find them on Facebook at @ACE-HardwareofLutz and @E.L.L.A.BoutiqueLutz.



## Hell: Real or Fallacy?

David Cravatta,  
Wells Fargo  
Associate VP,  
Investments

"...depart from me, ye cursed, into the everlasting fire..." Matt 25: 41

"...ye will be thrown into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping & gnashing of teeth..." Matt 13: 42

"...God did not spare his revolting angels and sent them to Hell binding them in chains and darkness..." 2 Pet 2:4

When I was a boy, I asked my mother what Hell was. She replied simply "it's a place where bad people go after they die." "Am I going there?" "As long as you say your prayers and do the right thing, no." That was my quick lesson, which I held on to for years. At Sunday school and mass after that, Hell was never mentioned, though I did hear from time to time that it was a very hot place. Some of my friends believed that Hell is a state of mind while others did not think Hell existed at all.

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, for you old school folks, Hell is described as *the abode of the dead; the underworld; the place for punishment of the wicked* and finally *a place for the condemned*. However, there is another description found that is a bit more telling: *a place of evil, torment, misery, and destruction*.

I find it interesting in those who believe Hell does not exist based on their statements on geography or cosmology. In other words, since Hell has not been found in space or below the earth, it's a fallacy. And just recently, the Vatican was sent scrambling to clarify things when Pope Francis appeared to deny Hell's existence, making Jesus, essentially, a liar.

The fact is, Hell is mentioned at least 54 times in both Old and New Testaments, though they never tell us how or when it was

created. It is said on the ninth day of Lucifer's fall, he hit the ground with so much violence and weight he sank like a stone into Earth's molten center. His new abode was unfathomable with its stench and its darkness lit only by its molten glow. I can't imagine, what was once God's most beautiful creation now dwelling in an endless cesspool of liquid fire and rot. This perverted Seraphim, adorned with six magnificent wings glistening and illuminating of gold and pewter, now distorted into an oily waxen mask frothing at the mouth with rage as he gazed upon his new domain.

I have mentioned before, the Bible often underscores its descriptions and lacks significant emphasis when attempting to paint a picture. As I understand it, Hell is described as a vast and terrifying landscape of suffocating darkness lit only by the glows of its fire. Those who claimed to have visited describe hearing bloodcurdling and agonizing screams of howls and torture. As you press further into Hell, the inferno becomes hotter and the torment becomes more intense with endless catacombs of jailed souls.

Finally at Hell's center, the Pit of Fire, with chaos and anarchy surrounding its gates guarded by Abbadon, aka the Destroyer. Despite the description of Hell's endless torture and evil, what scared me the most is its anguish of darkness and being completely separated from God with no hope of ever leaving. I think I'll take my mother's advice by saying my prayers and keep the word of the Lord in my heart.

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~ Mike and Julie Byrnes, Apollo Beach

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~ Todd Wahl — St. Petersburg, Florida

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What Our Winners Had To Say...

Every month, we take pride in giving away different prizes to our most dedicated readers in the Tampa Bay area. During the month of October, we had several people win four “What Would Jesus Do” bracelets.

Our winners couldn’t hide their excited expressions after receiving their prizes.

“Thanks for the four bands!” said Stephen. “I plan on giving them to a couple at church who have four kids. I am sure that they will love them!”

Patricia is a woman in the Tampa area whose heart is full of peace, love, and her faith in Jesus. She is one of our most dedicated readers and almost always participates in our monthly “Enter to Win” segment. She was ecstatic when she received her prize from this month.

“Thank you so much for sending me the four “What Would Jesus Do” bracelets!” she said. “I’m wearing one already and I can’t wait to send the other three to my friends! I’m so excited!”

If you wish to receive one of our monthly prizes, please be sure to pick up a hard copy of your local Gazette.

If you are a winner, we would love to hear from you! Please share with us your experience by sending a photo with how much fun you had!



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord. “Plans too prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”  
— Jeremiah 29:11

A silhouette of a nativity scene set against a warm, orange and yellow sunset background. The scene includes Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger, with a bright star shining in the sky above them.

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We appreciate each and every one  
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A Reader Shares Her Heart

Kay, I just finished reading two articles from the September 2019 edition of the Dunndeal Publication.

My heart has been heavy as of late. When I sought God’s hand for solace and comfort I couldn’t feel his presence, only a void of some sort. I won’t go into specifics. However, today I needed comfort and a fresh perspective on this issue on my heart, and of course in God fashion, He delivered on his promise.

First, He provided a much-needed massage that has relieved me of much tension and stress in my body temple.

Next, as if to grab me from returning to a state of misery and distress, my eyes saw the September 2019 issue of the “My Pasco Gazette” As I read Keith Chandler’s “How Great Is God?” I felt God’s presence. He’s here in my office!!! Through Keith’s article, God ministered to my heart and soul.

I followed His guidance to do the work by answering the question, “What do I want people to say about me?” Tears flowed and relief came as I could hear your voice in my head. I smiled as I finished answering that question. It took some time, but I did it!

But He wasn’t finished using the Gazette. I turn the page to see Joyce Meyer’s article “Learning to Pursue What Really Matters” of course I fell apart in my heart space with a smile of relief. This article helped me believe I’m getting this thing right for God. I have friends across the miles (not too many) like you who He purposely placed in my life years ago for a time such as this. A time when I’d need a shoulder to lean on, a shoulder to hold me up when I feel weak as His love makes me strong, not just any shoulder... your shoulder, the shoulder of your news publication.

I make no excuses for the lack of brevity in my message to say THANK YOU!! I wanted you to know how much you and your publication mean to me. I thank God He gave you this wonderful gift, a gift of cherished comfort and love given to me today. Keep doing what you’re doing! You and your business ARE making a difference reaching souls like mine for which Heaven knows I am grateful.

– Artricia



Keep Christ  
in Christmas

A detailed illustration of a nativity scene. In the foreground, silhouettes of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger are visible. To the left, three camels are walking towards the manger. To the right, a shepherd with a staff and a dog are also silhouetted. The background shows a starry night sky with a bright star, palm trees, and a distant cityscape.

Enter to Win!

Check the event you would like to attend if you are  
chosen as a winner of the Bible Trivia Contest!

☐

Monster Jam Jan. 11 Show (see page 12)

☐

Jurassic World Jan. 3-5 Show

Fill in the Verses (answers are found in the paper!)

1. I am completely wonderful, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Through Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. You have made known \_\_\_\_\_

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4. For I know the plans I have for you \_\_\_\_\_

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