

The Contact



OROVILLE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE OROVILLE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Volume 9 Issue 4 April 2008

The Pastor's Pen from John Bronson

To my knowledge, there are now two young men from our congregation who have been selected to attend Boy's State, California: Nathan Giordano and Caleb Bronson. 'Boy's State' is an event sponsored by the American Legion, beginning in the 1930's and designed to educate the attendees in the American political system. They gather together for a week of "politicking," in which they not only role-play such political offices as city councils, state legislatures, judiciaries and governorships, but also participate in a mock political party. They seek to be elected based on election campaigns and platforms drawn up, to consolidate power, pass legislation, make political appointments and so on.

Some notable public figures have participated in their state programs, including President Bill Clinton and Rush Limbaugh, which proves there is no specific political bent to the experience given. Caleb's selection, however, raised an interesting question: would

I want my child to pursue a career in politics? The question confronts us with the oddities of the American attitude toward politics and government. Reflection on our attitudes may lead us to a sharper understanding of both the dilemma and the danger we face as a nation because we now live under a national government which, in more than one way, is out of control.

Though there are exceptions, preponderantly, Americans love their country. We know that we are the beneficiaries of both remarkable liberties and protected legal rights, and remarkable prosperity with protected property rights. Democratic self-governance and the state, as servant both to the liberties and the prosperity of the public, are twin boasts which we extend to the world at large as foundational to the wonderful American way of life.

At the same time, Americans are suspicious of, and resistant to, the powers of government. We view politicians with disdain. We

commonly say that government accomplishes nothing and tends to get in the way of those who would if they could. At the same time, we are overwhelmingly convinced of the superiority, if not the invincibility of, the armed forces, celebrate the space explorations of NASA and then disparage government bureaucracy as the epitome of inefficiency and incompetence. While we consider government services almost as an oxymoron, we happily entrust the education of our children to state or government schools from pre-school through university. In these things Americans do not think clearly nor act consistently.

Would I want my child to pursue a career in government service, or a career in politics? Well, maybe. Then again, maybe not. The prospect is further clouded by American attitudes towards those who serve in government on the one hand, and those who pursue political careers on the other. Our

(Continued on page 7)

Coming Events

- Sun, Apr 6
Communion & Deacon's Offering
- Thurs, Apr 10
White Cross - 9 am
Fellowship Hall
- Sun, Apr 13
Rick Gentry in Concert
- Fri-Sun, Apr 25-27
Ladies Spring Retreat
at Richardson Springs

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Spotlight on Missions



Dennis Hurt

Missions Team Chairman

Linda Sauke
ReachGlobal

Evangelical Free Church of America (EFCA)

Ron and Linda Sauke were first introduced to this church in 1973 when they visited us on their way to Hong Kong to study Chinese. After three years of language study they began

full-time ministry at the Evangel Children's Home, serving as educators. In 1980 the Lord led them to join the teaching staff at Faith Academy in the Philippines. During their 1991-1992 home assignment, Ron was injured in an accident making it impossible for them to return to Manila.

Linda now recruits and prepares short-term missionaries for cross-cultural ministries. She is director CONNECT (missions resource development), supervising and providing curriculum, materials, and resources for churches and short-term teams. Linda is the editor of the "Synergy Newsletter," a resource for 950 missionary families in 33 countries. She says that she enjoys writing stories, sharing great ideas, and devel-



oping ministry tools for churches and missionaries.

She also coordinates Outreach English Classes, training churches around the world how to teach English as an evangelical outreach in the community, and serves as Director of Resource Development.

At one time Ron was the EFCA District Missions Consultant for the Pacific

Northwest and Northern Mountain districts. Now his ministry is full-time teacher at a Christian school.

Ron and Linda live in the Seattle area. They have two adult sons.

Linda writes, "The Oroville Evangelical Free Church has been faithful over many years and we are very grateful."

Annual Caring for Women
Pregnancy Resource Center



Walk for Life
Saturday, May 3
Oroville Dam

Registration at 7:30 a.m. Walk begins at 9:00 a.m.

Also

Teen walk on Friday, May 2

Registration at 5:30 p.m. - Walk at 7:00 p.m.

*You are invited to be the guest of:
Area Director Team, Mike and Marilyn Williams
At a **Wycliffe Associates banquet** to be held at the*

Holiday Inn
685 Manzanita Court
Chico, California

April 24, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

*During the banquet, you will be inspired and encouraged by
Michael, Translator/Linguist serving Asia.*

Reservations are Required
Tickets distributed by Dennis Hurt, Harlan Lundberg,
Frank Bernhard

Moment of Contact

Caroleah Johnson, Contact Editor

When Dreams Die

Is there even one among us who has not witnessed or felt the death of a dream, be it one's own or that of a friend? Perhaps it was the untimely death of a child, a spouse, or some other loved one. Maybe it was a debilitating illness that prevented you from attaining your goal. A failed marriage, terminated employment, rebellious children. The list is endless, but whatever the reason, the result is the same: we mourn—sometimes profoundly, other times less so. We mourn not only the actual loss, but the hopes and dreams we held for that per-

son or object. The extent of our mourning often corresponds directly to our view of the cross.

During these times we would all do well to remember the words of Lamentations 3:22,23: "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning..."

I remember so clearly the loss of our infant son years ago, before I was a Christian. The sense of hopelessness I felt was so repressive I finally called out to God in

search of some logical reason for this healthy child's death. And through my mourning, God gently led me toward His Son, whose death on the cross paid the price for my salvation. When I accepted this gift, I learned an unforgettable lesson about dreams: when they die, God graciously gives us new dreams. Over the years He has faithfully given me new dreams, again and again, to replace those that have failed to materialize.

How are your dreams? Are they flourishing or have they died? Are you slogging

through the sullied waters of life like one who has no hope? Or are your eyes fixed upon the cross, upon the very source of hope and new dreams? If your eyes are downcast, look up. Look to the cross, to the author and perfecter of our faith—to the giver of all good things. Let Him give you a new dream.

"The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."

(Lamentations 3:25, 26)
Blessings to you all. ~cj

Reveal Productions Presents

REVEAL OROVILLE BENEFIT CONCERT

To promote a new ministry and vision of hope of Oroville through cutting edge music

With . . .

NEEDLEPEG RECORDING ARTIST

RICK GENTRY

And Special Guest

STEPHANIE HAYDEN

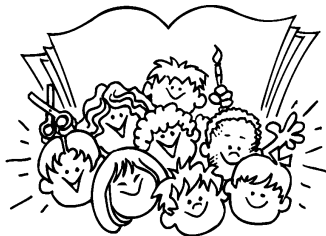
SUNDAY, APRIL 13

6:00 P.M.

Oroville Church of the Nazarene

Refreshments (for nominal donation) and Child Care provided





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

**Nini Bronson,
CM Director**

This month, I am especially excited about a seminar that we are having on Saturday, April 5. Julie Johnston will be presenting the Rorheim Institute seminar called **Rock Solid Kids** from 8:00 to 1:30 in the church library. The seminar materials are produced by AWANA, and are geared to reach beyond AWANA into the general Children's Ministries and parental arenas. This seminar is open to all Children's Ministry teachers, OCS teachers, AWANA leaders, and all parents who want to learn more about training our children. Julie has taught this seminar several times in the past, and is looking forward to bringing these ex-

citing materials to us. Lunch will be served and we will also have several of the *Rock Solid Kid* books by Larry Fowler available for purchase.

Something else has caught my attention. In preparation for this seminar I have been reading another Larry Fowler book, *Raising a Modern-Day Joseph*. Mr. Fowler has a passion for "discipling children to know, love and serve Jesus Christ." He has taken a close look at the children of today, and how well they do in maintaining their faith once they leave home. The evidence is shocking.

In late 2005, AWANA asked these questions of 100 Bible colleges and seminaries: "Do you measure the Bible knowledge of incoming freshmen, and if so, have you seen a trend in their scores over the past ten years?" Only 58 schools responded. Let me quote from Mark S. Krause, dean of Puget Sound Christian College: "I have been teach-

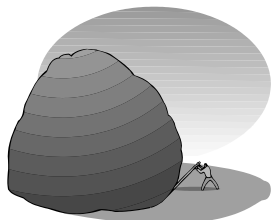
ing at Puget Sound Christian College for 23 years in the Bible department. The level of Bible knowledge for incoming students has decreased dramatically over this period. Our assumption now is that incoming freshmen know nothing about the Bible, and that we must start at the most basic level."

I find this a very disturbing comment. What are we teaching our children? If they leave our church to go away to college, or start their careers, and know nothing of the Bible, or just the bare minimum, they are very vulnerable to the worldliness of our culture, and poor witnesses to the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

I have often wondered how you can read about a situation like King Josiah in the Old Testament. In 2 Kings 22 and 23 Josiah, after he had been ruling for eight years, learned that a book had been found in the temple. At first he didn't even know that it was the Book

of the Law. He didn't know the message of the book. He didn't know anything about it. How could this be? How could he have grown up in Israel and not known the history of God with his people? In Deuteronomy God commands us to tell our children daily about His ways and His love. We are to teach our children as we sit, stand, and walk in the way. If we, as both parents and teachers here in Children's Ministries, are doing this, children will not be young adults before hearing about the Word of God for the first time.

Raising a Modern-Day Joseph has given me pause for thought. Just because we teach something does not necessarily mean that the message gets through. I am exploring ways to test the knowledge of our children when they leave Children's Ministries, and perhaps again when they leave Youth Ministry, to make sure we are sending out children armed with the full armor of God, ready to take on the world's challenges.



Rock Solid Kids

Saturday, April 5 8:00—1:30

OCS Library

For parents, children's leaders, teachers, anyone working with children





JOYFUL HEARTS WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Peggy Schultz, Women's Ministry Chairman



*Evangelical Free Church
Joyful Hearts Women's
Ministry Presents*



Spring Retreat 2008

Heart 2 Heart
A Heart Lifting Retreat

April 25-27, 2008

Richardson Springs Conference
Center, Chico

Speaker:
Cathy Kingham

*Continues with Mark 12:30
Focusing on **Strength***

*Love the Lord with all your heart and with all your
soul and with all your mind and with all your
STRENGTH. Mark 12:30*

From Peggy...

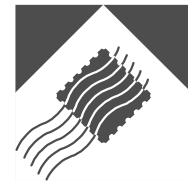
We missed those of you who were unable to join us for the **Joyful Hearts** meeting on February 29. Cathy Kingham's presentation was a great preview of what you can expect at our Ladies Retreat, April 25-27. We also had special music, led by Stephanie.

Marcia Sundahl gave us pointers on finding our way around the OCS library and both she and Marsha Bernhard gave book reports.

If you haven't signed up for the Spring Retreat please remember that April 8 is the cutoff date.

Stamp Ministry

Myrtle Fullmer wants to remind you to **save those used postage stamps!** Cut them so there is at least 1/4—1/2 inch all the way around them and bundle them in a sandwich bag before putting them in the Women's Ministry box in the foyer.



The stamps are sold to stamp collectors and all the proceeds are used to purchase Sunday School material in South America.

Just Like Sheep

From Marcia Sundahl...

We have a mob of sheep that are lambing right now, which means we are in and out of the barn often, sometimes handling ewes and lambs as often as every couple of hours. Being in the barn so frequently has decreased the fear the entire flock has of us. Now

some of them even come up to us to see if we might rub behind their ears. The bottle fed lambs dash up and follow us everywhere. It won't always be this way. By summer they will spend all their time in the pasture and we won't be with them so much. Then they will go back to being shy around us, acting as if they don't even need a shepherd.

The Bible often rightly compares us to sheep. The more time we spend around the shepherd the closer we are willing to come. But when we get to doing our own thing it makes us afraid to get too close to our dear Shepherd. I want to be like our bottle

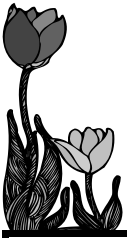


lambs, requiring Him for life and following Him everywhere.



Have something you'd like to share? Send it to:
newsletter@evfreeorville.com

All submissions are subject to editing at the discretion of the editor.



April 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p> <p>Ladies Bible 6:30am</p> <p>Small Groups @ 2pm, 6:30pm, 7pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Men's Prayer-7am</p> <p>Jr. High-5:45 pm</p> <p>AWANA -5:45</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Elders 6am</p> <p>Romanians-5:30 pm</p> <p>JoySong 6:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Ladies Bible-1pm</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Communion</p> <p>9 am—Worship</p> <p>11 am—Sun School</p> <p>3 pm—Romanians</p> <p>5:30 pm—Vespers</p> <p>5:30 pm—Sr. High</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Adult Prayer</p> <p>1:30 pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Ladies Bible 6:30am</p> <p>Small Groups @ 2pm, 6:30pm, 7pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Men's Prayer-7am</p> <p>Jr. High-5:45 pm</p> <p>AWANA -5:45</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Elders 6am</p> <p>Romanians-5:30 pm</p> <p>JoySong 6:30</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Ladies Bible-1pm</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9 am—Worship</p> <p>11 am—Sun School</p> <p>3 pm—Romanians</p> <p>5:30 pm—Vespers</p> <p>6:00 pm—Rick Gentry in Concert</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Adult Prayer</p> <p>1:30 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Ladies Bible 6:30am</p> <p>Small Groups @ 2pm, 6:30pm, 7pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Men's Prayer-7am</p> <p>Jr. High-5:45 pm</p> <p>AWANA -5:45</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Elders 6am</p> <p>Romanians-5:30 pm</p> <p>JoySong 6:30</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ladies Bible-1pm</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9 am—Worship</p> <p>11 am—Sun School</p> <p>3 pm—Romanians</p> <p>5:30 pm—Vespers</p> <p>5:30 pm—Sr. High</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Adult Prayer</p> <p>1:30 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ladies Bible 6:30am</p> <p>Small Groups @ 2pm, 6:30pm, 7pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Men's Prayer-7am</p> <p>Jr. High-5:45 pm</p> <p>AWANA -5:45</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Elders 6am</p> <p>Romanians-5:30 pm</p> <p>JoySong 6:30</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Ladies Bible-1pm</p> <p>LADIES SPRING RETREAT →</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9 am—Worship</p> <p>11 am—Sun School</p> <p>3 pm—Romanians</p> <p>5:30 pm—Vespers</p> <p>5:30 pm—Sr. High</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Adult Prayer</p> <p>1:30 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Ladies Bible 6:30am</p> <p>Small Groups @ 2pm, 6:30pm, 7pm</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Men's Prayer-7am</p> <p>Jr. High-5:45 pm</p> <p>AWANA -5:45</p>			

(Continued from page 1)

attitude toward government employees varies, but is generally one of mild tolerance. There is a suspicion that these people are mainly motivated by the desire for security as opposed to the pursuit of productivity. All of us have encountered and “endured” the inefficiency and incompetency of government functionaries. This is not a pretty picture in the American mind. The picture of politicians is worse: out for power and willing to sell their soul to get it. Among the highest of American values is the ability to get things done. But to get things done in the political arena you must know how to compromise and cooperate, and to compromise in politics is considered hypocritical, indicating you’ve been bought. So politicians are either incompetent do-nothings or they are hypocritical sell-outs. Would I want my child to pursue a career in govern-

ment service, or a career in politics?

Two further considerations need to inform our thoughts. The United States is the most powerful nation in the world. It also has one of the largest governments in the world, providing a breadth of services which simply staggers the mind. Taken as a whole, government is the single most powerful entity in American life. Part of our scorn for government may well be a tacit recognition that we are so extensively dependent upon it, and that we feel powerless in dealing with it. Some people set themselves the goal of trying to control the immense and diverse structures and powers of government. The pursuit of political power and office on the local level is expensive but not overwhelming. The pursuit of political power and office at the state and national level is expensive, beyond the means of any but the wealthiest of people. The

costs are such that there is no feasible way for the income of the office to meet the financial demand for gaining the office. Consequently, the candidate is forced to be dependent on those willing to finance his aspirations. It is the judgment of Americans that this means the candidate has been bought. We have created an atmosphere or environment, a set of perceptions and understandings which almost guarantees that individuals of moral and personal integrity who value their independence of judgment and principled action will not enter politics. Consequently we tacitly agree to entrust the world’s most powerful nation and that nation’s government at all levels to men of questionable character and low competence.

Increasingly Americans have abandoned the practice of self-governance. The process of deliberation, the development of consensus founded on an understanding the relationship between foundational truths and principles and proposed,

specific actions is waved off as too slow and somehow unnecessary. We want our organizations, including our churches, run by people who “get things done.” Presumably what needs to be done is obvious, although the consistently high levels of frustration and complaint would say otherwise. Meanwhile, we neither train ourselves or our children in the deliberative process necessary for self-government nor do we instill a respect for the process and those who undertake the hard work of pursuing it. Having surrendered our responsibilities in the end we will lose the liberties we forgot to use. Turning our backs on self-governance, we will find ourselves managed in all areas of life by those incompetent bureaucrats we view with contempt.

Would I want my child to pursue a career in government service, or a career in politics? Yes, I do believe I would. ~JB

Church Chuckles



A four year old was at the pediatrician for a check up. As the doctor looked down her ears with an otoscope, he asked, “Do you think I’ll find Big Bird in here?”

The little girl stayed silent.

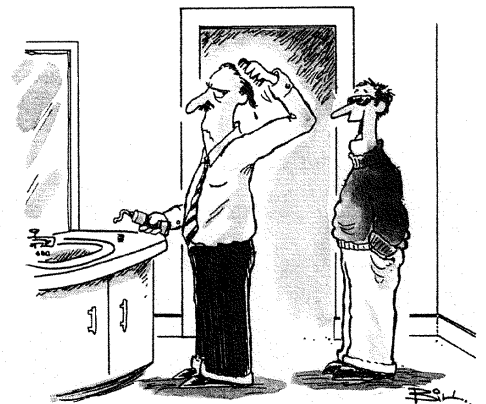
Next, the doctor took a tongue depressor and looked down her throat. He asked, “Do you think I’ll find the Cookie Monster down there?”

Again, the little girl was silent.

Then the doctor put a stethoscope to her chest.

As he listened to her heart beat, he asked, “Do you think I’ll hear Barney in there?”

“Oh, no!” the little girl replied. “Jesus is in my heart. Barney’s on my underpants.”



“Tell the truth, Dad. Combing your hair must be like Moses parting the Red Sea at low tide, huh?”

**EVANGELICAL FREE
CHURCH**

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Oroville, CA 95966

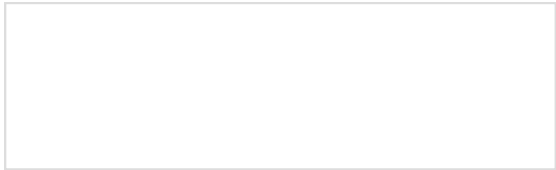
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Pastor John Bronson

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:30 a.m. Family Fellowship
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 5:30 p.m. Evening Vesper Service
- 5:30 p.m. Senior High Youth (Contact Ken Butler for event schedule)



Weekday Events:

Call the church office to find out which small group you may want to join.

AWANA Wed 5:45-7:45 pm
(September-May only)

Jr. High Wed. 5:45 pm

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

**Word Search
Puzzle—**



Heavenly Hosts

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| ANGEL | INVISIBLE |
| ARCHANGEL | JOYFUL |
| BATTLE | LOVE |
| BEAUTY | MICHAEL |
| BENEVOLENT | MINISTERING |
| BLESSED | NEAR |
| CELESTIAL | NEWS |
| CHERUB | PEACE |
| CHOIR | PROTECT |
| ETERNAL | PURE |
| GABRIEL | SING |
| GENTLE | SPIRIT |
| GUARDIAN | SWEET |
| GUIDE | WINGS |
| HALO | |
| HARP | |
| HEAVEN | |
| HOSTS | |