

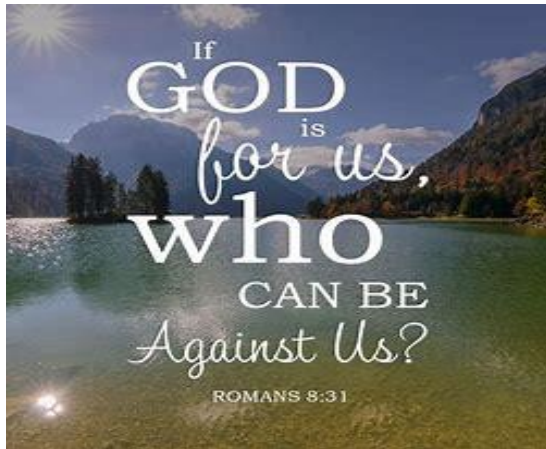
Good News Today

VOLUME 1 NUMBER 1

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ALTURAS, CA

Luke 4:18 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed,¹⁹To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”*



NEW BEGINNING

Today, while driving home, I had an overwhelming urge to begin publishing this newsletter. Years ago, during my time as head Chaplain at a California County Jail, I created a quarterly newsletter called *God's Inside Guys* for men incarcerated in the California prison and jail systems.

The goal of that publication was to inspire those behind the walls to experience freedom in Christ. My focus was to encourage the men to seek and find the truth, and then help others along their journey. The last issue of *God's Inside Guys* was published in 2003.

Over the past twenty-plus years, I've often felt led to revive it, but I was never able to see it through. In time, I came to realize that the Lord wasn't leading me back down that path. Today, I firmly believe Proverbs 3:5-6 speaks to this new beginning: *“As I trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding; in all my ways, I will acknowledge Him, because I know for certain that He will direct my path.”*

Now, with His direction, I feel led to start this *Good News Today* publication with His purpose. This newsletter aims to encourage not only those in my local community but also others, both near and far.

My prayer is that in these pages, you will find something to reaffirm—or discover—the true freedom found in knowing and walking in a relationship with Jesus. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the Way, the Truth, and the Life—*The Only Way to Heaven*.

Blessings,
Mike Lewis

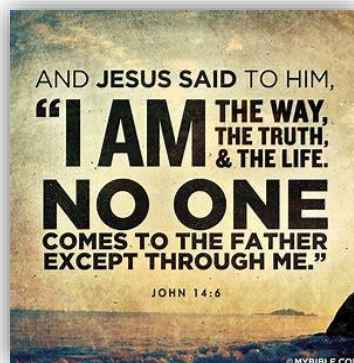
HIS STORY

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father full of grace and truth.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life---that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”
Matthew 11:28

The Touch of the Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while
To waste much time on the old violin,
But held it up with a smile.
“What am I bidden, good folks,” he cried,
“Who'll start the bidding for me?”
“A dollar, a dollar. Then two! Only two?
Two dollars, and who'll make it three?”
”Three dollars, once; three dollars, twice;
Going for three...” But no,
From the room, far back, a grey-haired man
Came forward and picked up the bow;
Then wiping the dust from the old violin,
And tightening the loosened strings,
He played a melody pure and sweet,
As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased, and the auctioneer,
With a voice that was quiet and low,
Said: “What am I bid for the old violin?”
And he held it up with the bow.
“A thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?
Two thousand! And who'll make it three?
Three thousand, once; three thousand, twice,
And going and gone,” said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,
“We do not quite understand.
What changed its worth?” Swift came the reply:
“The touch of the Master's hand.”
And many a man with life out of tune,
And battered and scarred with sin,
Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd
Much like the old violin.

“A mess of pottage,” a glass of wine,
A game — and he travels on.
He is “going” once, and “going” twice,
He's “going” and almost “gone.”
But the Master comes, and the foolish crowd
Never can quite understand
The worth of a soul and the change that is wrought
By the touch of the Master's hand.

by
Myra Brook Welch

To Know Him and Make Him Known John 17:3

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

I AM FORGIVEN	EPHESIANS 1:7
I AM RESCUED	COLOSSIANS 1:13-14
I AM REDEEMED	ROMANS 3:24
I AM VALUABLE	LUKE 12:6-6
I AM CHOSEN	JOHN 15:16
I AM ACCEPTED	ROMANS 15:7
I AM FREE	ROMANS 8:1-2
I AM CHILD OF GOD	JOHN 1:12
I AM ADOPTED BY GOD	EPHESIANS 1:5
I AM JESUS' FRIEND	JOHN 15:15
I AM NEVER ALONE	JOSHUA 1:12
I AM JUSTIFIED	ROMANS 3:23-24
I AM SAVED	EPHESIANS 2:8-9
I AM LOVED	JOHN 3:16

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE UNASHAMED

"My Commitment as a Christian"

I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed." I have Holy Spirit power.

The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits of popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, and my mission clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until He comes, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He stops me. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. Because my banner will be clear.

I am not ashamed of the gospel...Romans 1:16

This was written by a young African Pastor and tacked on the wall of his house. It was discovered by those who entered his home after he was killed for the cause of Christ.

A BELIEVER'S ULTIMATE HOME

Peter 3:13-14 says, "We are looking forward to the new heavens and new earth he has promised, a world filled with God's righteousness. And so, dear friends, while you are waiting for these things to happen, make every effort to be found living peaceful lives that are pure and blameless in His sight."

Is resurrected living in a resurrected world with the resurrected Christ and his resurrected people your daily longing and hope? Is it part of the gospel you share with others? Paul says that the resurrection of the dead is the hope in which we were saved. It will be the glorious climax of God's saving work that began at our regeneration. It will mark the final end of any and all sin that separates us from God. In liberating us from sin and all its consequences, the resurrection will free us to live with God, gaze on Him, and enjoy His uninterrupted fellowship forever, with no threat that anything will ever again come between us and Him.

On this Thanksgiving Day 2024, we can truly know Who we are thankful to here and now, as well as for and what He has planned for our eternal future!

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I HAVEN'T LIKED MY ATTITUDE LATELY

It's like I've been bitten by a gratitude vampire. My life is blessed, yet I allow bad drivers, annoying news, being late, scammers, politicians, and people who don't think the Lions will be in the Super Bowl to suck "being grateful" right out of me.

It's hard to admit but I'm becoming too grumpy, too complain-y. Lately, I've been living beneath a blindfold—not seeing my blessings nor the One from whom "everything good comes from" (James 1:17 ERV).

So, here's a story I had forgotten that's helping me put a stake in the heart of ingratitude:

Back in 1984, Benjamin Weir's 30-year career as a Presbyterian Missionary came to an abrupt halt when Muslim extremists kidnapped and held him hostage.

For 16 months isolated in a barren room, manacled to a radiator, blindfolded much of the time—his life was the picture of misery.

Upon his release, the first question reporters asked was how did he survive the ordeal? And his reply is wisdom I want to live out:

"One day I noticed the chain that manacled my leg to a radiator had thirty-three links in it. I decided each of these links would represent a blessing to be counted: Carol my wife, my children, friends, health, food, mattress, pillow, blanket, some days a shower, other days a few vegetables added to my meal, and so forth."

I love this.

In some ways we are all manacled to situations out of our control—health issues, loss of those precious to us, what people do, etc. But daily numbering God's many blessings upon our lives might just be the negativity-slayer needed to keep us from feeling outnumbered and overwhelmed.

Happy Thanksgiving,
Tom Gaddis

Pastor and Author of the book

[This Isn't Going Well: a memoir: Gaddis, Tom: 9798872261070:](#)
[Amazon.com: Books tom_gaddis57@yahoo.com](#)



*My soul, wait in silence for God only,
For my hope is from Him. Psalm 62:5*