

# 2006 Proclaimer

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" -Isa.61:1-2*

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A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006

## **SAFE CROSSING**

*by David A. Sargent*

An Australian writes: Australia is not always a friendly place for tourists. We have Great White Sharks hovering off our beaches, man-eating crocodiles in our Northern regions, deadly box jellyfish with stingers extending meters and meters, the deadliest spider in the world, and 13 of the world's 20 deadliest snakes!

But of all the dangers presented to American tourists a little remembered one is their attempts to cross our roads. No, not because Aussies have a passionate hatred towards all things American that makes them targets for Aussie drivers. It's simply because the two countries drive on OPPOSITE sides of the road.

This means that American tourists have to remember to look in the OPPOSITE direction to that which they would normally look. A lifetime habit is hard to kick, with the result that American tourists in Australia easily find themselves looking in the wrong direction, then stepping out into oncoming traffic. **(The same thing applies to Australians in the U.S.)**

**What's the point? Looking in the WRONG direction can be dangerous, maybe even DEADLY. And this truth also applies in our spiritual lives! It could be that YOU are looking for life's answers in the WRONG direction.** Many search for the answers in wealth, or fame, or pleasure. But in the end, people find out that these things hold no meaning.

*Cont'd on next page*

There is only ONE WAY, there is only ONE ANSWER: seeking God through his Son, **JESUS CHRIST**. \*

**Sin is the WRONG direction.** In fact, it is a "**DEAD END**" street -- one that leads to death and destruction (**Matt 7:13-14**; **Rom 6:23**). "**There is A WAY that SEEMS RIGHT to a man, but in the end it leads to DEATH**" (**Prov 14:12**).

**Jesus is the RIGHT Direction.** He said, "**I am THE WAY, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me**" (**John 14:6**). We access that Way through our faith: believing in Him (**Acts 16:30-31**), repenting of our sins (**Acts 17:30-31**), confessing Him before men (**Romans 10:9-10**), and being baptized (immersed) in His name for the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38**). Those who continue to follow Him, He will lead to eternal life in Heaven (**Revelation 2:10**).

**So before you step out into the "CROSS-WALK", make sure you are looking in the RIGHT direction!**  
**David A. Sargent**

## Growing Older

A little less care for bonds or gold,  
A little more zeal for the days of old;  
A broader view and a saner mind,  
And a little more love for all mankind;  
And so we are faring down the way  
That leads to the gates of a better day.

A little more love for the friends of youth,  
A little more zeal for established truth,  
A little more charity in our views,  
A little less thirst for the daily news;

And so we are folding our tents away  
And passing in silence at close of day.

A little more leisure to sit and dream,  
A little more real the things unseen,  
A little nearer to those ahead,  
With visions of those long loved and  
dead;  
And so we are going where all must go  
To the place the living may never know.

A little more laughter, a few more tears,  
And we shall have told our increasing  
years.

The book is closed and the prayers are  
said,

And we are part of the countless dead;  
Thrice happy, then, if some soul can say,  
"I live because of their help on the way."

by R. G. Wells

Submitted by Betty Tope

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**Marriage is like a tango: It takes two, and occasionally one has to bend over backward to keep the dance going.**

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**There is a wonderful correlation between the three things that we crave most in life, happiness, freedom, and peace of mind, being much more easily attained personally by giving them to someone else.**

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**The only way to gain peace and joy is to have a living connection with Him who gave His life for us, who died that we might live, and who lives to unite His power with the efforts of those who are striving to overcome.** -- This Day With God, p. 145.

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*D'ma*

# SENIOR CITIZEN

*and I'm having  
the time of my life!!!*

I'm usually interested in going home before I get to where I am going.

I'm good on a trip for at least an hour without my aspirin, antacid...

I'm the life of the party... even when it lasts until 8 PM.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a word you're saying.

I'm very good at telling stories.....over and over and over and over

I'm aware that other people's grandchildren are not as cute as mine.

I'm wrinkled, saggy, lumpy, and that's just my left leg.

I'm so cared for: long term care, eye care, private care, dental care...

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a secure place.

I'm not grouchy, I just don't like traffic, waiting, crowds, politicians...

I'm wondering, if you're only as old as you feel, how could I be alive at 100?

I'm in the initial stage of my golden years: SS, CD's, IRA'S, AARP.....

I'm a walking storeroom of facts.....I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.

THOSE NEEDING PRAYERS

**Frank & Tina Ayers**

**Lucille Erickson**

(3529 Walnut, Rm 206A, Carmichael)

**Betty Gardner** (Loomis)

**Helen Gray**

**Margaret Holcomb**

(improving)

**Chuck House**

(heart & cancer)

**Cameron Johnson** (in a coma)

**Catherine Kay** (Escalon)

**Jean McCarty**

**Stan & Therena Mellor** (Wash.)

**Jeffry Pennant**

**Kaye Pennant**

**Irma Rapier**

(+ sister Doris & niece Robin Shockley)

**Sven Raven** (in Sun Bridge on Fair Oaks)

**Rosa Reagan** (Bremerton)

**Caleb & Jacob Robertson**

**Taylor Romine**

**Tom & Boots Royston** (Folsom)

**Mike Rude** (Missouri)

**Bill & Rena Schultz**

**Geneva Shelton**

**Shawna Shuck**

**Ken Sterling**

**Ola Thornburg**

**Nancy Valine**

**Donna Williams** (Carol's Sis)

**Ellie Williams**

**Gordon & Glenda Wilson**

## TRAVELING IN THEIR WORK

**Rick Rittenhouse**

**Brad Rusk**

**Aaron Robertson**

## IN THE MILITARY

**Jason Anderson**

**David Lovett**

**Michael Mendez**

**Aaron Robertson**

**Vern and Lucille Wilson are in Red Bluff in a gospel meeting this weekend ... it ends tonight and they'll be home after services.**

## **FEELING** **OVERWHELMED**

You know the feeling. Surely you do! It engulfs us when everything is so enormous it seems hopeless. We look "inside self" only to see the many things "wrong with me." "All that is wrong with me" so overwhelms us that "fixing me" is not an option! In "my" overwhelmed feeling, the helplessness of "my" frustration kills "my" dreams!

We look outside ourselves at our families and community. We feel overwhelmed! Expectations are unreasonably high! Disillusionment is enormous! Anticipated improvements are ridiculous! One group's hope is another group's frustration!

We look at our world and feel overwhelmed. Human needs defy comprehension! There is so much hate, so much anger, so much despair, and so much pain! So many are victims of hopelessness! So many view change as a threat! And yet, change happens so fast nothing seems stable. Frustration labels any improvement as an enemy to be feared.

American Christians are victims of three deceptions. **The first:** control is the key to avoiding the overwhelmed feeling. In the church, we have been and often are control freaks. Why? (a) When we focus on controlling, we do not have to look inside self. (b) We have reasons for condemning what we do not like in our families and community. (c) We can tell the world, "It is your fault--you have no one to blame but yourselves!"

**The second:** we often are preoccupied with a "God complex." We like to "play God." Often, we judge instead of help. Often, we oppose evil instead of giving hope in Jesus.

Often, we instruct God instead of surrendering to His purposes. We look at our humility and wonder why others see our arrogance. God's sovereignty makes us nervous.

**The third:** we tend to reduce spiritual considerations to a matter of logic. Our opposition to evil tends to be "long on human intellect" and "short on human emotion." Often, we are dumbfounded when others are unimpressed with our logical deductions. We are slow to acknowledge that the war between evil and good exceeds the logic of the human intellect. We say, "Humans are not God, and God is not a human." Yet, "I do not know," is an unacceptable answer, not a truthful response acknowledging the mystery of God and His sphere.

Remember: Ephesians 6:10-13 *"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."* Alone, we are overwhelmed. With God, we endure. Do not underestimate the war. In the battlefield of your life, know evil is your enemy AND trust your Lord and Savior.

**David Chadwell**

West-Ark Church of Christ, Fort Smith, AR  
Bulletin Article, 22 June 2003

**Last class this evening at 5:00 on the Conscience series. Lesson 13 is on "The Christian and Slander" will have Bill Schultz teaching the class.**