

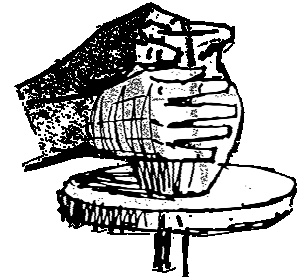
His Workmanship: Westside

*"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*

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Isaiah 64:8

The Invisible Army, by David Barton

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble," Ps 46:1.

In 2 Kings 6:17 we read, *"And Elisha prayed, and said, 'Lord, I pray Thee, open his eyes, that he may see.' And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha."* This is a wonderful instance of Providential care so often repeated in the history of the Israelites and so often experienced by individuals and nations since the days of the prophets. Israel was surrounded by merciless foes determined to destroy her. The Syrians were encamped against the Israelites and formed their ambuscades in many places, expecting to entrap and cut them off. Elisha the prophet, divinely inspired, discovered their hiding places and kept the king informed of their movements. So often had the schemes of the enemy been defeated that the king of Syria, exasperated and puzzled, imagined that a traitor in his own camp had disclosed his secrets. But one of his servants said, *"None, my lord, O king, but Elisha, who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words you speak in your bedroom,"* 2 Kg 6:12. The prophet was at Dothan, which the Syrians, in haste, besieged by night to cut off his retreat. But a greater than Elisha was there: the Lord had sent the invisible

armies of heaven to occupy the mountain and protect His servant from all harm. When morning dawned and Elisha's servant saw the armed hosts of the Syrians, he said to his master, in great alarm, *"Alas! What shall we do?"* Calm and undisturbed at the formidable array, Elisha prayed that the young man's eyes would be opened. Then, behold, the mountain gleamed with the splendor of armed hosts of horsemen and chariots of fire. God revealed to the young man the great truth which all the world should know—that all the armies of earth are powerless before the armies of heaven. The prophet prayed again, and blindness came upon the Syrian hosts so that Elisha, the man they came to destroy, led them a distance to Samaria and into the presence of the king and his armies whom they had come to destroy. Truly, those who trust in God *"abide under the shadow of the Almighty,"* Ps 91:1, and He becomes their fortress.

The Christian believes in God's protecting presence, and through that faith his life becomes one of obedience and trust. As daylight fades and shadows of night gather round him, the child of God entrusts himself to his Father's care and slumbers sweetly, peacefully, and safely within the hollow of the Al-

mighty hand. As darkness flees before dawn's light, he offers his prayer of thanksgiving. With renewed faith and purpose he submits his will to Divine guidance, leans upon the arm of the Lord of Hosts, and fearlessly marches into the battle of life. As for individuals, so for nations.

No truth is more forcibly taught in history than a nation's exaltation by righteousness and its reproach because of sin, Pr 14:34. Sacred and secular history alike are startling records of the rise and fall of nations—records emphasized by the ruins that strew the earth and tell of great exaltation and still greater humiliation—that tell of life and growth under the light of truth and justice, or death and decay under the blast of transgression. The Tigris and Euphrates, the Nile, the Mediterranean, the mountains and valleys and the plains of earth—all bear witness that sin has been a vortex into which the highest civilizations have been thrown and have forever been swallowed up. God goes before the people and nation that march along the highways of righteousness, guiding them by His pillar of fire at night and His cloud of protection by day, Ex 13:21, so long as they acknowledge His directing Hand and trust His Light that shines from the fire and conceals continued on p. 2

“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law,” —Psalm 119:18

itself in the clouds. By direction of the Almighty, the children of Israel escaped from Egyptian bondage. They crossed the Red Sea between the walls of water. They saw their pursuing enemies enter the narrow path from which their own hosts had just safely emerged, and they saw the water close over chariot and riders forever; but the power that moved the protecting and avenging hand was unseen to them. God was with His people, and in His mysterious way He accomplished His purposes. The Lord had indeed triumphed, for His people had not been required to strike a single blow in their own defense. The hand that placed the pillar of cloud between pursuer and pursued and closed the waters over Egypt's mightiest chieftains was unseen by both Egyptian and Israelite. In the reign of King Hezekiah when the Assyrians came against Israel, a destroying angel passed over the camp at night and smote a 185,000 of their bravest warriors, 2 Kg 19:35.

There are no foes harder to battle with than those we cannot see. We cannot estimate the numbers of such an enemy; we cannot detect his movements nor calculate how we may avert or counteract his blow. Against an unseen presence we are helpless and defenseless. The storm rages above us, the thunder terrifies us, forked lighting seems to search us in every hiding place. The muffled rumble of the earthquake and the trembling soil beneath our feet startles us out of all reason, while we add to our fears and to the real danger a thousand misgivings that are purely imaginary. The pestilence walks in the darkness and invades our land. Alarm takes possession of our nature; we fly from our neighbors, friends, and loved ones, hoping in our selfishness to secure some protected spot where we may be safe. In the recognized presence of the invisible we forget that “*He who keeps us never slum-*

bers or sleeps,” Ps 121:4, and that we must trust Him in the darkness as well as in the light. He said, “*I will not leave you or forsake you,*” Josh 1:5. The Christian trusts the Unseen Power which lies behind everything. No matter what threatens, he knows God will send His protection to keep charge over him. What is history but the recorded result of these invisible forces? What and where were the forces that caused all this desolation in history? Why did not one historical period—or even one generation—profit by the mistakes of its predecessor? History points to the physical forces—the ambitions and passions of men—but is silent as to the unseen influences which excited the ambition and stirred the passions which struck the blow.

Ideas are the forces that move the world; they may be invisible armies that conquer the material hosts of folly, vice, and ignorance; they are the horsemen and the chariots of fire which gather round the statesmen and send dismay into the ranks of the political tricksters and jugglers. The truth of ideas gradually causes the unworthy and incompetent to hide themselves away from public sight. Ideas have caused revolutions and formed new governments, have swayed millions and made social life leap forward into healthier conditions. The US republic was the offspring of an idea—the conviction that the people being governed could best govern themselves independent of hereditary rulership or autocratic dictatorship; the idea that the voice of the people expressed the best government. That is our political faith today, but we cannot reach or maintain a standard worthy of free people unless we elevate our ideas of public morality for the people and private virtues for our representatives. We need “*able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness,*” Ex 18:21.

Christ, our example, was the originator of new ideas for human conduct and was also the embodiment of the old and useful ideas which had been abused and misapplied. For the doctrines of revenge and retaliation, He gave us teaching of forgiveness. For the cure of dissensions and differences, He gave us consideration for the opinions of others. For social wrongs, He gave us purity of life. For the peace of the state, He gave us respect for magistrates and rulers and obedience to the laws. For civil progress, He gave us trust in God and brotherly kindness in our daily intercourse with men. He restrained our evil tendencies by a reiteration of the Ten Commandments. He softened our natures by the Beatitudes and enlarged our lives and increased our hopes by the new commandments He gave us. He taught us the wondrous idea of love with the Divine assurance that it was the all-powerful principle for good, “*the fulfilling of the law,*” Rm 13:10.

The world of today is far better than that of the Jew or Roman 2000 years ago. Humanity stands upon a higher platform—human rights are conceded by rulers, respected by the people, and enforced and protected by the laws as never before in the history of human government. Liberty, not only in action and thought but in self-government, has given men higher conception of individual duty. The cross has carried with it the idea of redemption and has the hope of heaven after the troubles and cares of this life have passed. This invisible force, like the march of a victorious army, has passed from conquering to conqueror and still like an avalanche continues to gather strength as it moves forward. It has marched over the boundary line into the new millennium. It is an idea that has fought its way against darkness and prejudice—

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God makes my heart clean in 2015 "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." —Ps 51:10

Invisible Army, from p. 2
 against foes both visible and invisible; it has made its citadel in our lives, hearts, and homes and still triumphs.
 In the midst of public rioting and political peril, we ask, "Is the country really in danger?" Are these popular strikes a menace to our institutions? Do these local interests, which in their selfishness rise up in threats, mean mischief to the whole fabric of our nation? Will a mercenary Congress barter our rights away for ambition or lucre? We look about us and ask as did the servant of the prophet, "Alas! What shall we do?" But when our eyes are opened and we behold the horsemen and the chariots of heaven, the great innumerable hosts of the skies, hidden from our natural eyes, we will be led to answer, "Do not fear. For God is with us, and those who are with us are greater than those who are with them," 1 Kg 6:16. We will not fear when we see these unnumbered hosts with the potent influences of the great ideas of Christ. When we see among the standards of that vast gathering the banner of the cross inscribed with Christ's new commandment and our nation's dead heroes pointing to that as the origin of our American institutions—when we see our own national flag bearing aloft the motto, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof," Lev 25:10—when we see the graves of those who fought and died for liberties we enjoy, we need not fear, for God is with us, even if our nation fails. Against all these threatening dangers there are safeguards, and we must see to it that they are found and applied.

Discipleship Here At Home

Our government is founded upon intelligent reason and can only be perpetuated by virtue. The responsibility of the choice of proper administrators is thrown upon people of integrity. To Christians, the value of our Republic should be an incentive to more virtuous activity and a stimulant to higher patriotism.

We should bring to the work of evangelism an aggressive godliness that will pursue sin and vice into every stronghold and give them uncompromising battle at every step. We want the spirit that drove the money changers from the temple, that rebuked sin in high places, and that administered punishment to the wrongdoer without favor; the spirit that, upon the other hand, forgave the repentant sinner and in love invited the weary ones of earth to come to Him and find rest.

And so on this Memorial Day we must see the sources from our blessings have come. We go back in our history and see the godly spirit which brought the *Mayflower* and its heroic company who sought freedom from religious oppression. May we remember our nation's dead and open our eyes to our Lord.

Evangelist Dads **Mina Gonzalez's** father **Vernon Hawkins** will preach in Guatemala 5/25-6/2. **Sarah McMurray's** father **Carl** will teach leaders in Columbia 5/31-6/15. Please pray that God will open many doors for these two preachers and their co-workers, pray Col 4:3; 2 Thes 3:1; Eph 6:19; Ax 4:29; Mt 9:37-38.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Heather Mailloux graduated last week from Stanley Lake High School. **Tianna Smith** graduated from Presbyterian College (SC) with a BA degree in music and Spanish.

Travel **Pat Campbell** is in AR visiting her father; **Brandon Thompson** and **Larry Campbell** will join her Thur. **Rod Green** is in WA and OR visiting his brother and others.

Sex with Animals? from p. 4
course with any beast to be defiled with it, nor shall a woman stand before an animal to mate with it; it is a perversion, Lev 18:23. If the Bible is to be rejected for its outdated views on same-sex mating, then it's only consistent to reject its prohibition against sex with animals

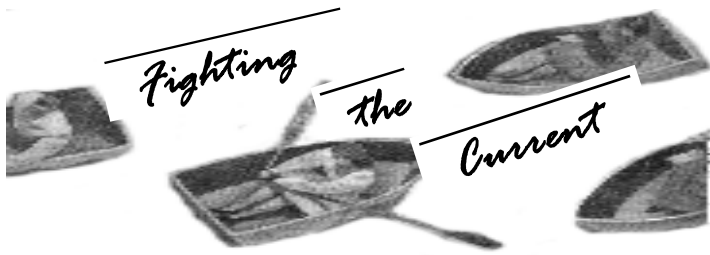
PRAY FOR healing, protection, help

- **Marie Sangellino**—thyroid cancer; surgery TBA
- **Matt Reames's** fiancée, **Brooke Hedlum**—funeral for her daughter **Brylee** was last week; cards to 1463 Madison Ridge Hts, Unit C, CO Springs 80904
- **Kory Tope's** coworker's brother, **John Jacoby**—shot to death while riding his bike; pray for the family's comfort, peace, and understanding and for justice in finding the murderer
- **Ed Fink**—prostate cancer; treatment for brain tumors
- **Judy Sartin's** uncle **Ernie Ek**—stroke last week; age 92 in CA, fight pilot in WWII; Judy's friend in Houston, **Barbara Batura**—stage 2 cancer
- **Kaylee Chavez**—age 10, cancer; improving, MRI clear; treatment continues
- **Pat Wilkes**—surgery recovery for torn shoulder tendon/rotator cuff
- **Bill Dennis**—home following rehab on infected knee drainage; pseudo-gout
- **Sandra Perry**—possible kidney failure, may need dialysis or transplant; heart valve issues recently diagnosed; neuropathy from diabetes
- **Sylvia Chapman, Brett's** grandmother—third stage pancreatic cancer; chemo
- **Brittany Tope's** mother—breast cancer; broken ribs healed; doing better
- grandmother—on dialysis
- **Kim Howell's** niece **Tonya Robison**—delivered 32-week, 2 lb, 5 oz **Malachi Taylor Robison** several wks ago; in NICU in Louisville, KY
- **Kenny Boyd's** coworker **Kim Phillips**—asks our prayers for heart problems
- **Rick Robbins**, friend of Howells—brain surgery

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

- Logan Corray; Addison Tope; Christian Harrod; Rocco Jr.; Pat Wilkes**—asthma
- Autumn Hadders**—epilepsy; celiac disease; her medication is being changed over the next few months, so she is home in early evenings with one of her parents
- Jonathan Hadders**—RA
- Kirk Johnson**—MS
- Menards**—aging; **Lloyd**, diabetes, weak; **Virginia**, macular degeneration; high bp
- Cheryl Reames**—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
- Judy Sartin**—rotator cuff injury; spinal stenosis; arthritis
- Lynda Szymanski**—COPD, lung weakness
- Directory Update** **Ed Schulz** and **Sheryle McNeill** have decided to work and worship with us: 9941 Pecos, Federal Heights, CO 80260
 Ed: 303-498-8968 biged-1@gmx.com
 Sheryle: 303-396-9539 sherylemcneill@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School June 8-11, 9-11:15 am, ages 2 to 11. **DANIEL's Courage in Captivity!** Explore how God is with us, just like He was with Daniel and his friends in a land far away from home. *God is with us wherever we go!*



Exposing current thoughts & trends *sexual revolution*

NJ Law Discriminates Against Sex with Animals, by Gary DeMar

(Note that the author has his tongue firmly in his cheek in his comments.)

Lawmakers in New Jersey did a discriminatory thing. According to the rulings of many courts in the US, there is no moral, logical, constitutional, traditional, legal, or scientific basis for its decision. The Associated Press reports that the "state Senate [of New Jersey] unanimously approved a measure that would bar people from having sexual contact with animals."

How is this possible in a time when sexual choice is the prevailing moral ethic? ...when the meme is "What people choose to do sexually is nobody else's business"? What if people are born that way? Isn't this the argument of those working to normalize same-sex everything (indiscriminatory sex)? Bruce Jenner wants to become a woman because he believes he is a woman on the inside; "choose the sex of your choice."

President Obama issued a statement indicating that he and the First Lady would commemorate International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia: "Michelle and I join our fellow Americans and others around the world in commemorating the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia...May 17. We take this opportunity to reaffirm that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights are human rights, to celebrate the dignity of every person, and to underscore that all people deserve to live free from fear, violence, and discrimination, regardless of who they are or whom they love."

"Zoophilia Matters." The omni-sex crowd should be outraged that in New Jersey there is no mention of the love that some men and women have for and with their pets. How discriminatory! Bestialphobic! Note what President Obama declared: "regardless of who they are or whom they love." Shouldn't we boycott New Jersey for discriminating against people who want to engage in a sexual relationship with animals? On what moral or legal basis can people be denied to have sex with their pets or any animal? An appeal can't be made to the legal tradition since the courts have ignored history. In April Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said: "Marriage today is not what it was under the common law tradition, under the civil law tradition... Marriage was a relationship of a dominant male to a subordinate female." [She is completely ignorant of—or willfully misunderstands—Biblical marriage and its glorious reflection of Christ and His church.] Why isn't this also true for human-animal sex? Given the false operating assumptions of evolution, we humans are also animals, and thus the Bloodhound Gang got it right:

*"You and me baby ain't nothin' but mammals
So let's do it like they do on the Discovery Channel."*

Let's not forget that the Bible, disdained and rejected for its teaching on same-sex union, also prohibits bestiality: "Also you shall not have inter-

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meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
720-295-4530

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 246-8810
DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

info@thechurchingolden.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Westside-Church-of-Christ/276475819148309>

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible classes	9:00 am
Morning assembly	10:00 am
Afternoon assembly	1:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible classes	7:30 pm
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Sunday morning

• **adult Bible class, "Marriage Boot Camp: Basic Training in Communication,"** Jim Reingrover

• **Sermon, "The Bride of Christ,"** Jim Reingrover

Sunday afternoon, Questions answered, DeWayne Howell

Feeding on His Word Reading

Everyone is invited to an open Bible reading of Exodus 21-40 Friday evening, June 5, at 6:30 pm, light supper before, at Judy Sartin's house. See **Joel Walker** for schedule.