



HIGH DESERT Baptist Association

The Desert Scroll

July 1, 2006

The Newsletter of the High Desert Baptist Association

Volume 6 Issue 7

New Fax Number

The HDBA has installed a toll free fax. This is yet another way that the HDBA is trying to minimize costs for our member churches. The number is (866) 711-0390

Counseling Ministry

"New Hope Counseling" is a new and powerful ministry at Highlands Church, Hesperia. This is a top-notch professional counseling ministry qualified to counsel in the following areas.

- Divorce Care
- Divorce Care for Kids
- Grief counseling,
- Pre-Marital & Marital (Personal)
- Pre Divorce, ("Before You Divorce")
- Anger Management

This has been a very effective ministry. The information we bring to couples through this format has kept them at the counseling table and not the attorney's table. They are more agreeable to work on their stuff as a result of the information presented.

For more information you can email Pastor Ron Granados at ronggjc@hotmail.com

Did You Know???

The Association will be placing multiple forms associated with the needs of a Baptist church on the website. Forms that are available for download are in the PDF format and a Table of Contents can be found [here](#).

FREE STUFF

Please check our free stuff link regularly. The items on the list are all quality items, and they are free to all participating churches. To see the current list of free items, please click [here](#).

Excellent Event!

Joe Dallas of Genesis Counseling will be speaking "On the Church's response to Homosexuality". Expense offering will be taken.

Date: August 20, 2006
Time: 6:00 p.m.

Place: First Baptist Church
9280 Maple Ave.
Hesperia CA 92345
760-244-4109

Understanding Maturity

The Fight of a Lifetime

by: Rick Curtis

You may or may not know this, but I am a borderline workaholic (some may say there is no border to be seen). I am rarely to bed before midnight and I am always up early to start the day. After a full day of work, I spend the evening with my family, and then once everyone has gone to bed it is back to work. The only thing I let interrupt this evening work time is my study or a good book. I read about 3 or 4 good books a month and from time to time I will share something about them with you. I love the classics.

This week's book was Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. It is a tale of... you guessed it... an old man... and the sea. Really, it is a book about perseverance and struggle. You see, the old man, though his history was one of fishing fame, was ridiculed in his Cuban town because he had not caught in 84 days. He was considered unlucky. He didn't care, catching fish was all he knew and he used to be the best at it.



How long has it been since you caught a fish?

He was determined, and believed that he would catch the biggest fish ever. HE DID. The fish he catches, he catches with great struggle and pain. In fact the struggle nearly kills him. It drags him to sea for several days of sleepless battle, taking his boat into uncharted waters. He watches as the island of Cuba disappears from view and he fears he shall never return. But, it is acceptable that he should die as long as he catches the fish. He respected the fish, and in that respect desired to kill it.

"The fish is my friend too," he said aloud. "I have never seen or heard of such a fish. But I must kill him." Then he was sorry for the great fish that (like him) had nothing to eat and his determination to kill him never relaxed in his sorrow for him. "How many people will he feed, he thought"



If you do not see what I see in this paragraph, allow me to comment. If we are to be fishers of men then we must struggle to do so. We may go 84 days without leading another to Christ (I hope not). But, we must keep looking for the big fish. We can catch numerous small ones, and that is good. However, the fish that comes with struggle, although we may be dragged beyond what is



I have been listening to a lecture series on Developmental Psychology as part of my Doctoral studies in Management and Leadership. In a series of lectures, Dr. Ray Parker outlines Maturity with the following six indicators. These may be useful to you in a sermon, in counseling, or simply to help you understand your people better (the italics are mine).

- 1 • Maturity bases action on a long range basis. Immaturity seeks the immediate. *We see this in sexual, narcotic, and personality addictions. The mature individual sees beyond the instant gratification to both the long range stability and the consequences should they immediately gratify.*
- 2 • Maturity seeks things as they are, accepting the reality of the present. Immaturity seeks to escape reality rather than deal with the present. *The mature understands that growth comes from trial. Those who seek to escape difficulty will never mature.*
- 3 • Maturity faces the responsibility of actions and lives up to it. Immaturity seeks to blame others and shirk responsibility. *This facing of responsibility has a two fold effect: Maturing the individual and warning them against future similar actions.*
- 4 • Maturity accepts the authority of others. Immaturity seeks unearned authority or to undermine or discount current authoritative persons. *Everyone is under an authority and the recognition of the wisdom of others and their position "above" us leads to opportunities for growth and learning.*
- 5 • Maturity has a proper knowledge and acceptance of self. Immaturity formulates inflated or unrealistic ideas of self. *The mature can realistically determine, with some accuracy, their strengths and weaknesses. The immature will inflate their position, their abilities, or their accomplishments, tending to exaggerate. The immature may also run the opposite path as they see themselves as far less than what they are. Their perception of self is one of worthlessness, inability, and useless.*
- 6 • Maturity has the ability to love even when that love is not returned. Immaturity will seek return. *The mature loves others because of the love and satisfaction they have in themselves. The immature seeks identity through reciprocation. This reciprocation is foundational to the individual's self worth and when not received has a detrimental effect of the emotional and spiritual state of the individual.*

I hope you can use this.
Your Servant DOM, Rick Curtis

familiar and comfortable, when landed has the potential to feed many. We should even be willing to lay down our lives for it. It may in fact mean that we need to ruin their life as well. What I mean is that their life will have to change.

Then he was sorry for the great fish that had nothing to eat and his determination to kill him never relaxed in his sorrow for him.

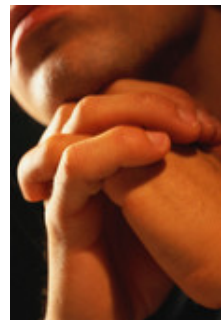
We all know people, that if we bring them to Jesus, their lives will necessarily change. Certain comforts must go. We can feel sorry for them, but knowing that a life with Jesus is the priority, we determine to allow Jesus to redirect their lives. We kill their "comfortable life" so that they and others will live. It is worth it! There really is no choice in it!

How Should We Respond

by: Doug Hutcherson

Recently Pastors Wayne, Earl, Dave and myself attended a *Love Won Out* conference sponsored by Focus on the Family. Our purpose was to be better equipped to witness and minister to the homosexual community. As Christians we are obligated to give proper response to the issue of homosexuality. But before we can respond, many of us must respond in repentance in three ways.

1. The church must repent of her own immorality and recommit to a biblical standard of holiness. Like Samson, our vow of separation has been compromised. Our vow can be renewed when we practice vulnerability and authenticity in our churches.
2. The church must repent of hostility toward homosexual people and recommit to bold love. Like Jonah, we too often preach judgment without mercy. This approach has shown itself too many times over the past three decades, escalating into a hostility between Christians and the homosexual population. Bold love seeks to serve without compromising. If our approach is serve-oriented, we build credibility without compromising our moral position.
3. The church must repent of being intimidated by the gay rights movement and recommit to her prophetic role. "The church must be reminded that it is neither the master of the state nor the servant of the state; rather, it is the conscience of the state" - Martin Luther King, Jr.



If the conscience of the state abdicates its function, there is no hope for the state. The church is called to protect the fundamental freedoms in our culture of speech, conscience and religion. In doing so, the church must boldly protest immorality in any form while simultaneously building a place of safety for those who respond to our message.

We will stand before the judgment seat of Christ to answer for our response to the issues of our time. Let that knowledge inform all aspects of our response to homosexual people. Many of us are affected in our families or friendships regarding homosexuality. May the Lord bless us as we learn, love, and respond as Jesus would.