

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of October 29, 2023 -

Sunday School	30
Sunday Morning Service	42
Sunday Evening Service	28
Wednesday Eve., 11/01/23 Service	11

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of October 29, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 3,023.17
Children's Ministry	\$ 3.00
Sunday School Missionary Offering	\$ 42.95
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/29/23:	\$ 3,069.12

- Week of October 22, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 826.04
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/22/23:	\$ 826.04

- Week of October 15, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 1,462.44
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/15/23:	\$ 1,462.44

- Week of October 8, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 927.29
Porch Restoration Fund	\$ 116.22
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/08/23:	\$ 1,043.51

- Week of October 1, 2023 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings	\$ 2,783.05
Love Offering	\$ 33.68
Porch Restoration Fund	\$ 135.64
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 10/01/23:	\$ 2,952.37

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



AND THE LORD

ADDED TO THE CHURCH...

Jessica Quinnelly ----- by Statement

LISTEN TO -



ABIDINGRADIO.COM

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part of the pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. By mail - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. Drop it off - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. Online - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithely.give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE!
YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

Church Directory

Todd W. White	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Todd W. White	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars	Outreach
LeAnna White	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt	Flowers
Seth White	Sound/Video

REMINDER



Evangelist Lester Roloff
(1914-1982)

Dr. Law and Dr. Grace

by Evangelist Lester Roloff

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ; who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11-14).

If I could use the Empire State Building for my pulpit and somebody would build for me a public address system that would reach around the world so that I could have nearly three billion people for my audience and God would grant me the wisdom or sufficient interpreters to speak every language and dialect and I could only bring one message, it would be this message of "Dr. Law and Dr. Grace," the greatest doctors that ever lived. Satan has done a good job confusing the people about the plan of salvation. Salvation is not a foot race between man and the devil, but it is the gift of God through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's make just a brief visit now to these two doctors Dr. Law and Dr. Grace - the most unusual doctors the world has ever known, in the first place, because they have never lost a case and never made a charge. They are unusual in that they never have a consultation with any other doctor. They are unusual because they never recommend an external treatment. They are unusual because they never ask the patient for his advice or about any of the signs or symptoms in his case. They speak with authority. They are unusual in the fact that though they have recorded one hundred per cent success with every patient most people have refused to go to them for help.

The Scriptural Basis of This Allegory From The Book of Romans -

Now let us come to the Scripture. Romans 5:13, "For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law." Verses 20 and 21, "Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 7, beginning at verse 5, "For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sin, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held: that we should serve in newness of spirit and not in the oldness of the letter. What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead. For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died." That's the death we need to die as a sinner.

"And the commandment which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death. For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me. Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just and good Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

(continued inside)

Verse 24. *“Oh wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

Then in chapter 8, *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”*

Other Scripture References...

Galatians 2, beginning at verse 16. *“Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.”*

Then in chapter 3, beginning at verse 10, *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but The man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”*

Verses 22 - 26, *“But the Scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after that faith is come,*

we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.”

Ephesians 2:8-10, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of your selves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”*

A Meeting With Dr. Law -

The greatest message in the Bible and the theme of the whole Bible is grace. Now grace is the free and unmerited favor of God and there is an unbreakable relationship between law and grace. With that in mind, let me be the sinner because all have sinned and come short of the glory of God *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way...” “There is none that doeth good, no, not one.” “There is none righteous, no, not one.”*

Therefore, I know I’m having some serious internal trouble and so I head for Dr. Law, and Dr. Law is always in his office and ready to see the sinner. The secretary told me that he was waiting for me. I stepped inside his office and started to relate my signs and symptoms to which he said, “I will not need your help,” to which I said, “Do you think you can find out what is wrong with me?” And he said, “No, sir, I don’t have to think I KNOW what is wrong with you you have heart trouble. You’re just like all the rest of my patients.”

My old flesh rebelled and it didn’t make sense to me that every one of his patients would have the same disease But after ail, dear friend, the law doesn’t make sense to the sinner because . . . “The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

So the flesh gets ready to argue the issue and I say, “Dr. Law, you just don’t understand. I’m having trouble with my hands. I spend a lot of time dealing a deck of cards and I’ve even used them to fight with. My hands are giving me trouble.” And Dr. Law said, “No, it’s your heart.”

I said, “Doc, I’m going to have to argue with you you may be a doctor, but still you don’t understand me. I’m having trouble with my eyes. It’s nothing for me to sit two or three hours in one night and watch Hollywood and another hour reading magazines and newspapers and my eyes are never satisfied so I must be having eye trouble” The old doctor said, “No, my friend, it’s heart trouble-just plain heart trouble.”

I said, “Dr. Law, be reasonable about this thing. I’m having trouble with my tongue. It says things that are sharp and ugly and even smutty jokes have come unrehearsed and unplanned and I believe there is something rotten about my tongue. Please examine my tongue.” Dr. Law says, “No, it’s heart trouble.”

By this time, my rebellion had mounted and I tried to tell Dr. Law it was my ears that would listen to ungodly gossip. It was examine my tongue.” Dr. Law says, “No, it’s heart trouble.”

By this time, my rebellion had mounted and I tried to tell Dr. Law it was my ears that would listen to ungodly gossip. It was my feet that would dance and carry me to places I ought not to go to which he answered, “You have a bad case of heart trouble.” Once more, in desperation, I said, “Dr. Law, surely there is something wrong with my taste. I’ve even cultivated a like for intoxicating beverage and even dope and there must be some way you can help my taste.” And Dr. Law said, “That will be taken care of when your heart is fixed.”

In rebellion and desperation I said, “Dr. Law, I’m going to another doctor,” to which he said, “The woods are full of them, but you’ll never get well until your heart is made right.” I said to Dr. Law, “Would you recommend any other doctor for a consultation?” He said, “There is only one doctor I would recommend and if you won’t listen to me, you’ll never go to him and I’ll never recommend another.”

Dr. Religion and Associates -

So I beat it down the street and knock on Dr. Religion’s door and it seems like he’s a real scout, he’s a regular fellow, and he said, “Come on in here, Lester Roloff, I’m glad to see you!” And I said, “Yes I’m glad to see you. I’ve been up to see old Dr. Law.” To which Dr. Religion said, “Oh, he’s ancient he’s an antique. Modern folks don’t go to him. He hasn’t had the proper training. He doesn’t know anything about the latest modes of medicine.”

Well, that sounded good to me and I said, “I don’t like him myself. Dr. Religion, would you just kind of run over me and see what’s wrong?” He said, “Sure!” After his examination, he said, “Why, there’s nothing seriously wrong with you. I recommend that you start going to church.” And I said, “Which one?” “Oh,” he said, “just any of them will be all right.”

So the next Sunday, I was in church and the next but I didn’t get any better. I went back to Dr. Religion and I said, “Dr. Religion, I don’t believe I’m any better.” He said, “Well, did you start going to church?” I said, “Sure. I’ve been going every Sunday.” Then he said, “Did you join and get baptized?” “Why,” I said, “no.” He said, “Do that, that will make you feel better.” I said, “I’ll sure do it and get my wife to also.”

So I went down to the church and joined it and got baptized, but I didn’t feel any better for very long and I went back to Dr. Religion and I said, “Dr. Religion, there’s something wrong I’m not really any better.” “Well,” he said, “are you really working at it? Take a job in the church and start helping others.” And so I did.

But I got weary in the struggle and somebody recommended a couple of brothers who were doctors - Dr. Be Good and Dr. Do Good and I went to them, but to no avail. There was no certainty and no assurance of salvation. And then somebody recommended Dr. Hope So. After which I went to Dr. Think So and neither one of them was able to help me. And now - weary, tired, exhausted, in despair and at the end of self - I decided I’d go back to Dr. Law.

Back To Dr. Law -

Dr. Law was waiting for me the same stern, obstinate old doctor

with the same diagnosis, “It’s your heart” to which I said, “What do you recommend?” He said, “Only one thing will do and that’s an operation. Your heart will have to come out and a new one put in.” I said, “Dr. Law, when will you operate?” And he said, “I don’t operate.” To which I said, “You mean I’m going to have to die even though you know what’s wrong with me?” “I didn’t say” returned Dr. Law, “that you had to die. So far as I’m concerned, you’ve got to die - I only make the diagnosis. But if you really want to live, I’ll tell you what to do”

And so this trembling, perspiring sinner looked into the face of this unrelenting doctor and said, “Please help me!” And he took me by the hand and led me across the hall and knocked on an office door and a handsome, loving, smiling doctor came to the door and Dr. Law said, “Dr. Grace, this is Lester Roloff, and he’s got the same trouble all my other patients that I’ve brought to you have had. He’s coming to you for an operation.”

The Operation -

By that time, Dr. Law had slipped away and gone back into his office and left me standing alone in the presence of Dr. Grace and with fear and trembling, the questions began to come.

First, “Dr. Grace, will you let Dr. Law or some other doctor help you operate?” And he said, “No, I’ve never had any help.” I said, “Dr. Grace, have you some good nurses?” He said, “No, sir. I’ve never had a nurse - I do it all.” I said, “Dr. Grace, will you give me a good anesthetic and put me into a deep sleep?” He said, “No, sir. I never give anesthetics because I want you to know what I did for you so you can tell the world about it.” I said, “Dr. Grace, will you let me call my wife and let her come and stand by me?” And Dr. Grace smiled and said, “No, son, this is a personal matter just between me and you. You can tell her after it’s all over.”

I said, “Dr. Grace, I’m scared,” and he said, as he placed his big hand on my trembling shoulder, “You don’t have to be afraid-I’ve never lost a case. This will be a successful operation.” I said, “Dr. Grace, what about the charges and the expense of this tremendous operation?” He said, “It’s already paid for.” I said, “Who paid for it?” He said, “A Friend of yours.” “Oh,” I said, “I’d like to meet Him.” He said, “After the operation, I’ll let you meet Him, I’ll introduce you to Him.”

I said, “Dr. Grace, is it true that you are going to take my old heart out and put in a new one?” He said, “Yes.” I said, “Where are you going to get the new heart?” He said, “You’ll find out after the operation.” And so just by faith, I lay down on the operating table and the great surgeon, Dr. Grace, took the knife and sliced open my heart section and out came the blackest heart with the most terrible odor — oh, it was so sickening! And for the first time, I realized that Dr. Law was right it was heart trouble.

In a moment Dr. Grace had thrown that old heart away and brought a new one — so pure and clean and put it in and closed the incision, not even leaving a scar. I felt the flow of new life, color came to my spiritual cheeks and my tongue began to say, “Now I feel better-fact is, I feel wonderful” In a moment with a smile on my face and tears of gratitude coursing down my cheeks,

I said, “Dr. Grace, when shall I come back for the check up?” He said, “Son, no check up will be necessary, the operation is a success and this is permanent.”

I said, “What do you recommend?” He said, “Just take some good exercise each day.” And I said, “Do you have any particular exercises?” To which he said, “Yes, kneeling and even raising your hands and praising God and at times, especially in privacy, stretch out on your face. Take some good walks through the community, knocking on doors. Exercise your vocal chords in praise.”

An Introduction To The Saviour -

I started out at the door and something inside said, “Go back.” I said, “Dr. Grace, you told me you’d introduce me to the Friend who paid my bill,” and he said, “I thought you’d come back.” And stepping through a door came the loveliest Friend I’ve ever met. When He raised His hands, I saw nail prints. On His brow were thorn scars. When His lovely robe fell apart, I saw the spear print in His side. Dr. Grace said, “Jesus. I want you to meet Lester Roloff. And as I looked at that scar in His side, I said, “Dr. Grace, I now understand where my new heart came from. He gave me His.”

And I fell on my face and said, “It’s time to start my exercises.” After a season of praise and thanksgiving and adoring the One who died for me, I walked joyfully and victoriously down the sidewalk of life, but was reminded once again to go back to the old doctor that I first hated. When I walked inside, he met me with a smile. I extended my hand and his big strong hand gripped mine and I said, “Thank you, Dr. Law, for telling me what was wrong with me.” I was amazed that Dr. Law looked so handsome and seemed so different and I had sweet fellowship with him and I’ll always love him for leading me to Dr. Grace.

Sinner friend, I can now recommend these two great doctors. Dr. Law will show you where you’re wrong and Dr. Grace will make you right. Commit your case to Dr. Law and Dr. Grace, dismiss all other hopes of being saved and come God’s way.

***I’ve tried my best to run the race,
But darkness was all that I saw,
The world led me a merry chase
And I ran from Dr. Law.***

***Religion failed to meet my need,
My life was just one black lie.
Sin caused my heart to daily bleed,
Dr. Law said, “You must die.”
The flesh cried for another way.
Dr. Law said, “There is none.”***

***The world said, “You’ll see a better day.”
Old Dr. Law said, “You’re done,”***

***To medicine I went ‘til my money I spent,
The psychiatrist even examined my head.
But I would not repent neither relent***

And again Dr. Law said, “You’re dead.”

***I became weary and walked in despair
Even though I tried to do my part.
The darkness of night was everywhere,
Dr. Law said, “You need a new heart”***

***I replied, “It’s my feet that lead me astray,
My hands make me do what I do,”***

***After Dr. Law let me have my say,
He replied, “Without a new heart, you’re through.”***

***But I trudged on down the rebellious road,
I thought I needed reformation.
Heavier daily became my load,
Again Dr. Law said, “A major operation.”***

***My heart would not do - I knew this was true,
It was plain I had lost the race.***

***Dr. Law said, “It’s sin, you’ll never win
Until you go to Dr. Grace.”***

***So I counted the cost if my soul should be lost,
My soul cried, “What must be done?”***

***There stood Dr. Grace with a smile on his face
Saying, “It’s not DO - it’s DONE.”***

***For Christ on the cross suffered our loss
Saying, “Come through Me, I am the Door.”
I cried with loud voice, “I make Thee my choice”
He said, “Go and sin no more.”***

***So I praise His sweet Name - He took all my blame,
For of sin there’s not left even a trace
Since that day I saw blessed Dr. Law
And he led me to Dr. Grace.***

***So the war is over - Now I’m walking in clover
Honeydew is all over my soul
He lifted my load I’m on the glory road
Since Dr. Law and Dr. Grace made me whole.***

***So sinner, please bow — come to Jesus now -
He’ll save you from eternal hell.
He’ll take your case and even your place
Saying, “Now all is well!”***

Now friend, if you really want to be saved, down in your heart cry out to the Lord, “God be merciful to me, a sinner, and save me. Wash me in the blood of Jesus. Come into my heart In Jesus’ Name, Amen.” ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ ***NETANYAHU SAYS VICTORY OVER HAMAS WILL BE THE FULFILLMENT OF ISAIAH 60*** - Speaking to his nation on Oct. 25, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to lead Israel to a “crushing victory” over Hamas and to “realize the prophecy of Isaiah.” (Netanyahu Vows,” Christian Headlines, Oct.

27, 2023).

He quoted Isaiah 60:18, which in the King James Bible says, “***Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders; but thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise.***” It is obvious that this prophecy does not describe Israel today. Consider the words of the prophecy, beginning in verse 1. It describes a time when the glory of the Lord rises upon Israel (Isa. 60:1-2), when God’s house will be rebuilt and glorified and sacrifices offered on the altar (Isa. 60:7, 13), when all nations will serve Israel (Isa. 60:12), when Israel’s officers will be righteous (Isa. 60:17), when violence shall no more be heard in the land (Isa. 60:18), when Israel’s gates will be called Praise (Isa. 60:18), when the glory of the Lord will be Israel’s light (Isa. 60:19), when the days of Israel’s mourning shall be ended (Isa. 60:20), and when Israel’s people will be righteous (Isa. 60:21).

This most definitely is not Israel today! Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli army cannot bring this prophecy to pass. The marvelous prophecy of Isaiah 60 will be fulfilled when Israel is converted by repenting of piercing her Messiah as described in Zechariah 12 and Christ returns to establish His millennial kingdom as described in Zechariah 14.

□ ***THE POPE CALLS FOR CEASEFIRE IN ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR*** - Pope Francis is calling for a ceasefire in Israel’s war against Hamas. He said, “Let no one abandon the possibility that the weapons might be silenced--let there be a ceasefire” (“Pope Francis Calls for a Ceasefire,” National Catholic Reporter, Oct. 30, 2023).

A ceasefire would only help those who are devoted to Israel’s destruction. For her own security, Israel must pursue the war until Hamas no longer controls Gaza. Israel has tried to live in peace with its vicious neighbor and did not start the war. Unlike its enemy, Israel tries to avoid civilian casualties. Her soldiers operate under law. They are not instructed to rape young women, chop up grandmothers, and behead babies. By Bible prophecy, in God’s grace, we understand the times. Israel is back in the land in an apostate condition to prepare for the final seven years of Daniel’s 70 Week prophecy (Daniel 9:27). Israel is back to welcome the Antichrist. She is unwittingly setting the stage for the “time of Jacob’s trouble” (Jeremiah 30:5-11), during which she will be converted and be right with her God for the first time in more than 2,500 years. Only then will Israel have peace. For now, Israel must survive. She must defeat her enemies. She has every right to do this. It is not the business of popes or presidents or prime ministers of other nations to tell Israel how to fight this war or when to end it.

□ ***POPE ENCOURAGES HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISTS*** - The following is excerpted from “*Pope Francis meets leaders of LGBTQ,*” *National Catholic Reporter*, Oct. 25, 2023:

“Pope Francis greeted the leaders of an international association for LGBTQ Catholics at the end of his weekly audience in St. Peter’s Square on Oct. 25. The pontiff spoke with the co-chairs of the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics, a coalition that draws

together LGBTQ Catholic organizations from across six continents. Among U.S.-based members are DignityUSA, New Ways Ministry and Fortunate Families. In an interview with National Catholic Reporter shortly after the encounter, co-chair Marianne Duddy-Burke ... called the meeting ‘a big day for LGBTQ Catholics.’ ‘I was in tears,’ she said. ‘We have great hope for what he is trying to do to make the church more inclusive.’ ... Francis has focused on LGBTQ Catholics in an uncommon way over the past few weeks. On Oct. 17, the pope held an historic, 50-minute meeting with Loretto Sr. Jeannine Gramick, a lifelong advocate for LGBTQ ministry who had previously been reprimanded by the Vatican and several U.S. bishops for her work. Francis also met on Sept. 29 with Jesuit Fr. James Martin, editor of the LGBTQ Catholic publication Outreach, and indicated in a letter released on Oct. 2 that he is open to allowing Catholic blessing ceremonies for same-sex couples. The pope also recently wrote a note to the executive director of Fortunate Families, a Lexington, Kentucky-based Catholic ministry for the LGBTQ community that is part of the Rainbow Catholics coalition. ‘Thank you for your ministry,’ Francis told Stan ‘JR’ Zerkowski.”

□ ***EUTHANASIA IN CANADA MAKES UP 4% OF ALL DEATHS*** - The following is excerpted from “*Canadian government reports,*” *Fox News*, Oct. 26, 2023:

“The government of Canada published its fourth annual report on ‘Medical Assistance in Dying’ (MAID) this month, a document revealing that the number of MAID deaths--commonly referred to as euthanasia or assisted suicide--in the country last year was 13,241 accounting for 4.1% of all deaths in Canada. It noted that this represented a ‘growth rate of 31.2%’ for the procedure compared to the previous year. The report added the total number of euthanasia deaths in Canada since MAID was legalized in 2016 amounts to 44,958 deaths. ... This month, Conservative MP Ed Fast told The Toronto Star he worried that the procedures--now that it could potentially be implemented on those suffering mental illness--could contribute to a ‘culture of death’ in the country.” At least 463 of the people who died by assisted suicide in 2022 “were individuals whose natural deaths were not reasonably foreseeable.”

□ ***EUTHANASIA’S SLIPPERY SLOPE IN THE NETHERLANDS*** - The following is excerpted from “*The Netherlands is euthanizing children,*” *The Bridgehead*, Apr. 11, 2023:

“[In] the Netherlands, which on April 1, 2002, became the first Western country to legalize euthanasia since Nazi Germany, euthanasia deaths continue to rise. According to Dutch News: ‘Euthanasia killings rose by nearly 14.1 percent in 2022, totaling 8,720 deaths. That’s 5.1 percent of all deaths in the Netherlands. Since about half of deaths come from things such as accidents or sudden heart attacks, that means around 10 percent of deaths in which a patient was under medical care were from lethal jabs. The same percentage of USA deaths would be about 170,000 annually. (The USA totals about 3,400,000 deaths per year.) 115 mentally ill people were euthanized in the Netherlands (sometimes conjoined with consensual organ harvesting). 379 elderly couples

received joint euthanasia. ... 288 people with dementia were euthanized. In the Netherlands, killing can be ordered ahead of time by filling out an advance directive.’ The Netherlands and Canada are now on the cutting edge of medical killing, with the Dutch Ministry of Health recommending back in 2019 that the government legalize euthanasia for terminally ill children between the ages of one and 12, with a majority of 72 doctors polled for the report stating that it is morally acceptable to euthanize preteen children who are suffering without prospect of improvement (a deliberately vague framing) if their parents request it.”

☐ **STATES TAKING STEPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM SOCIAL MEDIA** - New York officials have introduced two bills to limit children’s access to addictive social media feeds and protect their mental health. The bills are supported by Governor Kathy Hochul and Attorney General Letitia James (“New York Introduce Bills,” PetaPixel, Oct. 12, 2023). The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation for Kids Act (SAFE Act) “requires social media companies to restrict harmful and addictive features on their platforms.” It would “allow parents to opt their children out of getting feeds curated by an algorithm” and “ban social media companies from sending notification to minors between 12:00 and 06:00 without parental consent,” among other things. New York lawmakers said that “social media is a major factor behind the worsening mental health crisis among children.” Multiple states have filed lawsuits against TikTok and Meta (parent company of Facebook and Instagram) for “harming the mental health of children and teens” by “leveraging highly powerful algorithms and manipulative design features to entice young users to use the app.” Arkansas claims Meta “knowingly designed its social media apps to create addiction for its younger users” (“Arkansas Sues TikTok and Meta,” Petapixel, Mar. 29, 2023). Other states are Utah, Texas, and Indiana. If the world sees great danger in social media, how much more should Bible-believing parents and churches!

☐ **INTERVARSITY PRESS PROMOTING NEW AGE ENNEAGRAM** - The following is excerpted from “*InterVarsity Press Claims Success*,” *Lighthouse Trails*, Oct. 12, 2023:

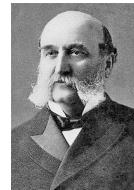
“The InterVarsity Press news release announced the seven-year anniversary of the release of *The Road Back to You* by Ian Morgan Cron, a book about the Enneagram. ... The release goes on to claim that because of that book, over a million people have been introduced to the Enneagram. The release’s author says: ‘So, today I am celebrating that 1 million people have found a way to better understand their own motivations and move toward becoming their truest self.’ You see, contemplatives believe that we all have a ‘true self,’ which, they teach, is a good pure self, and through meditative practices, we can gain awareness of this true pure self. They believe this because they believe that within each person, there is divinity (God).

... In 2019, we published a booklet titled *The Enneagram—An Enlightening Tool or an Enticing Deception?* by Lois Putnam and the LT Editors. We believe it has more than ample evidence to show the erroneous and unbiblical nature of the Enneagram. And

the real name behind the Enneagram is not Ian Morgan Cron but rather the Catholic mystic panentheist priest Richard Rohr ... [T]he Enneagram, a nine-pointed diagram [is] used to determine personality traits and character tendencies. While it may seem harmless and nothing more than a useful tool, the Enneagram is a seducing lure to deception and an example of what the Bible refers to as ‘the wiles of the devil.’

... After Rohr learned about the Enneagram in the 1970s, he shared his Enneagram teaching on ten tapes, later writing his now classic best-selling book, *Discovering the Enneagram: An Ancient Tool for a New Spiritual Journey* (now titled *The Enneagram: A Christian Perspective*). In Rohr’s book, he explains that the underlying premise behind the Enneagram is that each person has a ‘true self’ and a ‘false self,’ and with the help of the Enneagram, we can identify our true selves, and thus having identified it, we can now be spiritually transformed to live in that true self.

... When Rohr, who is an outspoken panentheist, says ‘True Self in God,’ he is referring to his belief that the true self is the God within every human being.”



Ira D. Sankey
1840-1908

THE STORY OF GOSPEL HYMNS

by Ira D. Sankey

ONWARD, CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS

Words by S. Baring-Gould
Music by A. S. Sullivan

“Onward, Christian soldiers! Marching as to war.”

Written for a special occasion, the author was totally unprepared for the subsequent popularity of this hymn. In 1895 he said regarding its composition: ”

Whit-Monday is a great day for school festivals in Yorkshire. One Whit-Monday, thirty years ago, it was arranged that our school should join forces with that of a neighboring village. I wanted the children to sing when marching from one village to another, but couldn’t think of anything quite suitable; so I sat up at night, resolved that I would write something myself. ‘Onward, Christian soldiers’ was the result.

It was written in great haste, and I am afraid some of the rhymes are faulty. Certainly nothing has surprised me more than its popularity. I don’t remember how it got printed first, but I know that very soon it found its way into several collections. I have written a few other hymns since then, but only two or three have become at all well-known. ”

The tune to which it is now sung is the one by which Sir Arthur Sullivan is likely to be known longest to posterity.



250 YEARS LATER, ‘AMAZING GRACE’ HAS FILLED CHURCHES, CONCERTS, EVEN COMMERCIALS

James Walvin, a former Church of England choirboy and professor of history at the University of York, doesn’t remember encountering “Amazing Grace,” in song or in his hymnal. It wasn’t until he traveled to the United States to research the history of slavery that he came upon the hymn introduced by John Newton, a former slave trader, in 1773.

Since then, Walvin, the author of the new book “*Amazing Grace: A Cultural History of the Beloved Hymn*,” has submerged himself in the hymn, which turns 250 this year and has become a staple of Sunday services that has been adapted and adopted by preachers, performers, and presidents.

Among the thousands of versions, Walvin is especially fond of bass-baritone Paul Robeson’s but gives a nod to “Queen of Soul” Aretha Franklin as well as “a choir from Soweto, an extraordinarily haunting version of it,” saying they are all “effective in their own different, very distinctive ways.”

“Amazing Grace” survived, particularly in the United States and especially in African American communities, because its words speak to a human condition of suffering, and people coming out of suffering, and its music has a kind of haunting refrain that soothes. It has a unique combination of important phraseology — words, verses — and the beguiling music. How do you explain the fact that John Newton, a former slave trader, wrote a hymn that’s treasured by enslaved people and their descendants?

“I think young people find it very hard to get their heads around the fact that here is a hymn of great Christian significance written by a man who’s stained by the brutality and violence of slavery. It’s a historical paradox, really. But it extends beyond that hymn. There are millions of people at the time, on both sides of the Atlantic, ensnared in slavery, one way or another, who are deep Christians, God-fearing men and women who see no contradiction in their faith and their behavior toward Africans. And that’s one of the extraordinary, difficult things to understand.”

You write that Newton spent years trying to become a Church of England priest before he was able to lead a parish and share his hymns. So this song might never have reached the international stage?

“Yes, it speaks to John Newton’s perseverance. To become a minister, you had to have gone to one of the two main universities, Oxford or Cambridge, and he hadn’t been close to either of them. He was not formally educated. Yet he was a deeply learned man, and a deeply religious man. He had to fight against the institutions and against the church to let him in.”

Though most of the words are 250 years old, the tune we know best today is newer. How did that come about?

“The music that we associate with “Amazing Grace” today is not what people sang for 60 years after Newton wrote it in (December) 1772. We know from the Lomax family — a father and son who recorded folk songs in the United States in the backwoods — that people sang the words through an extraordinary variety of songs (tunes). But it’s the music that we now know came together with the words in the 1830s that actually creates that combination that is so potent and so durable.”

You note that advertisers have used “Amazing Grace.” Can you name some examples?

“People sell candies. They sell doughnuts. They sell funeral plans with “Amazing Grace” in the background. Sometimes people don’t notice but it’s that subconscious music that somehow or other lulls people into a sense of appreciation for what’s being promoted.”

How have you celebrated the 250th anniversary?

“The anniversary was launched in Olney in Buckinghamshire, which is where it was written and first performed on New Year’s Day in 1773. I was there. I talked about the hymn in this little village where this lovely church still exists — where Newton was the rector. I’m going to speak at the end of this year’s celebrations. (Earlier this month) I spoke at a care home in York to only 12 people. Old people mostly not really very alert for all the obvious reasons, but they wanted to hear me talk about “Amazing Grace.”

- excerpted

