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the **HeavenlySanctuary.com** network

HeavenlySanctuary.com: Everything about the character of God: discussion forums, featured stories, on-demand streaming video, podcasts and MP3 audio sermons, live video conferencing, online and downloadable Bible study guides, PowerPoint slides, sermon manuscripts and more!

GoodNewsTour.com: Information about The Good News Tour, speaker information, event locations, schedules and dates.

GodsCharacter.com: A book by book Bible study given by Dr. Brad Cole. Video on demand, audio streaming, PowerPoint slides, PDF documents and more!

Events & Schedules

July 14-18, 2009 — Wyoming Camp Meeting (Marco Belmonte): (youth event) Contact: Scott Bennett @ 307.660.7174

August 3-9, 2009 — Lake Tahoe Camp Meeting (Marco Belmonte): Join Marco for a third year of discussion about his favorite subject: God! We look forward to seeing you there! (youth event) Contact: Jamie Eaton @ 775.225.0609

September 21-26, 2009 — CUC's Week In Spiritual Emphasis (Marco Belmonte): Canadian University College's "WISE" (Week In Spiritual Emphasis) will have Marco Belmonte returning to the campus where God became his greatest Friend. Contact: Pastor Paul Antunes @ 403.782.3381 x4033

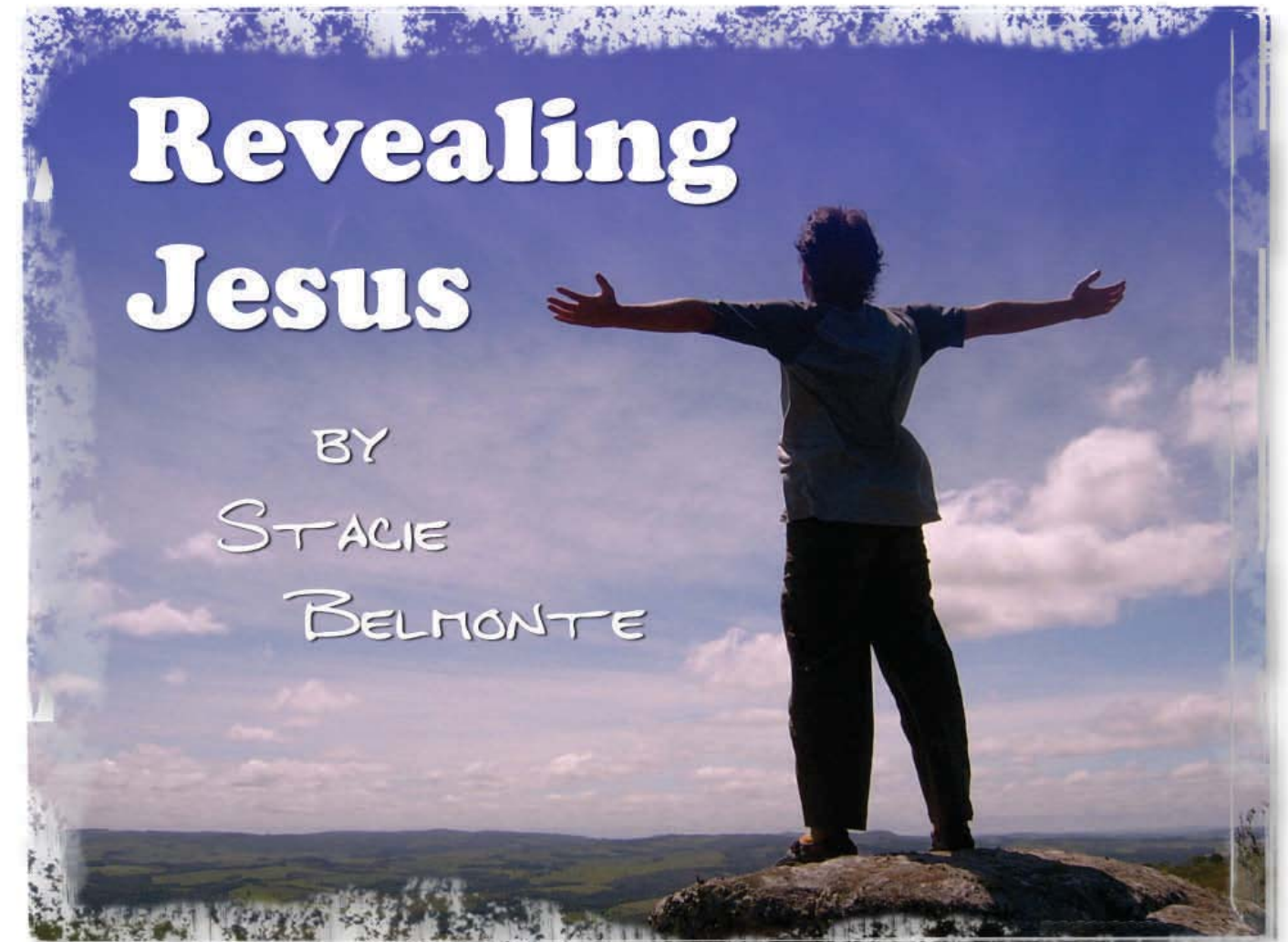
Ongoing Weekly Events

Thursday, 12-1 PM — Loma Linda University Medical Student Bible Study (Dr. Brad Cole): See GodsCharacter.com

Monday, 12-1 PM — Loma Linda University Allied and Public Health Bible Study (Dr. Brad Cole): See GodsCharacter.com

The Good News

A NEWSLETTER ENTIRELY ABOUT GOD : ISSUE TWENTY-SIX : MAY, TWO-THOUSAND AND NINE



Author and theologian, Paul Heubach, once described the glory of the cross as sevenfold: The compelling power of love; the Kingly power of reason; the stabilizing power of justice; the releasing power of true freedom; the transforming power of fellowship with Christ; the healing power of redemption, of forgiveness, of sanctification; the creative power of the dedicated life - a noble purpose - a magnificent obsession.

The cross indeed has compelling evidence of power! While tradition has placed heavy emphasis on Christ's sacrificial death, I'd like to focus on Christ's sacrificial life and specifically on point five of Paul's list: the transforming power of fellowship with Christ. What does it mean to be in fellowship with Christ? Is it a contrived action or natural reaction to God's loving kindness (Jeremiah 31:3)?

a newsletter **entirely** about God

MINISTRY NEWS

Dr. Brad Cole's weekly book-by-book bible studies will again resume in September on the campus of Loma Linda University. Details can be found on the back of this newsletter!

We are pleased to announce that our book "God Is Love" by G.E. Fifield is about to go into its second printing! If you are interested in purchasing this book please call Dorothee Cole at 1.888.250.4612 or visit our eCatalog at:

<https://www.heavenlysanctuary.com/hscommerce>

Did you miss The Good News Tour 2009 in Vancouver, BC featuring Pastor Greg Boyd? That's ok! We've started post-production on the video and you can get the audio in MP3 format from our website starting right now! Check the audio section at HeavenlySanctuary.com!

Rumor has it that we are working on a book written by various authors that will be an exhaustive account on God's glorious character. Well, it's not a rumor! Details soon!

Have you seen The Good News Tour 2008 that was held in Loma Linda, CA this last year? It can be viewed at HeavenlySanctuary.com for free or if you'd like your own DVD viewable copy you can purchase it from:

<https://www.heavenlysanctuary.com/hscommerce>



[CONTINUED FROM FRONT] The cross represents precious meaning and compelling evidence that speaks of a noble life lived and how we too can partake in that abundant living.

Life is full of slow and fast pitches, strike outs and home runs. The question is - where shall I put my emphasis? My degradation? Or God's glorification in the person of Jesus Christ? "To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified" (Isaiah 61:3). This promise was not for Isaiah alone; God has promised each one of us beauty for ashes, praise for heaviness and joy for mourning! Do you believe it to be true? Surely you have experienced transformation in your life. Maybe God offered you sobriety for addiction or peace for turmoil - whatever the exchange, no doubt we will share for eternity the blessings God has given.

Mary Ann Bird is one such person who has already begun making it her life work to share the goodness of God and how he transformed her life. Mary Ann was born with a cleft palate. She was very quiet and shy and often was teased at school for looking different. Fortunately, she was placed in a classroom with a wise teacher who was not only aware of her student's speaking challenges; she was wise in the way of love.

In Mary Ann's book, *The Whisper Test*, she writes: "I grew up knowing I was different, and I hated it. I was born with a cleft palate, and when I started school, my classmates made it clear to me how I looked to others: a little girl with a misshapen lip, crooked nose, lopsided teeth, and garbled speech. When schoolmates asked, 'What happened to your lip?' I'd tell them I'd fallen and cut it on a piece of glass. Somehow it seemed more acceptable to have suffered an accident than to have been born different. I was convinced that no one outside my family could love me. There was, however, a teacher in the second grade whom we all adored— Mrs. Leonard by name. She was short, round, happy— a sparkling lady. Annually we had a hearing test... Mrs. Leonard gave the test to everyone in the class, and finally it was my turn. I knew from past years that as we stood against the

door and covered one ear, the teacher sitting at her desk would whisper something, and we would have to repeat it back— things like 'The sky is blue' or 'Do you have new shoes?' I waited there for those words that God must have put into her mouth, those seven words that changed my life. Mrs. Leonard said, in her whisper, 'I wish you were my little girl.'"

See, this teacher had met Jesus Christ and so it was natural for her to recycle the love He had shown her toward others (1 John 4:19). It just so happened that Mary Ann found herself in the cross hairs of Christ's love in the person of her teacher. Mrs. Leonard did not learn how to be empathic and compassionate from a textbook or professor's lecture; she experienced it first hand from her Creator who makes love His priority.

You may wonder how it's possible to be Jesus Christ to a hurting soul but something tells me you already have. Perhaps it was the time you kissed your child's bruised knee or listened to your spouse pour out their heart over work issues or a friend's struggle as a single-parent (Hosea 11:4). Somehow though, we mini-

mize these gentle tender moments. Of course, Love reveals itself in exclamation moments like when Mother Teresa received permission from the Vatican counsel in 1950 to create Missionaries of Charity. This organization's sole purpose was to rescue the unloved from the streets of Calcutta. Talk about God's transforming power! This little congregation that began with 13 members now has over 4,000! The world has a tendency to misunderstand exclamation point moments for it sees greatness as large in scale, yet, Mother Teresa would tell you, "If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

It's easy to point at high profile humanitarians and sing their praises and then feel insignificant. That's why it's doubly essential to kick all feelings of inadequacy to the curb! God works His miracles through all who are willing – you, the Mother Teresas of this world, and me. So, keep lending an ear to those who need listening to; extending a shoulder for someone to lean on and offering a warm hand for someone to hold, for by doing so you will be Jesus Christ to every life you touch. [END]

