

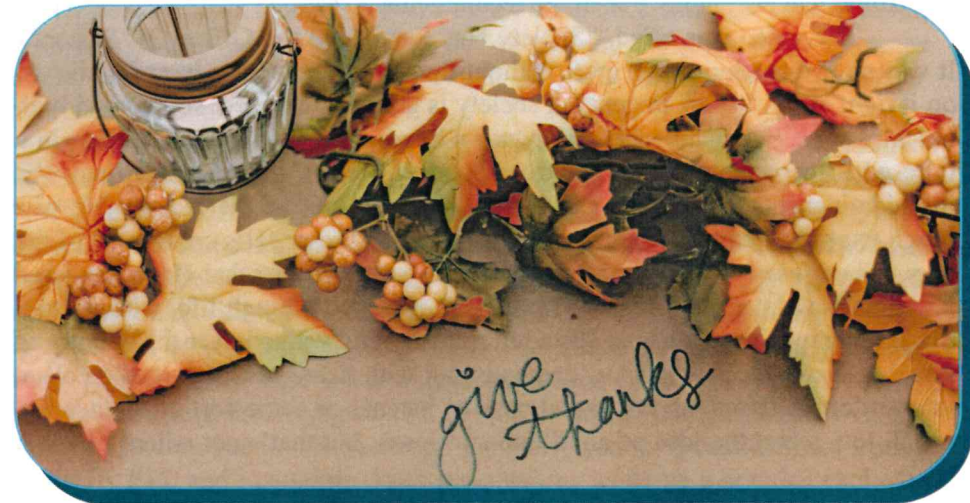


The Fountain
1023 N Chinowth St.
Visalia, CA 93291



The
FOUNTAIN
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Intentionally Growing, and #LivingSENT for Jesus



The
Fountain
Christian Church

Office Hours:

Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM— 4:30 PM

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Voddie Baucham Called Me a Nerd?

(It wasn't a complement)

By Pastor Sam Sears

I know extraordinarily little about Voddie Baucham. I have no reason to think he isn't a brother in Christ or even a solid pastor. I do not know how much doctrine we agree on. I do know that he is well known and I have heard his name brought up by various people whom I trust and respect. I am aware that he has a large YouTube audience, and it is there that I ran across him. When I eat lunch in the office, I'll often pull up some of my favorite Christian teachers, like Mike Winger, or Michael Heiser, and listen to them, but I saw something that caught my eye in the recommended section.

The video was titled, "Society Has Feminized the Office Of 'Pastor.'" It was an eye-catching title, even without the name attached to it, and I clicked on it right away. I think in general, society is guilty as charged, so I agreed with much of what Baucham said. Jesus was a tough man. He was a carpenter, in a time when carpenters also worked with stone. He fashioned a whip and was intimidating enough to drive the money changers out of the temple. He was tough enough to endure a deadly scourging and still carry His cross most of the way. When Jesus was on the cross, the Bible makes it clear that He surrendered His life; it was not simply taken from Him. He lived a tough life, with no permanent home when He began His adult ministry and walked over the country of Israel. He was tough, in shape, and hung out with fishermen. He wasn't a clean-shaven office drone, an emotional passive listener or some sort of mother figure. I, too, reject the idea of an effeminate Jesus, but that's not where I had an issue.

In the video, Baucham brings up the role of women in ministry, and I was ready to set that aside. It's a controversial issue, and it wasn't the main point. I must note, however, that he seemed to conflate the idea of women serving in various leadership roles with the men being men and women being women. I have to say that I'm thankful for our differences, and it's those differences that make women like Carrie a vital part of our team. I can't imagine what I would do with some of the phone calls we get if we did not have some mature Christian women to handle them. We can use our differences to better minister to a wider set of people.

My problem with the video came when he claimed that we had turned the modern pastor into "this sort of intellectual nerd, who spends all his time in his office, who has all of these academic credentials." He went on to connect this with someone who was "in touch with their feminine side." I instantly recoiled. If we were having a conversation, I could have paused and asked him some clarifying questions. Was he suggesting education was a woman's pursuit and not a man's? Was he setting up a false dichotomy? What of verses that

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command us to study? (2 Timothy 2:15) What about the model that was setup by the 12 in Acts 6, where Deacons were created so that the leaders could spend more time focusing on prayer and the Word? Since the video amounted to a one-sided conversation, I was left to do some googling.

I found that Baucham did have a doctorate and emphasized "cultural apologetics," which his website left undefined. My M.A. is in Apologetics, and I would never hold to the view he seemed to be espousing above, but given his doctorate, and his published works, I didn't think his comments seemed in line with everything else I was finding out about him. He grew up in a secular home, and his own website said that he was familiar with intellectual challenges to the faith.

Way back in 2012, I ran a blog called "nerd4thelord." It's still around, at nerd4thelord.wordpress.com, but much of it is out of date. Baucham used "nerd" in a negative way here. I have no problem with being labeled a nerd, especially as someone who wants to pursue wisdom, as is commended in Proverbs. While I don't expect all Christians to have the same giftings, we should all be worshipping God with our mind. Being a nerd isn't automatically feminine, or less masculine, either. I also played football in high school, had a typically masculine job as a Juvenile Justice Officer and continue to enjoy weightlifting, shooting guns and typically "masculine" pursuits. I will also admit to having been a "man-mom" for many years. "Feminine" isn't automatically bad, and I certainly don't see studying as being a practice exclusive to the fairer sex.

I agree that our churches are more attended by females than males. Studies seem to bear out that, in general, women are more in tune with emotional messages, while men respond better to logical argumentation. Men use different words, sometimes perceived as more harsh or vulgar, than women do; or at least this has been true in the past. Men tend to be more concrete and less abstract in thinking and illustrations. I do think that some of our current methods do attract more females than males. At the same time, research shows that a father's attendance is one of the biggest factors on children remaining in church throughout their life. Therefore, we did need to attract more men; and we should be attracting whole families.

If men are more attracted to logical argumentation, then to study is not un-masculine, and more study, and more depth isn't going to chase men away. It is actually going to invite them into something that is deeper than they may realize. Baucham's comments may have been a case of saying a bit more than

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he intended. Anyone who speaks regularly has done this on accident. Certainly, pastors shouldn't just be in a room by themselves, but we do see them interacting with others, and getting out of the office, providing an example as servant leaders. I won't hold it against Baucham, but I am concerned about how easy it was to make those comments, how they were received and how frequently ones like them appear in the church.

Unfortunately, right at the same time our young people are crying out for more depth and answers to questions they face from outside the church, there is something inside the church trying to stamp out a renewed passion for deep thinking and apologetics. Especially here in the West, we see something called "Anti-intellectualism" in the church. Baucham's comments sound like that, at least in isolation, despite himself having studied, and can give listeners the wrong idea about the Christian walk. The comments seemed to be applauded. Folks often cheer at the idea that seminary training isn't necessary, that anyone can just "feel it out" to find the accurate meaning of Scripture. In our current emotional society, folks want to have their methods of discovering truth affirmed. Emote, do what feels good, not "study to show thyself approved." Next month, we will dig deeper into the incorrect idea called "Anti-intellectualism" and show how it is hurting the modern American church.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November 2020

Laura Ray.....	6	Donna Southard.....	29
Barbara Stowers.....	6	ReNelle Stemkoski.....	29
Judy Jameson.....	7		
Dominic Peter.....	9		
Connie Williams.....	9		
Daniel Parker.....	14		
Darren McMath.....	15	Bob & Lisa Brooks.....	10
Samuel Huff.....	18	Jacob & Laura Gunning.....	12
Melina Reynaga.....	22	Les & Danita Bittle.....	22
Misty Fowler.....	23	Les & Bev Coffman.....	22

Happy Anniversary!

Remembering Lance Jepson

Lance Jepson's two daughters, Carrie and Krista, have made the decision NOT to have a special service here in Visalia to remember Lance. Carrie wrote this in a recent email, "With everything being so crazy in the world right now, it looks like we will not have a memorial gathering in Visalia. Krista and I have come up with an alternative plan. Pastor Mike Messenger made a short video for us, and we have a slideshow of dad's life, and we want to share the videos for people to enjoy."

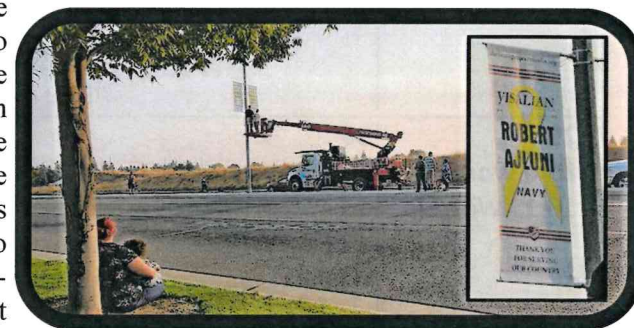


We have received a flash drive with those videos, and will combine them into a single video. We will try and post it to our private page on Facebook, and we'll let you know when it is available. There also may be a copy of the combined videos you can borrow from the church office if you're not able to view it of Facebook.



RJ Ajluni Honored

The Ajluni family had a special celebration early in the morning of October 21. The Visalia Brave Project installed a banner honoring RJ for his current service in the Navy. The banner is located on south Ben Maddox, just south of K Street.

The Visalia Brave Project was established to honor Visalians who are currently serving our nation in the five branches of the Armed Forces, and to date more than 315 individuals have been honored. To learn more about this program, visit their website at thebraveprojectvisalia.org.



November 202

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship	2 10:45 AM Prayer Warriors 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	3 9:30 AM Staff	4 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM eNLiveN Youth	5 10:00 AM The Harbinger II	6 6:30 AM Men's Group	7 
8 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship	9 10:45 AM Prayer Warriors 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study	10 9:30 AM Staff	11 6:00 PM eNLiveN Youth	12 10:00 AM The Harbinger II	13 6:30 AM Men's Group	14
15 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship	16 10:45 AM Prayer Warriors 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study	17 9:30 AM Staff	18 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM eNLiveN Youth	19 10:00 AM The Harbinger II	20 6:30 AM Men's Group	21
22 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship	23 10:45 AM Prayer Warriors 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study	24 9:30 AM Staff	25 6:00 PM eNLiveN Youth	26 	27 6:30 AM Men's Group	28
29 8:30 Worship 10:15 Worship	30 10:45 AM Prayer Warriors 12:00 PM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM Women's Bible Study					

The Story of “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee”

By Robbie Rouch

For our special “Freedom Sunday” at The Fountain on Oct. 25, Chuck Romer was inspired to choose a well-known patriotic song for us to sing together. The final verse of the hymn touched him particularly – a beautiful short prayer well suited to our current times. And at his request, I related the following history before we sang it that Sunday morning.

It was a rainy afternoon in 1831. A young student, who would become the Reverend Samuel Francis Smith and go on to publish many beautiful hymns, was approached by a friend while Smith was still studying at Andover Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. The friend, church music composer Lowell Mason, had a German songbook for school children. Mason was captivated by a particular tune, and wanted Smith to Americanize the German lyrics. It turns out Mason was in pretty good company as far as his appreciation of the melody. The melody had been used in the anthems of the German Empire, Norway, Liechtenstein, Imperial Russia, Switzerland – and many of you would recognize it as the current English Anthem, “God Save the Queen.”

In less than an hour, Smith had completed several verses of his hymn, and not long after, it was performed for the first time in public on July 4, 1831 at a children’s Independence Day celebration at the Park Street Church of Boston. Published the next year in 1832, the popularity of the hymn grew and grew from there. For nearly a century the hymn – often known as “America” – was considered to be our unofficial national anthem until Congress and President Hoover designated the Star-Spangled Banner the official anthem in March of 1931.

Marian Anderson sang “My Country, ‘Tis of Thee” from the Lincoln Memorial for a crowd of 75,000 on Easter Sunday in 1939.



The early verses of the hymn encourage national pride, but the 4th verse is a prayer to God, who Smith addressed as “Our Father’s God,” asking Eternal Almighty God for His continued favor and protection of our United States.

Before we sang this wonderful hymn on Oct. 25, I asked the congregation to join me in praying that 4th verse together – a prayer worthy of frequent repetition in these troubled and confused times... and I invite you to offer it in prayer again today:

Our Father’s God, to Thee,
Author of Liberty, to Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
with freedom’s holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King! Amen.

Prayer Concerns

November 2020

Pray for the desire and opportunity to effectively share your faith!
Our Nation and Leaders. Teachers & Students in Visalia

Health

Ana Morales, Ashley Banuelos, Barbara Grant, Bill Bianchi, Cindy Marks, Donna Eastin, Frank Henley, Jean Lamb, Kevin Guy, Pam Shattuck, Pauline Gurule, Rick Hamilton, Fred Wilder, Sandy Zinger

Cancer

Charles Douglass, Hazel Bahrenburg, Jiggy Greene, Jim Ramsey, Joe Grant, Joe Ryan, Michael Elder, Mike Brazil, Olly Ajluni, Shannan Ajluni

Other Needs

Nina Suttles (Vision), Sheila Wharton (Heart attack), Wayne Geis (Hand Surgery)

Military

Andie Richwine - Marine, Brett Boland - Virginia, Jason Mariel - Afghanistan, Matthew Calhoun - Fort Knox, Michael Reid - Fort Worth, TX, Preston Correa - Marines, RJ Ajluni - Navy

Mission Ministry

By Judy Jameson

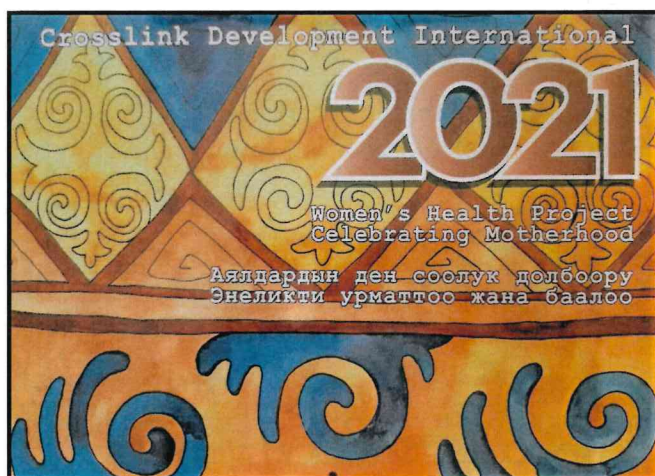
The new 2021 CDI Women's Health Project calendar, Celebrating Motherhood, is now available. These calendars are great gifts for the holidays or for that new mother in your family, our church, or neighborhood. This is one way Crosslink Development International helps to raise awareness of the work being done for these women. It is through this project that Clementa Frederiksen and others are showing the love of Christ to the women of Central Asia.

Calendars are available through the church office. You may also email jjameson256@gmail.com if you have any questions or want further details. The suggested donation is \$15 each. You may also send donations for CDI or Central Asian Tails by writing a check to The Fountain with a note in the memo for your designation.

Please continue to pray, with thanksgiving, for all of our missionaries, for their safety, their work and their families. Pray that we may also encourage them through our financial support.

Please pray for all Christians, here and around the world. Pray we will reflect Christ's love for others, at home, at school, at work, in social media and our conversations. May we be so filled with love and forgiveness, understanding and helpfulness, that those who don't know Christ will want to learn Who it is at work in our lives that makes us so attractively different.

Let us be thankful for our Lord, who, having everything, gave up His life for ours.



Thanksgiving Meals

We are doing things a bit differently this year. So please read and see if you will be able to help out!

It's that time of year again where cold weather sets in and we love to bundle up and enjoy our families!

We are very blessed to be able to do so. However, there are many local families who aren't able to enjoy the holidays because of finances, health and other unfortunate situations. As a church we like to help out where we can, and are looking for your help to bring a little cheer to, and relieve a little stress from as many families as possible.

We are asking for monetary donations this year. We will be giving grocery gift cards to families in need so whatever you feel you can give will be greatly appreciated. If more funds are collected than needed for Thanksgiving meals it will go to helping stock the food pantry for future.

If you have questions please contact the office at 559.732.6623.

Attendance & Giving

October 2020

Date	Attendance	Giving
October 4	64	\$6,242.00
October 11	69	\$7,615.50
October 18	77	\$1,792.50
October 25	69	\$1,322.25
Online Giving		<u>\$3,050.00</u>
Total		\$20,022.25

