

Rolling Stone

ministries

"An angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it... And the angel...said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who as been crucified. He is not here, for He has risen just as He said.'" Matthew 28:2, 5-6

Newsletter SEPTEMBER 2010

Summer Update

Dear Friends of Rolling Stone Ministries:

Our summer sabbatical in Iowa was refreshing. It is hard to say it was "relaxing" because we stayed busy. However, it was nice to slow down from our usual hectic pace.



Whether rain or shine (and we did get a LOT of rain this summer), we awoke each morning to God's glory revealed in nature. Wildlife is abundant where we stay. We never tire of our childlike wonder of the many critters that frequent our yard: deer, turkey, chipmunks, geese, beaver, otter, and a wide variety of colorful birds. This year one morning we were greeted by an unusual majestic sight - a bald eagle, in our own back yard! Another morning we found a deer sleeping in our planter.



We did have a bit of a fright when a bat decided to live inside our house for a few days. Eventually John caught it and released it outside.

When not admiring God's creation, we worked, played and spent precious time with family.



The big news is John finished writing his book this summer, which is now being published. We expect it to be out before Christmas, in time for gifts! Stay tuned for more details. Laurie made great strides with her book and is determined to have it finished before next summer.

John had the privilege of being the guest pastor twice at Faith Bible Church in Panora, and managed to squeeze in a little Sunday school teaching, reminding him of his class back in Orange, CA, The Cutting Edge. John also found his way back to radio, appearing on a local popular talk radio station.

Laurie hosted another Bible study with the local women. They were blessed to devote six weeks to Hebrews chapter 11, affectionally known as the "faith chapter," but also a great Old Testament survey.

Both John and Laurie found time to write articles for the Des Moines Register. Each writing about marriage, which continues to make headlines in Iowa and California and the rest of the country.

Praise the Lord for summers in Iowa!

John & Laurie



STATE OF THE UNION ON MARRIAGE

You may be intimately aware of the status of marriage in the United States, especially in California and Iowa, where most of our Rolling Stone Ministries supporters live. Still, a little review may help some understand where we are, and how we got here.

First, the legislatures of both California and Iowa passed laws defining marriage as between a man and a woman. In California, unlike Iowa, citizens have access to "direct democracy," meaning if enough people sign petitions, a proposed law can be put on the ballot for the voters to either approve or reject.

In 2000, over 60% of California voters approved Proposition 22, which says "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Prop 22 was challenged in court. In 4-3 decision in May 2008, the CA Supreme Court struck down Prop 22, opening the door for "same-sex marriage."

The same words as Prop 22 was put on the November 2008 ballot as Proposition 8--a proposed Constitutional amendment, which, if passed by the voters, would put the law above the reach of the courts. After a bitter campaign (some \$40 million was spent by each side), Prop 8 passed. It was immediately challenged in court. Finally, the CA Supreme Court upheld Prop 8, but the same day, challengers filed suit in federal court, claiming Prop 8 violates the U.S. Constitution.

The federal challenge to Prop 8 came before Judge Vaughn Walker, an alleged homosexual from San Francisco (according to newspaper reports). The challenge was spearheaded by two prominent attorneys, David Boies and Ted

Olsen. Following the trial, Judge Walker ruled that Prop 8 is unconstitutional because reserving marriage for only opposite-sex couples denied same-sex couples equal protection under the law. Most people find it outrageous that one person wearing a black robe can trump the will of over seven million California voters who approved Prop 8, and can effectively re-define a word that has been understood for millennia as a relationship between one man and one woman.

Judge Walker's ruling has been stayed by the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, who will determine, (likely in the spring of 2011) whether they agree with Judge Walker. Regardless of what the Ninth Circuit rules, the case, *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, is likely headed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where the definition of marriage for all 300 million Americans will finally be legally decided.

Laurie and I participated in the *Perry* case, volunteering our time to assist one of the consultants to "Yes on 8" campaign who, along with others, were being asked to divulge confidential information in what is often called a "fishing expedition" conducted by David Boies' law firm. We were able to successfully prevent disclosure of privileged and confidential information to the other side.

In Iowa, in *Varnum v. Brien*, the Supreme Court ruled 7-0 that Iowa's marriage law violated the state Constitution, thereby opening the door to same-sex marriage. Iowans can amend their constitution, but only if the legislature first passes the proposal in two consecutive sessions. Many want a chance to vote on the definition of marriage, but

the legislature (currently controlled by Democrats) will not let its citizens decide the definition of marriage.

As I write, there are concerted efforts to get the legislature to allow Iowans to vote on the marriage issue. Thus far 31 states have voted on the definition of marriage, and all 31 voted to define marriage as between one man and one woman. It is no wonder that proponents of same-sex marriage run to the courts, where they can often find sympathetic, activist judges, since they have been unable to convince the majority of American voters that the definition of marriage should be expanded.

Currently, there are five states, plus the District of Columbia, which allow "same-sex marriage." A federal statute (Defense of Marriage Act, or "DOMA") says states do not have to recognize same-sex marriages from other states. DOMA is being challenged in the courts, and one federal judge recently found the federal DOMA unconstitutional. That issue is now on appeal.

Pray that the Ninth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court will decide the marriage issue consistent with the historic definition of marriage, and consistent with Judeo-Christian values that uphold marriage between a man and a woman as the most important social relationship that exists. Our country's moral future is on the line. What is decided in the near future will determine whether our children and grandchildren will be taught that there is no moral distinction between heterosexuality and homosexuality.



John is excited to announce that his latest book, *Text Messages From God*, is set for publication and should be released some time in November.

Text Messages From God is the gripping story of Dave, a hard-driving, successful attorney, whose self-centered existence suddenly turns upside down by text messages he receives from a mysterious person claiming to be God. Dave, who likes to be in control and prides himself on being self sufficient, notices that the messages draw out another side of him, exposing that he is not an impenetrable fortress after all. Gradually Dave's skepticism gives way

to curiosity and he plays along with captivating challenges from the message sender. As he cautiously begins to take the messages to heart, Dave is forced to deal with painful memories that he had blocked out for many years. Dave's tough shell finally begins to crack and he is faced with making a decision that could change his life forever.

We won't spoil the unexpected ending for you, but early critics of the book have given it rave reviews and spoken of being moved to tears. Although a fictional story, *Text Messages From God*, deals with the real resistance many people have regarding matters of

faith. Numerous skeptics find that their objections are really excuses, and the Hound of Heaven has ways to penetrate our hearts so that the truth can be known.

Text Messages From God is intended to be shared with those, like Dave, whose faith may have grown cold, but when confronted with the ultimate questions of life, death and the afterlife, turn their hearts to the Lord.

Stay tuned for more details about how to pre-order your books early. *Text Messages From God* will make a great Christmas gift for someone special in your life.

BLESS-ED
ARE THE
PEACE-MAKERS
Matthew 5:9



Jesus says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.” Matthew 5:9

Conflict is all around us. Turn on the news and we see it locally, nationally, and globally. As we examine our own relationships with our families, our friends, our neighbors, and even our brothers and sisters in Christ, we find occasional, and sometimes constant, conflict. Why so much conflict in the world?

Jesus warned us that life on this side of eternity would not be perfect. He said, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

So how are we supposed to deal with conflict? Biblically, of course. But how many of us really know how to do that?

Ken Sande wrote an incredibly popular and practical book called *The Peace Maker*, a tool used around the world to help individuals, families, churches, ministry

and business leaders resolve conflict. Ken “gives practical biblical guidance for conflict resolution that takes you beyond resolving conflicts to true, life-changing reconciliation with family, coworkers, and fellow believers.” When Christians learn how to be biblical peacemakers, they are able to turn conflict into opportunities to strengthen relationships, preserve valuable resources, and make their lives a testimony to the love and power of Christ. The book teaches a straightforward approach to resolving conflict, summarized in the four basic principles, referred to as the “Four G’s”:

- Glorify God (1 Cor. 10:31)
- Get the log out of your eye (Matt. 7:5)
- Gently restore (Gal. 6:1)
- Go and be reconciled (Matt. 5:24)

These principles are *countercultural*. In our natural state, it is difficult for us to

forgive and be reconciled when we feel we’ve been wronged by others. However, there is One who came to save us from our sins. The message of the gospel helps us learn how to resist temptation, obey His commands, and live a life that honors Him. As Ken says, “Peacemakers are people who breathe grace.”

This book is for anyone interested in learning how to biblically resolve personal and/or professional conflict. Imagine the impact of our churches if they were full of trained Christian conciliators, able to wisely help others resolve their conflicts! We might actually restore relationships, save marriages, avoid court (1 Corinthians 6:1-8), and testify with our lives to the grace and mercy of God’s forgiving love.

“If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.” Romans 12:18

Grace and peace to you.

ON THE HORIZON



After our sojourn in Iowa, we returned to California and hit the ground running as usual, taking care of our legal cases, and generally catching up. Finally having settled back in, we are seeking divine guidance for next year's mission trips. God has already provided a grant to help us with travel expenses wherever He chooses to send us, but we are still praying the Lord will meet our financial needs for the time we spend preparing and teaching. John always pours himself into his research and preparation.

Recently we were invited back to India to bring leadership training to pastors, pastors' wives, and youth. The Bible institute has asked us to consider a return to their training center in Jaipur in the North, and training center in Chennai (the former Madras) in the South.

Once again we are invited to return to Kenya at the Manna Bible Institute outside Nairobi. When we were in Kenya back in April we consulted with Africa Nazarene University on their fledgling law school, and had a wonderful meeting with the former President of Kenya, Daniel Moi, who has started a Christian-oriented law program at his university. We continue to pray the Lord will show us how we can be a blessing in helping Kenyans develop a biblical approach to teaching and practicing law as servant leaders.

Finally, we are exploring invitations to speak in Israel and New Zealand, as well as here in the United States. We solicit your prayers so that we will be sensitive to the leading of the Lord in pursuing the opportunities to teach that He desires.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support that make our ministry work possible.

Bwana Asifiwe ("Praise the Lord" in Swahili)

John & Laurie

PARTNER WITH ROLLING STONE MINISTRIES

We invite you to prayerfully consider partnering with RSM today. When you offer support, you partner with RSM in the mission field and share in building the Kingdom. Becoming a Treasure Builder (a monthly partner with RSM) will go a long way to provide for basic needs to help minister more effectively to fulfill the Great Commission: *Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Matt. 28:19-20*



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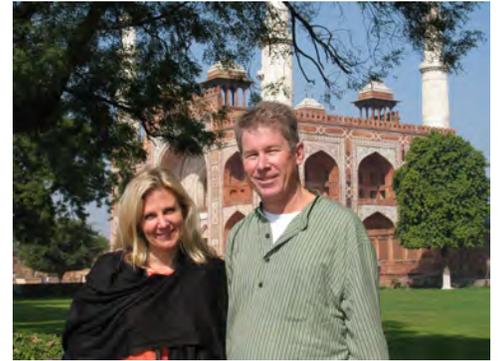
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Purpose of RSM

TEACH biblical truth; *TRAIN* Christian leaders, church planters and evangelists; *DEFEND* the Christian faith intelligently; *STRENGTHEN* the faith of believers; *CONFRONT* secular attacks on the Christian faith; *ENGAGE* the culture with the truth of Scripture; *ADVOCATE* for religious freedom.

RSM is involved with universities, Bible institutes, churches and conferences, providing leadership training, strategic planning, prayer and support. Also, RSM provides scholarship to key pastors and church leaders in their continuing training and education.



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