



SHASTA
BIBLE COLLEGE
AND GRADUATE SCHOOL

2951 Goodwater Ave.
Redding CA 96002
530-221-4275 Ex.31 Cell : (530) 227-4275
www.shasta.edu sbcadm@shasta.edu

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Dear SBC&GS Family:

Ephesians 1:11 tells us that *"God works all things after the counsel of His divine will."* Sometimes that concept is difficult to accept, but we must remind ourselves that it reflects an undeniable Biblical truth: The sovereignty of God. Nothing happens apart from His sovereign plan. Also, according to Romans 8:28, *"All things work together for good to them that love God and are called according to His purpose."* He is never taken by surprise. The unsettling effects of Covid19 and the subsequent requirements related to "sheltering in place" and "social distancing" have taken a tragic toll on our nation both economically and emotionally. The mandatory shutdown of so many allegedly "nonessential" businesses, the suspension of corporate worship in our churches, the closure of our classrooms and cancelation of so many extracurricular activities including traditional graduations has not been easy. Then, just as we are beginning to inch back toward normalcy, the image of George Floyd with his neck under the knee of Minnesota police officer, Derek Chauvin, was beamed into our national consciences, initiating a wave of peaceful protests mixed with Antifa-style insurrection and anarchy across the nation.

I have not met George Floyd, but whatever the reason for his arrest, he in no way deserved the kind of treatment he received from the four Minnesota police officers who were definitely not representative of the upstanding law-enforcement personnel who put their lives on the line each day to protect their communities. The fine law enforcement officers I know think what happened to George Floyd was reprehensible. Why do I say that? Because back in the late 1960's I personally saw and experienced this kind of racial hatred and discrimination first hand when I ministered with John MacArthur in and around Jackson, Mississippi. We were there at the invitation of Rev. John Perkins, who had come to Christ through the ministry of John's Dad, Dr. Jack MacArthur, then Pastor of the MacArthur Memorial Bible Church in Burbank, CA. Pastor Perkins' personal testimony and ministry left an indelible impression on my life.

John Perkins was from Mendenhall, MS. His brother died in his arms after being shot by a Deputy Marshall for allegedly stealing hubcaps off a car. Bitter and disillusioned, he moved to CA with his family, determined never to return to Mississippi. But God had a different plan. Having heard the life-changing gospel of Christ under the powerful and persuasive preaching of Pastor Jack MacArthur, Founder of Voice of Calvary Radio and Television; he ultimately returned to Mendenhall, MS to establish his own Voice of Calvary Church, which included a pre-school head-start program and eventually a medical clinic for the black community. Even though Pastor Perkins was beaten and tortured by the local Sheriff and state police, including having the two outside prongs of a fork shoved up his nose, because they only viewed him as a civil rights leader, he persevered in his ministry with God's evident blessing.

One night after our team ministered at Voice of Calvary Church, we walked in the darkness to our car (there were no street lights in the black quarter of Mendenhall) and started to leave. Almost immediately, bright red lights came on behind us. It was the local Sheriff. He pulled us over and asked for John MacArthur's driver license. This was a problem because John had unintentionally left his license back at our motel. The Sheriff then demanded that we show up at his office the following day at 10:00 a.m. Our entire team arrived on time and as we walked in, the office radio was blaring out the news that Rev. Martin Luther King had been assassinated in Memphis. We were shocked by this news but astounded by the jubilant reaction of the law enforcement officers in the Sheriff's office.

Why? Because when we failed to join their jubilation, the Sheriff was not happy. He informed us that he knew why we were there in Mendenhall (assuming we were civil rights workers helping John Perkins). I'll never forget the name tag on his uniform. It said, "Sheriff Willis." He continued by telling us, "*I've been Sheriff of this town for 25 years and my daddy before me and my granddaddy before him. You step out of line one time and we'll take care of you and do it all legal-like.*" He then threatened to beat us, mentioning the use of a belt, which was probably an idle threat since there were five of us; and after John MacArthur produced his license, we breathed a sigh of relief as we left his office. All we wanted to do was to assist John Perkins in reaching the black community for Christ, and being from CA where attitudes were far different, we were shocked by the Sheriff's reaction both toward the assassination of MLK and us!

Following our encounter with the Sheriff, John Perkins suggested we visit his friend, Charles Evers, Mayor of Fayette, MS, brother of American civil rights activist, Medgar Evers, who was assassinated July 2, 1963 in Jackson, MS. He drove all five of us through the barricades erected to control the crowds of black folk protesting the death of Dr. King. There we were, five white guys being driven by a black man, something that in those days was certain to raise suspicion. As we drove through they yelled out, "Are you guys 'soul?'" We quickly answered, "Yeah, we're 'soul.'" When we finally made it to Mayor Evers' office, John Perkins introduced us and as we sat before him sharing why we were there, a red phone rang on his desk. It was President Lyndon Baines Johnson, begging Mayor Evers to come to Wash., D.C. and help quell the protests there. Mayor Evers replied, "I'm sorry Mr. President, I can't come. I have my hands full here." Later we traveled to Memphis and stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was shot and looked out the window of the bathroom of the rooming house where James Earl Ray aimed his .30-06 at Rev. King. But as a result of that meeting with Mayor Evers, our team, including John MacArthur, myself, and three other musically talented men from BIOLA University, were asked to speak and minister in music at public school assemblies all around Jackson, Fayette and Mendenhall. Again, God transformed what could have been a disastrous situation into an opportunity to share the gospel message with thousands of black young people. In fact, over 3,000 students filled out cards affirming they wanted to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior as a result of John MacArthur's testimony and messages.

During the two years I was part of that Voice of Calvary team we saw God's hand at work in remarkable ways. As I was back then Director of Admissions at Los Angeles Baptist College in So. CA's Santa Clarita Valley, I was on the lookout for talented basketball players for our basketball coach, Pete Reese. One day John Perkins arranged for us to minister at Piney Woods School, a privately funded school for gifted young black students. That day we met two outstanding players, Dolphus Weary and Jimmy Walker. When I shared with them the possibility of a scholarship to Los Angeles Baptist College (now The Master's University), they were immediately interested. So, it was my privilege to recruit those two young basketball players, whom John Perkins had led to faith in Christ. In fact, they were the first black students ever to reside on campus. And, they were exceptional athletes! With their help, along with another 6'10" recruit I eventually led to Christ, LABC beat BIOLA for the first time in its history.

Dolphus Weary and Jimmy Walker, completed their education and returned to Mendenhall. Dolphus later succeeded John Perkins as the Director of Mendenhall Ministries and wrote a fascinating book entitled, "I Ain't Com'in Back," chronicling the prejudice and discrimination he experienced growing up in Mendenhall. Jimmy ended up working with young people through the YMCA. Dr. John M. Perkins went on to be a powerful voice for racial reconciliation, assisted by his sons, ministering as a Bible teacher, best-selling author, philosopher and community developer and eventually establishing the John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation which funds and promotes Transformation, Restoration and Reconciliation, both vertical and horizontal. Their philosophy features a community development concept based on practical Biblical principles developed over 60 years of living and working in poor communities while promoting racial reconciliation. He and his wife, Vera Mae, just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. His book, *Let Justice Roll Down*, was inspired by the Old Testament Prophet, Amos, a reluctant humble shepherd from the southern town of Tekoa, who claimed he was neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet. But it was Amos who uttered that cry "*Let justice roll down*" in exasperation after God sent him to Bethel, the main center of Israel's golden-calf worship (7:13), to expose and denounce the oppression of the poor and the crushing of the needy in the mountains of Samaria. He even referred to the upper-class ladies of Samaria as "cows of Bashan" (4:1). Although he began by pronouncing judgment on surrounding nations, his prophetic rhetoric suddenly pivoted to what J. Sidlow Baxter describes as a "scathing threat of

coming judgment on Israel” because they had failed to heed God’s consistent warnings and judgments. He condemned Israel’s continual lack of justice and the hypocrisy of their feasts and solemn assemblies. Amos 5:21-24 graphically describes God’s attitude toward their stiff-necked intransigence:

“I hate and despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them: and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

*Take away from me the noise of your songs: to the melody of your harps I will not listen. **But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”***

An example of John Perkins’ impact was seen in the attitude of protesters this past week in Fayetteville, N.C. There an attitude of reconciliation was evident as a white law enforcement officer and black protesters wept and prayed together. Most legitimate protesters abhor Antifa’s violent insurrectionist and those claiming to be with the Black Lives Matter movement who join in the burning and looting. Such anarchists have their own agenda and they are paid to cause chaos and advance the socialistic/Marxist political aspirations of misguided political leaders. Others are looking only for an opportunity to loot. What is needed now is a firm commitment to racial reconciliation which can only be effectively realized by minds and hearts that are changed by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. The bottom line is that racism is sin! And unless sin is dealt with by accepting Christ as Savior and Lord, which is prerequisite to becoming a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17), no amount of legislation will change the human heart; red, yellow, black or white. Much progress has been made since our team’s time in Mississippi during the 1960’s from a legal standpoint. But racism still persists in raising its ugly head. We who are believers in Christ, committed to living out Biblical precepts, must emulate Christ’s example of humility and concern for others, regardless of the color of our skin (Phil. 2:3-5). After all, the Bible tells us in Acts 17:26-27a *“And He made from one man (some translations say “one blood”) every nation of mankind to live on the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God”* As a pre-med student in college, my physiology and genetics professor emphasized that the basic blood types are found in all races, only by different percentages. Thus the KJV translation “made from one blood” certainly applies in that sense.

Here at Shasta Bible College & Graduate School our **priority** is to cultivate a campus atmosphere conducive to spiritual growth coupled with academic excellence and compassion for the souls of men and women. Our **passion** is to mentor and mold future servant-leaders who will impact their world for Christ. Our **purpose** is to produce Ephesians 2 Christians for such a time as this, who are not only vertically reconciled according to Eph. 2:4-6, but also horizontally reconciled with fellow believers of all races and ethnic backgrounds through the atoning work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ on the cross as illustrated in Eph. 2:11-19. In this current environment God has given us an opportunity to be salt and light. Let’s not miss this opportunity to correct the injustices of both the past and the present. May God grant us the grace to do what needs to be done to share the transforming message of the Gospel and to implement Christ’s example of love and forgiveness.

I invite you to explore and share the superb educational possibilities available here at Shasta Bible College & Graduate School. We are fast approaching our 50th Anniversary (Jan. 2021) and we are grateful to God for the hundreds of alumni who are now serving Christ across the nation and around the world. We would love for you to consider being part of our campus family, either as a student, prayer warrior or financial supporter. If you’re a prospective student, it’s easy to apply. Just click on the **APPLY** tab located on the home page of our website and follow the prompts. Questions? Feel free to phone our admissions office at (530) 221-4275 or toll-free at 1-800-800-4SBC.

Yours for equipping His servant-leaders,



David R. Nicholas, Th.D.
President