

# MY HOPE AND TRUST ARE IN YOU!



By Ernie Gommel, May 7, 2000

Amos 5:21-24

"I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

You, God, say:

Believe that I am  
Believe Who I am  
Believe in Me  
Believe Me

O God, I am to trust You!

I am to trust You!

My hope is to be in You!

My hope is to be in You!

I am to obey You!

I am to obey You, O God, Holy Spirit!  
I am to trust You, God, for Your mercy, but not presume upon it.

When I put my trust and hope in You, God, I will not be discouraged in any circumstance.

I will be thankful in all circumstances.  
I will give up everything for You, God, or any one else.

Thank You, Father.

O God, teach us. Make us Yours!

This [challenge You sent] is a great opportunity to learn.

I believe that it is sent by You, God, to teach us to trust in You,

hope in You, and obey You – to practice our faith – not to be discouraged and to be thankful, especially in adversity.

We are to be willing to give it all up, if that's the way it goes,

Including the expectation of, and the hope in justice in this world.

We must be willing to give it all up, including the store,

including our place in the community, and including the approval of any men.

We need to be willing to drink the cup that He drank.

We have the opportunity, as self-proclaimed unreligious and reborn, committed people, to show genuine faith = hope and trust in You, God, together with faith and obedience in Your Holy Spirit.

Praise You, God!

Praise You, God!

And Thank You!



A few days ago, I needed to talk to our accountant, Susie Graham, about the taxes for the business, Hitchin Lucerne, Inc., which in common English is Lucerne Valley Market, the Wash n Shop, and Crossroads Center.

Susie was happy with the results for the year, since we had spent enough money on new equipment and improvements over this last year to minimize the amount of taxes owed to the feds and to the state. She complimented us on good management and good operations that led to a "good" tax return. (Can ANY tax return be good??)

I answered Susie that first, we have a whole team (I dislike that buzzword, but . . .) that works together to run the store and make the decisions, and that they are great people. We are blessed by God for sending these people over the years to keep this place going.

The most important thing, though, is that we look to God to run this place, which sounds kinda funny, but it's true. How the heck can God run this place? you might ask. He really does. For example, when our founder, entrepreneur, and leader Ernie Gommel passed on to be with Him in 2012, we were left without a boss, or if you think of it like a pyramid, the very top was removed. So we assigned each other to our new roles – one as the store manager, one as assistant manager, me as official store flunky, etc.

Then we looked to God for direction. The first thing we did was to repair, re-coat, and re-stripe the parking lot. It was overdue and an obvious need. Gommel would have agreed.

The second thing we did was to invite Dr. Melvani to move his office into our shopping center from the old building he currently occupied. And since the vacant spot had been a beauty parlor, we had to remodel the space to meet state and county specs for a medical office. Again, Gommel would have been very happy, as he had wanted to be able to have a place for Dr. Melvani for a long time.

The third thing we did was quite different, and we knew Gommel probably would not have wanted to do it. We could see how utility costs were rising, especially SCE (electricity), and the bills were atrociously high as it was. So we decided to look at doing a solar project to lower the cost of power and, along with a



large generator, create some power security should there be a prolonged outage. It was uncomfortable going against what we knew Gommel might decide, but lacking his wisdom and leadership, we looked directly to God to guide us.

I personally was uneasy pursuing something I knew my dad would be skeptical about, but I saw that we had to do something about the looming power cost increases. We simply would not be able to pay them and the store would gradually (or quickly) die, leaving Lucerne Valley without a store.

The road was rough, and we didn't do everything right, but we took courage and did it. In the decade since that time, we have looked to God for His will in other projects, or in who we hire, or just in daily issues and operations.



FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS  
We honor Pastor Ray's life by continuing to share the daily devotions he prepared for you, his precious readers.

Love Experienced  
Ray Bentley Ministries

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." –1 John 4:8

The apostle John simplified everything by stating, "God is love."

But we can misunderstand that love. You might regard our relationship with God as an invitation you once answered when He knocked on the door of your life, and you let Him in. Now you're a Christian. Simple.

But don't let that be enough. We're not supposed to just start going to church, put a Bible on the coffee table, and figure, OK, took care of that. I'm right with God.

That's not love experienced!

A life that knows true love is filled with many invitations, because of the nature of love. Love is a living relationship that never remains the same, but grows deeper, more intimate, and more secure. We can never get enough of it, and we will never come to the end of it because God Himself, the Author of love, is infinite and His love knows no limits.

Every day, in various ways, the Lord comes knocking on the door of your heart. Through circumstances, people, new opportunities, a change of venue, the beauty of nature, and sometimes heartache and tragedy—God gives us the chance to experience and live with His love in a new way, every day.

Don't miss your daily invitation to grow deeper in God's love. Seek Him in His Word. Look for Him in the faces of the people around you. Accept the hard things as part of what makes you a deeper, more compassionate person. Give away the love God gives you freely, abundantly, wisely, and with a grateful heart.

"There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love." – Thornton Wilder

Not everyone is on board with that kind of thinking, but clearly our store manager Anne, I myself, and Bill Lembright directly appeal to God for His guidance on many issues. It IS His store, in reality and in legality, so we feel it necessary, and our privilege, to be good stewards of His mission here in our little town. There are others who are supportive in that approach, for which we are grateful.

What does this have to do with the two articles on either side of this paper? Reading them again is what brought this to mind.

My dad's "poem", "My Hope and Trust are in You!" expresses wonderfully what our spirit needs to be toward our Father God. We are to hope in Him, trust Him, be willing to step out in faith, and live totally for Him.

Ray Bentley's short article "Love Experienced" expresses much the same thing. If we love God, when He comes knocking, we don't just say "Yes" and then go about our own lives our own way. We express our love for Him by deepening our relationship with Him as we live our lives, looking for the opportunities He places in our way and making the most of them, in His Spirit.

I love that we can say that this is God's store, in every way! I love that we look to Him for guidance. I love that He is with us and in us, and works through us.

May He be with you, and in you, and work through you! Your reward will be eternity with Him. How great and wonderful is that!

Linda Gommel

## Lucerne Valley Residents: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

March 23, 2024  
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.



Behind Lucerne Valley Fire Station  
33269 Old Womens Spring Rd  
(Enter through gate on Ladera Rd)

We **DO** Accept...

- Antifreeze
- Auto & Household Batteries
- Computer Monitors, TVs
- CPUs, Printers
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Home-Generated Sharps/Needles in approved container
- Household Cleaners
- Medications – separate liquids from solids (excluding controlled substances)
- Microwave Ovens
- Motor Oil/Used Filters
- Musical Cards, Clothes Irons
- Paint Products
- Pesticides & Fertilizers
- Space Heaters, Stereos, Radios
- Telephones
- VCRs/DVD Players

We **DO NOT** Accept...

- Asbestos
- Business/Commercial Wastes
- Explosives
- Medical Wastes other than sharps
- Radioactive Wastes
- Reactives
- Tires
- Appliances, Furniture, Air Conditioner, etc.
- Wastes from fore-closed properties & non-profit organizations

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