



"I am giving you an opinion on this because it is profitable for you, who a year ago began not only to do something, but also desire it. But now finish the task as well, that just as there was eagerness to desire it, so there may also be a completion from what you have."
 2 Corinthians 8:10-11



June 2020

I LOVE PVBA MISSION OFFERING



- Carlsbad Outreach Center
- Disaster Relief Ministry
- South Africa Partnership

Join us in support of our three cooperative mission efforts to spread the Gospel here in Pecos Valley, across America, and around the world. Donate online at pecosvalleybaptist.com/donate or mail to PVBA, PO Box 267, Artesia, NM 88211.

Association Goal: \$10,000



"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." —Acts 1:8

Pecos Valley Pastor's Perspective

Pluralism and American Christianity By David Prell

Only a few decades ago American culture was almost universally regarded as based upon Christianity. Most leaders, as well as people generally, not only accepted this basis as a fact, but also more-or-less firmly agreed that that is how things ought to be.

One must accept as a fact that public life is now immersed in an irrational, but historically powerful swing against Christianity. As followers of Jesus, it will be helpful to keep a number of things in mind:

First, pluralism is not a bad arrangement. It is a good thing. It is, in fact, a social expression of the kind of respect and care for the individual that is dictated by trust in God and love of neighbor. The Christian does not oppose pluralism as a social principle. Pluralism simply means that social or political force is not to be used to suppress the freedom of thought and expression of any citizen.

Pluralism does not mean that everyone is equally right in what they think. It does not mean that we must agree with the views or adopt the practices of those of other persuasions. It does

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- 1 Abelardo Bolanos' Birthday
Jackie & Linda Thomas' Anniversary
- 2 Charley Lewis' Birthday
- 3 LeeRoy & Kathy Howard's Anniversary
- 4 Jennifer Wright's Birthday
- 6 Dickie Means' Birthday
Gene De Los Santos' Birthday
- 12 Renee Kraft's Birthday
- 14 David & Jody Prell's Anniversary
Ty & Jennifer Houghtaling's Anniversary
- 15 Andy & Cheri LaReau's Anniversary
- 16 Grace Whitehead's Birthday
Valarie Grant's Birthday
- 19 Nidia Bolanos' Birthday
- 22 Jody Prell's Birthday
- 25 Nonie Martin's Birthday
- 27 Kathy Howard's Birthday
- 28 Jimmy & Anna Tarvin's Anniversary
John & Brenda Dowell's Anniversary
Scott Martin's Birthday
- 29 Chad & Angela Fogle's Anniversary
Don Johnson's Birthday

not mean that we will not appropriately express our disagreement or dislike for other viewpoints.

Pluralism also does not mean that we will not try, in respectful ways, to change the views or practices of others where we believe them to be mistaken. In fact, pluralism should secure a social context in which full and free interchange of different views. Their discomfort is vastly outweighed by the benefits to all open and free interchange of information and ideas. The Christian, perhaps more than anyone else, has reason to favor such interchange and be confident about its outcome.

Second, the Christian gospel does not require cultural privilege in order to flourish. God's work is not hindered by persecution, even to death. As Christians we stand now in the Kingdom of Heaven, and it is always true that they who are for us are more than they that be against us. (1 Kings 6:16) It is always true that the One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world. (1 John 4:4)

Third, pluralism in American society means that the Christian has just as much right to be explicitly a follower of Jesus, or a practitioner of traditional Christian culture, as any non-Christian or anti-Christian has to be explicitly what they are.

A kind of thought has come in within society with the effect that the Christian becomes "fair game" for attacks and abuse that would quickly be branded as discriminatory if directed at anyone else. We are not thrown off course or even particularly surprised when it occurs. But we should also understand that that is not a part of what it means to be a good citizen in a pluralistic society. In appropriately Christ like ways, we should point out to those involved that they are discriminating against us.

Fourth, we must keep in mind that truth and reality are not in themselves pluralistic. Everything is just exactly what it is, and you can develop cultural traditions, vote, wish, or whatever you please, and that will not change a thing.

Truth and reality do not adapt to us. It is up to us to adapt to them. A four thousand year old tradition does not become truer as the years go by. If it is false or wrong, it simply continues to be a long-standing error.

"Inclusivism" stabs at the heart of Christian faith, which claims that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. This claim is either true or it is not, just as God either created life on earth or not. And it matters a great deal what the truth is here and, whether we believe it. As Christians we cannot just say: "Anything goes."

Finally, Christians in a pluralistic society, where there is no presumption in favor of their beliefs or practices, but perhaps a strong bias against, are in the very best position to show the true excellence of the Way of Christ.

David Prell is the pastor of Blodgett Street Baptist Church in Carlsbad.

Out and About PVBA...

The Pecos Valley senior adult event that is scheduled for September 15, 2020 is pending. We hope to have more details on this event in the near future.

Trinidad Community Baptist/Roswell is accepting resumes for pastor through the end of April. Please submit resumes to Tina Torres at tinatorres59@msn.com or PO Box 3158, Roswell, NM 88202.

Otis Baptist Church/Carlsbad is accepting resumes for pastor. Please mail resumes to the church at 2428 Bannister Rd., Carlsbad NM 88220.

Loving Baptist Church/Loving is seeking a Bi-Vocational pastor to lead and preach God's Word. Resumes may be sent to Loving Baptist Church, Pastor Search Committee, PO Box 396, Loving, NM 88256.

Pecos Valley Baptist Association has an Executive Board Meeting on August 24, 2020 at the PVBA Office. A meal will be served at 6:30pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

The PVBA Office is currently open Wednesday and Thursday from 9am-3pm until further notice. Feel free to contact Randa on her cell phone at 575-993-2145 if you need assistance any other time during the week. We appreciate your patience with us during these difficult times and as we transition into a phase of being without a director. Please pray for the association and the DOM search committee as we begin the process of finding a new director.

FINANCIAL REPORT April 2020	
Budget Receipts	\$ 16,290.31
Budget Expenditures	\$ 12,985.19
Designated Receipts	\$ 50,833.74
Designated Expenditures	\$ 46,806.42
General Fund Balance 4/30/20	\$ 71,511.39
Designated Fund Balance 4/30/20	\$ 212,257.61



June 21, 2020

The righteous who walks in his integrity—blessed are his children after him! —Proverbs 20:7 ESV