

Nothing Shall Hinder Us

☒ “Expose yourself to the circumstances of His choice.” This little phrase, which has stood by many a climbing soul, seems to have been coined for a picture I have of the Matterhorn surrounded by billowing clouds. In this picture, the confusion of the skies has been so wonderfully captured that I can almost see the movement and hear the wind that rushes past. The clouds in the picture are sunlit, but I realize that, were they real, they could with awful speed cover the face of the mountain with darkness.

A New Season of Restoration

The church is entering into a new season. Many are about to ☒ experience great restoration and harvest in their lives.

John 10:10 declares: “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)” (*The Amplified Bible*). It may feel as if the enemy has come in like a thief and tried to rob, steal, kill and destroy. But I have a word from the Lord for you:

The thief has been found out!

God Is Good

James 1:1-18 I saw a bumper sticker that said “Good God; Bad Devil.” This is a statement most Christians should understand, but often we give God credit for doing bad things in our lives. We have to recognize that God is not evil, neither can He tempt us with evil. Whatever God does or allows in our lives will always be good. The author of sickness, confusion, disease, misery and strife is the devil. James makes it very clear in his letter that God cannot tempt us with evil. Only the devil tempts us with evil. James says, “Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (vv. 16-17, KJV).

The Fullness of Grace

You probably know that by God’s grace you’re forgiven and saved, but do you know there is so much more that grace gives us?

‘Fireproof’ Follow-up About Fatherhood

The makers of the surprise hit *Fireproof* will produce a film

about fatherhood as their follow-up to the top independent movie release of 2008.

Officials for Sherwood Baptist Church in Albany, Ga.—where *Fireproof* and their earlier films were created—made the announcement during Sunday night’s church service, which drew Christian media members who were flown in for the event.

“The title is one word: *Courageous*,” said *Fireproof* Director Alex Kendrick, who will also direct the new film. “[It’s about] four fathers who are all in law enforcement—who protect and serve together—[and] go through a terrible tragedy. They begin looking at their role as fathers ... and they begin challenging one another to fulfill God’s intention for fathers.”

The film will show the benefits and consequences of the choices the fathers make. “*Courageous* will include drama, action and humor, but we will maintain our standard of keeping all dialogue honoring to God,” Kendrick told *Charisma*.

Fireproof Producer Stephen Kendrick, who will also co-write and produce *Courageous* with his brother, said: “We believe God is calling us as a church family and through movies to call men to rise up to spiritual leadership in their homes.”

Filming is scheduled to begin in spring 2010 in Albany, Ga., with a tentative theatrical release date of early 2011. *Courageous* will be marketed by Provident Films and Affirm Films, the faith label of Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.

Boosted by grass-roots support and bulk ticket purchases from churchgoers as well as some Christian retailers, *Fireproof* made \$33.3 million at the box office, despite a modest \$500,000 budget. The movie, which stars Kirk Cameron as a firefighter who turns to God to save his marriage, has been a top-selling DVD at Christian retail since it was released Jan. 27.

Meanwhile, Stephen and Alex Kendrick's *The Love Dare*—an integral part of *Fireproof*—still appears on the *New York Times* best-seller list a year after its release. It has sold more than 3 million copies and is available in 22 languages.

Alex Kendrick said that God has given them an idea for a book companion for *Courageous*, much like *The Love Dare* for *Fireproof*. “But the horse has to stay before the cart,” he said. “So we’re going in the direction of the movie first.”

The budget for *Courageous* has not yet been determined, although Alex Kendrick said earlier this year at the National Religious Broadcasters Convention that the film would have an expected budget of \$2.5 million—five times larger than with *Fireproof*.

[Click here](#) for more information on *Courageous*.

Film Spotlights the Unborn

✘ For years singer and author Rebecca St. James has passionately delivered her True Love Waits message about abstinence and purity. Now she is extending that message with a burden for the unborn via her latest movie, *Sarah's Choice*.

In her first leading role, St. James portrays Sarah Collins, a rising single professional who has to make a life-altering decision when she gets pregnant. Sarah struggles with her new reality and also faces her doubts and frustrations with God.

St. James says God had already given her a pro-life passion before she was even offered this role. Sensing that the Lord was calling her to get more involved with films about faith and family, St. James moved to California a year ago. Through

a couple of friends, she got involved with several crisis pregnancy events and recognized an incredible need for movies that support life.

At a fundraiser banquet, she met one of the girls who is carrying her baby to term because of the support of the crisis pregnancy center. Moved by the young woman's story, St. James sensed that God would give her a song with the pro-life message. A couple months later, the singer was asked to audition for *Sarah's Choice*. When she later received word that she had gotten the part as Sarah, St. James says a song came to her in only about half an hour.

"I'm blown away at how God did that," St. James says. "He lit up my heart, literally impassioned my heart for this [pro-life] message way before I knew anything about the movie."

Through her research for her role in the film, St. James says she noticed that most young, unwed mothers-to-be live with "a tremendous amount of fear, a tremendous amount of pain and pressure." St. James says she drew from her own experiences with these emotions in her life to bring her character to life onscreen.

"It's interesting when you're going into the role of another person and you study up their exact circumstance, you can bring yourself and your own legitimate emotions to the table," she says. "I loved the challenge of it."

Another equally important theme throughout *Sarah's Choice* is God's forgiveness and redemption for those who have had an abortion. St. James says it was crucial for this message to be portrayed. "Obviously everyone wants a redemptive story, but the truth is that 43 percent of childbearing-age women today have abortions; it's much higher than what most people think," she says. "People need to know that there is forgiveness and grace and that all of us have made different forms of mistakes and need a lot of grace of God."

St. James says God has ignited her heart with the pro-life message. "I have two friends who have had abortions but have told me their stories with tears. It's impacted my life on a personal level. I want to be a part of helping other women from going through that. I want to be used by God to help point people to His forgiveness and hope as well, because we all need that."

She encourages the Christian community to support faith and family films. "We need more films like *Fireproof* and *Facing the Giants* and films like *Sarah's Choice*. We want to see this genre move up to more of the standard of *The Passion of the Christ*, but it's going to take the Christian community really going out and supporting films like this so the budgets can be stronger and stronger. So I would really encourage families to get behind films like this that have a lot of heart and soul and a good message, and hopefully we'll see more of them."

If you want more information about how you can help the unborn, contact Care Net at .

Sarah's Choice will be available on DVD on Nov. 17. Bonus features include trailers, commentary and more. Click here to purchase this film.

Maine Churches Threatened With IRS Complaints for Marriage Support

✘ A group advocating for gay marriage is leading a campaign seeking to revoke the tax-exempt status of churches that supported the repeal of Maine's gay marriage law.

Maine Marriage Equality reports that 80,000 people have joined its online effort to report to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) churches that advocated for Question One, which revoked the state's same-sex marriage law Nov. 3 with 53 percent of the vote.

Claiming the IRS "clearly forbids churches from participating in political campaigns in any form," Maine Marriage Equality provides complaint forms and contact information for the IRS at its Web site. The group also lists churches and organizations that campaigned for Question One along with major financial contributors.

"It's no secret that the Catholic Diocese led the 'YES on 1' effort in Maine, among many other churches encouraging their congregations to vote 'YES,' handing out signature forms and collection plates during service, and constantly asking for 'sacrificial contributions' from churchgoers," the group claims

Erik Stanley, senior legal counsel for the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF), said the campaign is an "all-too-obvious attempt" to use the IRS to intimidate pastors.

He says the IRS almost always allows churches to support ballot initiatives such as Question 1.

"Pastors and churches have a right to speak about biblical truths from the pulpit without fear of punishment," Stanley said. "They can encourage their congregations to take a stand for marriage and can directly support legislative issues like Question 1 without running afoul of IRS rules."

ADF is offering free legal assistance to any church the IRS targets.

"Groups that want to redefine marriage are intentionally threatening the tax-exempt status of churches through fear, intimidation and disinformation to silence their voice,"

Stanley said. “ADF will stand with these churches to defend their right to free speech and religious expression against these baseless scare tactics.”


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Is Christmas Bad?

Tired of people bashing “Christ’s-mass”? Well check out the rich meanings behind the symbols of the season.

✘ **Christmas.** The word “Christmas” comes from the term *Cristesmaesse* and is another way of saying “festival” or “celebration.” Christmas is the celebration of Christ’s birth, or the great feast day of Christ’s birth. In other words, Christ is the purpose for the party.

Taking their cue from Old Testament Jewish celebrations and festivals, Christians developed their own feast day commemorating the event and called it “The Feast of the Nativity.” It was later called “Christ Mass” or “Christ’s Mass” and eventually shortened to “Christmas.”