

# View

## The View from Here

By David Posey

### A friend from the past is gone

Sam Ousley died Thursday (August 21st). He was one of my best friends when we attended the Escalon church of Christ together in the 1970s. He, along with the Zugnoni, who were good friends with him at the time, was the first to reach out to me when I was a new guy there, having just married Christie. Eventually, he became an elder and served God faithfully for the 39-plus years I've known him.

Sam loved life and lived it well. He was one of those men to whom the world pays little attention. He was not flamboyant or remarkable in his achievements —just a really good guy. Married to the same woman (Billie Jo) at least close to 50 years or so, a good dad, a fine friend.

His passing comes as quite a shock. In April, when I held a meeting at Oakdale, he visited one evening and we spent a couple of hours reminiscing about old times. We talked about old time (only the good stuff, of course) and what's better than that? Now, I wish I had spent more time with him. Sam was a very good listener (don't they make you feel good, important?) but I loved listening to him, too. There was something about his voice that was very comforting to me

It was shortly after that meeting that Sam had some kind of complication (someone told me it began with a kidney stone) that put him ICU for four months until he died. Just like that.

Sam had a lot of energy. Back in the 70s, sharing a love for photography, we would take road trips up Highway 50 during the fall to capture some fall colors. One year, he had just bought a Mercedes Benz automobile and wanted to show how it could take the curves. Christie was in the back seat getting sicker and sicker, but not saying anything. He was pretty proud of that car but when we stopped and he noticed that Christie's face had turned a pale gray, he felt pretty bad. That was the first and last time she accompanied us on our annual adventure.

Though I hadn't spent much time with him in the last few years I'm going to miss Sam a lot. After we renewed our old friendship in April, I had intended to get back over there and see him and Billie Jo again. But, that won't happen here, not on this side of eternity.

What do we learn? James said it: "What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes..." (James 4:13). How true, how true.

DP

### The church of Christ

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#### Services

Sunday Morning Assembly

9:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM

Wednesday Bible Study

7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

Private classes arranged

at your convenience.

[www.folsomchurch.com](http://www.folsomchurch.com)

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## Mindset List for the class of 2012

"Eeeevvveryone wants to be understood..." So swoons Josh Groban on his hit song, "You Are Loved (Don't Give Up)." That desire to be understood extends to your preacher and teachers here. If we are not understood, then our efforts are wasted. That's why we use handouts, Powerpoint, and other aids designed to get the point across and communicate more clearly.

That's one reason I've always been interested in the annual list published by Beloit College. The list aims to "provide a look at the cultural touchstones that shape the lives of students entering college."

OK, that's its aim. It's *result* is to make us older folks feel really, really old and out of touch. But its value lies in helping us communicate with the newer generation who may not relate to stuff like a "broken record" or "Johnny Carson."

Students in the class of 2012 were generally born in 1990. Here are some of the things they accept as the norm:

GPS navigation systems have always been available.

Gas stations have never fixed flats but have always served cappuccino.

Clarence Thomas has always sat on the Supreme Court.

Schools have always been concerned about multiculturalism.

The Tonight Show has always been hosted by Jay Leno.

Lenin's name has never been on a major city in Russia.

Caller ID has always been available on phones.

Iced tea has always come in cans and bottles.

The Green Bay Packers always had the same starting quarterback.

Soft drink refills have always been free.

Temperatures have always been taken in the ear.

And...they can say SUITM without talking or sending a letter or an e-mail. (SUITM is a text message meaning "see you in the morning.")

## Speaking of Text Messaging...

This text message phenomenon is interesting. The people who do this have their own language and for those of us on the outside (i.e., who don't engage in texting), the language is truly a secret code.

Most of us are familiar with WYSIWYG and WWJD, but check these out:

WYHAM - when you have a minute

HOAS - hold on a second

H2CUS - hope to see you soon

IMSB - I am so bored

KPC - keeping parents clueless

UN4TUN8 - unfortunate

THT - think happy thoughts

SWMBO - she who must be obeyed (wife)

ROTFLUTS - rolling on the floor unable to speak

4EAE - Forever and ever.

WOMBAT - waste of money, brains and time.

How about some Christian texting? I found at least one: GRWG - get right with God. Here are a few others I came up with (if they are out there already, I didn't see them):

RYBD - read your Bible daily

WDJD - what DID Jesus do?

L4ETV - Live for eternity

WYHFTDDIWAYM - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might (Eccl. 9:10).

FYH - Feed your hope.

BHBGIH- Be holy because God is holy.

RWYA - Remember who you are.

DMHWYD - Don't miss heaven whatever you do

GG2D- glorify God today.

KYEOJ - Keep your eye on Jesus.

STKF - Seek the kingdom first.

BS&I - be steadfast and immovable (1 Cor. 15:58).

Texting is here to stay; let's put some godliness into our communication.

Shhh... this is about S - E - X

### Sex, by the numbers (it's called F-O-R-N-I-C-A-T-I-O-N)

- 5 million couples in the US are living together without benefit of marriage. In 1970, there were ½ million,
- There were 20% fewer marriages in 2005 than in 1995 (that number is likely to be higher in 2008 given the economic downturn. Cohabiting couples will just postpone marriage longer).
- 63% of Americans now say "gay" marriage is a private decision that the government should not regulate. It'll be interesting to see how this plays out in November with Proposition 8.

### Other interesting stuff...

#### Getting men to worship

Leadership Magazine ran an article on how to get men into church (meaning church services). The article is accompanied by a picture of a big man, sleeping on the couch with a remote on his belly. The article is an excerpt from David Murrow's book, *How Women Can Help Men Find God* (his first book was *Why Men Hate Going to Church*).

They note that many men do not want to attend services because they feel the worship is too "feminine."

According to Murrow, men favor larger churches with strong leadership. They prefer "guy" songs, like "Onward Christian Soldiers" with original, non-PC lyrics. They also prefer "respect" songs about God over breathy "love" songs about embracing (or, I presume, love that is "soft as a dove"). Sermons should give men a goal in worship: "Today, we're talking about the sin of pride," for example.

#### On the pop culture front

*Grand Theft Auto IV* will be the top grossing video game of all time with earnings over \$400 million in its first week of sales. Parent Alert: this is the game whose main character assassinates, steals, meets prostitutes and runs over pedestrians. Good stuff, huh?

*The New Earth*, by Eckert Tolle, had already sold 2 million copies when Oprah Winfrey chose it for her book club. That added another million copies to the ledger. The book presents a philosophy in which human consciousness is "the new heaven." There's

no need for God, who has been replaced by human self-awareness. Tolle uses biblical passages profusely, which may lure Christians into thinking that the book is consistent with the Bible, which couldn't be further from the truth.

#### Zimbabwe: This very sad

As of this writing, the Christians in Zimbabwe have yet to receive any of the goods we have sent. While in Connecticut, Christie has called some of her contacts to see if there is anything we can do to speed the process up, but there is really nothing to do. It is very frustrating. If you've gotten our e-mails, you know how horrific the situation is there. One shopkeeper earned 28 billion Zimbabwe dollars for the month, but a single butternut squash costs 30 billion.

Here's a report from ZWNews.com from August 21st.

"Five million Zimbabweans are in need of food aid but supplies in South African warehouses risk being sent elsewhere because of a ban on aid agency operations. The ban was imposed by President Robert Mugabe's regime after aid agencies were accused of campaigning for the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, allegations they strongly deny...Reports are coming in of seriously malnourished children...Some essentials are available on the black market, but most Zimbabweans cannot afford to buy them, with unemployment at at least 80 per cent and prices four times higher than in neighboring South Africa. A teacher's monthly salary is less than the cost of a 10 kg bag of maize meal which would last a small family about a week... Loice Marowya, 68 and her husband Jonah 74, worked for the post office for 40 years, but their pension is so ravaged by hyperinflation that it is less than the bus fare he would have to pay to go to collect it. They care for two grandchildren and Mrs Marowya said: 'What is really happening? I can't even buy a meal for my grandchildren. Every time I look at them my heart bleeds and I cry. We don't even light a fire at night because there is nothing to cook.'"

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