

PASTOR'S PAGE – JANUARY 2006

I'm not big on resolutions around the New Year. It seems that if I know that I should do something for my health, or something positive in my life (like simplifying or discarding things that are no longer used) I don't need to wait until the beginning of a new year. I can start those things anytime. Also, it has always seemed that so many of those well intentioned resolutions made on January 1 have gone by the wayside around January 4th, so why bother.

But there are some resolutions that I think we would do well to include in our lives. Not all of them, for they are a tall order when taken all together. But, perhaps you might start with one. And then, when it has become a planned part of your life you can move on to another. I want to warn you, don't expect immediate results on any of these. They need multitudes resolving to be involved to become reality. But, work diligently on the one that you pick, see if you can find reports of things improving in your particular area, and be proud that during the coming year you are part of the solution to something.

↳ Resolve to do something about the health care mess in our nation, so that we aren't last among nations in the first world in the health care that we provide for our children, adults and seniors.

↳ Resolve to do something to start fixing the infrastructure of our country, so that roads are repaired and levees strengthened and parklands are protected.

↳ Resolve to help open the borders, because those people who come here looking for jobs give more to us than they take from us, and generally do jobs that those already here won't take on.

↳ Resolve to speak out on behalf of Gays and Lesbians for marital rights and parental rights, so that our land truly is a place in which all people are equal.

↳ Resolve to support our troops, while crying out for an end to the folly that is the Iraq War.

↳ Resolve to once again live in a city that is not riddled with scandals – and vote to bring it about

↳ Resolve to help bring an end to stereotypes and prejudice, and to judge all people based upon their actions rather than upon the color of their skin, or their religion, or any other inconsequential information about them.

↳ Resolve to help end the use of children to fight wars and the efforts at genocide being practiced in some lands.

↳ Resolve to hold US companies accountable for their inhumane practices in foreign lands, calling for them to pay wages that will support the workers in foreign factories.

↳ Resolve to bring an end to homelessness and houselessness in our country.

Don't just make the resolution and do something once. Make it a part of your daily, weekly, monthly activity. That's a resolution worth making!

Recommended Radio:

KQKE

960AM

Air America – Talk Radio from the Left

Recommended Movie/DVD Rental:

From writer/director Stephen Gaghan, winner of the Best Screenplay Academy Award for *Traffic*, comes 'Syriana,' a political thriller that unfolds against the intrigue of the global oil industry. From the players brokering back-room deals in Washington to the men toiling in the oil fields of the Persian Gulf, the film's multiple storylines weave together to illuminate the human consequences of the fierce pursuit of wealth and power. As a career CIA operative (George Clooney) begins to uncover the disturbing truth about the work he has devoted his life to, an up-and-coming oil broker (Matt Damon) faces an unimaginable family tragedy and finds redemption in his partnership with an idealistic Gulf prince (Alexander Siddig). A corporate lawyer (Jeffrey Wright) faces a moral dilemma as he finesses the questionable merger of two powerful U.S. oil companies, while across the globe, a disenfranchised Pakistani teenager (Mazhar Munir) falls prey to the recruiting efforts of a charismatic cleric. Each plays their small part in the vast and complex system that powers the industry, unaware of the explosive impact their lives will have upon the world.

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Recommended Book

Manna and Mercy
A Brief History of God's Unfolding Promise to mend the Entire Universe
by
Daniel Erlander

This is a booklet about the God of the Bible who is present and active in human history and in all creation. Erlander's attempt to tell the story of God found in the pages of the Bible – both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament. One call, among many, for a whole new way of thinking and for the “metanoia” (a turning, a change of mind) that is needed if both human society and the ecosystem are to survive.

Quote of the Month:

A border is an imaginary line between two nations separating the imaginary rights of one from the imaginary rights of the other.

Ambrose Bierce