

Dear Church Family,

With grieving hearts, we need to let you know that our dear Pastor Ray went home to be with the Lord this afternoon due to complications of COVID. We are all in shock and heartbroken. We find comfort in knowing that he is rejoicing in heaven with his beloved Jesus. Certainly, he was welcomed with those beautiful words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Please pray for Vicki and their family and for our church. More information will follow, but for now we needed to let you know and ask for prayer. May God Bless Us All.

A few days ago I received the above email in my inbox. Shock! Wow! How could that be?

Who is Ray Bentley? He is someone I never had the opportunity to meet in person, but whom I knew through his "Step Into the Story" videos on YouTube, his several fiction and nonfiction books concerning Bible prophecy, Israel, and the end of days, and most importantly, through his daily devotional email, quite a few of which I printed here in this space.

Who is Ray Bentley? He is a child of God just like anyone else who chooses to give his/her life to God and to share that wonderful relationship with others. He was the pastor of Maranatha Chapel in San Diego, a Calvary Chapel affiliate, and a church I've never attended or seen. It is a large church with thousands of people who attend or watch online or relate in some way

or another. It holds multiple services on weekends and during the week, including what I consider to be performances or shows with big screens, bands, and fairly high level stage presentation.

Who is Ray Bentley? I don't know, honestly, except for the bright, cheerful spirit I saw in him the few times I watched him in a video. His moving and motivating daily emails showed a man of great love for God and concern for those of us out here fighting the good fight against God's enemies at work both without and within us.

Only God truly knows the heart of Ray Bentley.

Why does his sudden passing impact me as it has, to my surprise? Why should a person care more than sort of about the passing of someone who is not even a personal friend or acquain-

One reason is that it speaks so loudly to those of us left behind, who must travel on in this difficult world. We could be next. At any moment, when we are in the best of health, or so we believe, God could choose to take us, our time on earth having expired. Once He does take us, where does He take us? Do we know our destination? Are we ready to face the judge who holds ultimate authority over our eternal future? Did we do our best to represent Him in whatever role He placed us?

Are we looking forward to leaving the darkness, disease, physical death, deception and delusion of our world behind? Or are we hoping He will leave



And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come: I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth. Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds,

I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

Genesis 9:12-16

just doing things you never had time to do. Or the new school year and the new career you have begun to train for. Maybe it's the new car or house or horse you just got. You either want God to leave you alone for now, or you're

certain road to God's kingdom. Maybe I didn't know him personally, but I knew he was travelling along with us, helping to guide our way as we try to help others around us, to find the path through

the fog of the evil in which we find

ourselves, and to help us to keep following God's light shining through that fog. I guess you could say that the main reason for the impact of the unexpected passing of someone like "Pastor Ray" is that it forces us to face the truth of our own limited time in this life. It will end, and it is somewhat fearful and unknown what will happen when we have passed through the veil of death. Do we sleep until the end of time when God is ready to restore His new heaven and new earth, as promised in the Bible? Are we immediately ushered into God's presence as some believe, and then sent to the right or to the

And yes, I do still wonder if there really is life eternal with God for those who have chosen to live for Him. I believe (help my unbelief, please, Father!), I hope, and I sure as heck live now for that wonderful life

Linda Gommel

1 Corinthians 15:35-58, portions

But someone will ask. "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body will they come?" How foolish! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body. Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another. There are also heavenly bodies and

there are earthly bodies; . . So will it be with the resurrection of the dead.

The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. . .

"I declare to you, brothers and sisters, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishthe imperishable, . . . then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." "Where, O death, is your

able must clothe itself with

victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

King of the Hammers Fri, Jan 27 - Sun, Feb 5, 2022

Friday, January 21, the Welcome Sate opens for entry from Hwy 247 on Boone Road into the Johnson Valley OHV Area at Means Dry Lake, home base for the 15th year of King of the Hammers events.

On Thursday, January 27, pre-running the full course begins. It's the toughest off-road racing in the world. No paved track, no concrete barrier walls, no chase vehicles (driver and co-driver must do any repairs, or they wait till they make it back to the pits in Hammertown.)

Ultra4 cars are unlimited 4-wheeldrive endurance racers. Rocks, deserts, hill climbs, whoops, trees, you name it, they race it. Other events feature trucks, UTV/Side-by-Sides, the qualifying races, and the Everyman Challenge.

For tickets, connections to livestreaming, as well as spectator info, log on to https://www.ultra4racing. com/king-hammers-tickets-and-wristbands-faq.

by Betty Munson

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS Friday, January 21 ~ King of the

Hammers main gates open Thursday, January 27 ~

(Hammertown Opens) Saturday January 29 ~

7:00 am Desert Challenge Contingency

11:00 am The Class 10 / UTV Grudge Match

7:00 pm Class 11 Showdown



us a while longer to enjoy the comfort

it's that grandchild just born that you

or pleasure of this present life? Maybe

want to see grow up to maturity. Or the

newly retired life of leisure or travel or

Sunday January 30 ~ 7:00 am The B1/T2 Battle 12:30 pm Desert Challenge Main Event

Monday January 31 ~ 9:00 am UTV King of the Hammers

6:00 pm Holley EFi Shootout + Lasernut Rock Coronation

Tuesday February 1 ~

9:00 am 4WP Every Man Challenge Qualifying

5:30 pm The Pit Crew Challenge Wednesday February 2 ~ 9:00 am King of the Hammers

Qualifying

10:00 am UTV King of the Hammers Contingency

Thursday February 3 ~ UTV King of the Hammers 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

10:00 am 4WP Every Man Challenge Contingency

Friday February 4 ~ 4WP Every Man Challenge 8am

10:00 am 2022 King of the Hammers Contingency

Saturday February 5 ~ The 2022 King of the Hammers 8:00 am - 10:00 pm 9:00 pm Music Concerts Start

loss of a fellow traveler on the often un-Lucerne Valley

Roadrunners

not even aware of His involvement with

Another reason the passing of Ray

Bentley impacts me is that I mourn the

you and everything around you.

A big New Year's thank you goes out to all of you who donated to make Christmas a whole lot merrier for the children in Lucerne Valley by donating to the Roadrunner's Toy Giveaway. Registered families came by the Lucerne Valley Elementary School to collect toys, hygiene bags, books, shoes, sweat outfits and a ham just in time for Christmas. Attendees were thrilled with their

We had some extra supplies left over so the Roadrunners are planning to host another event to share what we have left. On Saturday, January 22, 2022, between 10:00am and 1:00pm the Roadrunners will be at the Lucerne Valley Elementary School again handing out sweatshirts and sweatpants and giving each family a ham until supplies run out. Registration is not required but there is only one sweat outfit allowed per person in your family.

So come on by, get something warm to wear and delicious to eat. We hope to see you there! Happy New Year! Judy Baudoux











