



# NEW LIFE NEWS

The official newsletter for New Life Presbyterian Church • May 2012

## THOUGHTS AND REMEMBRANCES OF GEORGE MITCHELL

By George Miladin • Photo of George Mitchell and Nina Hale by Monica Lindsey

My life commenced at New Life on New Year's Day, a Lord's Day, in 1978. As to the arrival of George Mitchell, I can't remember the day, month or even year, but Londa was quick to inform me that soon after retiring from his oil engineering job, he followed his sister, Grace, with whom he lived, into our midst where he continues even to this day.

George's years with us yield so many events, conversations and stories that if I were capable of chronicling them, they would fill a book. I offer some of my most treasured thoughts regarding this man of God. George above all is a man of God, a mature man of God who even before coming to us had served in the Presbyterian church both as an elder and a deacon. To me he epitomized a true Scotsman with oatmeal every morning, a seriousness in his oversight responsibilities, and with his dear sister beside him he was super disciplined and fiercely, not in a mean sense, independent. So much so that it was like pulling teeth to give him a ride to church or anywhere. He and his sister probably set some kind of record for miles walked in San Diego over a 20 plus year span.

Londa and I are both appreciative for the Bible study hosted in his Point Loma home. I remember some of those studies and the wonderful insights he shared from the book of Jeremiah and the New



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Testament gospels. And then the way he would illustrate biblical truth with stories like the one concerning a friend of his who was converted as a result of reading how our Lord entered Jerusalem riding

on the colt of a donkey that had never been ridden. The point being, "no one just gets up on such a donkey without getting bucked off."

This man had to be more than a mere man to do what he did!"

George is both knowledgeable and wise. Yet being a somewhat reserved Scotsman, he never paraded his knowledge or forced his wisdom on me. As a good elder he was always respectful of me as his pastor, and I would add, patient. He was helpful even in financial matters. On one occasion I sought his thinking concerning an investment possibility. He looked it over, smiled (I think) and gently turned me away from it. Even as recently as last month while visiting him in a convalescent facility, after refusing a helping push of his wheelchair into the dining room, it was the old George at 99 quietly comforting this younger George at 77. A most amazing, loving and stalwart servant of the Lord is George Mitchell. Londa and I gladly acknowledge our love and appreciation. We look forward to spending eternity with him, praising and serving our Saviour. ❧

# VIRTUALLY YOU: THE DANGEROUS POWERS OF THE E-PERSONALITY

By Elias Aboujaoude MD (Norton 2011) • Reviewed by Tom Ziegler

The author, working as a staff psychiatrist in the Obsessive-Compulsive and Impulse Disorder Clinics of Stanford University Medical School found himself inundated with requests from credit counselors, bankruptcy judges and divorce attorneys who felt that their clients needed a psychiatrist's help to curtail their excessive on-line spending habits. He found that these patients could navigate a shopping mall without ruining their credit rating, but faced with the seductive nature of on-line retailing they dangerously overspent. This led the author to postulate that people function differently on-line than they do in person. The book develops this thesis in many areas of life, both from his personal practice and from published literature.

**Chapter one** "E-Personality" reports that the average American spent 15.3 hours per week on-line in 2008. Aboujaoude identifies five components to our on-line disinhibition and loss of restraint: grandiosity, narcissism, darkness, regression, and impulsivity. These five characteristics construct our on-line alter ego.

**Chapter Two:** "Delusions of Grandeur" describes bold, attention-getting behavior which occurs more frequently and more severely on-line than in person.

**Chapter Three:** "Narcissism" describes the allure of gathering on-line disciples, "friends" or sycophants to boost our excessive egos.

**Chapter Four:** "Ordinary Everyday Viciousness" describes our inconsiderateness and meanness toward each other which comes out on-line. The id has a holiday without adult supervision of the superego on-line.

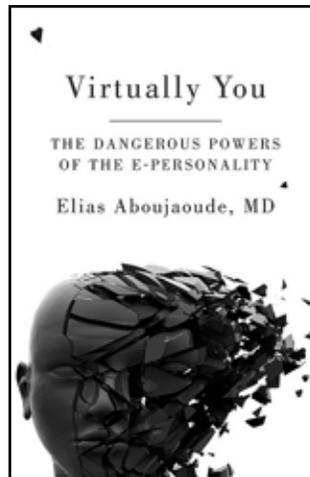
**Chapter Five:** "Impulsivity" describes the excessive spending habits on-line of those who would create a "new self" by purchases and renders them victims of sellers and advertisers.

**Chapter Six:** "Infantile Regression and the Tyranny of the Emoticon" describes the escape into childish games and time-wasting as a means of avoiding adult responsibilities.

**Chapter Seven:** "Love and Sex Recalibrated" describes a new and frequently dishonest approach to love, romance and relationship building.

**Chapter Eight:** "Illusion of Knowledge" describes our e-driven impatience with complex discussions and our preference for the oversimplified with immediate answers and the destruction of our will to read books that describe complex life more fully and honestly.

**Chapter Nine:** "Internet Addiction" describes an initial phase of diverting time and attention from education, work and leisure. This culminates in an addiction of compulsive preference for on-line experience over the real world.



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**Chapter Ten:** "The End of Privacy" describes the violation of personal, private or intimate conversation for commercial exploitation or intimidating stalking.

**Chapter Eleven:** "Marking Time, Making Memories" describes the permanence or loss of ability to forget failures, mistakes or misadventures since on-line documentation is permanent and serves our enemies or harassers.

**Chapter Twelve:** "Virtualism or the Art of Being More Real than Real" describes the siren call of reconstructing ourselves on-line as better than we are in real life.

The great challenge to the reader of this book is to differentiate between internet susceptible individuals who need specific psychiatric help to manage their own personal internet participation and the wide-spread effects on our culture and society which influence all of us. The author continually pleads for restraint of the latter while only documenting the former. There are probably few, if any, new sins or personality disorders described here, but it would appear that the internet has given us each a longer lever and a wider audience. We need to develop the wisdom and self-control to use these well. ☛

*This is what happens when big brother and sister arrest you and take you prisoner. DYK: Who is this? Answer on page 4*



# THE NATIONAL CHURCH NEWSLETTERS' NEW YORK CITY CONVENTION AND AWARDS MEETING

By Diane Henderson

We won a honorable mention at the convention!!!! Thank you all for asking!! The competition was tough, so I am still proud even though we weren't awarded a trophy our first time out. The first, second and third place trophy winners had newsletters of more than five pages on both sides even in our church size category, so our two page four-sided newsletter appeared on the "light" side, but I have never been a believer that more words equate with better writing, and I begged to differ, but didn't want to appear a

sore loser. Under ways to improve, it was noted that "New Life News" could benefit from spell check. New York City was quite an experience!!! My daughter, two granddaughters and I took Amtrack from Union Station D.C. to Penn Station NYC. Even before leaving Penn Station the adventures began when I left Sheryl and the girls at a pretzel wagon and started on a trek to locate a women's restroom. After some walking I found it and couldn't help but notice a male policeman inside having a conversation with a dishveled

woman in a reddish pink dress. She was yelling, "Don't touch me!!!" With five women, me being one, standing and waiting our turn for a stall with nothing else to do but watch, he wisely called for back-up. Of course, I missed the whole thing being behind a door when back-up arrived and even though the action took place only steps away, and I could never be a visual witness, I heard plenty!!! Down the hallway about a mile, my daughter and granddaughters saw the police entourage dragging the woman  
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## LISTENING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE THINKING CHRISTIAN

Part Two: Submitted and compiled by Lisa Mammina

Have you ever wanted to take a course on Systematic Theology but don't have the time to attend a seminary class on the topic? Ever wonder what Alistair Begg preached on last Sunday? God's gift of the internet has provided the modern Christian with many opportunities for edification through "podcasts," daily or weekly audio broadcasts by churches, ministries and seminaries. Continued below are listed more of New Life members' favorite theological podcasts.

### The Dividing Line ([aomin.org](http://aomin.org))

Description: A topical program by Christian apologetics organization Alpha and Omega Ministries featuring Dr. James White.

*Always entertaining, engaging and informative, James provides solid biblical analysis and commentary from a reformed perspective on topics ranging from the cults, the emergent church movement, Islam, Mormonism, Roman Catholicism, Armenianism, and other "hot topics." He also analyzes debates with apologists from other religions and academics from liberal denominations. —Dave Kocher*

### Renewing Your Mind ([ligioner.com](http://ligioner.com))

Description: A Bible-teaching program of R.C. Sproul.

*Renewing Your Mind is wonderful because it provides intellectual stimulation and an appreciation for deep thinking about reformation theology. —Brett Bettesworth*



### Fighting for the Faith ([fightingforthefaith.com](http://fightingforthefaith.com))

Description: Keep up-to-date on the latest false doctrines that are blowing around the church by listening to the hard-hitting and often hilarious podcast that provides your daily dose of biblical discernment.

*The long-form sermon reviews train my mind so I have a ready response when I encounter gnosticism, mysticism, narcissistic eisegesis, and other fads that are all too common in pop-evangelicalism. This show is not for the faint of heart, but I highly recommend it! —Lisa Mammina*

### Truth for Life ([truthforlife.org/broadcasts](http://truthforlife.org/broadcasts))

Description: A Bible-teaching ministry based on sermons by Alistair Begg, senior pastor of Parkside Church near Cleveland, Ohio.

*I enjoy listening to Truth for Life because Alistair Begg presents both sound doctrine and has a wonderful pastoral manner. You can tell he cares very much about his congregation, which makes the sermons particularly encouraging. —Katie Heinze*

### Reformed Theological Seminary ([itunes.rts.edu](http://itunes.rts.edu))

Description: Audio of lectures delivered by professors at Reformed Theological Seminary.

*RTS has placed a significant number of their courses online for free! Courses range from Old Testament and New Testament classes to Ethics and Systematic Theology. You won't receive a degree, but you can now listen in and cyber-audit these classes as taught by their respective scholars. —Trey Jasso ☪*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. —Romans 15:13 NIV

## THE ADAMS FAMILY

by Josh Adams • photo by Trudy Verdick

Our family consists of Joshua (34), Isabel (35), Valaree (13), Nicholas (9), and Evangeline (5). We moved to San Diego in January of 2002 and began worshipping at New Life. It was the first church we attended in the area, and we knew right away it was home for us. We met many new friends and were warmly welcomed in as family. All of our children were baptized by Pastor Miladin. Our family joined Pastor Miladin and the other families that started Grace Fellowship in Alpine where we continued to worship until we moved to Wyoming in 2008.

Wyoming is a vast and beautiful country, and we had opportunities to enjoy life from a different perspective. Unfortunately, there were no PCA churches, and the only reformed preaching was offered through the PCUSA. This was a real difficult transition at first because their denomination has very liberal positions on many aspects of the church and its government. Thanks be to God that the one we attended

did not hold onto many of these heresies. Joshua was called by the congregation, who accepted him after much deliberation and prayer, to become an ordained elder.

Joshua had the opportunity to make arguments against some of the recent travesties that are plaguing the PCUSA at Presbytery.

The company where Joshua worked was downsized, and unfortunately he was let go. Our family spent much time in prayer to see where God would be leading us. So, here we are back in San Diego. Our experience from seeking out churches during our time in Wyoming left a real longing for true worship. So when we returned to



San Diego there was no hesitation at all as to where we would be worshipping again—New Life. Once again we were warmly welcomed back into the church, and many of our old friends are still here. It was quite a shock though to see how grown up all the children are, and a real blessing to see how God has grown the church in our absence. We are grateful to be back and thankful to be in a church that worships the right God in the right way. In His Service,

The Adams Family ☛

*In the past, the difficulty in accepting Christianity was in its second point, salvation. Everyone in premodern societies knew sin was real, but many doubted salvation. Today it is the exact opposite: everybody is saved, but there is no sin to be saved from. Thus what originally came into the world as “good news” strikes the modern mind as bad news, as guilt-ridden, moralistic and “judgemental.” For the modern mind is no longer “convinced of sin, of righteousness and of judgement.”* —Peter Kreeft, Christianity for Modern Pagans

BSF is an interdenominational Bible study aiming for worldwide training centers teaching the Bible in order to "produce in all participants a vibrant relationship with God ... and a passion to commit without reservation to lead in the cause of Christ in the world." A typical class week entails "a four-fold approach" engaging Scripture through Bible study and BSF prepared daily study questions, a discussion group period where members share their answers in a small group, a lecture informed by God's Word, and a set of notes written to expand on that week's portion of Scripture.

Young adults are gathering for informational launch meetings, which will be held in the fall, with dates to be determined. A host church is yet to be established. The San Diego contact is Jim Barton ([jim.w.barton@gmail.com](mailto:jim.w.barton@gmail.com)). More information can be found at [bsfinternational.org](http://bsfinternational.org) and [facebook.com/bsfsdya](https://www.facebook.com/bsfsdya). ☛ —Stephen Silke

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off in hand-cuffs and told me all about it. After the morning church newsletter presentation and a few tears, we took the ferry to the Statue of Liberty, and I learned when passing through security, never forget to take off your money belt otherwise you are in for embarrassment, and then everyone knows who is wearing one. I was the only one. One of the security officers said, "Watch her pull out a gun," but I was too busy trying to untie the knot. The international church newsletter convention scheduled to meet last October was cancelled unfortunately due to mega financial problems and shutdowns in Italy, which I am sure they will resolve in time for this coming October's meeting as I am certainly looking forward to Italy in October. Thanks for sending me! ☛