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THE HEARTBEAT



April 2022

Avoiding Misinformation & Disinformation Online – Part 2

In last weeks' article, I described how the widespread presence of both misinformation and disinformation on social media makes the finding of truth so elusive.

I further described how, according to a study by MIT, conservative Christians are a special target of disinformation.

For example, MIT found that 19 of the top 20 Christian Facebook pages are run by foreign troll farms. Their goal is to make Christians "useful idiots" in the dissemination of lies that de-stabilize our country and turn us against each other.

A Current Example

I've now heard from three different acquaintances that the reason Russia invaded Ukraine was to destroy US-funded biological weapons facilities in Ukraine.

According to news sources across the ideological spectrum, as well as past and present government officials of both parties, there are no such facilities in Ukraine, or anywhere else for that matter (insofar as funding them has been against US law since 1971).

Moreover, according to *Forbes*, the accusation is part of Russian misinformation that got "picked up" by some disreputable news sources in the US and circulated on Twitter. Eventually, it made its way to FOX News.

5 Safeguards

Here are 5 safeguards for resisting misinformation & disinformation:

1. Corroborate sensational headlines. The rule-of-thumb is: If a story or quote sounds outlandish, it probably is.
2. Check the source before you click, comment, share, or like. If the source isn't a reputable, well-known organization, then do a little research before you engage. Early in the pandemic, I listened to an hour-long lecture BEFORE checking out the source. It turns out the lecturer had zero expertise in viruses.
3. Seeing isn't believing. Pictures can be doctored and videos taken out of context.
4. Just because a Christian says it doesn't make it true. The person could be mistaken, or a wolf in sheep's clothing.
5. Read more than the headlines. Many headlines are designed as clickbait and contain half-truths (or worse).

Pastor Dan

PS: Part of the above was adapted from an article by Patrick Miller of the *Gospel Coalition*.

WEEKLY MINISTRIES

SUNDAY

- Traditional Service 9 AM
- Middle School/High School Sunday School 9 AM
- Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM
- Contemporary Service 10:30 AM

MONDAY

- Middle School/High School Girls—5:00 PM

TUESDAY

- Iowa Community Kitchen—4-6 PM

WEDNESDAY

- Upper Room Connection Group—10 AM
- BYF Meal for all 6:00 pm
Elem BYF 6:30-7:45 pm
MS/ HS BYF 6:30-8:00 pm
- First Baptist University 6:30-7:30 PM



SUNDAY SERVING SCHEDULE

Traditional Service

Greeters

- 04-03 Heidi Lotenschtein and Helen Warren
- 04-10 Bryan and Janice Greve
- 04-17 Kirk and Erin Andersen and Family
- 04-24 Mike and Darla Anliker

Nursery

- 04-03 Les and Deb Outhouse
- 04-10 Dillan and Jenny Hamilton
- 04-17 Tim and Fran Branan
- 04-24 Anne Chipman and Carly Poggensee

April

Sound Ruthanne Grimsley
Video Mark Grimsley

Contemporary Service

Greeters

- 04-03 Mike and Cayley Poggensee & Family
- 04-10 Joel and Alex North and Family
- 04-17 Nick and Alayna Musich
- 04-24 Joel and Karla Berndt

Nursery

- 04-03 Joe and Shiela Herzberg
- 04-10 John and Deb Peck
- 04-17 Matt and Amber Schmitz
- 04-24 Dave and Grace Curren

April

Sound Nick Musich
Video Joel North



Happy Anniversary

- 09 Joel and Alex North
- 12 John and Deb Peck
- 14 Mike and Darla Anliker
- 23 Tracy and Michelle Erickson
- 27 Jeff and Carol Walton



Let's Celebrate!

God is good



- 05 Todd Valline
- 09 Dave Boettger
- 09 Jane Jensen
- 13 Tara Lansman
- 18 Deb Burton
- 19 Julie DuVal
- 19 Terri Soll
- 20 Shiela Herzberg
- 24 Jacob Birch



Getting to know one another

LaVonne Force



What is your favorite season? *Spring - The earth refreshed*

What is your favorite color? *Green*

What do you do in your free time? *Reading, photography, travels*

What is your favorite animal? *Wildlife - Lions, Moose and deer*

What is your favorite food? *Chicken cacciatore*

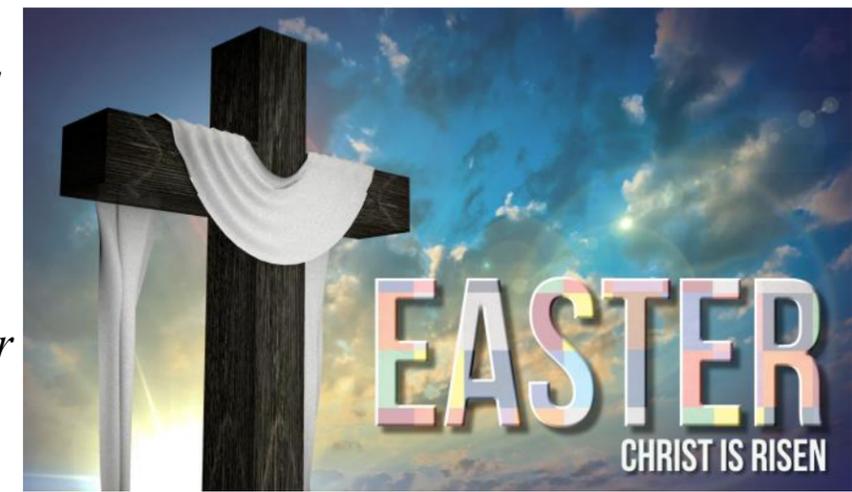
What is your favorite Holiday? *Christmas - I enjoy the lights and music*

What is your pet peeve? *Plans that are not completed from beginning to end.*

What is your favorite restaurant? *Pizza King, Council Bluffs*

What is your favorite Bible verse? *Joshua 1:9, Be strong and courageous for the Lord is with you wherever you go*

For the May Heartbeat I would like to feature Moms. If you would like your Mom featured, please email me a picture of her along with her name.



This month is dedicated to honoring all of the volunteers in our communities as well as encouraging volunteerism throughout the month.

We would like to thank each and everyone of you that have volunteered to help your Church be the best it can be. Without you none of this would be possible. THANK YOU



What is your favorite April fools joke you played on someone?
What is the worst joke someone played on you?

Chandler Schumacher



What is your favorite season? *Fall*

What is your favorite color? *Red*

What do you do in your free time? *Drive the mule, jump on the trampoline, ride my bike*

What is your favorite animal? *Cats*

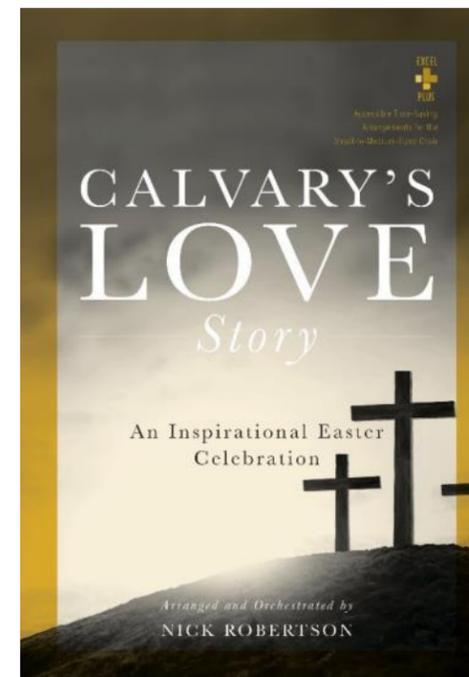
What is your favorite food? *Spaghetti*

What is your favorite Holiday? *Christmas*

What is your pet peeve? *My sisters*

What is your favorite Bible verse? *John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life"*

For the June Heartbeat I would like to feature Dads. If you would like your Dad featured, please email me a picture of him along with his name.



Walnut Community Choir
Easter Cantata
"Calvary's Love Story"
Three performances:
Sunday April 10th 3pm at
Peace United Church of
Christ in Walnut
Sunday April 10th 6pm at
First Baptist Church
in Harlan
Wednesday April 13th 7pm
at Trinity Lutheran Church
in Avoca
Free admission,
come join us.

BYF

Our 5th graders have been helping us review by acting out the Bible story from the previous week. Here they are performing the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead.



Pastor Adam Chipman taught BYF kids ages preK-5th about the authority of God in our lives, what Christ does when we admit we are a sinner and surrender our lives to him, and the power of the Holy Spirit to change us. The kids enjoyed a Q&A review session as well as participation in a skit to drive home the teaching point.



High school and middle school BYF had a movie night on March 16th. They enjoyed tacos and dessert for supper, the coffee bar served by barista Abby Curren, and popcorn made by Howard Lansman. Ruthanne Grimsley made sure the technology worked to show the movie in the fellowship hall. The movie was "The Case for Christ" which tells the true life story of Christian apologist and author Lee Strobel. In an attempt to prove that Christianity is false, Strobel, an atheist at the time, launches an extensive investigation into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, only to find more evidence than he ever imagined to support the case for Christ.

