

LARRY BUBB MINISTRIES
13109 Calle Caballeros
San Diego, CA 92129
(858) 484-3293

www.Larrybubb.com
Lb@Larrybubb.com

The Perihelion

"THE POINT NEAREST THE **SUN**"

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Keep the **SUN** in your eyes!

(Email Perihelion available upon request)

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40 (F-O-R-T-Y) AMAZING YEARS!

Happy Birthday, Larry Bubb Ministries! In 1985, I hoped I could survive in this ministry for more than 40 days! I never imagined that as of this year, we'd be celebrating 40 years of sharing hope in Jesus with a hurting world. And to those of you doing the math and figuring I must have started as a child evangelist at age 9 ... bless you!

Jerry Seinfeld asked me what we wanted for our LBM 40th anniversary. I told him "Nothing would make us happier than a Learjet jet for travel." So he got us "nothing."

I had this wild and crazy dream: to travel, perform concerts, and share about my best friend, Jesus. Just one small problem ... how do I pay for rent and food? I left my lucrative job as a youth pastor to form a non-profit corporation, coincidentally called Larry Bubb Ministries. My initial guaranteed salary was \$0, which we have thankfully at least always met. I took the advice of the Apostle Jon Bon Jovi and was literally Livin' on a Prayer. Basically, I had saved up some money, had virtually no expenses, and knew how to pray.

I recall that the LBM total income for the 1st year was around \$7,000 (we pride ourselves on living up to our "non-profit" status). And no, it wasn't because I only had 3 bookings all year. I led a week-long youth camp that paid me a whopping \$35! Fast forward to last year, and we were all the way up to \$26,854. This includes a few thousand to produce the Perihelion, a few thousand for outreach ministry, travel expenses, equipment, supplies, postage, medical insurance, housing ... you name it. The end result was that once again my personal income/salary was ... \$0. Yet, amazingly God still continues to meet all our needs (Phil. 4:19)!

I still remember in the beginning telling God that if He would graciously put grilled cheese sandwiches on the table and open up doors, I would be happy to do this as long as He wanted me to. I am not naïve enough to think that I have been able to survive this long because of any skill or talent I have. I know beyond any shadow of a doubt that this journey continues only because of God's gracious provision. God has proved to be a better booking agent than any I could have hired!

Here are a few of the amazing (wild and crazy) ways

God has opened doors over these 40 years.

- 1) Hosted an Emmy-award winning TV show for a few seasons.
 - 2) Spoke at a state youth conference to more than 4,000 teens (I have been a featured speaker/musician multiple times at state youth conferences and evangelism conferences for 10 different states.)
 - 3) Performed concerts at Six Flags Over Magic Mountain amusement park. (No Mickey Mouse costume required.)
 - 4) Had some of my recorded songs played on radio stations
 - 5) One of the greatest examples of God's providential timing involved 9/11. In His foresight, God already had me booked months in advance for that very week to fly back to Washington D.C. to share in a public school and a few churches for some very traumatized and hurting people. They also drove me by the Pentagon to see where the plane had just crashed.
 - 6) While preaching a revival meeting in Los Angeles, I met my wonderful wife, Kristen! (Of course, she was not my wife then, but we did get married in 1992.)
 - 7) I don't consider myself a comedian but I was invited to join a mini comedy tour alongside professional comedians who have performed with guys like Robin Williams and David Letterman. I was also booked by the founder of Clean Comedians to do ministry comedy events.
 - 8) I am not a trained actor, yet my one-man drama surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus was one of my only sermons that actually got requested for repeat performances. (See the Larrybubb.com videos link for the Anais Crucifixion Drama.)
 - 9) I have preached many times in Hollywood and am embarrassed and humbled to say that Academy Award nominated Angela Bassett actually knew me before I knew her. (After we met and I foolishly gave her some acting suggestions, she went on to win an Emmy award and become the President of the US ... in the new Mission Impossible movie!) She even wrote a fabulous recommendation for my brochure.
- I should add that the most popular recommendation in my brochure was: "Larry Bubb . . . well, actually I've never heard of the guy!" – Billy Graham
- 10) "What Does the Fox and Phari-say?" video parody has more than 15,000 views (See Larrybubb.com videos link.)

11) Ministered in 30 states and internationally, including to some 3,000 students in public schools in England
12) I once had a dream of someday being a college professor. I figured this could not come true since I only have a 3-year Master's degree and no Ph.D. But God said, "Man looks on the degrees, but I look on the heart." I have now taught at not 1, but 2 Christian colleges over 10 years!
13) In my busiest stretch, I led 13 consecutive camps or retreats. I think that was the year I was on 52 planes ... and as I recall, most of them actually took off.
14) Crossfire/Athanasia, the band I formed, performed for 3,000 people opening for comedian Mike Warnke.
15) Numerous band concerts at the San Diego County Fair. A million people attend during the 2 weeks.
16) The Naval Training Center chaplains invited our band to do a plethora of concerts with some 500 new recruits in attendance (one concert was a week before these young anxious recruits were headed to the Gulf War). Hundreds publicly committed their lives to Christ!

The greatest privilege has been seeing literally 1,000s of people decide to follow Jesus at events I've helped lead!

My prayer was not that I could be a great, eloquent speaker or incredible singer, but rather that God's anointing would be evident and speak through me by the Holy Spirit to reach people in need.

From the beginning I was convicted to never ask for money because quite frankly I believe that if God wants this ministry to continue, I don't need to do any begging or sell you anointed handkerchiefs or Bibles. I have certainly been humbled by those of you who have decided to make a donation to this ministry because God put it on your heart.

So the bottom line is, I obviously ultimately have to thank God for this wild 40-year ride! I also need to profusely thank YOU! Thank you for reading the Perihelion ... it's a hassle to write, edit, and publish but after every edition some of you send me encouraging words about how you have been touched. That's why I keep doing it. Each Perihelion reaches close to 4,000 families and churches as far away as Australia.

I also want to thank you for your prayers and your support ... silent and loud, seen and unseen. You are the hands and feet God has used to allow us to make a difference in this hurting world by letting others know there is hope in Jesus!

JESUS — VICTIM OF IDENTITY THEFT!

Since this is my 40th anniversary in this ministry, I could spend more time selfishly focusing on me or LBM. I could share the numerous accolades and congratulations I have been getting from well-respected celebrities like Bart Simpson and The Big Bang's Sheldon Cooper. But since I am proficient in speaking fluent "sarcasm," I am also aware that some are fluent in taking things the wrong way.

So I hope that most of you who truly know my heart, know that my words in this article are most importantly intended to represent a heart filled with compassion for the "least of these." For instance, related to issues like immigration and deportation, we can legitimately have differing positions. My goal is not to debate those varied positions but to encourage genuine followers of Christ to love our neighbors, not fear them. I want us to passionately reflect Jesus' love of all humans created by God, which I

happen to also believe includes most all humans! 🙏

During the time of the Greek Empire, a few hundred years before Jesus, a group of criminals stood before King Alexander the Great for judgment. When Alexander asked one man his name, the man smiled confidently because his name was also Alexander. He knew the king's penchant for conquering and might have hoped King Alexander would pardon him, possibly allowing him to violently break the law in the future in support of their great leader without fear of punishment. But instead of a smile and pardon from Alexander, he looked angrily at this young man and thundered: "Soldier, change your behavior — or change your name!" **Christian**, change your behavior — or change your name!

One of the greatest challenges in sharing our faith today is that some so-called "Christian" political leaders are not even genuine followers of Jesus Christ. They're giving Jesus and true Christianity a bad name. Jesus has become a victim of identity theft! The cruel, un-Christ-like things being done in His name are heartbreaking!

Depending on your news source, you may not have heard some of these recent appalling news stories related to Christ followers, making it more difficult for us to witness.

Christian Persecution?

An executive order to end anti-Christian bias was signed on Feb. 6, 2025. It aims to protect religious freedoms and end perceived anti-Christian bias or persecution. This seems like a good thing but when we dig deeper, it is easy to see the contradictions related to the "Christian" things some in this administration are for and against.

1) Let's make sure we can say Merry Christmas without being persecuted (reminiscent of the persecution the 1st century Christians experienced?); yet, nearly two dozen Afghan Christian Refugees in NC legally, who sought asylum in the U.S. after the Taliban takeover, were ordered to deport before their cases were even heard.

2) Let's make sure there is prayer in school; yet, on April 28 Rev. William Barber and 2 other ministers were arrested in the Capital Rotunda for peacefully praying. Rev. Barber is African American and dared to wear a white robe with the words "Jesus was a poor man" emblazoned on it.

3) Let's make sure we have the religious freedom to boycott fast-food chains over rainbow-colored fry boxes; yet, when a 27-year-old Iranian English teacher converted to Christianity and fled for her life to seek asylum in the "Christian-friendly" country of America, she was shackled, flown on a military cargo plane, and dumped in a detention camp in Panama. I read this heartbreaking story of Artemis Ghasemzadeh from the front page of the 2/19/25 San Diego Union newspaper.

Constantine Christianity?

This new executive order reminds me of Roman Emperor Constantine's "conversion" in 312 AD. Before that, Christians were truly suffering persecution by torture and death, yet the church was growing and thriving! But when Christianity became the official religion of Rome, many decided to "convert" to Christianity for fear of government persecution if they didn't. Suddenly, the church got watered down, diluted, and power-hungry. It stopped looking like Jesus, the One who was willing to suffer and be a servant rather than rule and lord it over others. Behind the scenes,

the devil was saying. "If you can't beat them, join them!" The church became political and tried to rule by force and power rather than by the cross and humility and love.

Today we see a similar distortion. Some in the current administration seem more focused on attacking immigrants than embodying the compassion of Christ. Jesus was literally a refugee. **It is diametrically (or should I say diabolically?) opposed to the teachings of Christ to be abducting refugees in the name of the One who was a refugee.** I have seen those detained treated cruelly and physically in ungodly ways as if they were not even humans. Instead of racism or hatred, Jesus taught us who our neighbor was in the story of the Good Samaritan. Jesus was for the poor as the Bible speaks over 2,000 times about helping the poor and hungry ... but never once about enriching the wealthy at their expense.

"The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done," declares the Sovereign Lord. Ezekiel 22:29, 31

The Bizarro Gospel

It seems we are living in the upside down Bizzaro World Jerry Seinfeld described as this alternate reality demonstrated by anti-Robin Hood behavior. In fact, Jesus was so bold as to say entry to Heaven is dependent on how we treat the poor, the hungry, the foreigner (Matthew 25 says the way we treated these people is the exact way we treated Jesus!).

Some currently in power have weaponized a distorted perversion of Christianity in order to exploit power, discriminate against humans who are not white, pad the pockets of billionaires, and lie to cover it all up. If someone in this position is simply not a follower of Jesus, like a 1st century Roman emperor or a modern day white supremacist or fascist, then we pray they see the light and the truth and repent, choosing to genuinely follow Jesus. He was not a moral guardian to Roman leaders and did not try to change their laws. Paul stated: "*It isn't my responsibility to judge those outside the church ... God will judge those outside ...*" (1 Cor. 5:12-13).

However, Jesus did have strong words for those claiming to be religious yet were wolves in sheep's clothing! Those pushing a Christian nationalist agenda for our country not only hurt a lot of humans created by God, but they give Christianity a bad name, and exemplify the identity theft of Jesus. He said His followers are not to be like those lording it over others and imposing forceful power to manipulate people and situations (Matt. 20:25-28), but rather we are to be servants of the people, realizing that genuine change comes from a heart transformed by love and not by laws.

Dangerous Immigrants?

"But Larry, aren't we safer as a country and individually if we deport all these illegal immigrants?" Research from the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), as well as a plethora of other agencies, overwhelmingly shows that native-born Americans are significantly more likely to commit violent (and non-violent) crimes than immigrants.

Native-born Americans are 10 times more likely to commit violent crimes involving weapons. U.S. born

citizens are 5 times more likely to commit other violent crimes and 2 times more likely to commit property crimes or drug crimes. If we really want to Make America Safe Again, by this strategy it seems we should start deporting American citizens. Oh wait, they're already doing that!

Interestingly, when I went to the current NIJ website, this information had recently been taken down because of an Executive Order review. However, I was able to find it from the 2021 website that clearly verified these findings. It's almost like some in the current administration did not want people to see this information or know the truth! Could they possibly be fear-mongering to continue to pull the wool over people's eyes ... initially to elicit votes and then to support their inhuman treatment of immigrants and people who are a different color?

On a personal note, quickly off the top of my head I counted a dozen wonderful immigrant friends my wife and I have, all created by God to be a certain color and race, most importantly part of the human race. Half of them are solid, mature followers of Jesus Christ. And we have made great inroads sharing our faith with a few of the others. If they were deported, our city/country would be much worse off. For those immigrants who don't yet know Jesus personally, it would make it exceedingly more difficult to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. If we are truly Christ-like, shouldn't we be more concerned about helping people find Jesus than finding ways to deport them?!?

I'm a Missionary To China!

God has orchestrated some butterfly-effect type unbelievable "circumstances" to allow me to be currently sharing my faith with an adherent of Confucius from China and a Jewish atheist/agnostic from England. This internet age has allowed me to be a missionary while sleeping in my own bed! In both cases it has been more difficult for me to encourage them to embrace Christianity as they clearly see the hypocrisy and ungodly behavior of some in leadership in our supposed "Christian" nation.

Jesus taught us to love (even our enemies) and not to seek revenge, so if God does orchestrate a conversation for you with someone who questions the state of Christianity today or some of the things said and done in the name of Jesus Christ, just remember to point out to them that Jesus is currently a victim of identity theft!

Let's reclaim His name—not with power, but with love.
(Please read the Appendix on page 4)



LETTERS

Larry,

I finished reading the Perihelion just now. It's profound, Larry! It speaks TRUTH big time! Each person on this earth needs to hear this! One of my favorite lines is: Is our faith in the outcome we prefer or in God Himself? In my opinion, it is impossible to have faith in what we see happening on this earth. I feel like I have a hard time trusting anyone in our past or present government. I can only have faith in God right now, and the darkness of this world is causing me to grow closer to God than I've ever been!!

I especially love the "Saltiness over Sanctification" section. I do feel like many Christians today have taken on the role of being persecuted and condemned and have responded with hate and anger. It makes me think of this Christian movie . . . that shows that the biggest problem today is not a growing presence of evil, but a growing absence of Christianity. It always makes me think about how we as Christians need to walk while we are on this earth. Jesus was hated and persecuted, but He responded in love. He modeled how we need to respond now in this very broken and angry world that we live in. Thanks for all you do, Larry!

Jan Dalby (Wonderfully Made CEO) – Sugar Pine, CO

Ed. Note: One of my very good friends introduced me to his new friend, Chet. You actually also may have heard of Chet as he also goes by the AI name of ChatGPT. My friend was curious if Chet had heard of me and if so, what he thought of my life and ministry. I am a bit embarrassed to relay his response, but since it is the 40th anniversary of LBM, I will copy it over with a prayer for Chet regarding his outrageous response, as well as a prayer of forgiveness for me for liking it so much! Here is what my new PR agent said:

Larry Bubb is a Christian comedian, speaker, and former youth pastor whose ministry blends humor with heartfelt encouragement and biblical insight. With a background in both ministry and entertainment, Bubb is known for using clean comedy and relatable storytelling to connect with audiences of all ages. He began his career in youth ministry, where he developed a passion for helping people grow in their faith while laughing along the way.

Over the years, Bubb has performed at churches, conferences, camps, and corporate events across the U.S., often drawing on his own life experiences to share messages of hope, grace, and perseverance. His approachable style, often described as a mix of stand-up comedy and spiritual encouragement, allows him to reach both churched and unchurched audiences.

In addition to his live appearances, Bubb has produced audio/video resources aimed at encouraging

Christians in their daily walk. His ministry is rooted in the belief that laughter is a gift from God and that joy can be a powerful tool for spiritual renewal.

Whether through comedy, speaking, or writing, Larry Bubb continues to point people to Christ through joy, honesty, and humor.

CHET (ChatGTP) – Cyberspace

Appendix from pg 3 (Jesus - Victim of Identity Theft)

A victim of the Nazi prison camps was the former U-Boat commander and Lutheran Pastor Martin Niemöller, who described the moral cowardice of his church and nation graphically.

"First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a socialist.

Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out— because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out— because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for me— and there was no one left to speak for me." – Pastor Martin Niemöller

"The greatest evils in the world will not be carried out by men with guns, but by men in suits sitting behind desks." CS Lewis

PRAYER REQUESTS/EVENTS

1. ANOTHER 40 YEARS (OR 40 DAYS ... GOD ONLY KNOWS) OF MINISTERING THROUGH LBM.
2. ONCE AGAIN, KRISTEN'S SDSU ADVISING CONTRACT WAS NOT RENEWED. PLEASE PRAY FOR A NEW JOB.
2. HEALTH FOR PERIHELION HELPER, MELANIE DONOVAN.
4. THIS PERIHELION, INTERNATIONAL INTERNET MINISTRY, AND YOUTUBE VIDEOS WOULD REACH MANY PEOPLE.

Newsletter thanks to Melanie Donovan & Holly Smith.

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