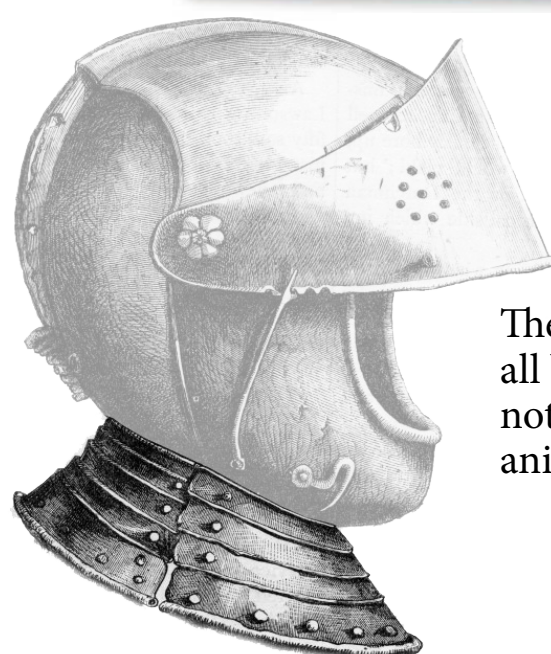




The Blossom Ridge Mission: To provide an inspirational introduction to the origin of creativity and Biblical creation. To help discover the epic passion that our Creator has for each one of us.

To build faith that encourages the use of our God-given passions and gifts. To remind others to consider His works of creation as part of our worship. And to reveal the glory of our Creator!



## Perspective

The word perspective isn't used in scripture, but it is something we all believe we should have. A phrase like "personal relationship" is not mentioned either, but it's the foundation of evangelical Christianity. What *perspective* should a Christian have?

II Corinthians 4:18

**"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."**

Matthew 6:19-21

**"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."**

Scripture clearly gives us the answer. Our focus is to be on the eternal.

Keeping the eternal perspective is difficult at best. In our material and entertainment based society it is easy to be distracted by worldly matters. There is an emphasis on the here and now. The Internet, movies, television, and books—they all tell us what we need to be happy, and try to give us the path to find it! To Americans, life is all about being "happy". It's about what we have, what we want, what we "need," how we look, who we know and the list goes on. The Christian path is a different path. We are in the world but not of the world. We follow a God who does not fit our worldly mold.

Isaiah 5:9

**"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."**

I write about perspective because lately I have gotten into a rather contemplative mode. One thing I have been thinking about is the fall in the Godly values America was founded on. It is folly for our leaders to run our country by their own power. They do not, nor do they seem willing to, yield whatsoever to the Creator God. I am attempting to talk myself into embracing this ambiguity! I am finding this very discouraging and difficult. When I find my fellow man and leaders doing things that are, frankly, perplexing and outright wrong or completely nonsensical, it affects my spirit to the very core. This view has the end result of utter discouragement with a visual of my head rolling down an alley like a bowling ball. I think this is what Paul was talking to Timothy about in II Timothy 4:5. Paul simply states that we are to keep our heads in all situations! These are very good words for today. So, will someone grab my head out of the alley please!

What does keeping your head mean? It can mean a couple of different things. John the Baptist, as well as others, lost their heads in martyrdom. As this happened, their worldly concerns were instantly over. They were present with our Lord. What about the rest of us who are still traveling this earthly road? Is Paul talking about configuring a metal, armor type neck-brace for us, or did he have something else in mind?

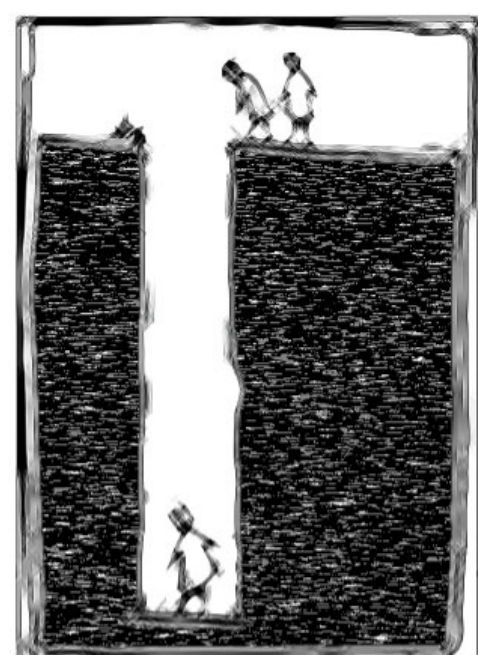
As you read further along in II Timothy, it seems to me that the way for us to endure hardship, do the work of the evangelist, and discharge all the duties of our ministry, is simply to "keep our heads." As I fervently chase my rolling head down the winding roads of North Chagrin Reservation, I begin to see the value of **not** doing the chasing at all. Finding sense in the senseless, searching for reason in the purposeless and tracking the absurd to attempt to convince us that all is well is meaningless. Indeed, all is not well and Solomon's words ring true, "Vanity of vanities! All is vanity! In this context, a better translation would be "useless" or "meaningless." In Ecclesiastes Solomon asks the age-old question: What is the meaning of life? Ecclesiastes is all about Solomon's search for meaning. In the end, he concludes that even if you are the king and have wealth, power and social status, in fact, all the desires of the human heart, it is all meaningless without God.

When I walk out the front door or turn on the news, I am glad to know that God is indeed all knowing and aware of all that perplexes us. It can be a scary world out there and it's comforting to know the One who made the universe! We don't need to understand all the complexities of what is going on around us. We don't need to trust in our fellow man to make the right decisions on our behalf (even though that would be nice); but we can trust that the Author of life will be the shadow over our right hand. When there is complete trust, God is our shield and our breastplate!

The word perspective may not be found in the Bible; however, the concept of the word is found several places. One of which is in the phrase I have already mentioned, "keeping your head in all situations." This act in itself takes perspective. To inspect, to look and to see (not just with our eyes) are the operative and contemplative words regarding perspective. My book, *Before the Beginning...God Designed* offers perspective from a Heavenly point-of-view. God tells us to consider, not just a few of His works, but all of His works and mighty deeds. *Before the Beginning...God Designed*, with the help of God's word and Holy Spirit, helps us to do just that. When we take the time to cut through life's distractions, we find a wonderful message... When God created the universe it was all about us, when we discover that, it is all about Him!

II Timothy 4: 5

**"But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."**



## There is a time for everything under the sun, even humility.

America is at a crossroad, and a choice will be made by each one of us as to how we respond and what path we follow. I believe the key today in making God-centered choices lies in the area of humility.

II Chronicles 7:14

**"If my people, who are called by my name, will first humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land"**

If we want to see America healed, we must first humble ourselves. If we can't humble ourselves, then unfortunately, healing will not take place.

We are a country that may not know what humility is. We may not understand how to simply humble ourselves. What will drive America to its knees to call out to God? Billy Graham was once asked a similar question. He was asked what it would take for America to truly live by

genuine faith—his response: "When America is under persecution."

This poses four life-giving questions:

1. Will we value Judea-Christian principals enough to make the necessary changes to restore and heal our land?
2. How far do we need to fall before personal initiative is taken?
3. Are we capable of humbling ourselves?
4. Do we really care enough to do the things that will please God and make Him smile and pour His blessings out on us?



## What's new with Blossom Ridge and the Krafts?

- Jim's talk and presentation went well at Parkside's Sojourner Group Fall Dinner. Thank you Bill Truax for setting this up! Thank you chefs and hosts, everything was wonderful! There were about 120 registrants. Many gave encouraging words, additional books were sold, and the newsletter list grew. We are very grateful! Steve Fedor of Parkside was kind enough to record the talk in high res. audio format. We are looking to edit this down, so if anyone knows how to do this professionally, and would be willing to help, please let me know.

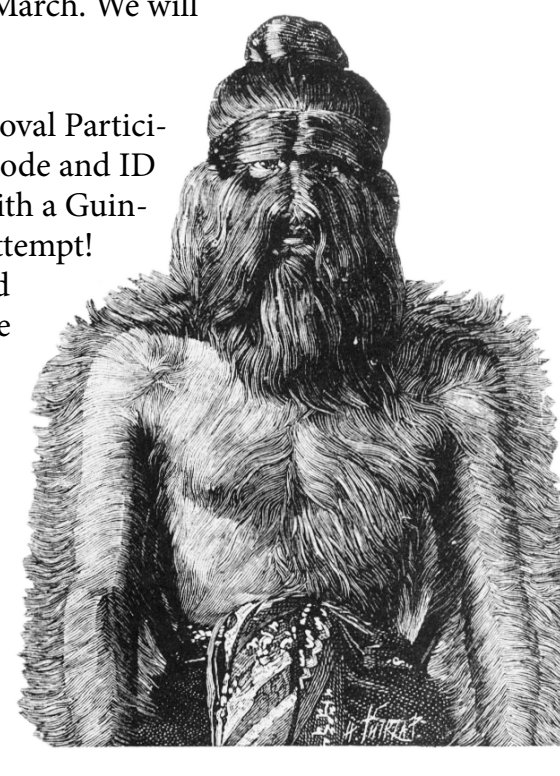
- Jim sent in his talk description and book to Creation Fest 2014 for speaking consideration. 40 to 50k are expected at this 3 day event in June next year. We are beginning to send out book samples to those in high profile positions in media with similar values. It's a long shot, but God is in the miracle business and boy do we need a miracle or two!

-Tammy is still scrambling doing odd jobs, as life changes are in play this year-end. Some include: moving the office into the basement rec room, putting up a wall to accommodate the new office and adding a man cave for Jared and his friends—and dad sometimes too! BIG PRAISE: Our daughter Lynnea was accepted into Duke University to earn her doctorate in Physical Therapy!

- We are also planning to take full advantage of the farm property. Which leads us to a coming event to mark in your calendars should you be interested. A sampling day!—we are calling it: The first semi-annual Blossom Ridge Brisket Bash—complete with Tammy's special Mop Sauce! And wow and double wow—Tammy made a brisket unlike anything I have ever had! She marinated it in her own rub overnight and cooked it very slowly at a low temp! This event is our way of saying thanks to our friends and to help raise awareness of the farm and some of the new things we have going on here at Blossom Ridge! Since we are very close to the city, we are a convenient source of pasture-raised beef. The Lord has helped us to develop many more relationships in the livestock business over the past year.

The day for this event will be the sometime in February or March. We will keep you posted.

- Jim just got an approval Participation Verification Code and ID needed to proceed with a Guinness World Record attempt! We'll keep you posted on the details. But the teaser information may be of interest (don't worry, it's not that world's hairiest person or who has longest fingernails). It is the largest something, we'll let the cat out of the bag later). We are hoping to use this event as a fundraiser to help combat a social ill, fund a scholarship, or meet a local need. We are open to the Lord's leading on this, so ideas are welcome on great causes to support. Perhaps this event will also help with a grand opening celebration of a new enterprise...? In any case, prayers are certainly welcome. Stay tuned for the next "Got Awe" newsletter!



Be sure to spread the word that Christmas is about Christ, God's gift to a fallen world.

A blessed Christmas to all of you!

In Christ,  
Jim and Tammy Kraft

PS. I know this is off subject but a very kind flagpole mfg. client has a wonderful product for those that have served and are serving. They lowered their pricing \$20 and have free shipping for Christmas 2013...A great deal! [www.pridenowflagpoles.com](http://www.pridenowflagpoles.com)



When we journey back to the beginning something extraordinary – almost unexplainable – begins to happen, and that changes everything.

**What to watch:**  
Powerful God vs. Evolution Video by Ray Comfort  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0u3-2CGOMQ#t=1098](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U0u3-2CGOMQ#t=1098)  
The video speaks for itself.