



The Connection

Volume 8, Issue 4, April 2010

A COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

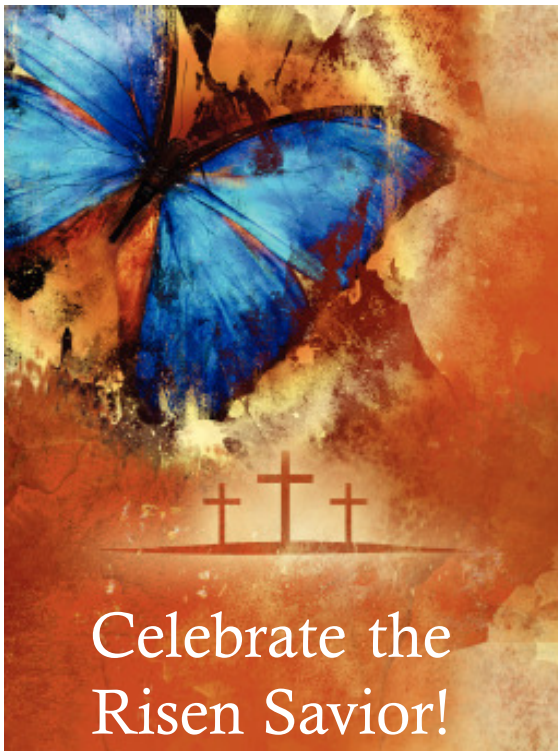
by Pastor Jerry

God chooses to relate to you through a covenant relationship. What is a covenant relationship? Simply stated a covenant relationship is a sacred pledge based on mutual trust, respect and royalty. This caliber of covenant generates enormous joy for both parties. A covenant relationship with God happens only when you are willing to make a full surrender of life and will to God for His good, knowing He has already made such a commitment to you, as revealed on the cross. Covenant relationships are strengthened by appreciation which leads to obedience.

The Lord reminds us again and again not to mistreat our covenant. Covenant relationships have enormous power for good and terribly destructive force when broken or discarded. This is true in both the spiritual realm and the natural world.

His father abandoned him when he was three. He was sent to live

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Celebrate the
Risen Savior!

Sunrise Service- April 4

6:30 AM Front Lawn

Rejoice in the resurrection with the first rays of morning light.

Easter Breakfast- April 4

7:30 AM Baker Hall

Enjoy fruit, sausage, scrambled eggs, hash browns, bagels and cheese with your church family. Donations will go toward the scholarship fund.



Connecting to Life Stories

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The Tithe and Financial Responsibility by Pete Erb

The Tithe. We are called, in the Bible, to bring forth our first fruits. The very best from the beginning of the harvest to the Lord. The first 10%, this is a tithe.

Dave Ramsey takes it a bit further in Financial Peace University saying that he pays his tithe on the gross and not the net. Why? Because he does not want to get to heaven and find that he was wrong! This is offered mostly in jest. The tithe is one of those things that the Lord asks you to look into your heart and do what you need to do. Nobody can say what that is. Nobody can tell you where it is to go. If you have a church home you can give it there but there are many other outlets for the Lord's love and the work he wants done.

Jesus gives us the ability to follow our own path and to feel the consequences of our actions but also to bless us when we allow Him in to fill our hearts. When Jesus is "in da house" then things just seem to flow.

Many are hurting and need the cash that tithe represents. The tithe was difficult for us when we were in that place. I changed mine many times. I paid tithe on what was left over for the family after I had paid all of the creditors I owed money to. I now

pay a full tithe, but on the net. In our house we also give beyond the tithe at church to other organizations like the Children's Home Society and the Humane Society, the Lord has work to do there too.

I have justified my choices because I needed the money to get to a better place when I was financially toubled, and now because I think that the Lord is leading me to give in this way. Many people who have been blessed by the Lord offer a full tithe and a substantial offering. In our world view this seems correct. The rich pay more. Yet,

we know from the Bible that the Lord blesses those who give from a wide open heart. The woman giving all she had even though it was a pittance received more of a blessing than the rich who gave much but at little cost to themselves.

Sometimes in life we are in a safe place and it is easy to have faith, or to try to go it alone. I can give testimony to the fact that the Lord uses the difficulties in our lives to grow our faith in Him and tough financial times are no different. Open your heart to the Lord and give and watch the miracles that he will flood into your life.

... the Lord blesses those who give from a wide open heart.



Connecting Deeper

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with his aunt, finding himself in trouble most of the time as a young teen and ultimately found stability with a few friends who also loved music. They formed a small band. His name was John Lennon. The band? The Beatles, of course.

In 1968, fellow band member Paul McCartney penned a lyric and melody that would become the Beatles' all-time best-selling record. It was a song meant to comfort John Lennon's five-year old son—a boy who was left behind by John just as John had been left one generation earlier. The young boy was being pushed aside; as Lennon divorced his mother (Cynthia) and began living with an older artist named Yoko Ono. The tune? "Hey Jude." The young boy's name was Julian. Watching the five-year-old boy struggle as his home unraveled, McCartney wrote, "Hey Jude, don't make it bad. Take a sad song and make it better."

Julian Lennon is in his forties and he still expresses bitterness about his father's conduct and poor parenting. It takes more than a pop tune to heal a broken heart, broken because a covenant relationship was abandoned.

The greater tragedy is when a Christian community forgets its covenant to love and cherish one another. The willingness to serve and support is thrown away and hearts are dashed, dreams are

shattered and destinies are lost. We must not lose our covenant relationship to be one another's family. Our church will suffer and the glory due our Lord will not come. Take a moment to thank the Lord for the covenant relationship he has extended to you. And, for the same reason recommit to your covenant relationships to God, to your family, to this church and its mission.



Connecting to Ministries

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**MEN'S
BREAKFAST**

All men are invited
Saturday Morning, April 10
8:00 AM



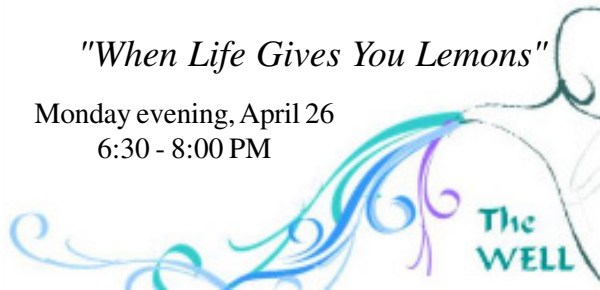
All ladies are invited to

The Well

a place where . . .
Women Encounter the
Love of the Lord

"When Life Gives You Lemons"

Monday evening, April 26
6:30 - 8:00 PM



Mothers of Preschoolers meets April 8th and 22nd from 9-11 AM in Baker Hall. They exist to encourage and equip mothers. Guests are always welcome! Contact Shannon Naftzger at 876-1302.

Senior Adult Ministries meets April 1st and 15th at 10 AM in Baker Hall. They have a speaker or movie, then potluck lunch. Anyone 55 years or older is welcome to come and see what they're all about. Laughter is the best medicine. Come join in the fun and fellowship.

S
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home groups

FIND A PLACE RIGHT WHERE YOU FIT AND START GROWING TODAY.

We have 12 home groups that meet weekly. Grow close to others in relationships centered on our faith in Jesus. For more info on joining a home group, contact the church office at 529-1212.

Connecting to the Next Generation



Vacation Bible School
June 14-18, 2010
For children 6-12 Years of Age

Blue Mountain Community Church
Monday – Friday
9:00 – 12:15 pm

Washington Park
Monday - Friday
5:00 – 8:15 pm

Volunteer Requirements:
-Pass Washington State Patrol Screening
-Attend Training Session the **Sunday before camp June 13, 2010**

Volunteers Needed for Both Camps

Prayer Leader	Registration Table
Arrange Housing & Meals for Team	
Snacks	Assistant Coaches
Tech Crew	Follow Up
Preparing Take Home Packets	
Closing Program	Interact with Parents
Set up Basketball and Soccer area	
Photographer	1 st Aid Publicity

Contact Joyce Paine at 301-2098 to sign up.



What's Happening at . . .



The month of April we'll learn how to take care of the world God has given us. One way we can do that is "to plant the seeds of tomorrow today". We will be planting a tree in honor of Arbor Day, which is celebrated on Friday, April 29th.

The classes will talk about trees in the Bible...the cross, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (learning about good choices and bad choices), the tree of life (learning how a relationship with Jesus can give them healthy spiritual lives), and Zaccheus (who learned about the forgiveness of God).

Summer Camp at Washington Family Ranch

Save the Date
Middle School Camp
August 8th-12th

High School Camp
July 17th-23rd



Contact Pastor Ike at 529-1212 for more information.

Connecting to One Another

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Celebrating April Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Bob Branscum | 16 Allen Alexander | 9 Don & Carolyn Groat |
| Gene Cowles | Pam Gregerson | 12 Paul & Janice Davisson |
| Seth Harris | Patty Harmon | 18 Ernie & Gail Silva |
| Evan Jameson | Raymond Kelso | 21 Jim & Debi Evans |
| David McDaniels | Tracy Shea | 21 Marty & Susan Huie |
| Dorothy VanStone | Matt Stephens | 23 Jeremy & Andrea Pellicer |
| 2 Nicole Houk | 17 Christopher Eagon | 28 Gary & Kim Burns |
| Joyce Paine | Kayla Greiner | |
| Carolee White | Larry Harris | |
| 3 Roy Clark | Maddie Redman | |
| Grace Freeman | 19 Wendy Baird | |
| 4 Devin Howland | Ken Paine | |
| 6 Parker Eaglestone | 20 Timothy Hoppen | |
| Bill Greiner | Betty Zier | |
| Ernie Silva | 21 Frank Trapani | |
| Ariel Skifstad | 23 Trey Erb | |
| 7 Jami Brumbach | Paul Howard | |
| Marty Huie | Nya Neissl | |
| Orvil Wilson | Sierra West | |
| 8 Brianna Elmore | Dan Wooton | |
| Aimee Royse | 24 Angela Queen | |
| 9 Mike Adkins | Sonia Trapani | |
| Vic Phillips | 25 Emily Redman | |
| 10 Donna Hendricksen | 26 Zeana Miranda | |
| Mary Luisi | Andrew Paine | |
| 12 Kailee Davisson | 27 Bob Stewart | |
| 13 Sandy Goodson | Bill Whipple | |
| 14 Kyle Jameson | 28 Connor Dumler | |
| 15 Dorothy Palmer | 29 Cindy Houk | |
| | Devin Paine | |
| | Jason Vicari | |
| | 30 Scott Graves | |
| | Robert Rice | |

April

At a Glance

- 1 SAMS* 10:00 AM
Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 PM
- 4 Easter Sunrise Service 6:30 AM
Easter Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 5 Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 8 MOPS * 9:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 12 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 18 SAMS* 10:00 AM
- 19 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 20 Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 22 MOPS * 9:00 AM
- 26 The WELL 6:30 PM
- 29 All Commission Budgets due to Bob

*SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries
MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers

Connecting to Missions

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Guatemala Update

by Kim Agrellas

We have been blessed to see Tomasa's five orphans make the transition into their new home with the Estradas and are so thankful to those who are helping meet the financial needs of this family of 13. We are very pleased to report that the kids are adjusted and thriving!

Thanks to many of you we were able to serve 25 women and 37 children last year in El Refugio, our women's abuse shelter. I can't begin to tell you the range of horrific situations from which these women and children have come. At El Refugio, they are provided room, food, clothing and necessities, counseling, legal assistance, Bible study, education, and medical and dental care if needed. This coming year we hope to improve our job training and transition programs. We had 28 opportunities to speak with community groups, churches, and women's groups on domestic violence.

Living in Guatemala has helped us to recognize blessings that we once took for granted. Here are a few to reflect on: freedom of speech and freedom of religion, access to clean water and electricity, basic health care and medicine, education for your children, safety thanks to effective law enforcement, a home that is more than one room and doesn't have a dirt floor, and enough food that you don't go to bed hungry at night.

Blessings to each of you!



Haiti update

by Vic Phillips

As of March 4th, \$427,000 has been raised by the Church of God for relief in Haiti. A team was sent to Haiti to assess the damage and organize the relief effort. Church of God Missions (CGM) believes the relief effort will take several years.

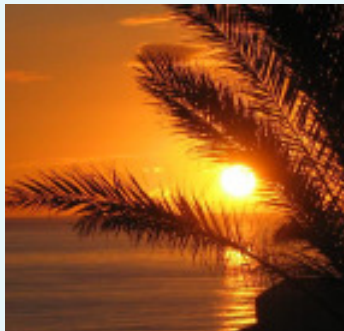
CGM has assigned Phil Murphy, former missionary to Haiti, as the field coordinator for the Church of God disaster relief and recovery operations in Haiti. Murphy began his duties March 1st.

CGM is anticipating sending mission teams to Haiti later this year. One of the big projects will most likely be assembling prefab homes built by a local Dutch company for about \$2000.

If you are interested in being part of a mission team to Haiti you can contact the church office or Vic Phillips. If you go on a mission team you can expect spartan living conditions and hard work.

One thing you can do now is pray for Haiti and the relief effort as well as the spiritual well being of the people of Haiti.

Quick Connect



Sunrise Service- April 4

6:30 AM Front Lawn

Rejoice in the resurrection with the first rays of morning light.



Sunday Nights Are Alive

Prayer 4:00 PM

Bible Study 5:00 PM

All are invited.

Pray for the renewing of our church and join Pastor Jerry as he unlocks the doctrines of the Bible.

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