



The Connection

Volume 9, Issue 7 July 2011

The Benefits of Freedom

by Pastor Jerry

May I send my greetings of 'Happy Fourth of July' to the members of the family of God at Blue Mountain Community Church?

It is our custom as Americans to celebrate the privilege of being a free society. The fact is believers in the Lord have the joy of dual memberships in two free societies. As I watch musicians play and sing I envy their ability to know at least two languages; their native language and the language from which we make music and music notes. As followers of Jesus Christ we enjoy the dual freedom of being a citizen of a free democracy and the

more lofty privilege of being a member of the free society of Jesus' spiritual kingdom.

I am grateful for the thousands who have gone before me to assure the benefits of freedom I and my family enjoy. As a citizen of the Kingdom of God, I am even more grateful for the Lord who gave

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Sports Camp

by Pete Erb

Here comes Sports Camp! I know they are going to ask for volunteers. I am sure there will be many others (Still, I know I should help!) and it will be OK. Surely many people are better equipped for this than me. I am not in the greatest of shape. I am not really very good at the sports they are bringing...oh and to be tied down for a few hours a day for a WHOLE WEEK! Ugh, how can I avoid this?

I couldn't! I was asked in such a way that no excuse would do. Two of my boys decided to volunteer with me. We will make the best of this. I mean if we are serious about reaching out to our children and our community then Sports Camp is one of the best ways to do it. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, right?

After an incredible week I am refreshed and exhausted all at the same time. What a refreshing experience for me. I get exercise, I get to play with some pretty great kids, I get to know 5 really wonderful young people for Christ who are travelling around helping put on these camps. Mostly I get to see these kids soak up the lessons and the word of God. I see, first-hand, how eager they are for the good news. The way the lessons are laid out and my role in working through the lessons with these children brings a deeper understanding to me too.

I am a little ashamed that I was so reluctant to part with 17 hours of my summer. Seventeen hours of my summer that may help even ONE child to the

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Moving right along

by Pastor Jim

By the time you read this we, (Snyder's) will be somewhere in the moving process. This is an exciting, stressful, and scary time so please be in prayer for our family. Our plans are to have the family arrive in Walla Walla on the 14th. That means one more trip to Grandma's for the kids before the move. Our stuff should arrive on the 15th so if you want to help unload the truck, the more the merrier.

On the weekend of July 16 & 17th we will have Jason Kelsky visiting us from Nashville, TN. Jason will be interviewing for the position of Youth Pastor. He has served in youth ministry in Houston, Texas and in Estes Park, Colorado. He is married to Allison and they have four children ages 6 months through 6 years. In addition to youth ministry, Jason is a gifted musician.

A schedule of opportunities to meet and interact with Jason will be available soon. Come meet him, hear his heart and let us know what you think.

Love?!

by Bonnie Dickinson

When you think of love it is usually in the sense of romance or maybe family love. Love is thought of as something that just happens, we are automatically drawn to someone and love blossoms. In reality love is a choice we make either consciously or subconsciously. This means that I am responsible for who and how I love. God says that we will be known as His followers by the love we have for one another. This is a nonjudgmental love that encourages, uplifts, accepts, and walks beside God's children. Who are God's children? They are all of mankind. We do not get to pick and choose whom we will love -- we are instructed to love all.

Is there someone in particular God is asking you to stand beside? If you are finding it difficult to love others ask God for His love to be displayed through you as you reach out to others. You can reach out to others in compassion, acceptance, and touch. Jesus loves us unconditionally and calls us to do the same unto others. Where do you stand on love? Love is what you do not who you are.

Through the Fire

by Robin Ermacoff

I read this recently and felt it was so appropriate for some of the "forest fires" of my life. I hope this brings comfort to some of you.

God's ability to restore life is beyond our understanding. Forests burn down and are able to grow back. Broken bones heal - even grief is not a permanent condition. Our tears can be seeds that will grow into a harvest of joy because God is able to bring good out of tragedy. When burdened by sorrow know that your times of grief will end and that you will again find joy. We must be patient while we wait. God's great harvest of joy is coming....

-- David Wilkerson

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his life for my freedom, which I've been able to pass on to my family members.

So what challenges do we face as members of a free spiritual society? One of the challenges is the need to safeguard our freedom without stymieing new ways or means of keeping our God-given liberties. Wow, that's a mouth full! What does this, 'freedom without stymieing' look like? We need to continually work with creative ideas and tools to keep moving the Kingdom of Christ out into our community. Secondly, we need trust. Trust in our Christian freedom, and trust in the church leaders who help us to remain free. Both are critical if we are to remain strong as a Christian society.

Christians must have faith both in God and trust God's ways and means of carrying out his imperatives as they apply to their freedom, and we must trust the judgments of the church leaders, as they work for the advancement of God's kingdom. At times, this can be quite difficult. But time has taught us that it only seems difficult if we don't trust God to take care of His Church. We must believe in God's ability to guide the church if we

hope to keep our peace of mind. We must choose to believe that God leads His dear Church along though good times and difficult times.

So from time to time the Lord reminds me that He is big enough to watch over each change of the church: changes in staff, new policies, new ministries and new direction. He tells me over and over that He is the One who is making all the changes in order to take His Church along onto Her destiny.

I trust God's freedom, therefore, trust the leaders he has placed over my church community. I chose to believe that the God who was able to give me my freedom in the first place can keep me free throughout my earthly experience and into my eternal adventure as well.

Do you trust the Lord as well? I'm confident you do!



Happy Freedom and keep trusting.

Connecting to Ministries



Everyone is invited! Meet Friday nights at 7:00 PM to share in support and encouragement to conquer your hurts, habits, and hang-ups. Dinner provided the fourth Friday each month at 6:00 PM for a small donation.

Senior Adult Ministries meets July 14th at 10:00 AM. 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.

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All are invited
Saturday Morning, July 9
8:00 AM



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Lord (not to mention the Word being taken home every night) is paltry. I am sure we would all trade so much of our lives to bring one person to God. We get to have a hand in bringing over a hundred children into the Word. We may never know the impact of our time but I know my investment has been worth it and is immensely rewarding.

Now that the week is over, I ask of our body this: Pray that the message these kids received goes home and continues to grow, AND pray for the safety strength and wisdom of: Hannah, Anna, Andrew, Courtney and Dwayne. These young people have made changes in our city and our church and I am grateful for their service.



Photo by Marty Huie

Connecting to the next Generation

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What's Happening with Youth

by Ken Paine

In July we're having youth events roughly every other week. Here's what it looks like:

Middle School

July 10 : 6 – 8pm. Be prepared to get wet!

July 15 – 17: Middle school retreat to a cabin at Lake Cle Elum – cost is \$35 plus memorizing a section of verses. This will be a time of canoeing, playing in the water, enjoying the outdoors, and spending some time in God's word. I still need adult help for this camp.

July 31: 6 – 8pm. We may get wet again.
Middle school will NOT meet on July 3 or 24.

High School

July 14: 7 – 9pm. Be prepared to get wet.

July 28: 7 – 9pm. We may get wet again

The high school summer retreat is scheduled for either Aug 4 – 7 or 5 – 8, depending on when adult help is available. This will be the same basic plan as the middle school camp, but one day longer, with a possible service day included. Cost will be \$50 plus a section of memory verses.

That's what's on the schedule right now. There's a possibility of other events, so watch the bulletin and email.

What's Happening at. . .

Summer Camps:



Art Camp June 27- July 1

Drama Camp July 25-29

Culinary Camp August 8-12

Music and Dance Camp August 15-20

Each camp will be an opportunity for students to explore a unique creative outlet. If you have a skill or love of any one of these areas, we would love to hear your ideas for fun things for our campers to do. You can volunteer to lead a craft or activity or submit your idea by calling 529-4000.

Mission Trip

Next summer BMCC is taking a missions trip to Guatemala to work with Mark and Kim Agrellas. This will be about two weeks in June or July. We're still in the planning stage, but we will probably be doing some construction and other work, doing some sort of sports event, and probably doing VBS in some form. A very important meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 18 at 7:00pm to meet with Mark and Kim, and to further plan the trip. Please contact Ken Paine at 386-4959 or youth@bluemountainchurch.com if you're interested in going, and be at the meeting if at all possible.

Connecting to One Another

Celebrating July Birthdays and Anniversaries

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| 2 Danica Freiberg
Norm Stlosed | 1 Mike & Danna Jones
Ron & Penny Knight | 17 Bob & Julianne Hoppen |
| 3 Katie Krivoshein | 6 Dan & Ellen Kilmer | 18 Bill & Tammie Herron |
| 4 Kim Burns
Jacob Cobb
Donavan Skifstad
Cole Woelfle | Dan & Julie Wooton
Kenneth & Brenda Hobbs | 19 Patrick & Jamie Nachtigall |
| 6 Laura Bowe | 8 Jerry & Betty Eyestone | 20 Ken & Judy Jurgensen |
| 7 Judy Jurgensen
Bob Loar | 12 Ernest & Sue LaFont
Ken & Joyce Paine | 23 Humberto & Maggie Miranda |
| 8 Mike Bowe
Paulette Goodwin
Gary Hobbs | 14 Larry & Robin Harris | 24 Dale & Kelly Hutcherson |
| 9 Mark Agrellas
Raegan Figgins | 15 Terry & Bettie Freiberg | 26 Tony & Dora Gonzalez
Burl & Evelyn Wallace |
| 10 Carrie Knudson
Gloria Wilson | 16 Larry & Felicia Wachtel | |
| 13 Talen Alexander
Bridget Blom | | |
| 14 Scott Krivoshein
Karen Schroeder | 19 Betty Johnson | |
| 15 Chandra Newbill | 21 Terry Freiberg | |
| 16 Anthony Cannone
Donny Snider
Florene VanDonge
Ruby Wachtel | 23 Tyler Goodwin | |
| 17 Zane Adkins | 24 Bret Larreau
Eloise Phillips | |
| 18 Zachary Cobb
Jared Cowles
Robin Ermacoff | 28 Kim Agrellas
Jeremy Pellicer | |
| | 29 Romona Moss
Scott Woelfle | |
| | 30 Steven Irwin | |
| | 31 Laurie Klicker
Glenn Vogt
Jerry Dickenson | |

Our mission is to lead people
into a growing relationship with
Jesus Christ.

July

At a Glance

- 3 Budget Q & A after service
- 4 Office Closed for Independence Day
- 5 Missions Commission 6:44 PM
- 6 Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
- 7 Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 9 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 10 Annual Business Meeting AFTER SERVICE
- 11 Ark Commission 6:00 PM
CE Commission 6:30 PM
Worship Commission 6:30 PM
- 12 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 14 SAMS 10:00 AM
- 15-17 Middle School Camp
- 17 Newcomers' Dessert 6:00 PM
- 18 Mission Trip Meeting 7:00 PM
- 27- 31 Junior Camp

ADAPTED FROM: The Hole in our Gospel

by Richard Stearns
Contributed by Dan Kilmer

*Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless;
maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.
Rescue the weak and needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.*

Psalm 82:3-4

When we think about the poor in places such as Africa or South Asia we may shake our heads at why this nationality or that race just can't seem to get their act together. Or we may look at them paternalistically, feeling sorry for them as a parent would a helpless child. If we are to see the poor as God sees them, we first have to repent of our judgmental attitudes and feelings of superiority.

What I have discovered in my travels to more than forty countries with World Vision is that almost all poverty is fundamentally the result of a lack of options. It is not that the poor are lazier, less intelligent, or unwilling to make efforts to change their condition. Rather it is that they are trapped by circumstances beyond their power to change.

Even in Jesus' time it was common to believe that the poor, the sick, and the disabled were unworthy or were even punished by God for their sins. This is why the Pharisees and Sadducees were so shocked that Jesus would actually touch a leper, heal the blind and lame, and associate so consistently with the underclass. The prophet Ezekiel wrote that Sodom's cardinal sin was wealth-induced arrogance and unconcern for the poor, not

the sexual immorality that we more commonly associate with its violent destruction: "Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned: they did not help the poor and needy" Ezek. 16:49

It is crystal clear from scripture that God loves the poor while hating their poverty, the man-made actions that contribute to it, and the apathy of the "well off" who allow it to persist.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Cor. 8:9

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Church, are you doing all that you can to advance the cause of Christ here at home and around the world, or are you doing just enough to get a "good feeling"? If you haven't answered God's call to be involved through Faith Promise and tithes and offerings, it is not too late to begin.



Needy Family Fund

We've had several requests for assistance with gas, rent and other needs in the last couple months and the Needy Family Fund is depleted. Please consider giving to this important outreach. Just label your check or envelope Needy Family and your gift will be used to help others in our community.

Quick Connect



Annual Business Meeting July 10

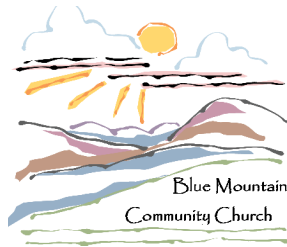
An annual checkup on all church business: budgets, ministry highlights and more.



Middle School Camp July 15-17

Lake Cle Elum

Canoeing, playing in the water, enjoying the outdoors, and spending some time in God's Word.



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