

# The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 3, March 2009

## Outdoor fun for all in the works

*by Jennifer Stephens*

Outdoorsmen's Day, March 28, 2009, is a community outreach event hosted at BMCC. Approximately 15 to 20 vendors plan to participate with an information/activity booth. They will be promoting their program as well as educating those with an interest in outdoor activities, specific to hunting/fishing/outdoor recreation. The exhibits will be open from 9:00AM to 3:00PM, followed by a banquet dinner at 5:00 PM (doors open at 4:30 PM). Pheasant will be the main course. Tickets are available for purchase at PGG in Milton Freewater, Express Tax Service, and L & G Ranch Supply, or anyone may contact Matt Stephens. The cost is \$10 per adult and \$8 per child 12 and under. We're excited to have Mark Mebes, Sergeant First Class, Army National Guard as our guest speaker.

Some of the organizations you will see at this event are: Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH), Shumate Motorsports, Stateline Polaris, Nixons Marine, Bruce Bump Custom Knives, the US Forest Service, the WW Gun Club, Touchet Gun Club, Hunter Safety Education instructor, taxidermy displays, Mark Farr Wildlife bronze displays, Calls M All Game Calls, the Blue Mountain Flycasters, and The Mule Deer Foundation. There will also be a live trout display donated by The Corp of Engineers, along with a few game/activity booths where kids can learn to cast fishing poles, try a ring toss onto elk antlers, or hit targets with a sling shot.

The goal of this event is to attract people with a common interest throughout our community and provide a warm welcome from Blue Mountain Community Church members, in hopes many more people will come to know the love of Christ.

Please call Matt & Jennifer Stephens for more information or to get on board: 938-4968, 386-2611 [ringinanvil@pocketinet.com](mailto:ringinanvil@pocketinet.com).



Come and experience a morning fully dedicated to celebrating the presence of God in our midst. Baby dedications, baptisms, and your faith stories are common elements of this type of service. If you have a child to dedicate, want to publically declare your faith in Jesus in baptism, or have a story from your journey of faith you wish to share, please contact the church office (529-1212).



## *From Your* Administrative Pastor

Spring will be here soon...we get to set our clocks ahead an hour on March 8<sup>th</sup>, we get to start cleaning up our yards and get the lawn mower ready to go for another season.

It is also budget planning time around the church. All commissions must have their 2009-2010 proposed budgets to me by Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. I will get them to the Board of Elders by April 15<sup>th</sup>. If you need help with this process, please contact Bob Loar or me.

The deadline for annual reports to be turned in to the Church Office is May 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be released for distribution on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Our Annual Business Meeting is planned for June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Until next time...Pastor Dan II



## This is Not Where I Wanted to Go!

*by Jerry Ousley*

I tell a lot of stories about when I was in the Army, but I guess everyone who has had that experience has a lot of stories to tell. This happened during basic training. Another soldier and I had an appointment to fill out some papers across the base. This was at Fort Dix, New Jersey. The office we were to go to was on the other side of the base and was too far to walk. They had a bus system on the base that cost maybe fifty cents a person to ride and the other soldier and I were at the bus stop waiting for the next one to come along.

All of a sudden two guys in a military pickup truck stopped and asked where we were going. We paid attention to what this guy was saying because he had sergeant stripes on his shirt and we were mere privates. The sergeant told us to hop in the back of the pickup and he and his buddy would take us to this office. At first we insisted that we didn't want to inconvenience them and that we would just wait for the bus. But the sergeant insisted so we counted it to our luck that we'd get there sooner and save fifty cents apiece in the process.

However, the pickup truck kept going deeper and deeper into the base and the surroundings became

*continued on page 11*

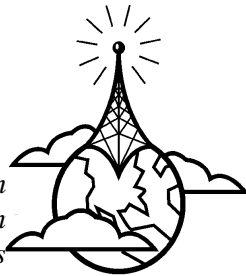
### **Newsletter Deadline**

If you have an upcoming event you'd like to promote, faith story or poem you'd like to share, or anything else that pertains to the life of the people of Blue Mountain Community Church, please consider writing a small article (300 words or less) and submitting it to the newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

## Faith Promise News

by Vic Phillips

*This month's letter is from Franco & Bea Santonocito in Egypt. They are missionaries supported by our Faith Promise giving.*



We are grateful for your vivid interest in us and in our ministry in this needy part of the world. It is now 8 years since we moved to Cairo, Egypt, the center of world Islam through the Islamic university of El Azhar where many of the Muslim theologians and ministers are trained. [Editor's note: The Islamic University of El Azhar is where the modern Jihadist movement was born.] It is a city of 20 million people, and we seek to reach influential Egyptians.

Our Church of God whom we serve is English speaking and has celebrated its 50th anniversary. It is made up mostly of professional people and university professors. We even have one Christian senator (the only Christian woman in all the senate). They are wonderful, loving witnesses for Christ. In our Last conference we had a chief justice (one of 6 in the country) who showed great interest in the Gospel, as well as his wife. We also help train young ministers and leaders of our Egyptian churches of God. It is a most rewarding ministry, as we have several new young ministers who are starting new churches where there are none, in spite of difficulties and persecutions.

We are also blessed to serve a community church in the 2nd largest Egyptian city of Alexandria (8 million). Half of the congregation is university students from all over Africa. We are reaching both English and French speaking Africans. Last Friday I spoke to one group in a home where about 25 young people were present. Our challenge is to get

them to really know the Lord and disciple them so that when they graduate they will return and reach their respective countries. We are very excited as this is beginning to happen, in Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, and Uganda.

We also seek to pastor and encourage expatriates who are in ministry, or on short term contracts with different companies. They are from the U.S., Europe, Korea, etc... So keep praying for us and for our ministry.

We are just back from a Leadership training conference near Alexandria, where about 50 young church of God leaders attended. 18 of those are prospective ministerial students in training at our Mediterranean Bible College in Lebanon (M.B.C.), core curriculum. Thank you for faithfully supporting us over the years. May God richly reward you for this.

Sincerely in His service,

Franco & Bea Santonocito



# Ner ocity

by Pastor Brent

## God's Stimulus Package

It's all over the news. The local and national news channels cover it daily. It feeds talk radio and inks our newspapers. It's the plunging economy and elevating unemployment rates. Hours are being cut back, jobs lost, corporations going bankrupt, and American families are losing their homes. The government hopes to stimulate the economy with over \$800 billion! That may or may not help...but it surely won't stimulate the spirit of the American people.

Politics aside, might I suggest that God has a stimulus package for His church today. In the midst of socioeconomic decline and unease, God's people are the ones who have the ability to pull us through this mess. Let me explain.

In the opening section of the fifth chapter of Luke there is an account of Jesus dealing with some fishermen. These veteran seamen had worked hard all night and not a single fish was caught. Yet Jesus instructs them to place their boats in deep water and drop their nets one more time. Not anticipating much, they do what He requests and the result is overwhelming. So many fish are caught that two boats nearly sink.

The lesson I am encouraging you to grasp is this. Our community is also in 'deep water.' In this passage, Jesus tells the fishermen where the fish are and when they're biting. Businesses are closing and property rates are higher than ever. People are depressed and worried about losing everything. What can you, a believer in Jesus Christ, do for them? You can give away your hope. Remember...

**Hey, Other People Exist!**

When we take the focus off of our own circumstances and reach out to someone else who's having a rough time, we give them hope! This is not simply a general theological statement. This is an urgent order to 'drop our nets.' Now is the time. Jesus knows where the fish are and that these hard times have made them hungry. Think about this! What if, at the core of the current doom and gloom, Christ's church remained financially strong? What if you were to lose your job, but turn around and help a neighbor who only had a few hours cut? What if we all tithed on what we had no matter how little it was? What would our community then see in our church? They'd see Jesus.

*"For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."*

2 Timothy 1:7

May God grant you the determination and passion needed to represent Him to a drowning world.





Dear loved friends of Sharon Steele:

Joe and I would like to extend our deepest thanks to everyone who helped during the difficult time while Sharon was ill. To those who came over with food every day, those who spent nights with her so Joe and Debbie could rest at night; everyone who just called to see if we needed anything, down to blankets and pillows; the gorgeous Christmas lights and decorations, even those who helped with housework.

Everyone held each of us up when Sharon's departure got closer and closer. I cannot tell you how many times we have said how LUCKY Sharon was to have had such beautiful, wonderful caring friends in the community of Walla Walla. We were so impressed with the genuine kindness, and help that came without any asking. You all must know that Sharon would be so so proud of each and every one of you for all you did. Although we miss her so very very much, because of you keeping her in your prayers and thoughts, she lives on each and every day with us.

Blue Mountain Community Church is the BEST either of us have attended in our lives. We could feel the love from all of you at her service, as well as afterwards. Pastor Mike, and Brent, (bless his soul) who took time from his life and drove all the way from Walla Walla to Seattle when Sharon had

her surgery in October. I cannot express how much that meant to her and to us! You made her feel so much more relaxed, and how you eased her suffering, knowing the Holy Spirit was all around her.

I am happy to report that Sharon's house is being sold at this moment! It wasn't even a week on the market and we had a buyer. Things are finally settling down, and Joe and our family are getting through the grieving process slowly but surely. Again, thank you all for everything you did. For the absolutely beautiful service, and the dinner afterwards. Each and every one of you are so special. Sharon was truly blessed with all of you being around her, before her illness and afterwards. You made a very difficult time easier to get through, and that is golden in our eyes. If all the world were as kind as all of you, it would be a much happier place to reside! Thanks again, all our love and blessings,

Joe and Kara Steele

If anyone wishes to contact us, our address is:  
PO Box 74  
Kenai Alaska 99611.



# *Birthdays &*



# *Anniversaries*

- |    |    |  |    |                            |
|----|----|--|----|----------------------------|
|    | 1  | <i>Deanna Aichele</i>                  | 16 | <i>Zenada Voss</i>         |
|    | 2  | <i>Humberto Miranda</i>                |    | <i>Betty Whitney</i>       |
|    | 3  | <i>Joseph West</i>                     | 17 | <i>Cindy Stewart</i>       |
|    |    | <i>Bill Saager</i>                     |    | <i>Ashley Wallace</i>      |
|    | 5  | <i>Michael Swenson</i>                 | 18 | <i>Wanda Augustine</i>     |
|    | 6  | <i>Andrea Pellicer</i>                 |    | <i>Cheryl Drumheller</i>   |
|    |    | <i>Luke Webb</i>                       |    | <i>Ed Gossen</i>           |
|    | 6  | <i>Leslie Culbertson</i>               | 19 | <i>Michelle Montgomery</i> |
|    |    | <i>Penny Knight</i>                    | 20 | <i>David Cline</i>         |
|    | 7  | <i>Dee Haun</i>                        |    | <i>Bethany Voss</i>        |
|    |    | <i>Dan Witherow</i>                    | 21 | <i>Timothy McEuen</i>      |
|    | 8  | <i>Mike Jones</i>                      |    | <i>Kyle Miller</i>         |
|    |    | <i>Laura Schulz</i>                    |    | <i>Linda Reyburn</i>       |
|    | 9  | <i>Penny Filan</i>                     | 22 | <i>Barbara Taylor</i>      |
|    |    | <i>Nicholas Nelson</i>                 |    | <i>Jack Wallace</i>        |
|    | 10 | <i>Ty McEuen</i>                       | 23 | <i>Brent Dumler</i>        |
|    |    | <i>Ed Stites</i>                       |    | <i>Jeraldine Emerick</i>   |
|    | 11 | <i>Shari Greiner</i>                   |    | <i>Jeff Neissl</i>         |
|    |    | <i>Houston Sherrod</i>                 | 24 | <i>Bradley Nelson</i>      |
|    |    | <i>Ryan Tackett</i>                    |    | <i>Brailyn Alexander</i>   |
|    | 12 | <i>Tansen Branscum</i>                 |    | <i>Kelsey Dumler</i>       |
|    | 13 | <i>Cody Josifek</i>                    | 25 | <i>Rod Harmon</i>          |
|    |    | <i>Lucas Larreau</i>                   |    | <i>Myranda York</i>        |
|    |    | <i>John Ordway</i>                     | 26 | <i>Tony Gonzalez</i>       |
|    |    | <i>Curtis Voeks</i>                    |    | <i>Sharon Kushar</i>       |
|    | 14 | <i>Bob Benfield</i>                    | 27 | <i>Caiden Leamy</i>        |
|    |    | <i>Joshua Voss</i>                     |    | <i>Hunter Graves</i>       |
|    | 15 | <i>Bette Durham</i>                    | 28 | <i>Rebecca Hoppen</i>      |
|    |    | <i>Barbara Parker</i>                  |    | <i>Sharon Loar</i>         |
|    |    | <i>Harold Raugust</i>                  | 29 | <i>Michael Stewart</i>     |
| 12 |    | <i>Gary &amp; Diane Miller</i>         | 30 | <i>Gail Silva</i>          |
| 15 |    | <i>Daniel &amp; Cheri Rockwell</i>     |    | <i>Amanda Weiman</i>       |
| 19 |    | <i>Allen &amp; Christine Alexander</i> | 31 | <i>Brandon McNeil</i>      |
| 21 |    | <i>Steve &amp; Kathy Nelson</i>        |    | <i>Karli Plucker</i>       |
| 22 |    | <i>Rick &amp; Neosha Guse</i>          |    | <i>Janice Davisson</i>     |
| 25 |    | <i>Rob &amp; Joelle Voeks</i>          |    | <i>Don Redman</i>          |
| 27 |    | <i>Joshua &amp; Brianna Branscum</i>   |    | <i>Cager York</i>          |
| 28 |    | <i>Scott &amp; Marcia Napier</i>       |    | <i>Wanda Rogers</i>        |



## Special Days

- 8** Daylight-Savings Time begins
- 17** St. Patrick's Day
- 20** First Day of Spring

## Monthly Events

- 3 Men's Ministry Meeting 6:00 PM
- 5 SAMS\* 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 5-7 Middle School Camp**
- 9 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 10 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 11 Leadership Lifter 7:00 PM
- 12 MOPS \* 9:00 AM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 14 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 17 Men's Ministry Meeting 6:00 PM
- The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
- 19 SAMS\* 10:00 AM
- CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM
- Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 26 MOPS \* 9:00 AM
- 28 Sportsman's Day 9:00 AM
- 29 Celebration Sunday Service**

\* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries  
MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers

## Weekly Events

### Sunday

- Middle School Group 6:00 PM
- Financial Peace University 6:00 PM

### Tuesday

- Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM
- Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

### Wednesday

- Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM
- Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM
- High School Group 7:00 PM

### Thursday

- Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

### Friday

- Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM
- Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM





## Women's Ministry

by Cailey Dumler

### Coming Events!!!

What: Beth Moore Conference  
When: April 17-18  
Where: Rose Quarter in Portland, OR  
Cost: \$60/person + hotel and meals  
Contact Cailey Dumler if interested:  
[bd\\_emt@yahoo.com](mailto:bd_emt@yahoo.com) or call 301-4797.

What: Women of Faith Conference  
When: May 29-30  
Where: Spokane, WA  
Cost: \$99/person (includes Friday and Saturday lunches)  
Contact Carolee White if interested at 525-1650

The Women's Ministries Planning Meeting held in January brought approximately forty women together as they shared their excitement and ideas for 2009.

#### Our Vision...

...to become an unshakable network of women who are passionate about the character of God within themselves.

#### Mission is to...

- encourage one another regularly.
- provide opportunities for fellowship.
- promote spiritual nourishment.
- teach women to serve others utilizing their God-given gifts and talents.

*"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near."*  
Hebrews 10:23-25

Team Up with Women's Ministries  
and join a growing number of women  
passionately following the heart of God!

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### Childlike Faith

by Teresa Lee Rainey

Matthew 18:3&4 - *"And (Jesus) said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*

While lying in bed one early morning with my three-year-old son, Andrew, he suddenly tossed toward me and scratched my leg with his overgrown toenail. I must have cried "ouch" because he sat up worriedly and asked what was wrong.

"Your toenail needs clipping," I said. "See where it scratched me."

His spoke so innocently, "It's okay Mommy. I'll pray for you."

The simple prayer he said, "Jesus, please take the scratch away," brought instant tears to my eyes. His eyes were closed as he prayed and when he was done he sat up and asked to see where I had been hurt.



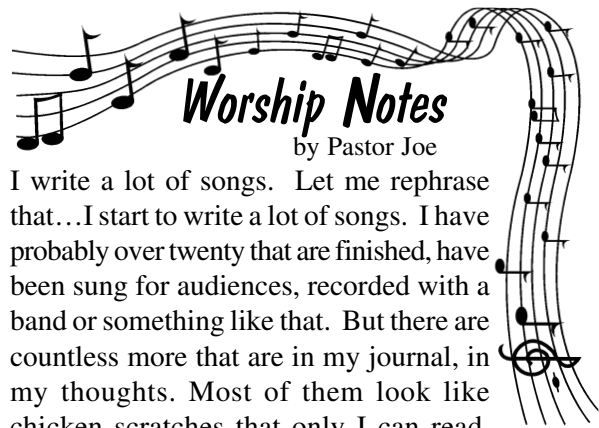
## *Celebrate Recovery*

by John Stump

Every year I like to write down my Top Ten. It usually includes my growing relationship with Jesus Christ, my marriage, relationships, vacations, etc. One of my top 5 is always “relationships with men.” Every man, if he is truly honest with himself, wants to have a “real man friend.” Someone he can be really open and honest with. James 5:16 states, “*Confess your sins and pray for each other and you will be healed.*”

Before Celebrate Recovery, I probably didn’t have more than 1 or 2 men friends that I could share some of my deepest secrets. I had a lot of male acquaintances where we talked about “news, sports, and weather.” I now have 5-7 men friends who know more about me and still care about me. The most I have had in my whole life. Celebrate Recovery is a place for anyone who desires to get real, to deal with the pain in their life and to develop some true friends.

I challenge everyone, especially the men, to make their top ten list and then ask yourself, “Do I have a real friend that I can share anything with (and I mean anything) and not feel judged or guilty?” If you don’t, then Celebrate Recovery is a place for you. See you Friday night at 7:00 PM.



## **Worship Notes**

by Pastor Joe

I write a lot of songs. Let me rephrase that...I start to write a lot of songs. I have probably over twenty that are finished, have been sung for audiences, recorded with a band or something like that. But there are countless more that are in my journal, in my thoughts. Most of them look like chicken scratches that only I can read. And if you can decipher the text, than you may not understand exactly what I am trying to say.

I am convinced if I took a look at your journal, there would be instances where you share your most intimate thoughts with God that are simply between you and Him. And there may be whole stories in there that you have shared or even have yet to share. For all of us, the song may change every now and again.

So why am I telling you this? My song is my testimony, it’s my story. And so is yours. Sometimes they are ugly and sometimes they are more beautiful than can be fathomed. I don’t like to share all my songs, but have found that sometimes...I need to. My song may encourage you and yours may encourage me.

Christianity and worship are relational. They are best experienced in groups. More people would rather hear less about Jesus and more about what Jesus is doing in your life. They want to know that He has changing power, has love that impacts. They want to know that God is not one who watches from afar like an uninvolved creator, but want to see a God who came to creation to get involved, get into it, get dirty. A relationship with God is best lived shared. Who are you sharing yours with? Let’s do a better job of sharing our songs, both finished and unfinished, beautiful and messy.

Worship hard...Joe

*Continued from page 8*

Disappointment clouded his little face when he realized the scratch had not instantly gone away. I reassured him that Jesus did hear his prayer, the scratch didn't hurt anymore and tomorrow when he looked the scratch would be gone.

Oh, no!

The moment those words passed my lips Andrew was satisfied that his prayer was answered, but my first thought was, "What if the scratch is still there tomorrow? How will I explain that?"

How often do we, as adults, neglect trusting the Lord completely to take care of little problems that come our way? It seems that I rarely even ask for His help with small situations and if I do ask, many times I don't wait and trust in Him for His answer. I simply accept what is or find my own solutions.

I didn't even think about the scratch until the next morning when Andrew woke me by pulling my covers down and saying, "Mommy! See, the scratch is gone."

Dear Lord, please help me to become as a little child so that I might be able to trust you completely without the doubts we adults so often contemplate with our prayers.



God Hears and Answers Prayers 10

## blue mountain community church student ministries

sunday school: 9am ezekiel

msm: sunday 6pm-7:30pm

hsm: wednesday 7:pm-8:30pm

hsm boys homegroup thursdays  
8:15pm @ jared burns house

hsm girls homegroup mondays  
7:00pm @ andrea pellicers house

hsm&msm:

- msm winter camp @ lake cleelum  
3/5-3/7

cost \$45 \$\$ and registration form due  
on sunday the 1st of march (limit 12)

- hsm dare 2 share in seattle  
3/20&3/21

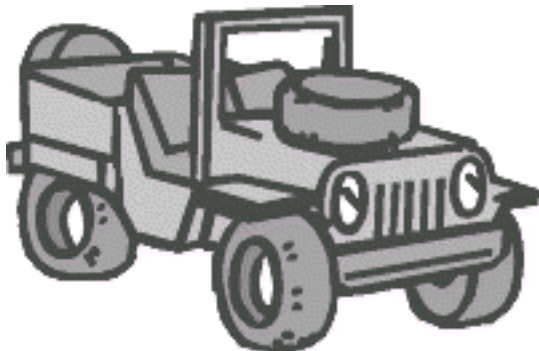
- hsm&msm service day &  
mud football 4/1

- hsm movie game & sushi 4/25

- hsm&msm service day &  
bowling 5/23

*continued from page 2*

more and more remote. Was this some kind of short cut to the office or something? Then, right smack dab in the middle of nowhere they pulled over and stopped. The sergeant very cordially stuck his head out the window and said, “We’ll be glad to take you to the office you need to get to but it’s going to cost you five bucks apiece.” Now we were in trouble. I guess I should say that I was in trouble because the other soldier only had fifty cents (or at least that’s what he said). It cost me ten dollars to get to the office that would have cost us a total of one dollar had we waited on the bus. To top it off, as the pickup truck pulled up to the office we saw the bus just pulling away. We had saved no time at all and it had cost me ten bucks!

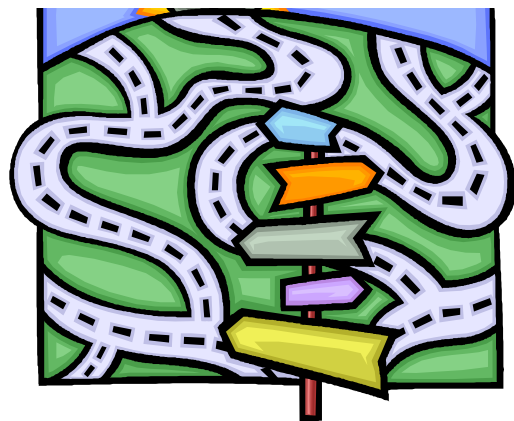


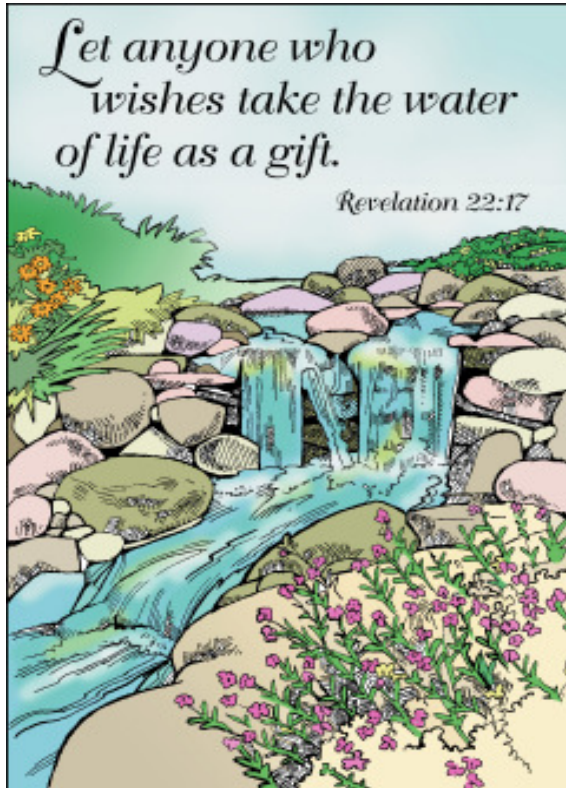
Sometimes we find ourselves going somewhere we didn’t want to go. In 2 Kings 6 we read about a whole army who arrived in a place they didn’t want to go. In a nut shell, the king of Syria had been trying to place his army in position to attack Israel. God was revealing this to the Prophet Elisha who was relaying this information to the king of Israel. The king of Israel would send men to that place and when the Assyrians got there Israel was already there. When the king of Assyria found out that Elisha the Prophet was the culprit revealing his secret plans he sent his army to find Elisha.

One morning the servant of Elisha stepped outside, and the town where they were staying was surrounded by the Syrian army. God, at Elisha’s prayer, revealed the fiery army of God surrounding them when his servant told him about it.

However, again in answer to Elisha’s prayer, God made the Syrian army blind and Elisha led them right into the capital city of Israel. When they realized where they were they also realized that they had lost and no one had fired a shot! This was not where they wanted to go.

Sometimes God allows us to go places we don’t really want to go. Those places aren’t always physical locations but are places of experience in our lives. It could be many things but it is a place in your life you’d rather not be. When God allows this there is always room in that place for Him to be glorified. He will open our eyes and reveal His own great army that surrounds and protects us. It requires us to have a bit of faith. It may require us to extend ourselves in an area we never intended. But when we go there with God and extend ourselves at His bidding, giving up to Him, it may not be where we wanted to go, but you can be sure that it will turn out for the best in the end.





*Our Ministry Team*

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen  
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley  
Associate Pastor of Family Life — Brent Dumler  
Student Ministries Pastor — Isaac Freeman  
Worship and Arts Pastor — Joe Webb

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