

The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 9, September 2009

From the Board of Elders

We have arrived at a new set of trials. Pastor Mike's resignation, and the process leading up to it, has hit us all very hard. The path forward will also be full of challenges. Acts 5:38-39 from The Message says, "*So I am telling you: Hands off these men! Let them alone. If this program or this work is merely human, it will fall apart, but if it is of God, there is nothing you can do about it – and you better not be found fighting against God!*" This came to me as I was reflecting on what or how to write for this newsletter article. What I take away from this is that our worship and walk are not about men and all the things we do, for if it is – we are in ruins. But about the deep trust we need to have in God and to not fight against it. I know this article will be read from a wide range of perspectives. My words are not meant as a defense from those who feel the board has not done its job, but rather to call our body to broadly apply this specific scripture to our current situation.

As I read James 1, I was amazed at the helpfulness that scripture really does provide. Especially applicable for me was 1:5, again from The Message, "*If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help.*" So as we move forward, that's what the board, the pastors and staff, and I will be doing. I ask you to join us in that spirit. Our church body needs to keep God in the center. The real glue that holds us together and will forever supersede our own understanding and human-ness.

In His name,

Bret Larreau
Chariman of the Board of Elders

Letters from Uganda

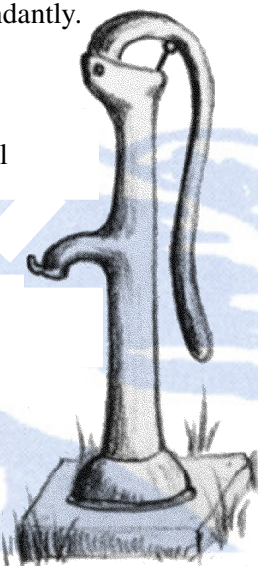
The following letters were sent from students in Uganda whose well our congregation helped replace earlier this summer.

Dear Blue Mountain Community Church,
I hereby extending my great thanks to you for the great things that you have done for our school, like the construction of the bore hole in order to make sure that we get safe water at our school. It is really pleasing and we are praying for you and may the Almighty award your community work and the work of your hands at large.

In everything that you have done to help and safe our education may you be blessed by the grace of our Lord and let everything that you plan to do become true and achieve it. In the name of our Savior long life and be blessed abundantly.

Thank you very much,
From your Son,
Mutagubya (Fred)
Good Samaritan High School
PO Box 1711
Masaka, Uganda
14/08/2009

More letters on page 5





From Your Administrative Pastor

On Monday August 10th, I was at Riverside Golf & Country Club in Portland to attempt to qualify for the USGA Senior Amateur. I had an amazing start with a birdie on the first hole and a one putt par on the second hole. As the round developed I had some challenges; a couple of wayward tee shots, a few missed putts, wrong club selection on a critical par three. But I also had a stretch of tee shots down the fairway, one putt pars, “Tiger-esque” bunker shots and another birdie on a demanding par five. The 18th hole was a long par four with a sharp dog-leg to the left. I hit one of my best tee shots—a high draw that went around the corner and finished in the middle of the fairway app. 180 yards from the green. As my caddy and I walked down the tree-lined fairway, around the corner to my ball, I could see Claudia on the balcony of the clubhouse waving her arms. I was overwhelmed with tears. She saw me and was happy to welcome me home. When I completed the hole she embraced me with open arms...she didn’t care how I played...she was proud of me for finishing. Some players that day withdrew after nine holes because they had played so poorly and didn’t have a chance to secure a spot in the national tournament. I could have quit but I didn’t...I gave it my best.

It reminded me of how our journey with Jesus needs to be. Many of us start out well but lose sight of the real goal of completing life and having Jesus wave His arms welcoming us home. He stretches out His arms and says—“I love you—you did it—I’m so proud of you!”

Christian author Steve Farrar puts it this way in a book called, “Finishing the Course”

If you began a journey with Him earlier in life, He will be there at the end of the course to meet you. If you do not know Him, He is waiting for you to

commit your life to Him. Even on the last hole, He welcomes you. In the Christian life, it’s not how you start that matters. It’s how you finish.

Philippians 1:6 reminds us that... “*God, who began the good work within us, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ returns.*” Grab your Bible and look up 2 Timothy 4: 2-8 for a minute. In verse 7 Paul says, “*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful.*”

I am thankful today that He helped me start well as His follower and that He has walked beside me through the good, the bad and the ugly and went to the cross in my place and one day as I remain faithful, He will open His arms and welcome me home.

Until next time...

Pastor Dan Huntley II





Women's Ministry

Beth Moore Study
Daniel: Lives of Integrity

Just as the prophet Daniel faced unbelievable pressure to compromise his faith in a hostile culture and was constantly confronted by temptations and threats, today's believers face similar trials. All women are invited to join in a fall study of Daniel, Chapters 1 – 6, that deals with Daniel's life as he faced the kind of pressures and temptations Christians encounter today. Daniel models how to develop enduring integrity in an enticing world. Join us Monday evenings, beginning September 21st from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Huie's home, 169 Ransom Rd., Walla Walla. ?'s or to RSVP? Email shuie@bmi.net or call 525-0188.

Something exciting & new is beginning this fall! Once a month (each 4th Monday) women are coming together for an evening of encouragement, fun, laughter & fellowship.

The fun begins as we meet at "The Well" ~ Baker Hall ~ September 28th ~ 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. LOTS of great things planned! Questions? Call Carole DeMoss @ 525-2751 or Susan Huie @ 525-0188. More details to follow.

"THE WELL"

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



Festival of Gifts*

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Need a vendor table?

Call Evelyn Wallace @ 525-1658

Or Lisa Turner @ 522-9833

*We need these items in good condition: mugs, cups, plates, bowls, baskets, tins. Able to donate? Place in the box on the table in the "freezer room" off the kitchen area. Thank you.

Faith Promise Weekend

October 17 & 18, 2009

Our speaker this year is David Pavish, Area Director, Young Life, Galena, Alaska

Reach up . . . Reach out

Welcome Home to the 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team

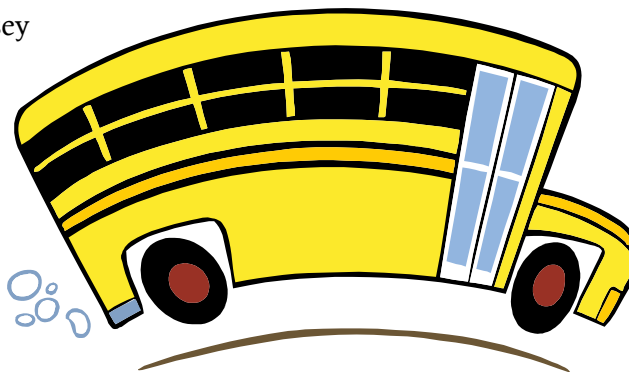
After a year's deployment in Iraq, members of the Washington National Guard unit which includes Walla Walla soldiers from the 81st Heavy Brigade Combat Team began returning home in August.

To honor the returning soldiers; the Homecoming Committee decided to have the returned troops ride in the Walla Walla Fair and Frontier Days Parade on Sept. 5, 2009

If you have a friend or relative in the Military and would like to have them honored on the Military Bulletin Board, call Tom & Jeanne Fox @525-2704.

*Celebrating September Birthdays
and Anniversaries*

- | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Joli Carlile Kathy Grewell Michael Huie Andrei Osborn | 18 | Mitchell Anderson Justin Evans Esther Freeman Gabriel Jardon | 28 | Alen Bender Kenneth Hobbs Katherine McEuen |
| 2 | Renee Irwin | 19 | Calvin McNeil Dana Miller | 29 | Sonia Carias Marlene Saager |
| 5 | Diane Miller Alex Wooton | 20 | Danna Jones Tyler Shea | 30 | Nicholas Josifek |
| 6 | Joe Leamy | 21 | Mark Houk | 3 | <i>Cliff & Anna Frazier</i> |
| 7 | Kelle Cannone Dustin Josifek Thomas Vicari | 22 | Melanie Clark | 5 | <i>Donny & Maranatha Snider</i> |
| 8 | Hannah Burns Jacie McDaniels Douglas Nichols | 23 | Cindy Angotti Don Logosz Craig Spencer Sheila Woelfle | 9 | <i>Matt & Jennifer Stephens</i> |
| 9 | Lydia Whipple | 24 | Kim Skifstad Trudy Young | 11 | <i>Bob & Sharon Loar</i> |
| 10 | Brianne Shea Carrie Spencer Troy Sherrod | 25 | Travis Erb | 11 | <i>Larry & Carolee White</i> |
| 11 | Lisa McDonald Mike Pettyjohn Emily Snider | 26 | Scott Baslee Ellen Kilmer Cindy Tackett | 12 | <i>Frank & Sonia Trapani</i> |
| 12 | Carla Haen Kandee Hoppen Emely Hobbs | 27 | Tyler Neissl Tara Sept Lisa Turner Jerry Willsey | 14 | <i>Chris & Adora Osborn</i> |
| 13 | Max Carrera Gary Stewart | | | 18 | <i>Ed & Elissa Stites</i> |
| 14 | Sue Willsey Destiny Wooton | | | 19 | <i>Gary & JoAnn McAlvey Gary & Teri Stewart</i> |
| 15 | Jane Harrold Dale Hutcherson | | | 20 | <i>David & Karen McDaniels</i> |
| 16 | Mary Ellen Farr Jeffrey Holway Brad Hobbs | | | 24 | <i>Max & Holly Carrera</i> |
| 17 | Asia Clark Galadriel Jensen Nat Swisher | | | 25 | <i>Michael & Linda Clark</i> |



SEPTEMBER

continued from page 1

Dear Church Members,
I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
First of all I want to thank or appreciate each and everything that you're sending to us.

I will keep you in my prayers and will make sure that I pray for your finances, your families and your studies.

May God Bless You So Much,
Yours Faithfully,
Abdul
Good Samaritan High School
PO Box 1711
Masaka, Uganda

August 17, 2009

Dear Blue Mountain Community Church,
Greetings in Jesus' name! Hope you're fine. Thank you for the grate work you're doing in the Kingdom of God.

Thank you so much for the money for the water project, we bought the pipes whereby we're going to store the rain water in the big tank during the rainy season; that's when we're going to harvest the water to help with the water problem at Masaka School.

The children, teachers, staff, Samaritans, communities and the nation of Uganda are grateful for everything, the funds, love, support and care shown to us.

Our prayers are with you; may the good Lord reward you according to His riches in glory.
Our Father in heaven smiles upon you for you're a blessing to many.

May God Bless you so much; we love you dearly.
Yours faithfully,
The Entire family of Good Samaritan Schools
Uganda

Been a while since you've
taken a good nap?



Come take one with a pro!

**Just another reason to
help with Moppets.**

Put on your softest clothes for snuggling, and come support this ministry serving mothers of young children.
You can make a difference!

MOPS seeks to help mothers of newborns through kindergarten experience God's love through relationships and resources. From September through May, MOPS meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 9-11 AM. Free and loving child care is a critical part of this ministry, allowing the moms to really focus and learn, refresh and renew. Do you have a heart for children and a desire to be an encouragement to a mother who desperately needs it? If the answer is YES, please circle "M" on your communication card or call Julie at 526-3778.

Can you help?

Newsletter Deadline

Articles are always welcome from any member of Blue Mountain Community Church. Submit it to bmcc_newsletter@charter.net. The deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

VERILY MINISTRIES

youth ministry at b.m.c.c.

Education time... The youth ministry here at BMCC is known as "Verily Ministries". The word "Verily" coming from some of the more old school translations of the Bible like KJV... it means and is normally accompanied by the phrase "I tell you the truth".

Verily Ministries is built on the truth, shares the truth... and in everything we do we desire to draw students toward the truth.

Students sin. God knows this. God sent Jesus to die for sinning students. Jesus rose again, totally dominating death and the grave. This is the truth we are centered on, the good news for these students.

Verily Ministries includes Middle School Ministry (MSM), High School Ministry (HSM), and someday soon something for you college age folk.

Also on the side for students in our greater Walla Walla community we have **THE PUSH**.

MSM - games.study.smallgroups - starts 8/30/09 @ 7pm - 8:30pm

HSM - worship.study.friendship - starts 9/02/09 @ 7pm - 8:30pm

HSM - ladies home group - starts TBA

HSM - guys home group - starts TBA

College'ish'ers interested in kicking something off email me ike@sostinkinrad.com

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2 U N E N U E F O R T H E T E S T I E S S

THE PUSH

www.sostinkinrad.com



Celebrate Recovery

By Mark Farr

Over the years I thought I needed to be perfect. I wanted to be accepted, and I wanted people to like me. I still do, doesn't everyone? Growing up I lived with the understanding that we didn't have problems in our family and if we did, we quickly swept them under the carpet. I came from a dysfunctional family. Denial was my way of coping with the turmoil of trying to be perfect and living in an imperfect world.

As the years went on it became harder for me to put up the front, to live the lie. I wanted so badly for you to like me. I surrounded myself with people living the same lie. It became easy to lie to each other and say, "We don't have any problems." Thank God we weren't like "those people." Denying my hurts, habits and hangups started to take its toll. I would act any way or tell you anything to make you think I didn't have any issues.

Celebrate Recovery has given me the tools I need to get out of denial. Just as families can become dysfunctional, so can churches. A church is prime breeding ground for denial. We don't want anyone to know we have problems. We do many things daily that are sin. Each and everyone of us. If you say you don't, you are a liar, and that is a sin! We all have hurts, habits and hangups. It's OK to admit it. The truth will set you free!

When I finally hit bottom in my alcoholism, it was very painful. I felt I had lost everything, yet it was just the beginning of my life turning around. My prayer is that our church has hit its dysfunctional bottom. May we take this painful chapter and allow God to turn it into something positive.

My hope is that we as a church can come together, be more open, honest and forgiving. My hope is that we can admit we are all screwed up people and that we all need God -- to lift each other up -- that it's OK to fall short and to not be perfect. My hope is that we can be a church where hurting people can feel welcome no matter where they are right now and no matter how screwed up they may be. If we can become that church, then I think Pastor Mike would be pleased. I know God will be.

Want to receive *The Connection* online?

A full color edition of *The Connection* can be emailed directly to you each month. Just email bmcc_newsletter@charter.net with "Add Me" in the subject line. You will receive future *Connection* issues in your inbox each month. Requires Adobe Acrobat to read.

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Weekly Events

Sunday

Middle School Youth 6:00 PM

Tuesday

Financial Peace University 6:00 PM

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM

High School Youth 7:00 PM

Thursday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

Friday

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM

Monthly Events

- 3 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 7 **Office Closed for Labor Day**
- 8 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 10 MOPS 9:00 AM
- 12 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 14 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 16 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM
- 17 SAMS 10:00 AM
- Missions Commission 6:30 PM
- Building and Grounds 6:45 PM
- 21 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 24 MOPS 9:00 AM
- 25 Pastoral Care Commission 8:30 PM
- 28 The WELL 6:30 PM