

The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 6, June 2009

Agrellas Family Visits Home Church

Mark and Kim Agrellas will be returning from Guatemala this month. On June 28th, they will be speaking in our service. Below is a letter from one of their ministries, Emmanuel's Heart.

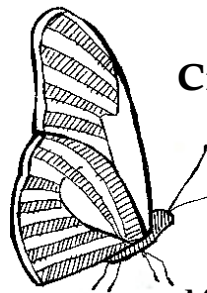
Greetings from Guatemala!

We hope you are enjoying the beginnings of spring where you are. Here in Guatemala, we are enjoying warm days and cool nights with trees and flowers blooming everywhere!

We are particularly excited because we continue to see many lives changed through our ministry:

- Women and children are finding safety and love at the abused women's shelter, El Refugio;
- Children are attending school with the help of sponsors and donors like yourself;
- Women are being discipled and growing in Christ;
- We hosted a vision team from WA state in January and from AZ in February. We are praying for more teams to come and help us expand our ministries.

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Craft Bazaar in Works for Summer Fun

June 19 1-7 PM

June 20 9 AM - 3 PM

Baker Hall

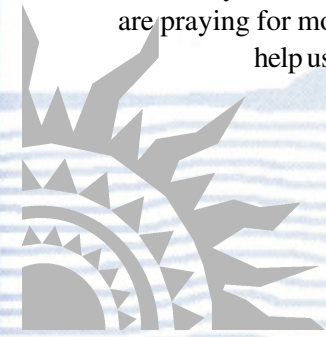
Make every day a holiday

Women's Ministry is expanding their reach by holding a summer fair for crafters. The monthly craft group has begun creating items to sell to raise money for missions. Leaders Evelyn Wallace and Lisa Turner decided to try a craft sale this summer as their venue.

This outreach event will open our doors to another part of the community and provide a cool place during the hot summer. Here's how you can get involved.

Sell your crafts Rent a table for \$20, which will go straight to the mission field. You keep the money your booth makes. Contact Linda Britton at 526-3958.

Help spread the word: Posters for distribution are available at Ministry Central. Put one up in your workplace. Volunteers are also needed to distribute flyers at Farmer's Market and place sandwich boards on the day of the event. Contact Lisa Turner at 522-9833 for more information.



from Pastor Mike...

Daddy's Patience

The Lord is so patient. In the Old Testament we witness time and time again God's gracious patience with Israel. As they were led out of Egypt by Moses they shouted for joy and praised God that He had finally answered their prayers after 430 years of bondage, they were finally set free. Slavery and captivity were no more. However, God would use their freedom to shape their hearts and lives as they learned to trust and follow Him.

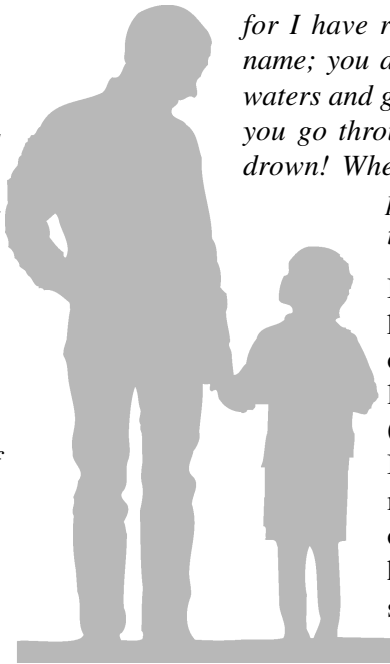
Do you remember the special food God provided Israel during their time in the desert? If you said Manna you were right. God gave the children of Israel exactly what they needed when they needed it. Each day God would have Manna fall from the heavens and the children of Israel were instructed to gather enough food for their family for that day. On the sixth day they were to gather enough food for two days. If they gathered more than what was needed it would be eaten by maggots before morning. God was teaching the Israelites to trust in Him alone. Deuteronomy 8: 3, 6 says: *"And he humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with Manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord. Therefore, you shall keep the commandments of the Lord your God, to walk in his ways and to fear Him."*

When I think about God's patience and provision for Israel I am astonished that he would put up with so

much, everything including rebellion, untrustworthiness, a lack of faithfulness, disloyalty to name just a few. Then I am reminded how much He has to put up with me. What an amazing loving Heavenly Father. His patience and care continue for even us (me) today. As we walk this journey of faith, let us be reminded that God will provide for us exactly what we need even as He did for the children of Israel in the Old Testament. Jesus said in Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread." God has promised those who love Him that He will supply all our needs if we walk in His ways and fear Him. To fear God means to honor, reverence, praise, bow down, give adoration, and worship him alone. 1 Peter 3:12 says: "The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right, and his ears are open to their prayers. But the Lord turns his face against those who do evil."

Our Heavenly Father loves you and has promised to provide and protect you through all things. Isaiah 43:1-2 states it emphatically *"But now, O Israel, the Lord who created you says: 'Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you.'"*

I don't know about you, but that's the kind of loving Heavenly Father I need, one who will be there in all situations in life and is still patient with me when I fall (mess up) and provides forgiveness when I ask as I walk this journey of faith. Dads, maybe we can learn an important lesson or two here from our Heavenly Father in how to treat our kids and wife. You think so? I know so!



God in the Fire*

by Donna Haug

Camping is an activity I have learned to enjoy since my husband, Mark, came into my life. In his opinion, my growing up years were severely deprived. Ever since my first “roughing it” experience with the youth group from our church, I have come to actually “enjoy” sleeping on the hard ground, answering nature’s call baring it in the wild, and bathing in a swimming suit in the lake. Well, maybe not “enjoy” exactly, but I am more than willing to put up with these minor inconveniences just to bask in my favorite part of camping – the campfire.

There is something about sitting around a nice blazing fire on a fold-up lawn chair, staring in fascination at the flames as they flicker and change from blue to red, orange and yellow. Roasting marshmallows (which usually means burning the outside to a crisp!), singing old songs that seem to be reserved for just such occasions, and the telling of tales that tend to grow each time they are told – these are all memory nuggets that we have tried to bury deep into the childhood experiences of our eager offspring.

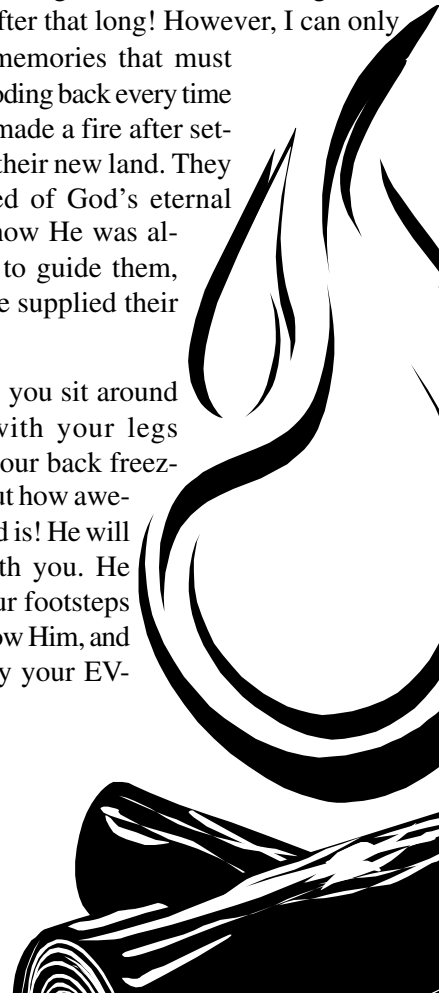
Once the children have been tucked, for the last time, back into their sleeping bags, the adults linger around the fire till all that remains are the glowing hot coals with the reds and blacks and yellows dancing back and forth. The conversations we have had around campfires are some of my most treasured memories.

What is it that makes us more willing to “bare our souls” around a fire? Is it the absence of all the busy distractions of our everyday life? Is it the fact that as we stare into the ever-changing flames, we do not actually have to look each other in the eye?

Can you imagine the conversations that the children of Israel must have had in front of their tents as they gazed at the pillar of fire? I am sure they must have sung songs (maybe even Miriam’s song?) and told over and over the story of their deliverance from Egypt. As the 40 years of their wandering dragged on, I imagine there were nights that the older generation bared their souls to the younger, confessing what happened when they disobeyed the Lord.

Personally, I cannot imagine living in a tent for 40 years. I think I might even tire of staring into that pillar of fire after that long! However, I can only imagine the memories that must have come flooding back every time the Israelites made a fire after settling down in their new land. They were reminded of God’s eternal presence, of how He was always faithful to guide them, and of how He supplied their every need.

The next time you sit around a campfire with your legs burning and your back freezing, think about how awesome your God is! He will always be with you. He will direct your footsteps if you will follow Him, and He will supply your EVERY need!



**This article provided by faithwriters.com*

Celebrating June Birthdays and Anniversaries

<p>3 Don & Donna Raugust Bill & Lydia Whipple</p> <p>4 Robert & Laura Rice</p> <p>5 Mitch & Terri Adams</p> <p>7 Ed & Donna Hendricksen</p> <p>8 John & Melanie Berger</p> <p>9 Bryce & Yvonne Henline</p> <p>12 Mike & Laura Bowe</p> <p>15 Vic & Eloise Phillips</p> <p>16 Michael & LaVonda Hinrichsen</p> <p>17 Don & Paula Hoppen Sonny & Linda Reyburn</p> <p>19 Roland & Carol Schirman</p> <p>20 Harold & Bonnie Raugust</p> <p>22 Richard & Judi Easton Scott & Holly Graves</p> <p>23 Don & Kathryn Logosz Bob & Nancy Stewart</p> <p>25 Donny & Kandee Hoppen Scott & Renee Krivoshein Tom & Dianne Mosher</p> <p>26 Jerry & Sue Willsey</p> <p>29 Nick & Julie Caton</p> <p>30 Barry & Leslie Culbertson Bret & Stacey Larreau Dustin & Nicole West</p>	<p>1 Miles Plucker</p> <p>2 Rachel Clark Stacey Larreau</p> <p>3 Cheryl Cowles</p> <p>4 Sydney Harris Cary Rahn</p> <p>5 Jeremy Gonzalez Don Hoppen Kolby Wood</p> <p>6 Mark Anderson Jessica Ramsey</p> <p>7 Amy Freeman</p> <p>9 Karen McDaniels Stephanie Simmons</p> <p>10 Joshua Lyons Diane McEuen</p> <p>11 Conner Heimbigner</p> <p>12 Wysen Branscum Isaac Freeman Rebecca Landstrom</p> <p>13 Adrienne Harris Mindy Neissl</p> <p>14 Nancy Jennings John Blom Clifford Frazier Nicholas Matheny Shayla Mountain Rick Walters</p> <p>15 Steve Nelson George Thomaston</p> <p>16 Dorothy Atwood Tom Mosher Jackie Wolske</p>	<p>17 Kay Benzel</p> <p>18 Jeff Goodson Jamie Matheny</p> <p>19 Becky Brashear</p> <p>20 Tom Angotti Myrna Bowen Lauren Clark Heather Huntley</p> <p>21 Kristi Montgomery Don Raugust</p> <p>22 Glen Shivley Bob Stewart Jr.</p> <p>23 Brianna Branscum Mary Granger Heather Sept</p> <p>24 Carl Banks Jeanne Fox Brianna Mountain</p> <p>25 Chalene Waltner</p> <p>26 Andrew Hoppen</p> <p>27 Jean Conklin Nancy Cornelius Debi Evans Larry Laughlin Robert Miller Sean Shea</p> <p>28 Stephen Miller</p> <p>29 Beverly Jeffris Larry Wachtel</p> <p>30 Amanda Nielsen Jack Shea</p>
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From your Administrative Pastor

I really like these thoughts from Rick Warren that reminds us that God provides when we give in faith. All of us are being impacted by these difficult economic times but I would challenge you to give more to God now than ever before. Pastor Dan

God promises to meet all your financial needs, if you

- (1) ask him for help
- (2) learn to be content
- (3) practice giving in faith

There is a universal law called the principle of sowing and reaping. If I sow criticism, I'm going to reap criticism. If I sow generosity, it's going to come back to me, and I'm going to reap generosity.

Every farmer knows this. A farmer has four sacks of seed in his barn and he looks at his empty field. He doesn't complain, "There's no crop! I wish there was a crop!" He just goes out and starts planting seed. When you have a need, plant a seed.

It seems illogical that when I have a need, I should give. That's why it requires faith. God says, "My ways are not your ways."

Why did God set it up that way? Because God is a giver. He is the most generous giver in the universe, and God wants you to learn to be like him. He wants to build character in you.

The Bible says, "Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce" (Proverbs 3:9 NLT). This is the principle of tithing. It's the principle that says every time I make one hundred dollars, the first ten dollars goes back to God.

Tithing is an act of worship. We're giving to God. We're saying, "All of it came from you anyway." God says, "Put me first in your life and watch what I do." You may think you can't afford to tithe, but the reality is, you can't afford not to.

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As you can see we are actively sharing the gospel in word and deed with many women and their families. We are humbled to be a part of all that God is doing in and through our ministry!

We know God has much more in store for us. However we need your help so that we can continue our work. We understand that economic times are difficult everywhere, but we are also confident that we serve a big God! Will you prayerfully consider partnering with us financially on a monthly basis? And join us in praying for some of the families we serve:

- Madelyn & Erick as they start their new marriage;
- Rosa Maria, as she continues to repair relationships in her family and prepares to return to college this summer;
- Romelia as she makes a new life for herself and her boys;
- Paula is a new believer, pray that she will find a job and a new living situation;
- Carmen and her siblings as they continue to settle in with their new family;
- For the sponsored children as they attend school.

Serving with you,

Tina Wade
Field Director, Emmanuel's Heart

Celebrate Recovery

by Penny Knight

This time of year, many people start to think ahead to summer and all its activities. This may mean planning a vacation. For others, it may be thinking about warm weather and how they'll look in a pair of shorts or a swimsuit. I have done this for years, considering how I really should adopt some weight-loss program and lose the extra weight before summer comes.

My weight has been climbing for years. I feel I have no control. You see, I am a food addict. For me, successful weight loss seems almost unattainable. I know deep in my heart that this is not true. It's not that I eat huge amounts of food every day. I do not make wise choices. To lose weight, I should be eating as healthy as possible. But I don't. Romans 7:18 states, "*I know that nothing good lives in me; that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.*" I'm being very candid with you. I cannot do this on my own power!

Even with Jesus on my side, I have to be accountable to another human being – someone who will be praying for me and require me to be completely honest with them on this matter.

Celebrate Recovery has already helped me to get over extreme, unfounded jealousy. I still have a short jealous twinge occasionally, but I put it out of my head quickly, knowing that it is unhealthy, destructive, and serves no purpose. I know, however, that my food addiction is by far my biggest hang-up. Between my sisters in Christ at CR and my yearning to be healthier, I am coming around. I covet the prayers and encouragement of these women, my friends.

I encourage you to come to CR and gain control over your hurt, habit, or hang-up. You, too, can become healthier!

Funeral Dinner Preparers Seek Compassionate Cooks

When one of our members passes away, our Pastoral Care Commission arranges a meal for the family on the day of the memorial service.

This commission needs some caring people that would like to help with these meals by contributing food. Example salads, baked beans, rolls, dessert etc.

Please contact Deanna Aichele 525-4212 or Karen Skifstad 525-3515 to let them know if you would help with this very worthwhile cause.

Thank you so very much to all of you that have helped with these meals in the past.

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.

Faith Promise News

by Vic Phillips

Breakfast at Sally's

I was recently loaned a book. It is recommended reading for Salvation Army board members - Breakfast at Sally's: "One Homeless Man's Inspirational Journey" by Richard LeMieux.

Richard's story is about a man who had a successful publishing business, lived a luxurious life, and traveled widely. When he lost it all he went into a deep depression almost ending his life.

"Sally's" is a nickname for the Salvation Army kitchen in Bremerton, WA. There, Richard meets a variety of homeless people who introduce him to survival on the street.

This book opened up the world of the homeless to me as no other book has. Except for treatment at a state mental institution, all the help he got in Bremerton was from the Salvation Army and churches in the area. No other government agencies were involved. I thought to myself, "This is the way it should be." Jesus didn't say it was Rome's, i.e. the government's, duty to help the poor; it was the business of God's people.

One cautionary note, this is not a book for people who have lived a protected life or who are upset by offensive language or swearing. The author uses the actual language of the homeless when relating their conversations throughout the book. But if you can handle the language I would recommend this book for those who want to know what it is like not to have a place to call home.

Monthly Events

- 3 Ark End of Year Program 4:30 PM
- 4 Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM
- 8 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 11 Board of Elders 6:30 PM
- 12 Ladies Craft Night 6:30 PM
- 13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 15 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 16 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 21 **Annual Reports Available**
- 28 Annual Business Meeting

Weekly Events

Sunday

Middle School Group 6:00 PM

Tuesday

Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM

Boy Scouts 7:00 PM

Wednesday

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