

The Connection

Volume 8, Issue 3, March 2010

Caleb, A Great Spirit

by Pastor Jerry

Numbers 14:24 says, "My servant Caleb,....has a different spirit."

We all have heroes. One of my heroes is Caleb.

At 85 years of age we might expect Caleb to say: "Let someone else fight." Instead, Caleb spoke out to the new generation: *I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh-barnea to scout out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in my heart. Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the hearts of the people melt; but I wholly followed the LORD my God* (Joshua 14:7-8). Caleb's unshakable faith in the Word of God was the result of four spiritual characteristics.

The first can be seen in Caleb is that he spoke in faith, not doubt. As a spy who wandered across the land for forty days, Caleb saw the giants in land. But when others were afraid and wanted to run away he spoke his faith and encouraged the people that they could trust God to take care of any and all giants. We are sometimes

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Our Future Plans

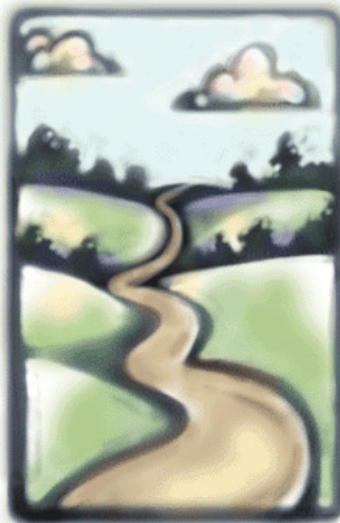
by Dan Huntley

A lot of things have changed for Claudia and me this past month. As you may have heard by now, I am no longer the Administrative Pastor at Blue Mountain Community Church. I have retired from full-time church service after twenty-six amazing years-the last ten years with BMCC.

What are we going to do? In a few weeks, I will begin assisting our son, Jason with some business projects. We plan to downsize, sell our home and head to Colorado Springs, Colorado sometime in August when Jason and his family move back to Colorado.

At that time I will enter into a full-time flexible working relationship with Jason and his numerous business entities. I will also be responsible for strategic philanthropic exposures of the Huntley Family Foundation as it develops. I will have a flexible schedule that would allow me to care for Claudia and work from home.

Jeremiah 29:11 confirms everything: *"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster; to give you a future and a hope."*



Looking Ahead

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Family Life

by Pastor Brent

The Primal Faith That Once Had You

I am currently reading Mark Batterson's new book, "Primal." Mark is a pastor in the Washington DC area, in addition to being a best-selling author and conference speaker. I have to say...I'm really enjoying this book. His target message is simply to encourage readers to go back to their 'Primal' roots of faith...spiritually and physically. As I read the opening pages, I found myself at sixteen years of age and sitting in the middle of a large sanctuary in Spokane, WA. I found the person of Jesus in that pew. That was a very tear-filled and sleepless night...one I'll never ever forget! That was the night that my heart began (as Pastor Mark states in his book) 'breaking for the things that break the heart of God.'

If you're looking for a great book to help you re-focus your faith I'd recommend you check out Primal. Aside from referring you to a book, I would encourage you to take some quiet time to do what I recently did. If you're a believer, revisit that place and time when Jesus became more real than life to you...when the two of you met for the first time and He extended His hand to you saying, "Come with me, we'll do life together." Remember what it was like to 'feel' the heart of God? Do you remember the invincible feeling that you could take on any trial, illness, or personal attack now having the creator of the universe on your side?

Let me ask you a personal question. Is that Primal faith that once had you still a raging inferno, or does it feel more like a small votive candle on the bookshelf? If the inferno doesn't quite describe your current level of compassion for God and others, spend some time with the one who knows why.

Mark 12:30-31 (NLT)

...you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.' The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these.

On February 21st, BMCC will have a new Interim Pastor. He will most likely serve here until a permanent Senior Pastor is added to the staff, which could be a few weeks to a number of months. We are entering into a new chapter in the story of BMCC. If you're like most people, the real frustrating part of this particular chapter is that we don't know how many pages are in it, therefore, it is not possible to flip forward to see where we'll be next. There are numerous unknowns, like finances, vision, structure, and health. We could fill this entire newsletter with questions and concerns. The real bottom line is that God knows the answers, and He does desire great things for His church. When times seem to get a bit convoluted, the most productive thing we can do is simplify. Zero in on the basics: Love God, and love others. When all else fails, do this and everything will be fine.

When You Disagree With God

by Dionna Sanchez

Prov. 16:9 *In his (her) heart, a man (woman) plans his course; but the Lord determines his steps.*

I love this verse. My sister wrote it in a notebook of mine once, years ago and it fast became a favorite of mine. In fact, in the last 10 years, I've adopted it as one of my "life" verses.

I have plans for my life. I have dreams, wishes, and intentions of where I want my life to go. I've always been a dreamer. The only problem comes in when God has different intentions than the intentions I have!

I often ask God to show me where He wants me. I want to be open and willing enough to drop things when He tells me it's time to move on. I want to be able to change my plans if He asks me to. Sometimes that's really hard to do. It's tough to say "good-bye" to some of our dreams, isn't it?" But God reminds me of Eve and Jonah. Eve did her own thing instead of what God asked her to do and God disciplined her for it. Jonah refused to think (or trust) that God just might know what He was doing and he fled. Look what happened to him! He got thrown overboard and swallowed by a fish until he agreed to obey the Lord.

I believe with all of my heart that God wants to bless me. And I know that when my own pride gets in the way and I disobey the Lord that there will be consequences. I think it's okay that I disagree with God as long as I obey Him through that doubting. But if I obey, I will see the blessing that He longs to show me.

So I may have plans for my life. I may spend a lot of time on them. Dreaming. Wishing. But no matter how much I "plan" for my life to go a certain way God has the ultimate say. It is He, who will determine the path and steps I take.

We might as well trust the One who created the universe with the minute details of our lives. Big or small His hands are big enough to take care of them and He won't lead us down the wrong road. He wants to bless us. All He asks is for us to obey even if we feel we're being led in the complete opposite direction of the one we intended to go on. Trust Him. He won't let you down.

Article found on faithwriters.com

continued from page 1 Pastor Dan

Our roots go deep in Walla Walla, it will always be our hometown. We also have deep friendships in both community and church relationships that we will miss. Being far away from our other family members, children and grandchildren will also be a huge adjustment but this is clearly what we are to do. We will be fine.

I'm reminded of a line from Steven Curtis Chapman's popular song, "The Great Adventure"... "This is life like no other-this is the Great Adventure!"

We love you dearly and pray that God will bless you abundantly.

On the Great Adventure,
Claudia and Dan Huntley

Email: huntley2@charter.net
Dan's cell: 509.301.2839

*Celebrating March
Birthdays and Anniversaries*

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

- 15 *Daniel & Cheri Rockwell*
- 19 *Allen & Christine Alexander*
- 21 *Steve & Kathy Nelson*
- 22 *Rick & Neosha Guse*
- 25 *Rob & Joellie Voeks*
- 27 *Joshua & Brianna Branscum*
- 28 *Scott & Marcia Napier*
- 31 *Lonnie & Jody Cox*



Women's Ministry

All Ladies of Blue Mt. Community Church are invited to meet us at

The Well

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



"Spring Cleanup for Your Heart and Soul"

Monday evening, March 22

6:30 - 8:00

and then stay Beyond the Well
from 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

What's Happening at . . .



For the month of March, the Ark is looking outward to help kids in need. We will be collecting money all month to send to kids in Haiti. We will start with \$200 seed money and then match whatever the kids raise. All the money raised will go to Compassion International.

The last week of March is Spring Break for the school age kids. It is also Holy Week. We will have fun dress up days such as cowboy day, backwards day, pajama day, etc. We will also have Chapel each day this week, which is a time when all the classes gather in the sanctuary for a devotional, as well as a time of worship. This is a great time to introduce Jesus to many of the children here.

Holy Week Remembrances

Ideas from celebrationsandtraditions.com

The last week in the life of Jesus is often referred to as Holy Week. Have you ever spent time each night during the week before Easter focusing on the teachings and actions of Jesus during this time? Here are ideas for each day:

Palm Sunday ~ Praise

This is the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a young donkey colt. The people lined the way, waving palm branches and crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Read the story in Mark 11:1-11.

Monday ~ Prayer

Read the story of The Cleansing of the Temple in John 2:13-16. Jesus wanted God's house to be a house of prayer, not a house of chaos. What behaviors and attitudes please God when we worship Him? What is prayer? Is there anything different about praying in church? Discuss the verses in I Corinthians 3:16, 6:18 & II Corinthians 6:16. Our bodies are also temples because Christ dwells within us. How does that knowledge affect you?

Tuesday ~ Love for God

Every day that week Jesus went to teach at the temple. One of the teachers of the law there asked him, "Of all the commandments which one is the most important?" Jesus replied, "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." How can you express your love to God today?

Wednesday ~ Love for Others

Read the story in John 12:1-7 about a woman named Mary who gave the best she had. Light a fragrance candle or incense. Talk about how your lives can be a sweet fragrance and sacrifice for God. Pray, asking God to help your family to always give your best to Him.

Maundy Thursday ~ Service

John 13:34 says, "A new command I give to you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." This day commemorates the night of the Last Supper which Jesus shared with his disciples and when he washed their feet.

Good Friday ~ The Cross

Good Friday is the day when Jesus' death is commemorated. For Christians, good has come from his sacrifice. It is usually a very solemn day. You might want to close all of your shades & curtains on Good Friday to darken your house between noon & 3:00. Read a story or watch a movie about the life of Christ.

Holy Saturday ~ Light in the Darkness

Have a candlelight devotional time with your family or guests in the evening. You can go to our website page CelebrationsandTraditions.com/holidays for a Light in the Darkness responsive reading.



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Pastor Jerry

fearful to speak from our faith when our convictions are unpopular; but the person blessed of God speaks what is in his heart and refuses to run away.

The second characteristic can be seen in Caleb when he boldly said: *I wholly followed the Lord my God* (Joshua 14:8). Caleb was unaffected by what others said or did because he had made up his mind he would follow the Lord no matter what.

Caleb revealed the third reason for his courage when he spoke of the Lord as *my God* (14:8). Like Caleb, each of us has the privilege of a personal relationship with the Lord. Do you have a personal relationship with God?

The fourth characteristic which made Caleb victorious is that his faith was in the Lord and the power of His Word: *If the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said* (Joshua 14:12). The person who has his heart fixed on the Lord and is trusting in His Word is not afraid to speak out and will not run away.

Yes, we will face giants in our lifetime. In fact, you may be looking at giants at this time in your life. Caleb would encourage you not to give into your fears; but to speak your faith. Stand your ground and refuse to run away.

Be a Caleb this day, this week and throughout the challenging season BMCC finds herself in.

Pastor Jerry, 623-243-0128

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 Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.



A Vacation Bible School Like No Other

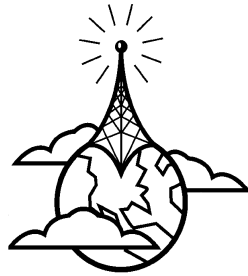
Save the date: June 14-18th from 9:00 am - 12:15 pm for an exciting Sports Camp at Blue Mountain Community Church. This will be a sports VBS with basketball, soccer, and cheerleading. It will be for ages 6-12 years. There will be a small charge for camp with scholarships available.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the camp and the outreach in the evening to the community at Washington Park from 5:00 - 8:15 pm. We will also need volunteers to house the team coming in to put on the camp. To volunteer, contact Joyce Paine at 525-0772.



by Vic Phillips

God's law vs. man's law



I recently received a pamphlet from Voice of the Martyrs titled, "Is Secret Christian Work 'Illegal'?" The question referred to distributing Bibles and Christian literature in countries that disallow their distribution. "In many countries around the world today, it is against the law to print, sell, import or distribute the Holy Bible or other Christian literature. What should Christians do?" VOM

In answering these questions they cite incidents in the Bible where those involved broke the law of the land. They surmise what would have happened if the lawbreakers had obeyed the law. Moses would have been killed by Pharaoh's police. (Exodus 2) Jezebel would have killed 100 prophets hiding in caves. Baby Jesus would have been killed by Herod's army. Early Christians would have been killed for not worshipping Caesar.

Some make the point that Jesus taught us to respect those in government and obey the laws of the land. They point to Jesus saying, "Give to Caesar what belongs to him, ..." (Matthew 22:21 NIV) or "If a soldier demands you carry his gear a mile, carry it two miles." (Matthew 5:41 NIV). Some Christian scholars say it is wrong to proselytize or distribute Christian literature in countries that outlaw such activity. I remember warnings about that in Turkey where it not against the law to be a Christian but is unlawful to try to convert someone to another religion.

But what do you do when God's law butts up against man's law?

The answer is succinctly phrased in Peter's answer to the high priest when preaching in the temple after being released from prison by an angel, "We must obey God rather than human authority." (Acts 5:29 NIV)

Hence, many people risk their lives to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and distribute Bibles and other Christian literature in countries that forbid it. Many of them pay the price as Paul did. But there are marvelous results due to their efforts. In Islam controlled countries thousands are turning to Christ and underground churches are springing up like flowers after a spring rain. The same is true in communist China.

One rule given to me for my book, Basic Rules, is "Great love and great achievements involve great risk." In the United States there is little risk, so far. We still have the freedom to preach and distribute Bibles and Christian literature. There are some who are trying to inhibit such activity but nothing like the suppression in many other countries. We need to pray for organizations like The Voice of the Martyrs, Church of God missionaries and the thousands of pastors and Christian workers who risk their lives every day to spread the good news about salvation offered by Jesus Christ.

If you want to know specific people who are now in prison for spreading the gospel go to <http://www.prisoneralert.com>. This site also provides a way you can send letters to these prisoners. The letters offer encouragement and sometimes they help in earlier releases.

You can also go to <http://www.chog.org> for information on Church of God missionaries. Click on "Missions."

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Weekly Events

Sunday

Middle School Youth 7:00 PM

Prayer Time 4:00 PM

Bible Study 5:00 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

Monthly Events

- 4 SAMS* 10:00 AM
- 8 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 9 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM
- 11 MOPS * 9:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM
- 14 Daylight Savings Time Begins**
- 15 CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 16 Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 SAMS* 10:00 AM
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM
- 22 The WELL 6:30 PM
- 25 MOPS * 9:00 AM

**SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries*

MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers