

Eagle Summit Ministry

CHALLENGING & ENCOURAGING

small and rural churches
and their pastors.

FRESH ideas

prayer PARTNERING

Family get-aways

preaching, teaching & training



Our 22nd Year

Volume 22 Number 2

STRIVING TO SERVE GOD'S SERVANTS

MARCH/APRIL 2018

The Utility Company Wrote a Customer a Check for How Much?

You Decide If God Had a Part in This.

I just had to share this with you. When the Pastor of a church we serve phoned me to explain what had happened, I found the facts he relayed hard to believe. After the call, I asked myself, "Did that phone conversation really happen or did I imagine it?"

We have served with this ministry as an advisor, preached on Sundays occasionally and shared the Gospel at outreach events. Their ministry is to a very challenging and needy neighborhood. The leadership team has been faithful stewards of the limited resources God has provided. At times, they have struggled to meet basic needs, even to the point where the Pastor has not received his salary for months at a time.

The older commercial building they purchased over twelve years ago is shared with a separate non-profit ministry that can house nearly fifty homeless men. There has been ongoing confusion over the billing for utilities. Church leaders contacted the utility company and the homeless shelter repeatedly over obvious billing errors. The shelter used many times more daily utilities than the few hours a week of church use, yet the church was being billed many times more than the shelter.



Upon initial contact with the utility company, the church leaders were told that the church needed to resolve the problem with the shelter. The challenge was that when a utility bill is received, the normal response is to pay it or face the consequences, not be to go to your neighbor and debate a billing error with them. Workers came out, checked the meters and concluded that there was confusion over who should be responsible for what meter, but there was still no resolution.

After sending a letter to the utility company, a representative contacted the pastor. The church leaders were informed that they would have to litigate this matter with the adjacent business. The pastor let the utility representative know that taking a brother to court was not an option. That seemed to be the final chapter of this story. The church would bear the cost of the error.

In a recent upgrade to the streets in the area, the utility company was able to properly separate meters and bill correctly. It was learned that there was an obvious mistake in billing. Upon further contact, the utility representative said that there was little that could be done, but that he would check into the matter further. The most the company could do would be to check back six years in their records. A figure was mentioned that would equal estimated excess payments, but there was no conclusion.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Once again, this appeared to be a dead end. Amazingly, the very next day, the utility representative phoned the pastor and said the company had written a check to the church and would be mailed as requested. It was assumed that the company had surprisingly written a check to the church for \$4,000. That would certainly be an unexpected blessing. Three days later, the check was received. It was not for \$4,000, but \$44,000! Yes, \$44,000! What an encouragement. When the check was deposited, even the bank staff commented, "This never happens."

DO YOU THINK GOD WAS INVOLVED?

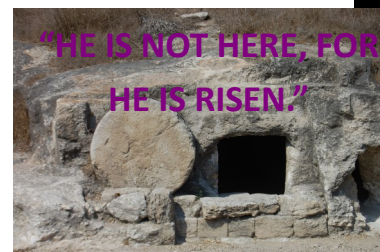
April Fools Day, April 1, 2018 Is Easter Sunday,
But the Resurrection of Jesus is NO Joke.

If the resurrection of Jesus is a lie, you are to be pitied above all.

The centerpiece of our Christian belief is the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul said it succinctly in 1 Corinthians 15:14-19 "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied."

It is this truth that we celebrate each Sunday. It is this truth that we are to declare to a lost and dying world. It is this truth that is the foundation of our faith and practice. It is this truth upon which our hope (confident expectation) of eternal life is based. If the fact of the resurrection of Jesus is invalid, then we have no hope of victory over sin or life after this life. If the resurrection of Jesus is a lie, the human race is doomed to non-existence at the moment of death.

The evidence is well beyond a reasonable doubt, recorded by those who saw and spoke with the risen Christ. Each person must wrestle with the facts and be convinced of the truth of God's Word. Do not play the part of a fool and reject God's truth. Here are just three questions to consider: 1. How does one account for the empty tomb, there was no body? 2. Were the eye witness accounts simply lies? 3. Were the testimonies of the half-brothers of Jesus, James and Jude, lies when each referred to Jesus as "Lord Jesus Christ?" **YOU MUST DECIDE.**



PRAISE & PRAYER

- ✓ One more round of recent antibiotics, but Diane has been antibiotic free for another few weeks. She has no current symptoms of a lung infection. Her asthma, general pain and fatigue continue to be constant challenges. Thank you so much for your continued prayer and notes of encouragement,
- ✓ Continue to pray for Pastor Ralph Speer and his wife, serving at Elk Community Church, as they face the challenge of further complications following heart surgery.
- ✓ Continue to pray for our son, George II, with ongoing health challenges.
- ✓ Pray with us for new churches to consider partnering with ESM.
- ✓ Pray for ongoing strength and effectiveness in ministry.
- ✓ Pray with us regarding ESM financial growth and God's direction for a "Timothy" to carry on our future ministry goals.



Thoughts from Diane . . . "You're Complicated"

People do seem to have a hard time understanding me at times. At the top of that list would be my husband. He just does not understand the complicated mind that God gave to me. Now that's definitely a little exaggerated. God gave me the mind that He wanted me to have, it's just that George has a hard time understanding that when I say, "I've left something in the refrigerator for you," I actually meant to say was that it is "in the microwave." It's then that things get a little crazy. We've been working on understanding each others quirks for almost 49 years. We're not there quite yet. Maybe another fifty and we'll figure it out.



When you go to a doctor and he's left with two words to diagnose your eighteen year history it's frustrating for a patient to hear, "You're complicated," as he stands there smiling at you. It's kind of like looking over a cliff at the mile drop off in front of you without a hang glider. All your options just went poof. George and I have thrown the "You're complicated" phrase around more than a few times since then. My earthly options seem to be dwindling. My body has been through continual sickness since April 2017. I often wonder how one can be sick that long and keep functioning. I am still being treated with medication. I get sick again and I'm treated again. You really don't want to hear an infectious disease doctor say, that's the last antibiotic we have to treat that bacteria, nothing else will work Yet, I keep living. But it has taken an emotional and spiritual toll. I haven't been able to go to church this winter. I have little strength most days. Still, I have HOPE. Jesus knows when my time here is over. I rest in Him and am not ready to cash it in just yet. Besides, George has warned me that if I die, he will kill me.

Jeremiah 9:23-24 "This is what the LORD says: Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches but let him who boasts boast about this: That he understands and knows me, That I am the LORD who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, For in these I delight, declares the LORD."



To have been able to recount this night, how God has led me through so much and given to me riches that surpass anything that I've known on earth once again causes me to rejoice through the length of illness, the pain of it and the discouragement it causes to me and my family. Also, it's not just me, my son is dealing with worsening pain every day. It is not easy but Jesus is here with me, standing with my son and my family. His relationship with me is forever. That truth brings such joy. There's so much more I could say, but what God's Word says is what's most important. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was

God." Keep reading! These are the very Words of God.

I Corinthians 15:58

Standing Firm Diane, my son and my family

Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches;

24 But let him who glories glory in this, that *he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,*" says the LORD.

Our JOY & GLORY is that we know God & He is changing us to be like Him.

Our Continuing Mission Focuses On . . .

“Serving God’s Servants”



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When life seems overwhelming,
sometimes the godliest thing I can
do is to just go and take a nap.



Where We’ve Been, What We’ve Been Up to & Where We’re Headed Next . . .

January 7, 14—Elk Community Church, Elk, WA (Assisting with long-term pulpit supply)
February 19, March 19—Leadership meeting, Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA
February 4—New Creation Fellowship, Blanchard, ID
February 13—AWANA Club, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA
March 3—ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA
April 1—Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA, Easter Sunday Neighborhood Outreach
April 9—AWANA Club, Cedonia Community Church, Cedonia, WA
March 25—Country Bible Church, Dusty, WA



We Are Available for Pulpit Supply, Even on Short Notice.

**Need a speaker for a creative outreach program, AWANA or Kid’s Clubs, Sunday School,
Family Camp, Teen or Kid’s camps or other special events? Contact us. We are here to serve.**

Executive Director: Rev. George Hippe

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