

from the nest of

◆ Eagle  Summit Ministry ◆

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Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

With a challenging national election behind us and new year of opportunities ahead of us, it is encouraging to know that we don't have to face life alone. The earthquake and devastation of the past week have made the brevity of this life more real and remind us of our own mortality.

The Indian Ocean tsunami generated by the most powerful earthquake in decades is believed to have killed more than 120,000 people and made millions homeless. A wall of water 20-30 feet high traveling at hundreds of miles per hour made it impossible for most to escape death.

The epicenter of the 9.0 magnitude quake was under the Indian Ocean near the west coast of the Indonesian island of Sumatra. A violent movement of the Earth's tectonic plates displaced an enormous amount of water, sending powerful shock waves in every direction.

Waves radiating from the epicenter slammed into the coastline of 11 Indian Ocean countries, snatching people out to sea, drowning others in their homes or on beaches, and demolishing property from Africa to Thailand.

Psalms 46:1-11 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. . . The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come, behold the works of the LORD, what desolations he hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; he breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." (KJV)

I am reminded that through all the pain and suffering that life brings, the following facts are true: There is a God. God is in control. God is loving. God knows; He is aware of death and sorrow and tragedy. God is not the author of death, that's Satan's claim. God never allows anything into our lives that is not for our ultimate good and His ultimate glory. I do not pretend to understand how all these truths work into God's master plan for us, but we must trust Him based upon what He has revealed to us about His nature and character.

This is definitely an opportunity for to pray and give and go as God grants the means to accomplish what He has put in your heart to do. Be open to His leadership and obey.

Rev. George Hippe * Eagle Summit Ministry * Office: 2610 N. Pines Road * Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Office phone: (509) 928-8643 Home phone (509) 927-1305 Fax (509) 924-5667

E-ddress: ghippe@integrity.com or www.eaglesummitministry.org

"Serving those who serve others from behind a pulpit or from behind a badge"



Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools....”

There was a professor with a reputation for being tough on Christians. At the first class every semester, he asked if anyone was a Christian and proceeded to degrade them and to mock their statement of faith. One semester, he asked the question and a young man raised his hand when asked if anyone was a Christian. The professor asked, “Did God make everything, young man?” He replied, “Yes, Sir, He did!” The professor responded, “If God made everything then He made evil.” The student was silent; the professor was happy to have once again proven the Christian faith to be a myth.

Then another man raised his hand and asked, “May I ask you something, sir?” “Yes, you may,” responded the professor. The young man stood up and said, ‘Sir, is there such a thing as cold?’ “Of course, there is, what kind of question is that? Haven’t you ever been cold?” The young man replied, “Actually, sir, cold doesn’t exist. What we consider to be cold is really an absence of heat. Absolute zero is when there is absolutely no heat, but cold does not really exist. We have only created that term to describe how we feel when heat is not there.”

The young man continued, ‘Sir, is there such a thing as dark?’ Once again, the professor responded, “Of course there is.” And once again, the student replied, ‘Actually, sir, darkness does not exist. Darkness is really only the absence of light. Darkness is only a term man developed to describe what happens when there is no light present.’ Finally, the young man asked, “Sir, is there such a thing as evil?” The professor responded, “Of course. We have rapes, and murders, and violence everywhere in the world; those things are evil.” The student replied, ‘Actually, Sir, evil does not exist. Evil is simply the absence of God. Evil is a term man developed to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Like the virtues of truth or love, heat and light and evil are not “made.” Evil is simply the state where God is not present, like cold without heat or darkness without light.’

The professor was silent . . .

Taken from “Rebuilding the Ancient Ruins” Volume 1, Issue 1, edited by Morna Gilbert E-mail: morna11@comcast.net

ROMANS 1:20-22

FOR SINCE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD HIS INVISIBLE ATTRIBUTES ARE CLEARLY SEEN, BEING UNDERSTOOD BY THE THINGS THAT ARE MADE, EVEN HIS ETERNAL POWER AND GODHEAD, SO THAT THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE, BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH THEY KNEW GOD, THEY DID NOT GLO-RIFY HIM AS GOD, NOR WERE THANKFUL, BUT BECAME FUTILE IN THEIR THOUGHTS, AND THEIR

Thank you . . .

Thank you to all the faithful friends of Eagle Summit. Thanks to special gifts, we were able to pay off all of our credit card debt and begin the new year debt free. That was even with about \$300 of unexpected van repairs. We are so grateful to have the burden of this debt relieved. Our goal is to be able to pay as we go from this point on.

The challenge for the new year is to be able to meet the increase in our budget. As we are able to meet this increase, I will be able to free up more time to contact Pastors and become more involved with the Spokane Valley Sheriff’s Office. Please continue to pray and give as God directs. We are asking God for 8-12 more churches to take us on for monthly support.

IF

If you can keep your head when all about you
 Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,
 If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you
 But make allowance for their doubting too,
 If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
 Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
 Or being hated, don't give way to hating,
 And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:
 If you can dream--and not make dreams your master,
 If you can think--and not make thoughts your aim;
 If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
 And treat those two impostors just the same;
 If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
 Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
 Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
 And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:
 If you can make one heap of all your winnings
 And risk it all on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
 And lose, and start again at your beginnings
 And never breath a word about your loss;
 If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
 To serve your turn long after they are gone,
 And so hold on when there is nothing in you
 Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on!"
 If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
 Or walk with kings--nor lose the common touch,
 If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
 If all men count with you, but none too much,
 If you can fill the unforgiving minute
 With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
 Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
 And--which is more--you'll be a Man, my son!
 --Rudyard Kipling

Health Challenges

Please pray with us regarding Diane's health. She has been struggling for months with a variety of frustrating health issues. We all know that these sin-cursed shells are headed back to dust, but it would certainly be encouraging to have a period of health.

Since the removal of her thyroid in the spring, she has felt some better, but in the past two months, she has been hit with repeated sinus infections, a staff infection flare up and a viral lung infection complicated by asthma that will not go away. In addition, the medication that has helped control her migraines was changed and we believe she has been having a reaction to that. Added to that, when we went to Portland just before Christmas to help our daughter with sick children we both became the hosts of a family of dreadful bacteria who needed a place to stay over Christmas. We both came down with a stomach flu. At one point, Diane asked me if I had thrown up yet. As I came out of the bathroom I said, "Not yet." That's all it took. Her self-fulfilling prophetic question was punctuated with, yes, you guessed it . . .

I'm doing much better, but Diane also had an unusual headache that became worse and would not go away. We cut our trip short and got her back to the doctor here in Spokane. Her blood pressure, which is normally very low, was quite high; she also had double-vision from the right side. She had an MRI this past Wednesday. We just learned today that the test showed nothing abnormal. That's very good news. We are pursuing further insight and Diane is taking next week off from work.

Pray for wisdom and health.

Change Your "IF's" to "SINCE"

It is interesting to note that the Greek word we often translate "if" can also be correctly translated "since." "If" is filled with questions, uncertainties. "Since" is filled with facts, certainties. Colossians 3:1 "If / since then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God."

The next time your mind is filled with "if's," and "if onlies," make yourself focus on the "sinces," the certainties of God. Thoughts determine attitudes, attitudes determine actions.

**The Purpose
of Eagle Summit Ministry:**

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2610 N. Pines Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

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**“To serve those
who serve others
from behind a
pulpit or from
behind a
badge”**



Visit our web site at www.eaglesummitministry.org

Eagle Summit Ministry 4

To Summit Up

Jan 2—Heritage Church, Odessa, WA
Jan 16—Plummer Bible Church, Plummer, ID
Chaplaincy Training, Meetings and on call as scheduled
Assisting in area churches as needed and available

Pastors Need Prayer Too . . .

Pray for your pastor and his family to be able to have a life of their own. In praying for them in this manner, we are less likely to personally consume a Pastor's time with menial matters. A Pastor needs to have time with his family. His family must know that they are his priority. Next to his relationship with God, they must know that they are most important in his life.

The stress of feeling pressure to have a perfect family in ministry can create tension that God never intended. God's people need to respect and encourage the time a Pastor sets aside for his family and be realistic in expectations. Pray foremost that husband and wife will be devoted to one another and that nothing will block their communication with each other.

God's people need to pray also for wisdom for their Pastor and wife as they deal with the discipline needs that will arise with their children. There is no love without discipline and there is no Godly discipline without love. Pray that this balance will be understood and consistently applied. When failure occurs, pray that your Pastor will humbly make things right with God and his family. This will strengthen his pulpit ministry and make his preaching more effective.

