
from the nest of

Eagle Summit Ministry

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New Year, New Challenges, New Opportunities

2008 Have you found that the more you try to do what God wants you to do, the more the challenges of life seem to promptly hit you squarely between the eyes? Sometimes it's not one major challenge, but a series of small ones. With a series of family, ministry and personal challenges, we had a week last month in which between our home and vehicles, at least dozen things needed repair. Thankfully, none of these were major, but the accumulation was enough to make even a preacher consider cussing.



Our 1974 orange VW was running poorly. I took it in for servicing and it had to have a major tune-up. This is my main mode of transportation so the work had to be done. It also needed new tires and I learned that the size needed is very difficult to find. It may have been 10 years ago that I last purchased tires for this car. After contacting four suppliers, I located tires and had them mounted. They did not seal properly on the wheels, so I wound up with two flats. Then a headlight went out. Then there were some problems with our ESM van that needed addressed.

Our shower leaked and I could not find the replacement part needed; it had to be special ordered. We had two water leaks in different locations in the house. The ice cube maker quit working, the kitchen faucet would not retract and it was leaking, so Mrs. Hippe was not happy. Did I mention I had a third flat tire? Several light bulbs burnt out and another light fixture that I removed for repair fell apart and had to be totally replaced. The phone was not working. That one was easy, human error — I left the downstairs phone off the hook. The toilet valve malfunctioned and had to be replaced. Did I mention I had a fourth flat tire?

This all happened in three or four days. Diane even remarked, "We should write some of this stuff down." It was to the point where I thought it might be better to just not get up in the morning. Thankfully, all of this involved just things and all of it could be fixed. I was reminded to be thankful for all that we have, for our health, for a home, for family . . . Most people in the world are not as blessed as we are in America. Even repair challenges give us to opportunity to grow in grace (2 Peter 3:18).

The New Year will undoubtedly bring new challenges and opportunities for all of us. Let's look for ways to see what God is teaching us even through the little frustrations that are a part of our every day lives. Remember, Heaven is just a breath away.



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"Serving God's Servants"

Blessings & Challenges

TWO NEW CHURCHES PARTNERING WITH US

We recently received word from Lake Roosevelt Bible Church in Lake Roosevelt, WA and Community Bible Fellowship in Kettle Falls, WA that they are both beginning monthly support for Eagle Summit. Both these churches have been wonderful encouragers in the past and have made their partnership official. Thank you so much. You continue to make it possible for us to serve God's servants.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: SO YOU KNOW HOW TO PRAY WITH US . . .

We continue to pray for an additional 8-10 churches to officially partner with us to "serve God's servants."

You could act as our ambassador by contacting leaders in your church to explain the mission and purpose of Eagle Summit. We have an eight minute DVD available along with a notebook that contains information about who we are and why we exist. You could also direct leaders to our web site www.eaglesummitministry.org for further information.

REJOICE WITH US!

We are thrilled to report that through your faithful prayer and financial support, we have met our total budget for 2007, our credit card debt has been totally erased and we are beginning the New Year with a positive balance in our General Fund and Barnabas Fund. We are so grateful for your faithful encouragement. As we begin our 13th year of ministry through ESM, this has been a special blessing in light of personal and family challenges we have been facing.

CHRISTMAS WISH LIST / GOALS MET:

- ~~4 winter tires with wheels (about 6,000 miles / available from our mechanic) — \$200~~
- ~~Total debt retirement—\$1,200~~ **Special THANK YOU to Grace Church, Deer Park, WA**
- ~~DVD series — Creation/Evolution — \$60~~ **ordered**
- **Financial Freedom DVD series: \$350 (to be ordered)**
- **ESM Van savings — We will be aggressively saving as funds become available**

ESM VAN



The need to begin looking for a replacement ESM vehicle became more evident after the last maintenance visit with our mechanic. He let me know that we probably have about two years left on the engine. Even though we have "religiously" had the van serviced, there is internal corrosion involving the cooling system that cannot be stopped. He is recommending at this point that we have the system completely flushed every six months.

We could consider an engine replacement, but there are other things beginning to fail as well. Our vehicle is approaching 16 years on the road. It's time.

FUTURE STAFF ADDITION

We have a further goal of being able to add another man to our staff on a part time basis within the next two or three years. We would like to have funds in place to meet that need before we ask someone to serve with us.

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO HOLD OUR ARMS UP IN MINISTRY.

Family Challenges: Please Continue to Pray with Us.

- Shannon's Health—Our son, George II's wife, Shannon, is still battling cancer. We are not certain of treatment options at this point or the prognosis. They do not have health insurance, so the situation is complicated since they cannot afford aggressive medical care.

UPDATE: Shannon has been able to get some medical help in December. Treatments cannot continue unless other assistance becomes available.



- Diane's brother Jim's health

UPDATE: Jim is out of the hospital and doing better. He is still under a strict treatment regiment. Things appear to be in place for him to be able to keep his house.

- George II—Is still in need of employment.
- Grandchildren (George II's children) challenges—pray for wisdom, right choices and discernment for all adults involved in decisions that need to be made to meet current challenges. There are considerable financial needs involved with this situation as well.



Thoughts from Diane . . . JUDGMENT

Just looking at the word "judgment" makes me think of other words like harsh, jury, conviction and criminal sentencing. There are two sides of a coin. Judgment and discernment are distinct. Godly discernment is something we learn to practice by gaining insight into God's Word. There have been times in the past when I didn't practice godly discernment or judgment.

During the years we had our "Great Grandma Etta" living with us we would take her shopping. Etta sure loved to shop! George, Etta and I were looking for a handicapped spot to park at the old Montgomery Ward store. We saw a handicapped spot right in front of the door and pulled in thinking we were very blessed to get such a good parking place. I glanced out of the car to my right and saw a rather lovely, young woman pull into the slot next to us. Well, guess what came out of my mouth? If you're thinking I didn't take the time to run the comment past my brain your right. It came out something like this. "Well, THAT lady looks like she really needs to park there!" She then opened the door, stepped out and turned around to pick up her crutches. This woman's leg was missing all the way up to her thigh. Do I really have to tell you how I was instantly and horribly ashamed? The surface of the dirt was higher than the way I felt. I've never forgotten the lesson, but that's not to say I've never repeated the bad behavior and had to confess my sinful actions to God.



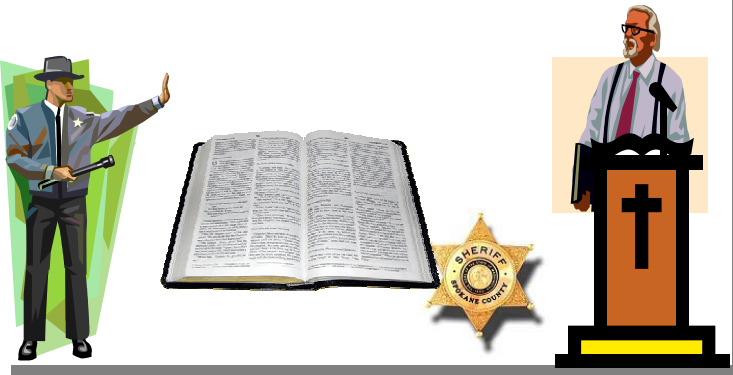
Be careful what you say about others and what your motives are for saying it. Do we really know what's underneath the surface of anyone's life? Has that Mom or Dad really been more of a failure in their day to day lives with their children than we have with our children? What about the pastor's salary? Was their salary budgeted too high? Could those funds have been put to better use? Does your neighbor really need two dogs, isn't one enough? How about that woman in church who just had her sixth child? They can't afford the ones they have now, can they? The list goes on and on. Our judgmental attitude toward others includes everyone, a brother or sister in Christ or the unsaved person we meet. Are we God's final authority on every situation and every person's life? James 4:12 has been a wake up call for me. "There is only one Lawgiver and judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?" Why not pray for your own attitude and your neighbor's health and possible salvation. It's hard to be a judge when you pray for another's needs and ask God to love them through you. That's the person I'd like to be in this New Year, how about you?

- Standing Firm, Diane - 1 Corinthians 15:58

Our Continuing Mission:
“Serving God’s
Servants”

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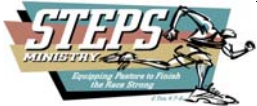
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Eagle Summit Ministry 4



SPRING PASTORS' CONFERENCE
REFRESH YOUR SOUL
April 22-24, 2008



Pastors—mark your calendar for the spring STEPS Pastors' Conference, at Foothills Community Church, Spokane, WA. Contact: STEPS Ministry c/o Jeff Schafer, Administrator, 46411 Hwy. 402, Kimberly, OR 97848 / Phone # 541.934.2691 Email: stepsministry@wvi.com

Visit the **STEPS** web site at <http://www.stepsministry.org>

“STEPS” = Scriptural Training & Equipping of Pastors of Small Churches

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

- November 11— Southridge Community Church, Spokane, WA
- November 30—Elk Community Church, Elk, WA - Leadership Meeting
- December 7, 8:00 a.m.—Mending Fences Ministry, Spokane, WA - Leadership Meeting
- December 7, 6:30 p.m.—Grace Church, Deer Park, WA
- December 23—Mending Fences Ministry / A.M. Service
- January 14—Spring semester begins Moody Bible Institute Spokane
- January 26—ESM Board Meeting
- April 18-20—Camp ALACCA, Grangeville, ID
- April 22-24—STEPS Conference, Foothills Community Church

To Summit Up

**WE ALSO WELCOME OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER, MR. DAN CHURCHWELL.
MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER.**