

## Eagle Summit Ministry

### CHALLENGING & ENCOURAGING

small and rural churches  
and their pastors.

### FRESH ideas

prayer PARTNERING

Family get-aways

preaching, teaching & training



Volume 13, Number 1

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009



## 2009 - New Year #13



As 2009 begins, we are well into our 13th year serving God's servants through Eagle Summit Ministry. This has been a year of many unusual challenges, not the least of which is record snowfall in Spokane. Our previous record for snowfall in December was 42 inches. The last time I checked, we had over 60 inches at Spokane International and in some areas in the Valley, even more. Because of the snow, our Christmas plans changed several times. School was canceled two days before Christmas break, travel was impossible. We had planned a trip the Saturday before Christmas. After further review, we decided we should cancel our trip to Gresham, Oregon to visit our daughter and family. 😊



I spent at least 25 hours during the week, repeatedly clearing our drive, paths for our dogs in the backyard, the sidewalk down the entire block, our neighborhood mailbox, several neighbor's driveways and the local S.C.O.P.E. station. I was thankful that we had purchased a new snow blower in November of 2007. We thought last winter was tough. Our poor new machine has gotten an unbelievable workout.



### SPECIAL NOTE: IF YOU HEAR THAT I AM GETTING A NEW SNOW BLOWER, WATCH OUT.

As I am typing this article, we are in Gresham, Oregon, near Portland. We watched the weather guesser's forecast and decided to make a break for it. We arrived here in a snow storm. There is a foot of snow already on the ground in the Portland area. The last eighty miles of our trip on Christmas Eve were driven at about 45 mph, at times in near whiteout conditions. Semi trucks were required to chain up through the Columbia River Gorge on Interstate 84. We expected the highway to be closed at any time. That section of the highway had been closed several times earlier in the week. The trip took us 2 ½ hours longer than normal, but we made it safely. For most of the last eighty miles, the passing lane was completely snow packed and unsafe to use. We are planning on leaving tomorrow morning, New Years' Eve, in an attempt to drive between predicted storms. If you don't hear from us until spring, you'll know what happened. 😊



Another challenge involved several health issues Diane has been struggling with for over a year. After a CAT scan, the specialist determined that she had a severely impacted infection in her sinuses that had obviously been there for a long period of time. He suggested immediate surgery. There were no day surgery rooms open for two weeks, so early in December, she was able to have the procedure. She took over a week off work to recover and went back to work still not feeling well. She has had some complications since, but the doctor assured her she will feel much better. We continue to pray to that end.

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## PRAYING & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



### Laptop Computer Undergoes Successful Repairs

Cost estimate \$250 / Actual cost \$325

After consulting the pros, it was suggested that we consider a new laptop instead of repairing our current computer. From past experience, I have learned that loading everything I need into a new computer is a six month process. Our current laptop is only about a year and a half old, so we thought it best to expedite repairs and avoid the frustration, extra expense and time investment involved in a new laptop. At the suggestion of the repair experts, we first ordered the simplest, least expensive part to see if that corrected the problem. The part was ordered and was to take 3-5 days to arrive.



After nearly 5 weeks and placing a second order, the part arrived and was installed.

It did not work. The second part was ordered, arrived within a few days and was successfully installed. Our laptop now is as good as new. What we thought would be a \$250 expenditure, cost \$325. The laptop is once again useable as designed. For that, we are most grateful.



### 2008 Budget Deficit Erased



A generous gift from one of our supporting churches allowed us to cover a large portion of our summer budget deficit. It appears that we will end the year with a \$1,000 balance on our ESM VISA card and a salary deficit. We do have over \$7,000 set aside for a newer ministry vehicle. As of the writing of this letter, we have had five days without mail service. There may still be end of the year giving on the way. We will update the 2008 giving totals.

**EXCITING UPDATE:** Since this newsletter was delayed, we can let you know that there were several unexpected gifts that arrived in the mail. We were able to meet our entire 2008 budget except for a small salary deficit. We paid off our VISA card debt.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.**



## Part Time Teaching Ministry Refocused

As a supplement to our income, I have taught and driven school bus part-time since the founding of ESM. This will be the first semester in the last eighteen years that I will not be teaching at Moody Spokane. With teaching responsibilities at Valley Christian, it is impossible to continue at Moody. I will miss the input into the lives of students preparing for vocational ministry.

I've appreciated the slower pace this fall with ESM. This is unusual compared to previous years, but has been a blessing, providing a transition with the extra temporary teaching load. Because of the fast pace of ministry, I have found my energy level low. It is amazing to see the hand of a loving God directing the unseen details of our lives. Aren't you thankful, He knows the future?



"And more snow is on the way . . ."



## MORE WINTER ADVENTURES . . .

"Is spring here yet? I buried a cat out here somewhere"



## SHALOM IN 2009

The Hebrew word “shalom” is commonly translated as simply “peace.” This certainly is correct, but in the Hebrew mindset, the word “shalom” carries a much richer meaning. The words listed to the right give a fuller understanding of this unique word.

You may wish to clip this out and put it in your Bible. May you sense the “shalom” of God in this new year.

### GOOD NEWS & BAD NEWS FOR A PASTOR

Good News: You baptized seven people today in the river.

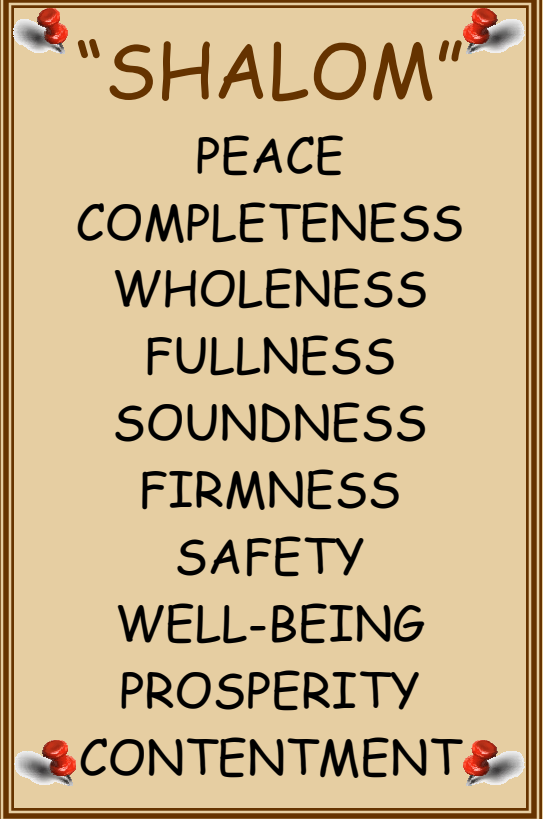
Bad News: You lost two of them in the swift current.

Good News: The Women's Guild voted to send you a get-well card.

Bad News: The vote passed 31-30.

Good News: The Elder Board accepted your job description the way you wrote it.

Bad News: They were so inspired by it, they also formed a search committee to find somebody capable of filling the position.



### Thoughts from Diane . . .

#### WITHDRAWING TO A DESOLATE PLACE

Withdrawing into the wilderness, withdrawing to lonely places and withdrawing to desolate places would not be the pursuit of most believers. This desolate place is what Jesus pursued and where He purposefully went, a place where Jesus prayed.

Jesus was acquainted with sorrow, agony and grief and in essence all human emotion.

This past December, God once again began to work in my heart over a passage in Luke 5:16. Jesus relied on His relationship with His Father and He spent much time in prayer. According to Luke 6:12, Jesus spent an entire night in prayer. We all experience varying degrees of emotion throughout our lifetime. Pain doesn't come at our appointed time. Pain is no respecter of our physical condition. Pain doesn't care if it batters us over and over to a point where we're forced into desolation. I know; I've been there. Many of you've been there as well. Prayer, immersed in an understanding of God's Word, is the place to find God's strength.

I was 25 years old and pregnant with my youngest son Benjamin. My other two children were still young. We were experiencing gut wrenching trials in the church where my husband ministered as a pastor. It was terrible to have to leave the church where we knew God had called us. All our dear friends were there. I had to leave behind my 24 year old girlfriend Linda, who was dying of cancer. I had to leave the state where I was born. I had to leave my whole family. We had no direction, no plan and no place to go. There seemed to be no help. Then God led us into the wilderness, to a lonely and desolate place where we prayed for His direction.

Life is beautiful and wondrous. Yet there are times when we grieve over things that come into our lives that are completely out of our control. There are other times when we are the cause of the pain that comes as the result of those moments we act in ways contrary to God's Word. However much pain, however many times you must confess your own sin, withdraw into that same wilderness and take your loneliness and desolate heart to the Creator who will mend all the brokenness of your heart.

There was a good ending to our desolation. It's a wonderful story, too long to pen. I can tell you this much. We met and worked with one of the most wonderful pastors that we've had the privilege to know. That's still not the ending to the best of life's adventures. We are and will continue to be son's (and daughters) of the most High GOD. The rest of eternity with our Savior awaits us!

I must end with this verse once again: I Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord our labor is not in vain."

**Standing firm! Diane**



Our Continuing Mission:  
**“Serving God’s  
 Servants”**

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Eagle Summit Ministry 4



**SPRING PASTORS' CONFERENCE**  
**April 21-23, 2009**  
**REFRESH YOUR SOUL**



Pastors, mark your calendar for the spring STEPS Conference,  
 at Foothills Community Church, Spokane, WA.  
 Contact: Phone # 541.934.2691 Email: [stepsministry@wvi.com](mailto:stepsministry@wvi.com)  
 Or contact us at EAGLE SUMMIT and we will forward details to you  
 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 . . .**

January—Organizing pulpit supply at Elk Community Church  
 January 10, Board Meeting / 9:00 a.m.  
 Preliminary summer plans in progress

This is a rebuilding time for our ministry. Many of the churches we have served  
 over the past 10 years have new pastors. We are building new  
 relationships and reacquainting ourselves with church leaders.

We are available for pulpit supply even on short notice.

**TO SUMMIT UP**

**We continue to pray for 10 more churches  
 to PARTNER with us to  
 “Serve God’s Servants.”  
 Would your church consider  
 PARTNERING with us?**