

Eagle Summit Ministry

CHALLENGING & ENCOURAGING

small and rural churches
and their pastors.

FRESH ideas

prayer PARTNERING

Family get-aways

preaching, teaching & training



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Are We Worshipping Worship?



In our ME-centered culture, it has become increasingly difficult to keep Christ as the focus of our life's purpose. This challenge can be seen even in our churches. In our ministry, I have been in well over 100 churches. I have made a conscious effort to observe people and settings. The term "worship" has, for most Christians, become synonymous with "singing." We have "worship pastors" who direct "worship teams" who sing "worship songs" in a "worship center," all of which may have little if anything to do with true "worship."

In discussing the possibility of two churches getting together for a combined service, one Pastor said to me, "They have a different worship style than us." I asked, "Do you mean different music?" He replied, "Well, yes," as if to say what else could I have meant? By our titles and terms and lack of doctrinal training, I am increasingly concerned that we have taken Christ and our Creator out of the center of our worship. I am concerned that we have lost the true meaning of "worship." It appears that in many "worship" settings, we have replaced God with our own feelings. It appears that emotion has replaced true "worship." Have we made the staging of a mood, an atmosphere or setting the centerpiece of the "worship center?" If we create just the right feeling, have we "worshipped?"



We seemed to have focused so much on corporate worship that there is little if any mention of individual worship. Worship isn't something to be done just at church. True worship involves every moment of our lives, what we do with the time God has given us to invest here on earth. I can "worship" by serving a neighbour, mowing his grass or taking out his garbage if I do this act as unto the Lord, looking for a way to encourage a be-

liever or to open a door of opportunity to speak to that person about Christ.

Two of the five Greek words used in the New Testament translated "worship" are:

- Latreuo (to "serve") to render religious service or honor; to perform sacred services, to offer gifts, to worship God in the observance of the rites instituted for His worship (Heb. 10:2; 9:9).
- Therapeuo to "do service," as in (Acts 17:25). (from New Unger's Bible Dictionary)

The English word worship comes from the Old English word "worthship," a word which denotes the worthiness of the one receiving the special honor or devotion. (Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)
The more I value something or someone, the more of my life I will invest in that thing or person.

One picture of New Testament "worship" is that of a slave bowed before his master, ready to do whatever the master asks; individual worship is service, work. Another picture is that of a dog licking his master's hand, ready to do his bidding. A synonym for "worship" is work, service.

Romans 12:1 "I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, {which is} your spiritual service of worship." NAS (continued).

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(continued from page 1) The work of the Old Testament Priests and Levites surrounding the animal sacrifice was just that, work. The caring for animals, the blood sacrifice, the clean-up, it was work, part of worship. It may not have felt much like worship, but it was.

Certainly corporate worship is important, but so is individual worship. I appreciate how one church drew attention to different forms of "worship" even in their corporate worship setting. In their written order of service, they listed Worship through singing, Worship through giving, Worship through prayer, Worship through preaching, then printed morning details under each. This at least would tend to cause folks to think about "worship" in a different manner.

May we focus on the reason for our true worship, the person of Christ. It is because of His death, burial and resurrection, witnessed by hundreds that we can worship. Let's use the time allotted us here on earth to affect worship to the only one worthy, Jesus.



PRAYING & GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



"ATTEMPT THINGS SO IMPOSSIBLE THAT UNLESS GOD IS IN THEM, THEY ARE DOOMED TO FAILURE."

- The Tabernacle Furniture Set—\$249 So far, we have had one gift toward this ongoing project.
- Pray for safety as we continue to travel this summer. Our most recent trip was over 3,000 miles without incident.
- Pray for Diane's ongoing health issues. We visited an emergency center at a Minneapolis hospital on a Friday evening last week to get a diagnosis and medication for a bladder infection. She also has a persistent sinus infection, even after her recent surgery, that we need to get treated. These are the most pressing health concerns at the moment.
- Pray for Diane's Mom, Doris (90 years old, health)
- Pray for faithful givers to continue partnering with ESM over the summer.
- Pray that we will be effective in sharing the Gospel and in challenging and encouraging believers
- Pray for wisdom as we continue to wait for God's clear direction for a newer ministry vehicle.
- Pray for increased giving to our Barnabas Fund to assist those in ministry with needs.
- Pray for funds for new DVD teaching series to share with churches.
- Pray for clear direction for a fall teaching opportunity. I will not be teaching at Valley Christian. With some schedule changes and combining teaching duties, there were positions eliminated. I would like to teach a class or two at Moody this fall if the opportunity opens.

READY RESOURCES . . .



Do you have questions about the "emergent church?"

Visit: <http://ericbarger.com>

Our friend in ministry, Eric Barger, may have just the information you need to keep you updated and informed of what is happening in our culture and in the church.

Do you have question regarding Islam, Hinduism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormonism, Catholicism, evolution . . . ?

Visit: <http://www.roncarlson.com>

Ron Carlson has a great DVD series available. I highly recommend this to anyone desiring to become more informed and more affective in witnessing. This would make a great series for a Teen or Adult Sunday School class or for your Home Groups.

If you can schedule either of these men to speak at your church, you would be challenged and blessed.





Apologetics Camp @ ALACCA

You May be able to see the giant shoes I'm wearing in the photo. I wore these shoes to emphasize to the teen campers the need to focus on the basics. One may believe there is a God and that is important, since what we believe affects everything we do. The next step is to be able to defend that belief. What evidence can you site as to why you believe there is a God? It is interesting how few Christians can give any defense or evidence of this most basic of biblical beliefs. Peter challenges us to be prepared to defend what we say we believe. A trite "because the Bible says so" will seldom if ever, win the ear of a listener. Learning to ask discerning questions and in a sense, put a rock in someone's shoe will allow the Holy Spirit an opportunity to prod someone with questions they may not be able to answer without considering God.

I was one of four speakers who challenged the teens to learn how to defend their faith.

1 Peter 3:15 ". . . always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;" (NKJ)

In the picture to the right, I am with the new Camp ALACCA director, Mark Kennedy, doing one of the things I do best, testing the food to make sure it's okay for the campers. I am highly qualified and have spent thousands of hours in perfecting this skill. Arnold forces me every once in awhile to hold up my sign, "WILL PREACH FOR FOOD." He then adds, "It looks like you've been preaching a lot." HA! HA!



Thoughts from Diane . . . STEADFAST

Winter never used to bother me. I love the cold, snow, ice and the changes in temperature. In most ways I still love that time of year. However, when Spring came this year I enjoyed every bud that came to life. Perhaps getting older does have an effect on one's outlook toward life. Someone could have tried to explain that to me twenty years ago and I probably would have listened politely gone on my way, not fully understanding.

In many ways, entering the winter of my life, becoming older has been hard to endure. I'm not speaking of the physical , although we all know that comes with it's challenges as well. When I see myself at this age I realize that I have fewer years left then what I've lived. I don't dwell on that because I'm secure in God's salvation and an eternity with Him. However, thoughts enter my mind that there are those whom I love that don't have that security. My thoughts get stuck in winter when I think about what they face without the grace of God. As long as I have breath I will continue to pray, not only for those who are closest to me but for all of those to whom God has yet to lead me.

I was fourteen and in the spring of my life, when I finally realized what sin was. A youth pastor showed me through God's word that the guilt I lived with had a name and its name was sin. He helped me understand that my sin separated me from God. He showed me a simple verse from the book of Romans chapter 3 verse 23 and it was if a light went on after many years of searching. Then he told me that Jesus died on the cross for my sin. It was at that moment I realized who Jesus was, and that's what He did for me! Roman's 6:23 says that the wages or payment for my sin was death (eternity without God in a real place called Hell), but "the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." When I asked God to forgive me of my sin and believed who He was and why He died I was changed! That burden of guilt was gone and the fear of death was gone with it.

I asked God to tell me what He would have me to write in this newsletter. It's probably been one of the hardest that I've ever written. Perhaps this will be your last time to hear the Good News. We never really know when we're in the winter of our life. I implore you as I pray, to consider this, the most important thing you will ever decide and not to put off that decision. God is waiting for you to come to Him. He waited for me.

Then, after you've accepted His grace, you don't have to worry about what the winter of your life will bring. No matter what you face, you can claim this promise of God, "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

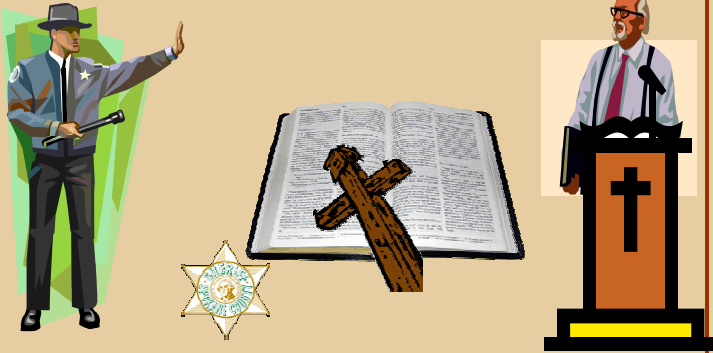
I Corinthians 15:58 Standing firm! Diane



Our Continuing Mission:
“Serving God’s
Servants”

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**We have STOPPED praying for 10 more churches to PARTNER with us
in “Serving God’s Servants.”**

What’s the point? It will never happen anyway.

The above statement is of course **NOT TRUE**. I just wrote this to see how many actually read through our newsletter and if anyone would notice. Would you consider praying with us that we could see this prayer answered, even in these uncertain economic times?

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

June 5-6—Pastor Cory Andersen / Libby Church of God, (Outreach & Training) Libby, MT

June 15-19—Camp ALACCA, Harpster, ID / Teen Apologetics Camp

June 20-July 4 / Family trip to Minnesota

July 4-8—Ross Point Bible Camp, Post Falls, ID / Junior Camp

July 8-10—Pinecroft, Newport, WA / Junior Camp

July 12 & 19—Opportunity Baptist, Spokane Valley, WA

July 12-16—Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp / 11-12 Camp

July 19-23—Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp / 9-10 Camp

July 26-August 1—Lacey Chapel, Lacey, WA / Family Outreach

August 7-9—CAMP NOWHERE with Pastor Steve Hill, Inchelium, WA

TO SUMMIT UP

We are available for pulpit supply even on short notice.