

Volume 16 Number 4

What does God want?



We make seemingly inane daily decisions that potentially affect the rest of our lives. Are we including God in our decision making process? What does God want for me, for my family, for my church? Am I pursuing the answer to that question through prayer, Bible study and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance? The passionate pursuit of the answer to questions like this

is often more important the answer itself. In seeking to know the will of God, we can learn more of the character and nature of God. As we learn more of God's character and nature, we learn more about how to model Him. God wants to guide us and speak to us so He can speak through us. I have to admit that sometimes I wonder what God is up to.

This has been our most unusual summer. For more than fifteen years, we have had speaking engagements at camps, VBS programs, church services in addition to a couple of weeks travel to Minneapolis to help Diane's Mom. As of May, we had

nothing scheduled. Since Diane's Mom passed away, we have no plans to travel to the Mid-West. There were no requests to speak at camps or VBS programs. My question was, "God, what do You want?" I am energized by assisting God's servants. I enjoy staying busy, doing what I know God wants me to do. Now it seemed as if God wanted us to do nothing. I was reminded of Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." We have remained open to the leadership of God.

We obviously had no way of knowing what God was planning. We have assisted at Elk Community Church in Elk, WA over the past decade. We have filled the pulpit on a number of occasions and helped with pastoral searches, serving in an advisory capacity. Their Pastor and our friend, Gary Ogden, has been forced to step out of the pulpit, at least for a few months, due to a serious heart ailment. We have been asked to help with preaching at least through August. We had no idea of this need as summer began. We are praying that Pastor Gary's cardiologist will have a suggestion for further corrective treatment. Meanwhile, we are eager to serve as needed. We want to do what God wants.

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V Partnering With Us In Prayer

Pray for Pastor Gary Ogden and his wife, April, serving at Elk Community Courch. Gary is suffering from a serious health challenge. The lower half of his heart is not functioning. This is complicated by the fact that he already has a mechanical valve assisting his heart. We are providing pulpit supply until God gives clear direction.

Our son, George II, was approved for disability assistance. We are most grateful. This means also that within the next five months, he is to receive different medical insurance that hopefully will cov er a CT scan needed to determine what the growth is behind his right knee.

This is the source of the debilitating pain he has been suffering.

Keep Diane on your prayer list. She is improving after a four day stay in the hospital two weeks ago for yet another bout with pneumonia. After three rounds of IV antibiotics we are praying the bugs are dead.



Pray with our board as they seek wisdom for new members and the filling of leadership positions.

Pray with us for new prayer and giving partners to strengthen our ministry effectiveness.



Arnold Shares the Gospel at Closing VBS Program

Friday, June 22, Arnold and I traveled 2 hours to Fernwood Community Bible Church in Fernwood, ID. VBS was held in a large tent. Plans included having dinner and the closing evening program in the tent as well. Thunderstorms were predicted, but good weather held. Over 120 adults and kids attended and heard the Genesis account of sin and its solution. The crowd was too large for the church auditorium - God stayed the storm.

YOU STILL

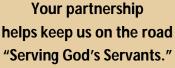
HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO HELP PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY AS GOD REMINDS YOU,

You ARE Making a Difference



DECEMBER 2012 \$26,500 GIVEN TO DATE \$22,400











Thoughts from Diane . . . His Purpose

Work held new meaning this year. I've had emotional and physical highs and lows, but I've always been able to bounce back from the lows. Within a nine month period I had pneumonia three times and battled bronchitis once. After the first bout of sickness I regained my strength and carried on. One thing my husband and I battled over was the cough that seemed to plague me. I would tell him, "It's just asthma," and he would reply, "that's not asthma."

My goal was simply to stay well. I guess I must have thought that if I kept saying something was so, then it would be. Then again, perhaps I'd let Norman Vincent Peale's philosophy of "The Power of Positive Thinking" take up more room in my mind then I'd thought. No matter what I did, I just didn't feel well most of the time. Spring came and another diagnosis of pneumonia. I couldn't believe it! I followed every order the doctors gave me. Yes, I did say doctors. I've acquired a new one for each major organ (or so it seems). I recovered again, my husband and I continued our discussion on coughs and I ended up two weeks later with bronchitis. My body rebelled again and half way through May, I ended up in emergency again, this time accompanied by an overnight stay in the hospital, that stretched into several days. I didn't finish out the school year working. I still haven't felt much energy return. Discouragement doesn't begin to express the way I feel. My plan is to get well and stay that way. God's plan may be different, I have no way of knowing what plan will prevail and that makes life frustrating at times.

I've documented what has happened to me this year, not for sympathy but for others to know that, although the circumstances of each of our lives may be different, we all have times of discouragement throughout our lives. It will come in many different forms. It could be illness, family challenges, loss of jobs, possessions or a dear friend or family member. The list of discouragements can be extensive, last a short time or play itself out over a lifetime. We all bear our discouragements and react to them in different ways. Yet, for the person whose life is dedicated to following Jesus Christ and knowing Him more each day there is a truth that is clear. Psalm 138:8 "The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of our hands." No matter the discouragement or duration of that discouragement, His Word is clear. "The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me . . ." I may sit here fighting my feelings right now, but feelings come and go, discouragements happen. My plans sometimes are changed by God's Sovereign purpose and I may not understand, BUT God is going to do what He has promised! Hang on to God's Word and live in the truth of His promise and His purpose! I Corinthians 15:58 Standing Firm, Diane



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Desk Size: 74"L x 35"W x 28"H / Credenza Size: 74"l x 21 1/2"W x 28"H \$300 OBO



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Where We've Been, What We've Been Up to

& Where We're Headed Next ... To superior Up to Bible Church Spokane Valley, WA April 28—ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church Spokane Valley, WA June 17—Leadership Meeting, Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA June 22—Closing VBS Program, Fernwood Community Bible Church, Fernwood, ID June 28—Closing VBS Program, Pasedena Park Church of the Nazarene, Spokane Valley, WA June, July, August / Sundays—Elk Community Church, Elk, WA—Pulpit Supply July 13—ESM Board Meeting

Contact us if we can be of assistance.

Prayerfully Plan to exercise your right and responsibility to VOTE this Novem

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

Does your church need a speaker for special outreach, AWANA and Kid's Clubs, Sunday School, teen or kid's camps, family camp or other special event? Contact us by phone or e-mail. We are here to serve.