
from the nest of

◆ Eagle Summit Ministry ◆

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“Blessed are they that mourn.”



Happy are those who sorrow? That seems contradictory. In context, Jesus states that those who express true sorrow over their sinfulness open the door to understand true happiness. Mourning over our sinfulness is spiritually healthy.

In a recent workshop that focused on the area of grief, I was reminded of the clear distinction between grief and mourning. The deepest grief for most of us is the death of a loved one. That separation is at times nearly unbearable. In fact, it's difficult for me understand how those who have no relationship with God survive such trauma to the soul. Our culture allows for a few days of grief, but finds that mourning is tolerated little if at all. Grief is internal. Mourning is an external expression of internal agony. Mourning is difficult for most in our culture to tolerate especially when associated with death because mourning reminds us of our humanness and the fact that our lives are but a passing vapor. We too must cross the river known as death.

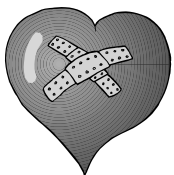
If we learn to grieve and mourn well, we can live and love well. If we love deeply, we will mourn deeply. We can better learn to appreciate all that God gives us with every beat of our heart and every breath we take. Our culture tends to do its best to keep us focused on the tangible, the here and now. We are to think little if at all of our demise and the eternity that lies ahead for each of us. God gave us our world and life itself to enjoy, but we can only really live when we are prepared to die.

Psalm 119:50 “This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life.” (NKJ)

Grief is the result of loss. Loss comes in many varieties . . . The loss of a job, the loss of health, a house, a dream. What saddens a man's heart and brings grief to his soul, reflects his value system; tears reflect value. Loss and separation lead to grief. Grief must be expressed. Jesus Himself wept. His tears were over the unbelief of the people of Israel, but I believe also over the death of His friend Lazarus. Jesus was “a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief.” Jesus knows what it means to feel the pain of separation. Some of his last words from the cross ring out two thousand years later, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken me?” His separation had a purpose, to provide us with eternal life.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

Our grief and mourning are not to be wasted either. It is only in knowing pain that we can sense God's comfort, so that we in turn can learn to comfort others. Is God using you to do just that?



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

Visit our web site: www.eaglesummitministry.org

Would You Consider Joining Our Prayer & Financial Support Team?

We are able to serve those God has called us to serve only because of the faithful encouragement from friends of our ministry. The prayer and financial support of those who understand and appreciate the unique focus of our ministry are crucial to our service. The churches we assist are small and most very limited in their ability to help us financially. Our heart is to ask nothing from those we serve and if they can give, their gift helps us help others. We also desire to reach the next level of service by being able to devote more time to assist pastors, churches and the Spokane Valley Sheriff's Office staff. This requires freeing up more time. If God provides more financially through His people, we can devote more time to ministry and not have our time consumed with other employment. At this time, our personal support is \$2,000 monthly. At times, giving is not enough to meet this goal. Expenses always come first. That's why we must seek other employment. This obviously divides time and energy. We want to be able to be more effective in meeting the needs of Pastors and law enforcement personnel.

We are so very appreciative of each one who gives and prays. Your PRAYER is our life's blood. We ask you to remember us in prayer. Here are two prayer reminders.

- If you happen to see an eagle in the wild, a picture of an eagle or the next time you eat out and order an eagle sandwich (that's a joke) consider that as God's reminder for you to pray for us.
- We are asking all who read this to remember to pray for us for five minutes at 5:00 each Sunday evening. Daily prayer is great, but at least 5 at 5.



Your financial gift is oxygen to our soul. It is only through the faithful financial support of those God has impressed to give that we are able to fulfill God's call in our lives. No gift is too small. Giving ranges from \$5 a month to those who are able to give \$100 monthly. Our monthly support averages about \$1,200 from individual donors. Each gift is an encouragement and helps us know that we are on track with our call to serve. Giving is one of the tangible ways by which we are able to discern God's will in our service. Each gift is an assurance that we are on target. If no one is impressed to give, that's a good indicator that we're off target. If every family that received our newsletter gave only \$10 a month, we would have nearly twice as much income as needed to meet budget.

We know that you are undoubtedly inundated with requests for donations. We are also aware that not all are able to give or are even impressed to pray for our work. But, if God has impressed upon your heart to pray and give to our ministry, please let us know and use the envelope enclosed. Your encouragement helps us encourage others.

"THANK YOU" to all who are currently part of our giving team.

Expansion of Chaplain Ministry Continuing



We are continuing to encourage Churches, business and individuals to consider assisting our ministry financially in order to volunteer more time to work with the Spokane County Chaplaincy especially at the new Valley Precinct. We would appreciate your prayer as we seek partners in ministry to assist

Despite how you may have personally felt about the issue, there was a good logical reason for removing the Ten Commandments monument from the Alabama Supreme Court building.

You cannot post things like "Thou Shalt Not Steal," "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery", and "Thou Shall Not Lie" in a building full of lawyers, judges and politicians. It creates a hostile work environment.





Highly Recommended Reading

The Problem of Life with God: Living with a Perfect God in an Imperfect World, by Tommy Nelson (Broadman & Holman Pub.)

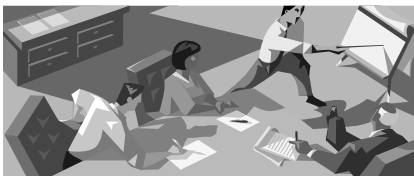
Does the Bible have answers for life's toughest questions?

- Where is God when bad things happen?
- How can I keep from becoming bitter toward God?
- How do I deal with the uncertainty of life?
- What do I do when I'm not sure of God's will?
- When bad things happen, is it because I don't have enough faith?

This is a practical, in-depth look at the book of Ecclesiastes. The pursuit of knowledge, pleasure and wealth have consumed men from the beginning of time. In the wake of these pursuits are shipwrecked lives, destroyed by disappointment, meaninglessness, despair and disillusionment.

God's Word has the unchanging principles that can direct us through the most difficult storms on the sea of life. Be prepared to see yourself and God from a perspective you have probably never viewed before.

Board Meeting Decisions



In our April 25, 2004 board meeting, we discussed the possibility of hosting a special Pastors' and wives' appreciation event in October of 2005. We may partner with other Christian organizations in developing this. If you have a heart to help us coordinate this, please contact our office.

Laughter is Good Medicine

KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old, Reese: "Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen."

A little boy was overheard praying: "Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am."

A Sunday school class was studying the Ten Commandments. They were ready to discuss the last one. The teacher asked if anyone could tell her what it was. Susie raised her hand, stood tall, and quoted, "Thou shall not take the covers off the neighbor's wife."

I had been teaching my three-year old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer for several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated Each word right up to the end of the prayer:

"Lead us not into temptation," she prayed, "but deliver us some E-mail."



One particular four-year-old prayed, "And forgive us our trash baskets As we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

Six-year-old Angie and her four-year-old brother Joel were sitting together in church. Joel giggled, sang, and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not supposed to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."



The Purpose of Eagle Summit Ministry:

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



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Eagle Summit Ministry 4

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| May 2 | Grace Church, Osburn ID - Pulpit Supply & Teacher Training |
| May 8 | VBS Training Opportunity Baptist, Spokane Valley |
| May 25 | Law Enforcement Breakfast, Faith Bible Church |
| June 14-18 | VBS / Opportunity Baptist, Spokane Valley |
| June 21-24 | VBS / Cedoni Community Church or Montana Camp |
| June 28-July 1 | Possible VBS |

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| June 28 | — BABY STAFFORD DUE TO ARRIVE ON PLANET EARTH 🤖 |
| July 11 & 18 | Pulpit Supply AM/PM Opportunity Baptist, Spokane Valley |
| July 25-30 | Jr. Camp, Camp McCullough, Tacoma, WA |
| Aug 8 & 15 | Pulpit Supply AM/PM Opportunity Baptist, Spokane Valley |
| Aug 22-26 | VBS / Grace Church, Osburn, ID |

To Summit Up

Pastors Need Prayer Too . . .



“A pastor can’t have a close friend.” I overheard a pastor make this statement and immediately said to him, “ I refuse to live that way.” All too often a pastor may feel isolated and fearful of others finding out that he is human. God made us relational beings. He made us to need others and for others to need us.

“Around 50 percent of pastors who left a church at least once in the past eight years said they did so because they felt lonely, isolated, and drained by the demands of the job.” - Baptists Today (Dec 2003)

Pray that your Pastor can sense the freedom and necessity of having friends with whom he can share his heart and that these friends will be loyal and compassionate.

Between 1,400 and 1,600 spiritual leaders leave the ministry every month. - Christian Examiner (Jan/Feb 2004)

