

from the nest of

◀ Eagle Summit Ministry ▶

Volume 8, Number 6

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004



May the Joy of our Loving Heavenly Father
Fill Your Mind and Heart as You Share
This Thanksgiving and Christmas Season
with Family and Friends.



The Five Dollar Challenge From Our ESM Board

With the encouragement of our board, I am sharing with you our desire to expand our ministry.

We want to devote more time communicating with Pastors and their families. I want to continue developing resources and ministry tools.

We also want to expand our ministry through the Sheriff's Office Chaplaincy in the Spokane Valley. To accomplish this goal, I need to free up time consumed by a part-time bus driving job. We have received a modest ESM salary for the past nine years. For



the first three of those years, that was inconsistent. We have been grateful that for the past three years our salary has always been met. It's time to expand our efforts. To do this we are asking God to allow us to see an increase in our monthly ESM income by at least \$1,000. Our board has approved the 2005 budget reflecting this goal, which can only be reached through the prayers and generosity of God's people. One possibility is that if just one half of the families on our mailing list gave \$5.00 a month, our goal would be more than met. If you've ever thought about giving even \$5.00, now is the time to do just that. What a difference many doing a little can make for the kingdom.

10-20 new churches, businesses or individuals giving \$50-\$100 a month would also help us reach this goal. We do have one new supporting church, New Hope Bible. We are most grateful for their encouragement. **Would you be part of this challenge?**

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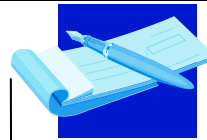
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“Serving those who serve others from behind a pulpit or from behind a badge”

A Good Word from God's Word

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given:
and the government
shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called
Wonderful, Counselor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting Father,
The Prince of Peace.
Of the increase
of his government and peace
there shall be no end . . .
Isaiah 9:6-7



Financial Update

Our summer expenses were greater than anticipated in our budgeting due to higher fuel expenses. We are working on reducing this unexpected debt from our summer ministry travels.

As gifts to our general fund increase, we will direct more funds to retire our credit card debt which totals about \$1500. This includes material needs that we accrued over the past few months as well. It would be great to start the new year with this debt entirely retired.

Barnabas Fund

Many of you are aware that this fund was set up in honor of Pastor Tom Starr who went home to be with the Lord along with his three grandsons, three years ago this past August.

The purpose of this fund is to assist those in ministry who have special needs. Your gifts of encouragement are used wisely to encourage God's servants.



Widow's Might Update

In the past two years, the Widow's Fund has distributed over \$20,000 to meet needs of ladies at one of the most difficult times in life.

This past July, one lady with seven children was widowed and God used those who have given to this fund to help meet needs at a most critical time. Thank you to all who have given. If you would like to give, simply write "Widow's Fund" on your donation.

- 3 out of 4 married women will be widowed
- Women live an average of 18 years in widowhood

To challenge and encourage you . . .

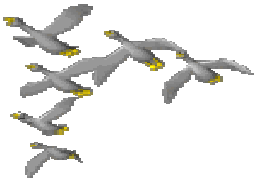
MINISTRY IS:

**Giving when you need to receive,
Keeping your word even when it hurts,
Being faithful when your flesh wants to quit,
Maintaining integrity when "no one would ever know,"
Living truth before people even when no one else cares,
Comforting the hurting when your own hurt can't be spoken,
Feeding others when your own soul is hungry, even starving,
Praying for others when you desperately need to be prayed for,
Forgiving those who will not forgive you and refusing to be bitter.**

CLIP & KEEP IN YOUR BIBLE.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:9-10

A Shelter From the Storm



A Wonderful Story to Read to Your Children or Grandchildren . . .

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays like Christmas. His wife, however, did believe, and she did have a deep relationship with God. She raised their children to have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Christmas Eve, his wife was taking their children to a Christmas Eve service in the farm community in which they lived. She asked him to come, but he refused. "That story is nonsense!" he snapped. "Why would God lower Himself to come to earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A little while later, the winds grew stronger and the light snowfall turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down for the evening to relax in front of the fire. Suddenly, he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the front window. Then there was another thump. He looked out, but the white-out conditions made it impossible to see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house, he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently, they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the storm and could not go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It is warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside. The geese just fluttered around aimlessly and did not seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them away. He went into the house and came back out with some bread, broke it up and made a trail leading to the barn. The still didn't catch on.



Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe. "Why don't they follow me?" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human.

"If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went to the barn and got one of his own geese. He circled around behind the flock of wild geese and then released the bird he had just carried from the barn. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn. One by one, the geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were all like the geese— blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us. That was the meaning of Christmas, he realized. As the winds and blowing snow died down, his soul too became quiet and he pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly, he understood what Christmas was all about, why Christ had come.

Years of doubt and disbelief vanished like the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed, "Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm."

**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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To Summit Up

October 25-29 CISM Training Conference / Spokane, WA
November 7 — Missions Sunday, Cedonia Community Church,
Nov—Dec — On call for Chaplain Duties
Available for pulpit supply and special programs as needed

If God brings you to it, He will see you through it.

Pastors Need Prayer Too . . .

While many are enjoying the holidays with their families, this can be one of the busiest times of the year for your Pastor. With holiday programming, musicals, message preparations, trying to meet the special needs of others, highlighted by the unexpected, a Pastor's family may get his left over time and energy. Pray that God will give your Pastor special physical strength during this potentially stressful season. Look for ways you can assist to free up time for your Pastor and family. If there are families who have unique needs (food, gifts, finances, health) see what you and your family can do to help meet those needs.

Pray that message preparation for this special time of the year will not grow stale, but that God will give fresh and challenging insight into the wonderful truth of the Gospel and God's love for a dying world. Jesus came to give, may we do the same to those God has called to serve us.

