

from the nest of

◀ Eagle Summit Ministry ▶

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Our Video Projector Challenge. . .

On Friday, July 30th, I was unloading some things from our Eagle Summit van and had just unhooked a trailer. I had everything packed and ready for a speaking engagement, leaving Sunday morning for a camp near Tacoma, WA. I jumped into the van to reposition it in our drive. I felt the van run over something and thought it must be a rock from the road construction taking place in front of our house. I got out and realized that I had forgotten to shut the back door to the van.



**I left the back door
of the van open.**

The “rock” I had run over was our \$3,000 video projector. I destroyed it. It was the only thing that fell out. I carried the crushed machine into the house and showed it to Diane. I asked, “What do you think the Lord is trying to teach me through this?”

I had spent at least 100 hours in preparation of PowerPoint presentations for the eleven camp sessions I was holding. The Projector was a vital tool in what I had planned. I have tried not to become too dependant on technology, but if it’s available, I will use it to capture and keep attention. I always have alternate plans in case of power failures or other unexpected events, but I was heartsick at my carelessness. Oh, by the way, it was just after 5:00 p.m. and nearly impossible to contact anyone for help. I did phone a pastor friend who I knew might be able to assist us. He was at our house within 10 minutes with a projector we could borrow. As it turned out, I wound up with three projectors I could have used.

The next challenge involved contacting the insurance company. I hadn’t thought of that, but one of the folks I called suggested I get in touch with our agent. Our insurance company told me that only \$500 would be covered through our home owners policy. It turned out that was incorrect. When I phoned the adjuster on Monday, I learned that we had a special rider on our policy that allowed us actual replacement value minus our \$250 deductible. If everything comes through as explained to us, our actual out of pocket cost will be the deductible and there has already been some given toward that.



Ouch!! That Hurts!!

Thank you to all who have so faithfully given to our ministry through the summer. You are a great encouragement to us.

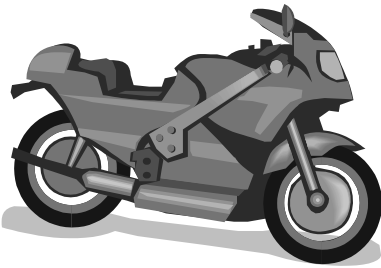
Rev. George Hippe * Eagle Summit Ministry * Office: 2610 N. Pines Road * Spokane Valley, WA 99206
Office phone: (509) 928-8643 Home phone (509) 927-1305 Fax (509) 924-5667
E-ddress: ghippe@integrity.com or www.eaglesummitministry.org

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

I just received the new projector we ordered and used it for the first time yesterday (Sunday, August 15th). It is much brighter and clearer with a bulb life of nearly 3 times that of the previous projector. Considering a new bulb costs \$400, that will be a savings in itself. I did purchase a hard case in which to transport it and will no longer load video equipment in the back of the van. Also, If you see me backing up, be sure to get out of the way!

We are very appreciative of Pastor Jerry Sponseller at Opportunity Baptist Church and Chris Martin with M& M Audio Labs for their assistance with loaner equipment and the best buy for our dollar. I am thankful that God can use even carelessness to teach valuable lessons, bring friends to our aid and draw attention to Him. Another friend suggested that I not get rid of the destroyed projector, commenting that surely I could use it as an object lesson; that's exactly what I intend to do.

With construction on our street, our drive and front yard torn up, garage door damaged, our canopy (where we stored the ESM van) destroyed by wind, a natural gas leak in our basement, our electricity off for nearly 24 hours, our daughter having surgery and our son and his children facing some ongoing challenges, we have had an interesting past couple of weeks. By the way, Dawna is doing fine, thankfully. Please keep us in your prayers. We need it.



In the Truck by Pastor John McCain Gracious Moments Ministries

Have you ever had one of those days, one of those weeks, one of those years? I have. I look out my office window only to see my motorcycle in the back of my truck. Now some of you who ride dirt bikes and such might say, "So what?" However, I ride a street bike. I ride a dependable street bike. This bike is not supposed to be in the back of my truck. My bike in the back of my truck means that my bike is broken and cannot be ridden. As I look out my window I realize what it is that I have been feeling for the past few days. I feel like my life is in the back of my truck.

I wrecked my bike the other day. Fortunately, no one, other than me, was hurt. I was going to fast into a curve and just could not seem to pull it through. I ended up on the shoulder and suddenly the bike was going down and I had no control. I walked away, went to the hospital, got stitched up, went back, and watched as some friends loaded my bike in the back of my truck for the trip home. It is not clear when it will get fixed, if ever, and back on the road again. Oh, the knee and the arm will heal in time but I wonder about my life.

Have you ever felt like your life was in the back of the truck? I think I finally realized what it is my wife has been saying the past few months. I just thought it was frustration over some events in our life, some additional stress from work, some added pressure from church, but it is more than that. She feels as though her life is in the back of the truck. It is just not working and it is not clear when it will get fixed and on the road again. She told me just tonight that it seems as though everything in the house is out of place and nothing has any kind of order to it anymore. It is as though all she does is get up, go to work, come home, and go to bed tired only to repeat it all over again day after day after day and for what? It is as though all of her hard work just goes to bills. She told me the other day she is tired of working for "bill" and she is thinking of quitting.

Another friend of mine, a mother of three children, said she spent time at home last week dreaming of what her life was supposed to be like at this stage but somehow it had missed the stage. When the last child graduated high school, my friend thought she and her husband would be "empty nesters" with lots of time to do the ministry which they so much wanted to do. Not so. Soon after graduation, my friend got word that she and her husband had been named as guardians of four children ages 9 –16. The mother has cancer and the dads are not really around. These kids moved in and my friends life went to the back of her truck.

A minister friend of mine phoned the other night to tell me how his life got in the back of his truck as well. He had bought a trailer to pull behind his little VW bug, but had brought it home behind his full size van. When he got ready to unhook the trailer in his driveway, he had to use a crow bar to get the hitch off the ball. He said he had opened the back of his van, where he kept all of his ministry stuff along with his tools, and had gotten out the crow bar. After getting the trailer free he had moved it to its parking place in the drive. He then got in his van and proceeded to back further into the driveway. As he backed up he heard a terrible crunching sound under

his back tire. He stopped, got out and found that he had run over his \$3,000 video projection unit that he needed to use at a camp the next day. Pile that on top of the death of a son in a car accident and turmoil in his grandchildren's lives and his life is in the back of his truck.

So what do you do when your life is in the back of your truck? Well that is not all that simple a question to answer. There is no easy 1-2-3 plan to get it back on the road again. Take my bike for example. I thought I would bring it home, take it to a couple shops, get some estimates, call the insurance company, and then get it fixed. No so. I called the insurance company to report the accident and they said they would have a claims person call me. I should just wait. She called later and told me that an appraiser would come and look at the bike and that I should just wait. The appraiser came, looked at the bike and said that he would contact local shops and get estimates and that I should wait. Today he called to tell me that he had talked to the bike shop and it looked like the damage was more expensive than anyone thought and in fact they might total the bike, and that I should once again wait. So here I am waiting while my bike sits in the back of my truck.

The answer seems simple at first glance—"Wait." However, that doesn't guarantee that my bike will be fixed soon, if at all. It's the same with lives in the back of the truck. We can wait but there is no guarantee that waiting alone will get anything fixed. So what do we do? How do we get our lives back on the road? The Bible, provides the answers we need in order to get our lives out of the truck and back on the road.

1 Peter 5:6 tells us to "*humble ourselves... under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.*" Peter says time will be required and so will patience. Fretting and worrying about my bike in the back of my truck will not get it fixed any faster. However, he goes beyond just waiting to humbly placing ourselves under God's control knowing that He will work it all out in due time. He does not promise a quick fix. He promises a fix as we patiently wait for His timing. We are not to try to fix things on our own without God's help nor are we to try to help God fix them. We are to allow Him to work at His own pace and when the job is finished He will present the final product.

Peter goes on to say that we are to "*Give all our worries and cares to Him because he cares for us.*" I am pretty anxious about my bike. I want to get it fixed and want to ride again, but right now all I can do is wait and worry. I worry about whether the bike will be the same. How much will it cost to fix and how will it look? I worry about how I will feel the first time I go around a corner. Will I ever not see the accident in my dreams?

We all worry about things we cannot control. It seems to be part of our fallen nature. I think it started with Adam when Eve gave him the fruit from the tree and he ate. I think he worried about what Eve would think of him and then after he ate and his eyes were opened, he worried about what God would think. God wants to care for us and meet our needs. He does not want us to worry, but I have difficult time waiting and not worrying. For example, when I go fishing I do not like to go to someplace that requires me to sit and fish. I am not good at sitting and watching the bobber. I have to be reeling or casting. I cannot just sit and wait for the fish to swim by and bite. I worry my worm to death, or so I have been told. But God says ask and it will be given. He does not say worry and it will come. He says cast and wait.

"*Be self control and alert,*" Peter continues. "*Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.*" We are to resist the temptation to develop a poor me attitude about our life being in the back of the truck. Peter is telling us in not so many words, "If you think you have it bad, don't get discouraged, look around and you will always see plenty of others who have it just as "bad" as you, or worse." In other words "it could be worse. Be thankful for what you have." When we develop the poor me attitude it comes out in the way we deal with others. That is when the devil gets his claws into the mix and soon he is devouring us. When we concentrate on the bad things in our lives the devil has an opportunity to devour our spirit and leave us lifeless and hopeless. Peter says be alert and control your self and your reactions to your situations.

Finally Peter says the most important thing of all. "*The God of grace who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*" As I sit here looking at my motorcycle in the back of my truck God tells me that he cares for me and in his time he will provide something that I do not deserve concerning my life. He says I may have to "suffer" for a while but in the end he will provide restoration, and much more.

**If you feel as though your life is in the back of your truck, go to God's Word
and let Him lead you along the path of restoration.**



**The Purpose
of Eagle Summit Ministry:**

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



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www.eaglesummitministry.org



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To Summit Up

Praise the Lord for the 13 boys and girls who accepted Christ at Camp McCullough along with several other at recent Bible Schools.

August 22-26—VBS @ Grace Church, Osburn, ID

August 27-29—Family Camp, Delkena Community Church, Pend Oreille Bible Camp

September 29—Children's Ministry (A.M. Services) His Place, Post Falls, ID

October 9-12—Missions Conference, Foothills Community Church, Spokane, WA

November 7—Missions Conference, Cedonia Community Church, Cedonia, WA

Open Sundays each month through December — Grace Church, Osburn, ID, Children's Ministry

Pastors Need Prayer Too . . .

Pray that your pastor will experience constant joy in his ministry. It is very easy to let ministry become routine and to lose the excitement of serving our Savior while dealing with the problems of life (John 16:24; 17:13). The enemy is out to steal any shred of joy that we may experience in an attempt to keep us discouraged and ineffective. Be aware of Satan's tactic and determine to uphold your pastor prayerfully in this area.



Joy is an evidence of spiritual maturity and a significant evidence of being filled with the Spirit of God. One of the first evidences of struggling in our relationship with God is the loss of joy. It is possible to maintain the peace and joy that God intends despite circumstances, and it is certainly much easier when others are aware and care (2 Corinthians 4:7-18; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-9).

Joy is not the absence of pain and problems but the presence of God.