
from the net of

Eagle Summit Ministry

SPECIAL SUMMER EDITION!
SO MUCH TO SHARE WE HAD TO ADD AN EXTRA PAGE!

Volume 11, Number 5 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007

Bible Camp Adventures

August 2, 2007 / Camp ALACCA, Harpster, ID



Last night's chapel was a first for me. While speaking to 7 & 8 year old campers, I realized about half way through my message that I had lost control of the service and it was impossible to recover. My silent flare prayers seemed to explode on the chapel ceiling. Several children just sat there constantly waving "hello" to Arnold, expecting a response. They were oblivious to anything I was saying. They were totally distracted and doing a fine job of distracting me as well. Another boy, sitting directly in my line of sight, had a pencil protruding from his nose, then as I looked back his direction, it was hanging out his right ear, then back in his nose. Several other campers, girls and boys, seemed to be "mining for gold" and in the process I'm certain some reached a frontal lobe of their brain, possibly causing damage.

Children were talking, leaders were talking, it was late, the campers were tired and restless, the topic was difficult, it was hot. . . from a speaker's perspective, this was the ultimate disaster. In nearly forty years of ministry, speaking to groups of children, teens and adults in a variety of settings, I have never felt so totally out of control. One of the thoughts brought out in the morning chapel by Aunt Jackie was that when we are weak, God is strong. I was roughly reminded of my weakness and the need to pray and depend more upon the Spirit of God to do His work. This is not MY ministry. My cleverness, my skill, my ability, my preparation are worthless unless God is working in minds and hearts. Maybe part of the problem was that I thought I was in control.



At the end of the service, the camp director encouraged campers who wanted to make a decision to come forward. One older girl came forward, but she had an unrelated question. Two boys came forward also.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

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“Serving God’s Servants”

Blessings & Challenges

I had a second meeting with Pastor Ron Schafer, Salem Heights Church, Salem, Oregon and his leadership team concerning STEPS ministry and ESM partnership. In follow-up e-mails, we are both encouraged about the possibilities of blending our ministries and work together. This appears to be a friendship designed and orchestrated by God to serve His servants. Pray with us for clear direction and the ability to focus on what's most important for eternity.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

SO YOU KNOW HOW TO PRAY WITH US . . .

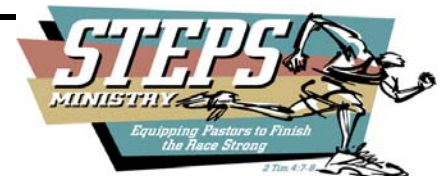
Six weeks ago, we WERE \$2,900 behind in our budget. We are thankful to you and the Lord that we have made substantial progress in closing that budget gap. Giving to ESM is generally reduced during the summer months. This past half of the month we received only \$300 in donor support. We need \$1,500-\$2,000 for that time period to maintain budget. Giving to our ministry is very much like a rollercoaster ride. We have had times of great encouragement and times of interesting challenges.

Several supporters have recently contacted me and are no longer able to give financially, but we also have had a couple of new donors and a few who have increased their monthly support. As God opens doors of opportunity, let others know about our ministry and how they can assist through prayer and financial support. As our financial base grows, I will be able to devote more time to the ministry to which God has prepared and called us.

Please continue to give as God enables and impresses you. Pray with us for God's direction through finances and for us to have the sense to understand His timing and leadership. Being totally dependent on the leadership of God is not bad. It's our humanness that often seems to be in the road, blocking what God is showing us and the route He wants us to take.

- **We continue to pray for 10-15 more churches to consider prayer & financial support**
- **Total Debt retirement—approximately \$3,000**
- **\$1,000 budget deficit (down from nearly \$3,000)**
- **Financial Freedom DVD series (to make available for churches to borrow): \$350**
- **Plans for a newer van are on hold until God provides a clearer financial picture.**

FALL PASTORS' CONFERENCE



BECOME A MORE EFFECTIVE SHEPHERD & REFERESH YOUR SOUL

October 9-11, 2007

Pastors—mark your calendar for the fall STEPS Pastors' Conference, at Foothills Community Church, Spokane, WA. Contact: STEPS Ministry c/o Jeff Schafer, Administrator, 46411 Hwy. 402, Kimberly, OR 97848 / Phone # 541.934.2691 Email: stepsministry@wvi.com

Visit the **STEPS** web site at <http://www.stepsministry.org>

"STEPS" = **S**criptural **T**raining & **E**quipping of **P**astors of **S**mall Churches





Thoughts from Diane . . . True Service

I was Fourteen years old. I finally became aware of the fact that I was a sinner and I needed Christ. I knew nothing of prayer but I went home and asked God what I should do next. I'll never forget the overwhelming peace He gave me when He directed me to my church. During the years between 14 and when I was married, my church was where God ministered to my soul.

At my church, I was positively influenced and encouraged by a godly Sunday School Teacher, Calling Pastor, Youth Minister and Pastor. There was the wonderful couple with seven children of their own who would faithfully pick me up for church. There was their foster daughter who is still my friend and if it weren't for her asking me to attend a youth activity I would not have accepted Christ that night. There were youth workers who cared about me. I had real friends, like my second mom and dad and their sons and others in my youth group who are still serving Christ today. These people, most of them not paid or rewarded in this life, will surely stand before God and receive their reward then. When I think back, if it were not for those influences in my life I would have faltered and perhaps fallen into despair. These people were faithful week after week, month after month, year after year. They didn't talk about service they did it! Heaven will be a sweet place for me, not just because of the family I love but because of those people who served.

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

- I Corinthians 15:58

Standing Firm, Diane



JOB OR MINISTRY?

A portion of this was borrowed with permission from the CEF newsletter of our friends Ray and Nancy Paulson.



Serving in the church can either be a JOB or a MINISTRY.

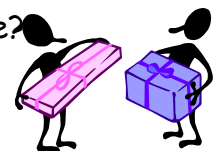
If you quit because of criticism, it was a JOB. If you stay with it even though you remain unrecognized, it is a MINISTRY. If you are doing it just because no one else will, it's a JOB. If you do it because God called you, it's a MINISTRY. If your concern is success, it's a JOB. If your motivation is faithfulness, it's a MINISTRY.

Two of the greatest tragedies of the American church are (see Romans 12):

1. Most Christians do not know their spiritual giftedness
2. If they do, they're not using their gift(s) to serve the Lord through their local church.

Do you know your spiritual gift(s)? Are you using your giftedness to serve the Lord through your local church? Are you passionately asking God to reveal to you how He wants to use you for the Kingdom, or are you merely filling a seat in your church's auditorium. Is church the place where you just come to get or where you go to give, to serve?

"Burnout" is the result of service motivated by duty, fulfilling a JOB outside one's area of spiritual giftedness.



One wanted me to give him a magic trick and show him Arnold. The other boy wanted to know how a magic trick was done. From my human observation point, this was insult added to injury .

It seemed as if not a seed of truth had fallen on fertile soil. There was appeared to be little if any understanding of what I had shared. Part of the blame landed squarely on me. The subject matter was beyond many of the campers' ability to understand. I was attempting to



blend material I had previously put together along with the camp theme of "getting to know God." What I was sharing should have been simpler. Part of the problem also was that I had not spent as much time in prayer as at other weeks of camp where I spoke. This seemed to be "the perfect storm" scenario as far as preaching is concerned. I was prepared as far as presentation, but not spiritually ready for "battle." It is easy to forget in our humanness that "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12 / NKJ) I don't want this to happen again. This was far from fun.

While all this was happening at camp, a few other things were distracting me. My wife had phoned earlier in the afternoon. When I received word of the phone call, several thoughts raced through my mind, not the least of which was that someone must've been hurt, injured or had died. We also have ongoing family issues with our four grandchildren who live in Spokane. I thought there might be a crisis involving them. Diane shared with me that a water pipe was leaking, a huge hornet's nest was in the tree in our backyard and with little children there, it had to be removed. In addition, there was an electrical problem in the kitchen. If I had been home, these would have just been projects. I was thankful that these situations involved only repairs, but it was another distraction on a growing mound. All this weighed on my mind even before the service and I knew I needed to phone home after the evening chapel for an update.

Additionally, the camp director shared with me that there were camp funds missing. He learned after some time of consternation that the bank had made a mistake involving a check that had been deposited. Earlier in the day, I had sensed something was wrong. The camp director seemed distracted and I learned later, rightfully so. Again, the "perfect storm" scenario was set."

After the evening service, I made a personal spiritual assessment. There were attitudes and thoughts I needed to confess as sin. I did just that. My prayer was that those working with the campers would do the same. Purity produces power. It is only through unblocked channels that God's Spirit can flow unimpeded. Sin, left unconfessed, blocks the power of God.

to be continued . . . (see page 5, "THE NEXT NIGHT . . .")



“ON-CALL . . .”

The nature of our ministry is to be “on-call,” to expect the unexpected. Even being well aware of this, sometimes I’m still taken by surprise. I had a rare summer week planned at home . Then suddenly, I found myself as the last minute camp speaker for the 11-12 year old week at camp Cocolalla. Sunday evening, July 15th about 7:00 p.m., I received a call from our friend Linda Nelson. I was certain she wanted to talk to my wife and I was ready to give the phone to Diane. Linda said that Robert McDowell wanted to talk to me. Robert shared with me their scheduled camp speaker had just contacted them and he was not going to be able to make it. O.K. now what, Lord? He asked if I could come to speak for them. Chapel started in about a half hour and it takes 1 ¼ hours to get to the camp. He knew it would be impossible for me to arrive in time for the Sunday evening meeting even if they sang a few extra songs. They would cover the evening meeting, but needed me to be at camp for Monday morning’s chapel. So much for a week at home. We altered a few personal plans we had made and I was on my way to Camp Cocolalla.

It was just a few weeks earlier that I had met with our board and told them I’d never had a summer with so few ministry opportunities scheduled (camps and VBS programs). I was not so much complaining as wondering what God had in store. I had plenty of things to work on and effective ways of directing my time and energy that would enhance our ministry. I was just confused as to God’s direction or redirection. With a few other last minute opportunities I suddenly found my calendar more than full. I now had to turn down opportunities since I still cannot be in two places at the same time. With this unplanned week at Cocolalla, this is the fourth week of ministry that was not planned in May. Despite all our wondering and confusion, we can trust God to know the future and to set our calendar ahead of us. The hard part for us often is to simply trust God for tomorrow.

I am reminded of Old Testament Joseph and the plan God had for his life. It was certainly not part of Joseph’s five, ten or twenty year plan to be thrown into a pit by his brothers and to sense the terror as he listened to their plot to kill him, then the tempered relief when he found he was not going to be killed, just sold as a slave and sent to a land he did not know. The Promise from God lead through the Pit, Potiphar’s house as a slave, then Prison and the Palace before the Promise of God to Joseph was fulfilled. Joseph could not have plotted this course. We can make our plans as we sense God’s will, but we must be always willing to yield and adjust to the direction and redirection of God. I am continuing to learn that my plans must be subject to His plan. Unexpectedly, we were allowed to be part of seeing at least 16 campers make first time decisions to accept Christ as personal Savior.



YOU Helped Make This Possible. THANK YOU.

More Bible Camp Adventures

THE NEXT NIGHT . . . August 3, 2007 / Camp ALACCA, Harpster, ID

Leaders, the camp staff and others knew the previous evening’s chapel service had been very difficult. Many committed to pray with us for the Spirit of God to have freedom to work and for distractions to be eliminated. I must admit that I was a bit apprehensive before speaking. In my mind, it would be very difficult to recover from two disasters in a row.

The grace and goodness of God prevailed. This night’s chapel was a complete opposite from the night before. The campers were attentive and the Spirit of God was at work. As a result, there were at least 10 campers who made decisions to receive Christ as personal Savior. Keep doing what you know God directs you to do and leave the results up to Him. 😊

Our Continuing Mission:
**“Serving God’s
Servants”**

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www.eaglesummitministry.org
MORE CHANGES ARE COMING . . .

Eagle Summit Ministry 6

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

July 9-12—VBS / Juliaetta Community Church, Juliaetta, ID—Pastor Larry Haylett
July 15-19—Camp Cocolalla, Cocolalla Lake, ID
July 22-26—Camp Cocolalla, Cocolalla Lake, ID
July 31-Aug 3—Camp Alacca, Harpster, ID
August 11—Kid's Day at the Park with Deputy Snyder, Spokane, WA
August 12—New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA
August 16—Meeting with Steps leadership, Salem, OR
August 23—Classes begin at Moody Spokane
September 2—St. Maries, ID—Outreach with Pastor Ed Kopf
September 8—ESM board meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley, WA
September 8-9—Elk Community Church, Elk, WA—Mission's Conference
September 9—Heritage Church, Odessa, WA (Pulpit supply)
September?—Possible conference with Opportunity Baptist Church, Spokane Valley, WA
October 9-11—STEPS Conference, Foothills Community Church, Spokane, WA
October 21, 28—St. Maries, ID Pulpit Supply for Pastor Ed Kopf

To Summit Up

AVAILABLE FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AS GOD OPENS DOORS.

We will also be available for continued pulpit supply as doors of opportunity open.