

Summer Family Splash at Lacey Chapel

The middle of our summer was filled with a special week of outreach in Lacey, WA, adjacent to Olympia. This was our first time with the good folks at Lacey Chapel. One of the church goals was to have at least 10 new families represented. That goal was reached. As far as we know, there were no immediate salvation decisions, but the seed was planted. We are trusting God for His increase.

SaraBeth, the CE director forwarded the following e-mail: "I'm in the process of evaluating Summer Family Splash, and I thought I would pass along one of the comments from a survey. To the question 'Do you feel this was an effective outreach?' one mother wrote: 'Yes because our family is still talking about it. They are always trying to apply Mr. Hippe's ideas in their lives.' Thanks again for ministering to us. God Bless."

We know that God's Word will never return void. Our goal will continue to clearly proclaim the Gospel in a creative and challenging manner. You continue to help make this possible.



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Eagle Summit Ministry 2

"Serving God's Servants"



At a recent visit to Good Shepherd Community Church in Boring, Oregon, I was reminded of the importance of serving others. They held an all church activity, serving their community by working at their local high schools,



helping paint, landscaping, cleaning, removing debris and a number of other jobs that were coordinated with school administrators. The intent was to display love for others by giving to the community, not simply saying it. Their plan is to make this an ongoing ministry. When people think of Good Shepherd, the hearts desire of the congregation and staff is that the community will immediately think of how much this church cares about others.

I was also made aware that for many, if not for most people, being called a servant or stating that an individual has a "servant's heart" is not a compliment, but a demeaning comment. I had never before thought about that statement as being a negative. This caused me to reconsider the entire perception of servanthood.

Our culture is impressed if an individual has countless servants at his disposal. On the other hand, it is not considered a high calling to be one of those servants. No one aspires to be a servant in a wealthy individuals home, yet Jesus declares that it should be our highest goal as Christians to serve, to be a servant. Attaining the status of a servant is not a noble calling in the eyes of most. In most cultures it is not a step up, but down.

Now there was also a dispute among them (the disciples), as to which of them should be considered the greatest. And He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' "But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves. "For who is greater, he who sits at the table, or he who serves? Is it not he who sits at the table? Yet I am among you as the One who serves. Luke 22:24-27 "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant." Matthew 23:11

It is truly our passion to assist God's servants in local churches as they serve their flocks in small and rural communities. We are more than a resource. We are partners in ministry to help in any way possible to make the Pastor's work more effective and meaningful. We truly want to serve the Pastor and his family and his flock. Although it is counter to our culture, it is the purpose of our ministry to serve.

Your Prayers Keep Us on the Road

Our Eagle Summit Van has faithfully served us one more summer, for which we are most grateful. Thank you for praying with us regarding this. Every trip is an adventure and causes us to be consistently dependent on God for safety and freedom from mechanical problems.

If you are able and compelled to help with extra expenses incurred due to high fuel costs, your gifts will be greatly appreciated. We have over \$7,000 in a savings account toward a newer van and we continue to seek the Lord's direction in obtaining a newer vehicle within the next two years. Your gifts will make that a reality.







Eagle Summit Ministry 3

Thank You for Praying for Us During the Summer

We have labeled this our "summer of chaos." For a number of reasons, we were not able to go back to Minneapolis to see Diane's Mother and brothers. Some of you are aware of a few of the family challenges that the Lord has allowed us to face. We have been in the position of being forced to be on our faces before God. We have been reminded of the encouraging words of the Psalmist who also faced some of his own personal difficulties, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living. Wait on the LORD; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; wait, I say, on the LORD!" Psalm 27:13-14 (NKJ)



We are aware that there are lessons in life that we can only learn through experience. I have asked the Lord if it would be okay to just read a book about some of these experiences from the lives of others. I have assured Him that I would learn the lessons He wants me to learn vicariously. I imagine Him smiling and saying something like, "Yes, you might learn some things from just reading a book, but I want you in My Book and getting to know Me more. Nice try."

Summer is always a special test, accompanied with hundreds of miles of travel as well as weeks full of daily ministry including travel and preaching on most Sundays as well . Because Diane could not go with me at all, It made things more difficult. And of course, things went crazy at home—dryer, car problems, kid problems, health issues . . . Part of the joy of travel. It's good, though because we are doing what God has directed us to do and all these little earthy annoyances just make us long for Heaven even more. HA, HA Satan!



Thoughts from Diane . . . Daily . . . Bearing Burdens

It's in there all right! God daily bears our burdens, so there must <u>be</u> daily burdens. However, I've come to realize that the wise Christian turns to God, allows Him to lead and to actually carry those burdens.

I was with a widow today. She lost the love of her life this past year. She's sold the house they shared and is disposing of so many precious memories to move

ahead. I honestly cannot fathom the pain that sweet woman has had to bear. She's enduring grief and separation from the man she cherished more than life. I keep a stone in my kitchen that I picked up before the burial and when I see it, I think of her, I want to remember to pray for her. She's my friend.

I move backward in time to another separation. One that would affect a change in history and that would change my life. It was time, Jesus was destined to leave. There was so much more to be done! So much pain left behind. People needed His touch.

- There were more people to heal
- There were many more children who suffered
- There were so many evil people
- There were many rebellious people who wouldn't bow to God's authority
- There were family and friends He couldn't take along

Yet He completed his work and left. I'm so thankful for the sacrifice of Christ on that cross. Still, I am not blind in sight or heart. Our world is full of suf-



fering mankind. Children are hurt by evil people bigger than they are. I see rebellion all around me. Families are in disrepair. When I open my heart I'm hurt to the core. Yet, God has given me hope, a hope I must share. That I will do until my work here is done.

PSALM 68:19 & 20 is the answer I needed today. "Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior, WHO DAILY BEARS OUR BURDENS." There have been many burdens this summer. It seems like there is a lot to shoulder sometimes. I think it's time to give this newest burden, this pain I cannot spare my friend, to my God, my hope and my strength. If you don't partake in those daily burdens you will never have the joy of God lifting those burdens off of your heart. Live in the world Jesus did! Then let God lift those burdens ... daily.

I Corinthians 15:58 Standing firm! Diane

