

# A Summer of Blessings & Challenges Salvation Decisions, Van Breakdown, Laptop Stolen







Here we are in Libby, MT, sharing a simple Gospel message. SIN separate GOD & MAN. The ONLY solution is to accept The Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour.

Our summer ministry began with a weekend outreach and leadership meeting at Libby Christian Church in Libby, MT with Pastor Corey Andersen and his wife Jennifer (and three boys). We shared a salvation theme and clearly presented the Gospel. There were no salvation decisions as far as we know, but seed was planted. Next we were part of an Apologetics teen camp at ALACCA in Harpster, ID with the new director, Mark Kennedy and his wife, Angela. This was a great week with a team of speakers, challenging Christian teens to defend their faith in a world of growing scepticism and antagonism toward Christianity.

The last two weeks of June we traveled to Minneapolis to help Diane's aging Mother. Diane's Mom, Doris, is 90 years old with several health challenges including loss of vision due to macular degeneration.

The next week included two camps. Each involved three days, speaking a total of nine times (lots of numbers there). In between things, we helped our son with some vehicle repairs that involved having his vehicle towed in to our repair shop, Autocraft. This required a fuel pump replacement. The next week, we had to have the Eagle Summit van towed in to our repair shop. Guess what? The fuel pump had to be replaced in that as well. Along with some other scheduled maintenance, this involved an expense of just over \$500.

The next two weeks were junior camps at Cocolalla near Sandpoint, ID. Camps start on Sunday nights and run through Thursday mornings. This involves speaking eight times each of the weeks. On the first Sunday, chapel activities were completed at about 9:30 p.m. I left my equipment set up for chapel the next morning as I have done for many years. When I came into the church building the next morning, the two young men who lead music seemed to be very distraught. I casually said, "It can't be that bad." Then I was informed that someone had broken into the church building in the night, during a power outage caused by a storm, and stolen a Martin guitar and two base guitars. I looked over where my laptop had been plugged in and it was missing too. It is difficult to explain the instant, gut-wrenching feeling that overwhelmed me. What am I going to do for chapel? (continued on next page)

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I have spent hundreds of hours in preparing messages using the PowerPoint program to help capture and keep attention to affect life change. It has proven to be an effective tool, much like the flannelgraph sto-



ries, of years ago, but able to be seen in a much larger setting. I never want to become too dependent upon any tool and fully recognize that it is the Holy Spirit Who influences lives, not the cleverness of man. If God provides the tools and ability, we will utilize them. I have said that we use the best of high tech and low tech, by making use of the computer and ventriloquism. I had hundreds of message files and seventeen years of teaching class notes and PowerPoint presentations for classes at Moody instantly lost.

Deciding how to handle chapel was the next challenge. I had about thirty minutes to pray, plan and adapt. I had enough with me in our ESM van to keep things interesting with the life of Old Testament Joseph. There were at least 12 campers who made salvation decisions the first week, with a number of others making assurance decisions and about 10 salvation decisions the second week.

All my programs were backed up on a 50g external hard drive, but that was stolen as well. Thankfully, I did have my old laptop at home. In attempting to see how much was on that, I was unable to even turn it on because the AC adapter inside the laptop had been broken. Necessary repairs cost \$185. I had many of my files still there, far more than I thought, so I was able to effectively use my old laptop.

Our board is aware of how much I use this tool, so I was instructed to get a new laptop. There was a generous gift that made that possible. Now the challenge is to get the new laptop fully functioning. That just takes a lot of time. I have spent many hours already, re-entering programs and files. Our son-in-law, Rich Stafford, Jr., has been a tremendous help once again in getting us up and running. The last time I changed computers, it took nearly six months to get everything in order. I have also been encouraged to get an on-line back-up program to safeguard our information. I am looking into that.

At Lacey Chapel, we were involved once again with their family outreach ministry, "Summer Splash." This was held outdoors for the first two nights. The Wednesday morning newspaper headline read, "104° - Need We Say More?" The preaching sessions were moved inside for the remainder of the week.

I also spoke at an annual event sponsored by the Community Church in Inchellium, WA with Pastor Steve Hill and his wife, Candy, called Camp Nowhere. In four chapel sessions, I shared the truth that the Bible is God's Word. One young man spoke with me after the last chapel. As a high school Junior, he already has a full–ride science scholarship to WSU. We discussed how the Bible is scientifically accurate. As he was leaving, he said, "You really helped strengthen my faith." That was most encouraging. WOW! WHAT A SUMMER!

PLEASE PRAY THAT WE MAY CONTINUE TO BE EFECTIVE IN SERVING GOD'S SERVANTS AND TO EFFECTIVELY COMMUNICATE THE GOSPEL.

GIVE AS GOD ENABLES AND IMPRESSES YOU GIVE AT THIS ESPECIALLY CHALLENGING TIME.

### Partnering Through Prayer & Giving

- Thank you for Praying: Diane's health has improved (unless she's lying to me). She just finished another round of antibiotics for the sinus infection that has plagued her for the past two years. She has some continuing unusual difficulties with asthma.
- The Tabernacle Furniture Set—\$249 we'd still like to develop a series using this tool.
- Pray for funds for a DVD apologetics series available to share with churches.



### PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT CONTINUES



I am pleased to be able to teach once again at Moody Spokane this fall. The class I was sure I would not teach is the class I was asked to teach, Physical Science. I will also be driving school bus for Central Valley Schools as needed and my schedule allows.

### ESM VEHICLE UPGRADE SEARCH CONTINUES ...



With other challenges, our search for a newer ministry vehicle has taken a back seat (no pun intended). I thought the "cash for clunkers" deal might offer a good opportunity to find a vehicle, but I'm hard pressed to consider our van a "clunker." As I understand it, this deal is no longer in place anyway, that is unless our federal legislators in their wisdom decide to extend the program with your money that doesn't really even exist (oops, I digress).

Our current Chevy van is 16 years old, with 140,000 miles. It has been a perfect vehicle to meet our ministry needs and well main-

tained. However, as with all things human, it is getting old and more repairs will be required. We have learned that there simply are no longer any vehicles like this available. As you can tell from the photo, we need a vehicle this size to accommodate our ministry tools. We are considering a smaller van with a smaller trailer. We have a 4x8 trailer, but a smaller one would be more appropriate to meet our needs. Pray with us for wisdom and if you see a deal, please contact us with details.



## Thoughts from Diane . . . Relationships



Time moves forward and we're left with our summertime memories. The best part of summer for me is the extra time George and I get to spend together on the road. I don't mind the trip as long as we're able to go together. We've been married forty years now. God has been gracious to allow us so much time together. Love, commitment, trust, and forgiveness can travel rough roads at times but that's all a part of the relationship. Lasting love is worth the time invested.



Looking back to Luke 22 takes me once again to the relationship that Peter had with Jesus. During those years of Jesus' ministry Peter learned a lot about love, commitment, trust and forgiveness. I read again how Peter professed his undying love to someone he'd walked so closely with only to deny him in such a huge way. Yet, here's the thought I was left with as I read it this time. It say's in Luke 22:61 "The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: 'Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly." (NIV) What God impressed me with was this, "Do you even have the relationship with Jesus to experience the shame Peter felt when he denied the one loving relationship that he should have given everything for." "Shame" is not a popular word these days. I've been told I shouldn't tell a child "shame on you." I could be the cause of them loosing their self esteem. It seems to me that Jesus is teaching that a good dose of shame for a thought, action or deed could lead us to a place of repentance, grace and even deeper love.

This summer, God also deeply impressed upon me these words from a song sung to Jesus, by the singing group, Avalon: I don't want to go somewhere, If I know that your not there, 'cause I know to be without you is a lie . . .

I hope in your summer journey, that everywhere you went, every choice you made, every thought you held on to and everything you chose to look upon, brought no cause for shame. However if it did, as it was for Peter, there is a Savior, waiting to hear you confess your sin. It is then that your relationship can be mended and deepened so your love can continue to grow. It's a love that will last for eternity.

Psalm138:8 "The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands."





**Our Continuing Mission:** "Serving God's Servants"

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#### OFFICE MOVE PENDING

We recently received word that Mr. Ray Eberle is donating his building to the Union Gospel Mission here in Spokane. The mission plans to sell the building sometime early next year. We are most thankful that for the past thirteen years, Ray has only charged us \$50/month for our office space. It will be a challenge to find something equivalent. Pray with us for God's clear direction in acquiring a new space.

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

June 5-6— Pastor Cory Andersen / Libby Church of God, (Outreach & Training) Libby, MT

June 15-19— Camp ALACCA, Harpster, ID / Teen Apologetics Camp TO SUMMIT UP

July 4-8— Ross Point Bible Camp, Post Falls, ID / Junior Camp

July 8-10— Pinecroft, Newport, WA / Junior Camp

July 12 & 19— Opportunity Baptist, Spokane Valley, WA

July 12-16— Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp / 11-12 Camp

July 19-23— Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp / 9-10 Camp

July 26-August 1— Lacey Chapel, Lacey, WA / Family Outreach

August 7-9— CAMP NOWHERE with Pastor Steve Hill, Inchelium, WA

August 23— First Baptist Church, St. Maries, ID / Sunday School and a.m. Service

September - ESM Board Meeting

We are available for pulpit supply even on short notice.