Volume 19 Number 1

OUR 19TH YEAR OF SERVING GOD'S SERVANTS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

"God is Good, All the Time."

This is often glibly stated by believers. The challenge is to truly understand and believe this truth. Life has its daily challenges. We must learn to consistently trust the God of Creation. His same creative power sustains us and allows us every breath. He allows everything we view as good and bad in our lives to help us reach spiritual maturity. He wastes nothing. Even in what we view as bad or negative, God is working to teach us that there is more to our existence than the earthly, the material. He uses the stuff of life to teach about the life to come.

He wants us to desire a deeper relationship with Him. If we care, He will do whatever it takes to help us learn more of His nature and character.

The more we know Him, the more meaningful life will be. It is easy to forget that God has a plan when we are in the middle of a difficult challenge. It may be even more of a challenge to remember that God is teaching us eternal lessons when things are going well. May it become the growing passion of our hearts and obsession of our thoughts to know HIM.

READ: Philippians 3:7-11



Not a "NEED," but Certainly an Encouragement



In our last newsletter, I was reluctant to even mention the desire for art work on the hood of the ESM van. It certainly was not a NEED. We are humbled and thankful for Frank and Irma who took on this challenge and did a beautiful job. We want to keep the ESM "horse" groomed and in good working order to honor the Lord. THANK YOU!







NEW PRINTER IN PLACE

Thank you to all who gave to meet this need. Our new HP printer is in place and serving us well. We were able to get a great deal at Costco. The sticker shock was reserved for the ink cartridges. A supply of ink cost nearly as much as the printer. This new machine should serve us well for many years to come or until the ink becomes too expensive. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO WERE ABLE TO GIVE.



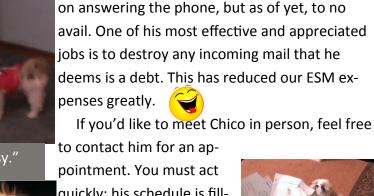
JUST FOR FUN



Chico is the latest edition to our household. When I came home from my trip to Mexico, this little guy was a welcome home gift. As with most of life, he has been both a challenge and a JOY. I know one of the reasons God allows pets to be meaningful in our lives is to help us understand God's unconditional love for us. Chico assists in the ESM office by "sorting mail," and acting as our security alarm and office receptionist.

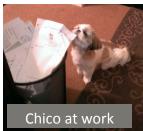






The key word here is "acting." He is working

pointment. You must act quickly; his schedule is filling up rapidly. If you can't get ahold of him, he's probably busy working.





Your Opportunity to Praise & Pray with Us . .

PRATER	four Opportunity to Praise & Pray with	05
☐ Continue to pray for LaRae	Damschen as she undergoes more cancer treatments. The most rece	ent report is
that the doctors are ex	tremely pleased with her response to treatments. Tests indicate the c	ancer cells
are being destroyed. Sh	he needs God's special encouragement and strength.	
Diane has been doing well,	, and symptom free of pneumonia for the past 2 months. We are very	thankful.
Please continue to keep ou	ur son, G2, in prayer. He is doing well.	
☐ Pray for Lake Roosevelt Bib	ole Church as they seek God's wisdom and direction for a new Pastor.	
PRAISE: Welcome to our ne	ewest ESM board member, Evan Hirshel.	
lue Pray that two new churche	es will officially partner with us.	
Pray that we will continue	to be effective in ministry and meet needs of those we serve.	70





Thoughts from Diane . . . GROWING IN FAITH

Had I taken more time over the course of my life, I may have understood how to face the trials of life with more insight. The path I have walked, like Pilgrim, has been set before me since I accepted Christ when I was fourteen. There have been many moments I'd rather forget on a personal level although the moment I accepted Christ as the only Savior this world has ever known, as my Savior, my

sins were "cast as far as the east is from the west."

I had many confrontations a few years ago, with an 8th grader on my bus who had declared herself a lesbian. That didn't become an issue when I first met her. She was aggressively antagonistic toward any authority in her life. She had already overcome the issue of her moral choices with her parents and that was dealt with in school as well. She was not condemned for those choices in either place. However, she was angry, mean, a bully and that included against teachers and fellow students. When she began attacking me in these ways I was immediately accused by the school and especially her father for being discriminatory. I watched her bully other students and pick on children younger and smaller than she was. When she started physically pushing up against those younger and smaller girls, draping her arms around them and making sexual advances, I documented it and put a stop to it. All that I could think about was "what would those girls' parents expect of me?" "What does God expect of me?" I spoke to one of the smaller girls and warned her to stay away from the older girl. It was then that this angry student ramped up her aggression toward me. Near the end of that year, when I was physically worn down from her attacks and her father's threats and accusations with little if any support from my supervisor or the HR department head, one more incident took place. I loaded the bus. She sat in the front seat. As I started to drive, she leaned over and whispered in a menacing voice, "I'm going to make your life a living Hell." That couldn't happen. I had already prayed and given the whole situation over to God. I knew



He would protect me from this. And although I there were more vicious attacks, God brought me through.

If Peter 1:5-7 speaks about what is an essential, ongoing quest that lasts a lifetime. It speaks of all the ways in which we need to add to our faith. One of the hardest challenges for me is adding knowledge. God's Word is so rich in all its Wisdom that I have a hard time remembering all the things God so often impresses on my heart. That's why reading my Bible chronologically this year has been so excellent. It propels me through a certain amount each day in order to finish in one year. As I've mentioned, it's been an amazing year. At this writing I have one more day for December! I'm so excited to start over. If I could share my biggest encour-

agement this past year, this would be it. Read II Peter 1:5-7 also. You'll always be encouraged while hiding God's Word in your life as you grow in your faith.

I Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore my beloved brothers, be steadfast..." Diane

Number of Churchless Americans Has Jumped by Nearly 1/3rd in Just 20 Years

According to the BARNA Group:

- In the early 1990s, about two out of 10 U.S. adults were churchless.
- In the early 2000s, it was three in 10.
- Today, the churchless make up nearly half the adult population.

1990s 30%





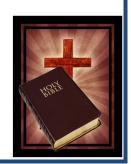
The book, *Churchless*, confirms that the world has changed in significant ways during the last few decades. Real data confirm how drastically the moral, social and spiritual lives of Americans have changed.

How can God use us to make a difference for eternity?

Our Continuing Mission Is To...

"Serve God's Servants"





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MARCH 2015 ESM PASTORS' & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Pastors and church leaders, Mark your calendar for our first annual Pastors' Conference & Fellowship, tentatively set for Saturday, March 21, 2015. The schedule will include sessions on expository preaching, led by Moody Bible Institute staff. TIME: 9:00 a.m-4:00 p.m. with lunch provided. COST: Your time & attention. The host church will be New Hope Bible Church located at I-90 and Argonne Road at Mission in the Spokane Valley. OTHER TOPICS BEING CONSIDERED: Developing a leadership TEAM / Setting Priorities / Church budgeting / What Does God Want?

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

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

November 15—ESM Board Meeting

November 17—Leadership Meeting, Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA

December 28—Lake Roosevelt Bible Church, Seven Bays, WA

January 19-Leadership Meeting, Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA

February 7—ESM Board Meeting

March Pastors' Conference / Summer Plans Developing

THANK YOU VERY
MUCH TO ALL WHO
PRAYED AND WERE
ABLE TO GIVE TO ESM
IN 2014. YOU HELPED
ESM FINISH
ANOTHER YEAR



We Are Available for Pulpit Supply, Even on Short Notice.

Need a speaker for a creative outreach program, AWANA or Kid's Clubs, Sunday School, teen or kid's camps other special events? Contact us. We are here to serve.

Executive Director: Rev. George Hippe

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