

Our Continuing Mission Focuses On . . .

# “Serving God’s Servants”



VISIT OUR WEB SITE: [www.eaglesummitministry.org](http://www.eaglesummitministry.org)

Eagle Summit Ministry  
10817 E. 16th Avenue  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

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Eagle Summit Ministry

CHALLENGING & ENCOURAGING  
small and rural churches  
and their pastors.  
FRESH ideas  
prayer PARTNERING  
Family get-aways  
preaching, teaching & training



Beginning Our 23rd Year

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STRIVING TO SERVE GOD'S SERVANTS

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## MY CHRISTMAS SURPRISE

I vividly remember my favorite Christmas SURPRISE as a child. It was a Fort Apache playset. I was thrilled beyond words with this gift. It proved to be my favorite toy. I remember tearing the wrapping paper off the box and opening the packages inside that held the soldiers, Indians, horses, accessories and cannons that actually shot small projectiles. I had many hours of fun defending the fort from Indian attacks. My parents just took a chance that I would enjoy this set. They were right.



I remember another Christmas surprise. I was the associate pastor at Windsor Baptist Church in Rockford, Illinois. We had three children and were doing our best to have a nice Christmas for them with a few surprises. It was Christmas Eve, 1980. The kids were tucked away in their beds with visions of sugar-plumbs dancing in their heads. Diane was not in her 'kerchief, nor I in my cap. We were in our downstairs family room wrapping presents. We were doing our best to keep a few secrets for Christmas morning.

SURPRISE! Suddenly, our youngest son, Benjamin, came down the stairs dragging his blanket. I was certain that he was just coming down to get a peek at his gifts. Being a sensitive and compassionate father, I instantly scolded him and told him to get back in bed. He immediately hurried back up the stairs and went back to bed.

Diane sensed there was more to the story. She went up to the boy's room and was gone for about a half hour. She came back down to let me know what was really happening. Surprise! Benjamin came downstairs because he wanted to know more about accepting Jesus as his Savior. Diane had the privilege of praying with Ben to receive Christ. I was shamed by my own insensitivity and heartless attitude. This "New Birth Certificate" is a reminder of that special SURPRISE night when Ben began his walk with the Lord.



As most of our readers know, Ben was killed in a vehicle collision on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2002 at the age of twenty-six. He had a remarkable gift of art, played several musical instruments, wrote songs, sang and was an extremely hard worker. I have thought often of things that might have been, but will never be. We are aware that there are no accidents with God.

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## Van Repair & Maintenance Fund



Thank you to all who gave to help us exceed our goal to meet repair needs for our ESM van. As God brings our ministry to mind, pray for safety as we travel and for repair needs to be at a minimum. Keep in mind it's a FORD. 😊

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

- Sept 8—ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley
- Oct 15/Nov 19—Mending Fences Fellowship leadership team, Spokane, WA
- Oct 7—Brookdale & Fairwinds Retirement Centers, Spokane, WA
- Oct 14—Happy Home Church, Deer Park, WA
- Nov 3—ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley
- Oct 20—New Hope Bible Church Mission Fund Raiser
- Nov 18— Sprague Community Church, Sprague, WA



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, Family Camp, Teen or Kid's camps or other special events? Contact us. We are here to serve.

Executive Director: Rev. George Hippe \* 10817 E. 16TH AVENUE, SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99206

Office/Cell: 509.995.6777 \* Home: 509.927.1305 \* E-ddress: ghippe@integrity.com / [www.eaglesummitministry.org](http://www.eaglesummitministry.org)

(continued from page1)At times, from our perspective here on earth it is easy to question God's plans and timing. It is at these moments that we must learn to cling to the promises we find in God's Word and look to eternity. Psalm 119:50 "This is my comfort in my affliction, for your word has given me life."

James reminds us in the first chapter of his epistle that we are to "count it all joy . . . when we meet trials of various kinds . . ." The term "count" is an accounting term. The challenge for us is not to merely react emotionally, but to make ourselves recount the facts of Scripture. When we face insurmountable challenges, we are to remind ourselves of the facts of God's word. The enemy of our soul wants us to only face the pain. He wants us to allow our emotions to rule. Surely God does not know and is unconcerned about what has happened. **SURPRISE!** God is well aware. God is there. God does care.

When our pain overwhelms our mind and heart, we must force ourselves to think of the following facts: God is sovereign. God is the source of love. God is omniscient; He can see outcomes we can't see. God wants us to strengthen our relationship with Him, to deepen our joy in that relationship. Joy is not the absence of pain and sorrow and hurt, but the presence of God. Joy is a deep sense of peace that can only be understood as we completely trust that God is in charge, even in our pain. It is most often in this pain that we are closest to God. C.S. Lewis wrote, "Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Pain is God's loudspeaker to get our attention, to challenge us to consider what is most important.

God often surprises us with the lessons He teaches at the most unexpected moments. I am learning lessons God is teaching me. I am working on being more sensitive to others and to His Spirit as I should have been with a little boy who just wanted to understand more about Jesus. More and more, I am praying that knowing God will become the obsession of my thoughts and the passion of my heart. Don't be **SURPRISED** at the truths God may reveal to you during this Christmas Season and into the New Year.

Thank you so much from us personally and from our ESM board for your continued prayer and financial encouragement. May this Christmas Season and the New Year bring you wonderful opportunities to spend quality time with family and friends. May the New Year also bring you opportunities to improve your relationship with the Creator of the universe.



## PRAISE & PRAYER

- ✓ Thank you for your continued prayer for Diane as she faces health challenges. Her pulmonologist said it is just a matter of time before she will have to be back on another antibiotic. I am praying he's wrong.
- ✓ Continue to pray for our son, George II (G2), with ongoing health challenges. He is having some negative reactions to medication he must take.
- ✓ Pray with us for new churches to consider partnering with ESM.
- ✓ Praise—our Van Fund has been replenished and repair expenses met.
- ✓ Pray with us regarding ESM financial growth and God's direction for a "Timothy."
- ✓ Pray for safety as we travel and effectiveness in service.
- ✓ Pray with us for God to direct us to new board members

Prayer Request

## Thoughts from Diane . . . Wasting Away



I ran into a co-worker a few years ago and we started talking about work. I told her that I wanted to continue to the end of that particular school year and I'd have to retire. My health had become so difficult to manage that I hoped by retiring I could regain some stamina and even started to work on plans for what I wanted to do next. She then told me with a smile "well I'm older than you and I'm going to keep working!" I then said "I'm glad you're healthy yet I've had pneumonia more times than I can count and just can't do it." Her next words? "Well, I've got to go now." We've known each other more than 25 years. She knew I'd struggled but what I've found out about some acquaintances is that they like keeping conversation confined to travel, good health and how I can have it and how much success their children are having,. The list of light topics goes forward.

II Corinthians 4:16 "Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day."

I've got more than a few wrinkles and my hair is a little thin. So, outwardly it's very apparent that I'm wasting away. The next part of that verse hit me with force as I read it. Every day I'm being renewed by staying in God's Word and through prayer. The years I've been free from work outside the home have been wonderful. I love to read. Retirement is good, it gives me a lot of extra time. Even with that, my health isn't the best some days and some days I wait until later in the day until I feel better so I am able to push ahead. I'm reminded over and over of the frailty of life and I keep moving because this is the way life is for me.

II Corinthians 4:17 "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."

Sometimes troubles don't feel light and momentary especially when pain is involved. I spoke to a dear friend yesterday that's in a senior residence now. We spoke a long time. She was a very industrious worker when I met her all those years ago. Like me, she had medical issues that were challenging but was always able to manage them. That's not happening now and it's not easy for her, yet she knows the Lord personally and is excited about her faith. I'm thankful for her friendship. You may or may not be going through any difficulties now but I'm sure you have and will again. Life is good at times but time in this life is relatively short.

II Corinthians 4:18 "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary but what is unseen is eternal." **I Corinthians 15:58 Standing Firm, Diane**

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary,

**BUT WHAT IS UNSEEN IS ETERNAL.**

2 Corinthians 4:18