

Our Continuing Mission Focuses On . . .

"Serving God's Servants"

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Eagle Summit Ministry
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Spokane Valley, WA

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Eagle Summit Ministry 4

Plan, PRAY and Prepare to vote this November. Encourage, family, friends and neighbors to vote. Voting is our privilege and responsibility. There are two very different roads ahead of us. The contrast could not be more glaring. Which road best reflects the **PRINCIPLES** and **VALUES** of Scripture?

If you live in Eastern Washington, the **WE BELIEVE WE VOTE** web site lists the candidates and their position on major issues. If you live in another area, see if there is a similar site in your in your location. Your vote based on issues is crucial. Your vote does make a difference.

Pray for our nation's leaders. Pray they will seek the will of God and use some common sense.

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

June 15/July 20 / August 17—Mending Fences Fellowship leadership meeting, Spokane, WA
July 25—ESM board meeting

Our state leaders continue to regulate what churches can do and how they do it. This obviously impacts us directly. We are praying for leaders who have a heart for the Lord. For now, all ministry opportunities continue to be on hold until our state leaders decide what we are allowed to do. Thank you for your continued prayer and financial encouragement during these chaotic times.

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.

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"SERVING GOD'S SERVANTS"

Eagle Summit Ministry

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

SUMMIT
Eagle Summit Ministry
"Serving God's Servants"

Our 24th Year of Serving

Volume 24 Number 4 **STRIVING TO SERVE GOD'S SERVANTS** JULY/AUGUST 2020

VIRTUAL REALITY

I find the word "virtual" most interesting. It is curious that we invent ways of blurring truth in clever and deceitful ways. When someone lies, it is often said, "She stretched the truth," or "He fudged." When two people commit adultery, some say, "They slept together." If they had only "slept," there would not be an issue. Instead of being honest, when someone steals from his company, some justify the thievery by saying, "He just took what he deserved because the pay is lousy." We tend to discover cunning ways to conceal undesirable truth.

An advertisement states that the medication being promoted has "virtually" no side-affects. That means that there are some side-affects, but not many. One of those side-affects could be death.

A cell phone accessory ad states that it "fits virtually every vehicle and virtually every cup holder." The reality is that this product fits most vehicles and cup holders but there are some that it will not fit. That wording is honest, but will not sell.

Do you look forward to a "virtual hug," a pretend or imagined hug, or the real deal? Would anyone be content with a "virtual relationship?"

"Virtually no pain," What does that statement really mean? It means that there is almost no pain, but there will be a little. Who wants the unvarnished truth? To hear there is potential pain, but not much pain, is not as engaging as there is "virtually no pain."

There is an increasing shift to "virtual healthcare." What does that involve? When considering antonyms of "virtual," it gives reason for pause especially in respect to the doctor-patient relationship. Antonyms for the term "virtual" are "actual, authentic or real." So the health care being promoted as "virtual" is not actual, not real.

These antonyms also help us understand more clearly the endorsement of "virtual classroom learning." For 2 ½ months this spring I attempted to "virtually" teach forty-six Jr high and high school students in five different classes at Valley Christian School. Educators agree that "virtual learning" is an inadequate educational model, especially at the elementary and Jr. High levels. You teach who you are. That is a basic law of teaching. That law is impossible to implement through a computer. Merely being able to regurgitate facts does not demonstrate true teaching and learning. A teacher transfers his/her character. It is impossible to communicate character online. In the "virtual classroom" there is neither true teaching nor true learning.

"Virtual" church is not church. Meeting online was by no means how God intended us to "not forsake the gathering of ourselves together." Nothing can replace the face-to-face interaction of believers singing, learning and serving in a common cause to communicate the truth of the Gospel. "Virtual" church is hollow.

"Virtual reality" – **ALMOST REAL**: Do we want to live in a virtual world or in a real world? For a growing number, the obsession with computer games is an attempt to forget the reality of the world that surrounds them. VR headsets make one think and feel that the wearer is in an alternate world. In some games, a "virtual world" can be built from the player's imagination.



With a world of pain, responsibility, heartache and misery, a “virtual world” is becoming more and more alluring. Amusement can develop into an obsession. The word “amuse” literally means to “not think.” A “virtual world” allows one to not think, providing a temporary escape from reality.

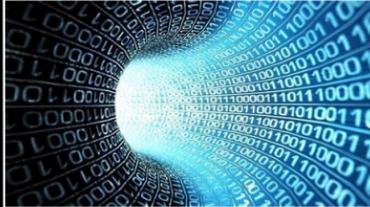
Abortion accessible on demand (the termination of an innocent human life), alcohol and marijuana legitimized, a sex-crazed culture commonplace and the abnormal demanded to be established as normal, contribute to despair. An epidemic of suicide, restrictive guidelines from megalomaniac leaders using a fading pandemic as an excuse for governance, those demanding the abolition of law enforcement, with the looting of businesses and the killing of police officers blatantly sanctioned as righteous, these actions create even more confusion. Right declared wrong, wrong declared right and the total disregard for God make the current reality more chaotic, perplexing and intolerable. Without a relationship with God through Christ, a “virtual world” is the only rational alternative. The reality is a “virtual world” is **NOT** reality.

Could you envision a world where there was a “virtual God” or a “virtual Jesus,” an almost real God or His Son who was nearly perfect? Yet, that is the reality for many if not most Americans. We live in a society where the majority of young adults no longer believe in an absolute standard. Right and wrong are in the eyes of the beholder. “Wrong is wrong if I think it is wrong. You, your God, your Holy Book, the Bible, you have no right to judge me and talk to me about this thing you call sin.” These beliefs saturate our culture and are becoming the accepted norm. In a recent study, only 9% of teens who claimed to be born again believe in absolute standards. The future of our culture is hopeless unless there is a return to the truth of God’s word. We must champion, truth, reality and not be absorbed in a “virtual world.”

2 Chronicles 7:14 “if (the big “if”) **MY PEOPLE**, who are called by my name, will **HUMBLE** themselves and **PRAY** and **SEEK** my face and **TURN** from their wicked ways, **THEN** I will **HEAR** from heaven, and I will **FORGIVE** their sin and will **HEAL** their land.”

It is us, God’s people who must humble ourselves, pray, truly seek the face of God in His word and turn from our wicked ways. The fate of our nation is in our hands, our hearts. How can we as His people expect God to hear us, to forgive our sin and heal our land when we seem to desire a “virtual world” that blurs reality? Our real world, our real HOPE (confident expectation), Heaven, awaits believers.

God, what can I do to help others see the reality of eternity, to see that a “virtual world” is not reality and that there is no escape from the certainty of eternity? Hebrews 9:27 “It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment.” This is an inexorable reality. There is no such thing as a “virtual” death.



YOUR PRAYERS CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN AND ENCOURAGE US.
Prayer Partners

- On June 9th, I thought I was taking Diane to the emergency department at Valley Hospital. I was uncertain how she could be helped, but thankfully I did not have to. Instead, I took our son to the emergency department with septicemia and another blood clot. He was admitted for four days until the infection was under control. Two days later, he was back in the hospital with pneumonia. He had another three day stay. He is at his home and with the help of his son, Ben, doing okay. PRAY.
- Diane continues to struggle daily with bacterial pneumonia and continued weight loss. A recent x-ray revealed two growths in her right lung which the doctor is monitoring,
- Continue to pray for a “Timothy” to partner with us and eventually lead Eagle Summit.
- PRAISE: A total of \$570 was raised to help Mending Fences Fellowship with the furnace replacement.

Thoughts From Diane . . . JAMES

His was a name from the Bible. He was my brother. He was the third born to our family. I found a picture of him about a week ago. He was so incredibly cute and had a wonderful smile. He wasn’t a red head when he was born but became one when I took him out to the garage and painted his head. You may remember hearing the story from me. When I looked at myself in the same picture I didn’t look like a scoundrel and as a matter of fact I looked quite sweet. How pictures can be deceiving. My mother and dad looked like they were in love when they married. My brother Robert looked like he was a favored child. Then years go by and over time the truth comes to the surface. We weren’t born into the Garden of Eden, but a sinful world full of people who are in no way perfect. I loved my family. That wasn’t true all the time, but became absolutely true after Jesus Christ came into my life. Jesus loved me, I loved my family, at times by choice, because Jesus loved me first.



My mother, dad and brother Robert are not a part of this life anymore. I miss them. It doesn’t matter how much time goes by, when you’ve loved people you don’t forget them. I received a message from my niece about three weeks ago. It came through Facebook because she knew I was there and we kept in touch that way. I’m like a lot of people, I’m not consistent about being on social media. When I did open it during the day I remembered seeing her name pop up but figured I look later. When I got to bed that night I was looking up news and again remembered seeing her name and checked for the message. I was horrified to see it, she had written, “My dad passed away today.” I was so shocked I didn’t know what to do. I woke George up beside me and then ran upstairs. I called my brother John knowing with the time difference in the Mid-west, it would be so late. He hadn’t heard; none of my brothers had. I talked and cried, I just couldn’t believe it. Jim was younger, I was supposed to go next. It wasn’t supposed to be that way.



I couldn’t travel back, my health prevented that. Not too long before it happened I’d been studying and ran across these verses. James 4:13 & 14 “Now listen you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money’ “Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes...”

I was so thankful I had just looked back at these verses and that God had brought them back to memory. It was comforting being reminded that He had everything under control and especially that it was the book of James. God knows how my memory works since He created me! I cried while reading them. I’ve written my brother’s name, James D. How there. I will miss him in this world. He called me. We are both talkers. We discussed every topic you could imagine. Life is painful but God freely gives His hope and peace. He also freely gives everlasting life because He loved us enough to die on a cross for us.

1 Corinthians 15:58 Standing Firm, Diane

LIFE IS THE TIME GOD HAS GIVEN US TO DECIDE WHERE WE WILL SPEND ETERNITY.