

Our Continuing Mission Focuses On . . .

# “Serving God’s Servants”



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## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY

Romans 5: 1-5 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

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

- 3rd Monday monthly—Mending Fences Fellowship, Leadership Team, Spokane, WA
- September 26—First Baptist Church, St. Maries, ID (Gideon International speaker—Allen Negeoul)
- November 13—ESM Board Meeting, New Hope Bible Church, Spokane Valley
- 3 Sundays/ month through June —Wayne Morris, Sprague Community Church, Sprague, WA
- November 28—Wayne Morris, Country Bible Church, Dusty, WA
- November 14, 21, 28—Simeon King, Juliaetta Community Church, Juliaetta, ID

**I WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PULPIT SUPPLY. THANKFULLY GOD HAS PROVIDED OTHER MEN TO ASSIST.**  
We are available for creative outreach programs, 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



OUR 25TH YEAR OF ESM MINISTRY

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STRIVING TO SERVE GOD’S SERVANTS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

## IT’S TRUE!

## GOD DOES GIVE US MORE THAN WE CAN HANDLE.

The Holiday season can be one of the loneliest and saddest times of the year for many people. This Thanksgiving and Christmas will be the first time some will be without the spouse they have spent their entire adult life loving. For some, that child they loved with all their being will be absent from the Thanksgiving and Christmas table. Others will be without Mom or Dad for the first time.

The following is used with permission, written by Ruth Schenk and condensed from her editorial in *The Southeast Outlook* July 15, 2021, published by Southeast Christian Church in Louisville, KY.

I’ve heard it a hundred times. Maybe you have too. God never gives you more than you can handle. It’s quoted like a verse from the Bible, whispering in the ears of grieving parents, a mantra for those dealing with a job loss, divorce, couples caring for children with cancer; recited to abandoned wives and unwrapped like a Band-Aid for those who endure layer after layer of loss.

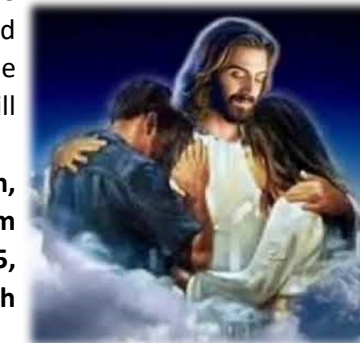
**Saying it over and over does not make it true.**

If there’s any Biblical tie to the lie, it might be 1 Corinthians 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so **The disconnect is that verse is about SIN, not SUFFERING.**

I first heard it as a young wife trying to navigate life with a seriously ill husband and two young children. Disability checks didn’t come close to covering rent and food. I thought, really? I’m sitting here in “more than I can handle.”

If it had been said to me in my pre-Jesus days, I might

have punched someone in the face. I knew two things for sure: God didn’t cause my husband’s illness and I did not have the strength to carry my own burdens. Over the next 45 years, I learned that life is hard and suffering is real. I’ve seen the brightest and best suffer and die in spite of prolonged prayer and fasting. I’ve seen terrorized parents watch over babies born far too early and adult children nurse elderly parents fading as fast as the summer flowers.



. . . There is no quick remedy for the anxiety, hopelessness, depression and fear that skyrocketed during Covid-19.

Sometimes there’s no way to figure it all out. The truth is, **GOD ALLOWS MORE THAT WE CAN HANDLE BY OURSELVES.** But it’s also true that **HE NEVER GIVES US MORE THAN HE CAN HANDLE.**

For several years, young widows came to my house for dinner. Life sucker-punched them as they buried hopes and dreams. They navigate lives they never chose. But as we gathered together, the words I heard most often were, “God is good.”

In dealing with more-than-I-can-handle life every day, they leaned on God more. When He’s all they have, they learn that He is all they need.

The truth is, God **DOES** give us more than we can handle. Not to turn our world upside down. Not to make us angry. Not to force us to figure it all out. Not as punishment. When we sit in ruins, we can learn of God who raised the dead (2 Corinthians 1:9). He reaches us in our despair and holds us in our pain. He promises to never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5).

You see, suffering is never the end of the story. In the moments we feel as if our world has collapsed, we hold on to a Savior who was overwhelmed to the point of death as he faced the cross. He suffers with us. In those moments, we learn that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. **"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD."** Romans 8:35-39 (NIV)

I appreciate Ruth Schenk's heart and insight. She understands life is challenging and beautiful, filled with pain and pleasure, hurt and healing. In spite of all of the challenges life brings, this I know, "When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. Not only was Diane's life completed here on earth in October, this is the same month nineteen years ago that our Benjamin entered eternity. I know **"The Lord is near to the broken-hearted and saves the crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."** Psalm 34:17-19

I am reminded that ultimate healing and the end of suffering, sadness, sorrow, sickness and separation is in His presence. He will wipe away every tear (Revelation 21:4). But for now, the tears flow. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of his friend Lazarus. In John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, the character Evangelist said to Christian, "Sometime we see clearest through our tears." I am trusting that to be true.



One of her many treatments just to breath

Those who visited, would have noticed the word **"HOPE"** is everywhere in our house. If you looked carefully, You'd find the word 11 times just in her room. You could count at least another 20 times where you would find the word **"HOPE"** throughout our house. That is definitely purposeful. We were not HOPELESS. The word **"HOPE"** in scripture is **"CONFIDENT EXPECTATION, A CERTAINTY NOT YET FULFILLED."** The word has definitely changed its meaning from possibly, maybe, or I think so.

Diane's **"HOPE"** was/is Heaven. I made her the Heaven/Hope acrostic seen below. She loved to have the lights turned on. If you notice, the **"HOPE"** changes to **"HOME."** The letter **"P"** flips to an **"M."** Diane's confident expectation, **"HOPE,"** was that the moment she took her last breath, she would be **"HOME"** in the presence of the LORD because of Jesus. She is. Do you have that same confidence? You can.

If you are impressed donate in honor of Diane's memory here are some options and contact information:

**\*HOSPICE OF SPOKANE**

A check can be sent to: HOSPICE OF SPOKANE, 121 S ARTHUR, PO BOX 2215, SPOKANE, WA 99210-2215

Online giving is another option through their web site: HOSPICEOFSPokane.ORG

**\*EAGLE SUMMIT MINISTRY** A check can be sent to:

EAGLE SUMMIT MINISTRY

10817 E 16TH AVENUE, SPOKANE VALLEY, WA 99206

This is the ministry Diane partnered with me 25 years ago to serve pastors and leaders of small and rural churches. This ministry would not exist without her faithful encouragement and support.

**\*GIDEON'S INTERNATIONAL**

PO BOX 14997, SPOKANE, WA 99214

Every \$5 provides a free Bible.



Diane with her little buddies



## Thoughts from Diane . . . "I'LL BE OKAY TOMORROW."



Proverbs 8:11 **"For by me (WISDOM) your days will be multiplied, and YEARS WILL BE ADDED TO YOUR LIFE."**

I've asked George, my best friend and husband of 52 years, 4 months and 10 days to finish these thoughts for me. I had intended on finishing one more newsletter article, but during the past few weeks, my mind has been a bit foggy. It has been difficult to focus, so he is helping me with my final address to you. God had other plans.

As we study scripture and learn the principles God has for us, we understand that the days of our lives are in His hands. As Proverbs 8:11 says, it is by wisdom that days and years are added to our lives. Wisdom is seeing life from God's perspective. We are limited in that, but we can view life from the lens of Scripture. The foolish tend to cut life short, ignoring the wisdom of God's Word.

As a child, between the ages of nine and ten, I could have easily died. I fought rheumatic fever and hepatitis spending five months in a hospital in Minneapolis, Minnesota. **GOD GAVE ME MORE YEARS.** During that time, I remember listening to my heartbeat while laying on a pillow, wondering what would happen to me if my heart stopped. **GOD ADDED YEARS TO MY LIFE** through caring doctors and the use of Penicillin but taking antibiotics daily for the next twelve years caused damage and compromised my immune system. Doctors did not know then about the long term affect of antibiotics. As a result, I was later advised not to have children because of heart complications. God allowed me to live through the birth of three children. **HE ADDED YEARS TO MY LIFE.**

When I was fourteen, I heard and understand the clear message of the Gospel. Jesus is the Son of God. He died in my place to pay the full price for my sin. He rose again to confirm that payment. I believed that, acknowledged my sin and prayed to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. That began a lifelong relationship with God and has made possible for me to live eternally. I believed the simple truth of John 3:16. For God so loved ME that He gave His one and only Son so that when I believed in Him (Jesus) I knew I would not perish (spend eternity separated from God) but have everlasting life. **HE ADDED ETERNITY TO MY LIFE.**

Fighting multiple bouts of pneumonia, struggling through numerous operations to remove body parts that no longer worked dealing with allergies and asthma and battling repeated sinus and lung infections took its toll on this old body. I didn't think I'd see our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but I did. **GOD GAVE ME MORE YEARS.** I tested positive for Covid-19 in the fall of 2020 and was not expected to survive. I did. **GOD GAVE ME ANOTHER YEAR.** The inhaled antibiotic became ineffective in February of this year. I believed I had a month to live, but **GOD GAVE ME MORE MONTHS**

I have entered Heaven. My son, Ben, is here with me and so many family and friends. I can breathe. I can sing again. I have my strength back. I can walk and even run if I want to. There is no sin, no sickness, no sorrow, no separation, no pain here. There is a lot of perfect. My mind could never have prepared me for the wonder that is here.

To my brothers, Stevie, Billy, and Johnny and my cousin Lynne, I love you. Please be certain of your eternal destiny. Read or listen to the Gospel of John. It is written history. It is the truth. Decide for yourself if Jesus is Who He said He was, the Son of God.

I am convinced that life is the time God has given us here on earth to decide where we will spend eternity. God has given you more years. Consider His Son and the precious blood He shed for you. **Will I see you here with me?** My **HOPE** (confident assurance) has been fulfilled. **"Absent from the body, present with the Lord."** 2 Corinthians 5:8

On Friday afternoon, October 22, 2021, Diane was struggling with pain, struggling to breath and just stay alert. She knew we were very concerned. Trying to comforting us, she said, **"I'LL BE OKAY TOMORROW."** Early Saturday morning, October 23, 2021, Diane entered Heaven. She **IS** okay. We are not. We sorrow, but we sorrow not as those who have no HOPE. **"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."** Psalm 116:15

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:58 STANDING FIRMER THAN EVER, DIANE**