



ROGUE VALLEY COMMUNICATOR

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DANCING WITH GOD

Anonymous

When I meditated on the word Guidance, I kept seeing "dance" at the end of the word. I remember reading that doing God's will is a lot like dancing. When two people try to lead, nothing feels right. The movement doesn't flow with the music, and everything is quite uncomfortable and jerky. When one person realizes that, and lets the other lead, both bodies begin to flow with the music. One gives gentle cues, perhaps with a nudge to the back, or by pressing lightly in one direction or another. It's as if two become one body, moving beautifully. The dance takes surrender, willingness and attentiveness from one person and gentle guidance and skill from the other. My eyes drew back to the word GUIDANCE. When I saw 'G' I thought of God, followed by 'u' and 'i.' 'God', 'u' and 'i' 'dance.' God, you and I dance. As I lowered my head, I became willing to trust that I would get guidance about my life. Once again, I became willing to let God lead. My prayer for you today is that God's blessings and mercies be upon you on this day and everyday. May you abide in God as God abides in you. Dance together with God, trusting God to lead and to guide you through each season of your life. AND I HOPE YOU DANCE!

Lamplighters

Lighting the way for each other in our church and in our community



The Lamplighters last met on February 21st at the Taprock Restaurant in Grant Pass. Featured speakers were Ed and Dayle Lauber, missionaries for many years in Africa. Their presentation made clear some of the successes and difficulties of that ministry.

We also selected our Lamplighter of the month, Carol Dennett. Carol was born in Milwaukie, Wisconsin, where she graduated from high school and then took several courses in secretarial work in Junior College. She has lived for several years in California and then on to five years in Anchorage, Alaska. She has lived in Rogue River for the past fifteen years and recently became a part of the fellowship here at RVCC.

Carol has two daughters - Debbie and Dianne. She shares her home with her dog, Rover, and volunteers time with the Josephine Co. Humane Society. She is also currently enrolled with the "Master Gardeners" training program one day a week, plus spending a lot of time on her personal computer and reading. It's good to have her with us.

On March 21st the Lamplighters will meet at the "Heaven on Earth" restaurant just a few miles north on I-5. Our own local historian, Leonard Morrison will be our featured speaker.

If you are over 40 and single, come join us.



Library Corner

WHEN GOD BREAKS YOUR HEART

■ Ed Underwood

■ Why is God letting this happen to me? If you have never asked this question, someday you will.

■ There is perhaps no greater challenge to our faith than personal suffering. For pastor Ed Underwood this challenge came in the form of chronic leukemia. Though he prayed for and believed in God's healing, the days slipped by and his pain became unbearable. Ed's heart was broken by a simple realization. The God who could do anything was not helping him. Yet a revelation from God's Word changed his heart and life forever.

■ In this poignant journey from tragedy to hope, Ed takes a fresh look at the story of Lazarus and his sisters = a story that explores suffering through the eyes of our Lord and His people. You'll find comfort during difficulty, be inspired to ask for the impossible, and discover a God whose heart breaks with yours.

In the section 253.56 you will find an older book that is very thought provoking - *'Destined for Glory'* by Margaret Clarkson. If you or your loved ones have gone through difficulties and/or suffering you will find this book extremely helpful. This is a challenge – find God's sovereignty, His Glory and our best good as you read this.

Prayer from 'Destined for Glory'

O Father, You are sovereign in all the worlds
You made;
Your mighty Word was spoken, and light and
life obeyed.
Your voice commands the seasons and bounds the
ocean's shore,
Sets stars within their courses and stills the
tempests' roar.
O Father, You are sovereign in all affairs of man;
No powers of death or darkness can thwart Your
perfect plan.
All chance and change transcending, Supreme in
time and space,
You hold Your trusting children Secure in
Your embrace.

O Father, You are sovereign, The Lord of
human pain,
Transmuting earthly sorrows to gold of
heavenly gain,
All evil overruling, as none but Conqueror could,
Your love pursues its purpose –
Our souls eternal good.
O Father, You are sovereign! We see You
darkly now,
But soon before Your triumph earth's every knee
shall bow.
With this glad hope before us our faith springs
forth anew'
Our Sovereign Lord and Savior, we trust and
worship You!



Coffee Break starts the study of James on Thurs. March 4th in the fellowship hall from 9:30-11:30 am.

All ladies are welcome. It is a seven-week study, and you can join in at any of the seven lessons or social activities. Your family and friends are welcome too.

Is there more to being a Christian than loving God and doing your own thing? The book of James answers this with a resounding yes! In contrast to dead faith, James describes a living, life-changing faith that affects the day-to-day behavior and decision making of every true believer. We will talk about what behaviors nurture and which threaten the growth of the Word planted in the human heart. Come and learn what they are. And there is so much more! Study and learn in small group settings.

We want to alert you to some schedule and activity changes:

- March 11th remains the same with lesson #2 followed by a brown bag lunch (your opportunity to get better acquainted with each other).
- March 25th will be a movie day (suitable for children too), no lesson. Schedule is the same 9:30-11:30 am. Bring snacks. This is Spring break
- April 1st will be no lesson. We will have a potluck breakfast with an Easter program.
- April 8th thru April 29th will be lessons 4 thru 7.

If you have questions or want to know more about our group, please call Ginny at 582-4319 before 8:30 pm.

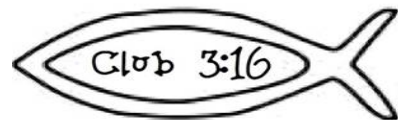
The Cross is Pivotal

Pivotal means crucial or absolutely necessary. Such is the cross on which Jesus died. It represents salvation from sin and death. To see sin in all its cruelty and depravity, look at the cross. The cross can jar a person to the core.

In his parent's bedroom, a teenager noticed a picture he'd never paid attention to before. It was a vivid scene of the Crucifixion. As the boy studied it, his emotions began to stir. He saw the helpless Christ dying, the helmeted soldiers bearing spears, the crowd seething with hatred. Jesus was pinned to the cross, bleeding and helpless. Mary stood nearby, consumed by grief.

The picture revealed sin and its results: suffering and death. What if the room had a different picture, with an empty tomb and an angel announcing Christ's resurrection? Those represent that God loves mankind so much he still wants to save us, no matter what we've done.

"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world" (Galatians 6:14, NRSV).



March 5th: Shamrock Night (dress in green)
April 2nd: Easter themed night

Reminder:

Daylight Savings Time begins March 14.
Turn your clocks forward one hour.

Prayer is Not a Dirty Word

Contributed by Rose Stanley

Can you imagine loving someone, whether it's a spouse, a sibling, a child or a friend, and not talking to them except when you have a need or want to give directions? I wonder if they would feel unwanted, unloved as well as ignored. Do you ever wonder how God must feel after He paid such a price to give us this gift of being His child and having fellowship together? Do you ever wonder why our "Women's Missionary Fellowship" (WMF) meetings (once a month, 2nd Tuesday, for two hours) is so lacking in interested people? WMF keeps us informed as to how our missionaries are faring. We discuss their needs and their praises and then we pray for each one. This is a vital part of our Church's ministry as well as an encouragement to our missionaries. There are five of us left to continue this ministry and when we are gone who will fill the "GAP"?

Our "Praise, Prayer and Bible study" (each Wednesday evening) is also lacking attendance. The Wednesday night meeting is not only extremely interesting but it also gives us a chance to ask questions and to learn more about this love letter from God. The meeting also provides an opportunity to share prayer requests for our families, our brothers and sisters in our Lord, as well as ourselves. We also share praises about what our Lord is doing and has done. How awesome it is to have this privilege of talking to the God who created all things, including us, who hears us and actually desires this fellowship of sharing. This time of having conversation with our Father is our only cost - "our time." But when you love Him a lot and know He loves you more than you could possibly imagine, He looks forward to your time with Him, whether it is a couple minutes or a couple of hours, He desires your fellowship. He actually delights in it like a parent with his child. What an awesome thing to know!

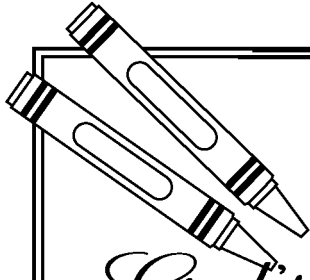
Philip Yancey wrote a book called *"PRAYER – does it make a difference?"* I am still reading it as I keep going back over things that he wrote. For instance "A hospice chaplain was called into a patient's room. The man was in the last stages of cancer and was feeling very guilty because he had spent the previous night ranting and raving at God. He imagined that God would never forgive one who had so cursed and abused Him. The chaplain asked the patient, "What do you think is the opposite of love?" The man replied, "Hate." Very wisely, the chaplain replied, "No, the opposite of love is indifference. You have not been indifferent to God, or you would never spend the night talking to Him, honestly telling Him what was in your heart and mind. Do you know the Christian word that describes what you have been doing? The word is 'prayer'. You have spent the night praying."

That thought really made me stop and seriously think of how often I was guilty of being indifferent to Him. So we must ponder over this and test ourselves to see if we have been doing the same. For me, I have asked our Lord's forgiveness, (more than once), and His help to overcome this defect. What is so wonderful is to know that He always hears us!

Would you pray with me - that our Lord would impress upon the hearts of those He has chosen to be people who pray?

The need is great, the fields are white for harvest but the laborers are few.

Just for Kids



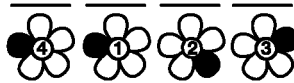
God's teaching is like...

In Deuteronomy, Moses' words to the children of Israel remind us of spring, which brings growth and new life.

Use the flower code below to fill in the blanks, revealing Deuteronomy 32:2, NIV.



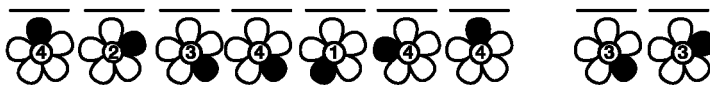
"Let my teaching fall like



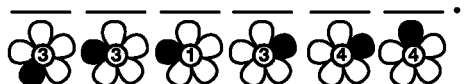
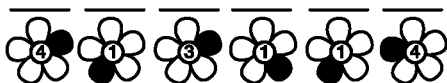
and my words descend like



like



like abundant



DIRT CUPS

Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups $\frac{3}{4}$ full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.

Answers: rain, dew, showers on new grass, rain on tender plants