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PAID
Wenatchee, WA
Permit No. 308

July 2011



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Being the heart and hands of Jesus Christ for our valley Vol. XI Issue VII July 2011

REV. BOB SHEPARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A LITTLE PICTURE OF WHAT HEAVEN WILL BE LIKE



For he himself (Jesus) is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.
Ephesians 2:14-15

I trust that you already have the date of August 28th highlighted on your calendar. It is at 4p.m. of that Sunday that we will meet at Eastmont Baptist church to celebrate our tenth anniversary of the SWV ministry and we want you to be present to celebrate with us. Reflecting over the past 10 years, when asked what we have aimed to accomplish, my answer has been to be a part of bringing God's Kingdom to our valley. Every time we utter the petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom Come, thy will be done" we are committing ourselves to strive to make the church a little picture of what heaven looks like.

In the last book of the Bible, John paints a glorious picture of heaven. All tears, hunger, violence and prejudice have vanished. Standing around the throne and praising God is "a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language." If we look around our valley, we can quite easily see that we have not completed our task yet, but we have made progress.

The marks of this progress include....

Unity: Allowing sinful dividing walls within in the church is a denial of the gospel, a disobedient rejection of God's purpose in Christ. By contrast, a new, reconciled, multiracial, multid denominational body of believers is a part of the Gospel. Paul repeatedly boasted of the way a relationship with Christ overcame the prejudices and divisions in the ancient world. How exciting it is to see the power of the Holy Spirit to touch hearts and minds to forge a new redeemed community where hostilities and divisions are disappearing. We are beginning to realize that every Christian stands at the foot of the cross, reconciled to God in exactly the same way. Together we can accomplish far more than we can independently.

Being the hands and heart of Jesus to the hurting: Jesus, the Eternal Word incarnate modeled a ministry of word and deed. He demonstrated a tender concern for the whole person. Jesus could have spent all his time preaching and urging people to repent. But a careful look at the Gospels shows that Jesus spent about as much time ministering to people's physical needs as he did preaching. Any view that reduces humans to primarily or exclusively to mere bodies or mere souls is simply unbiblical. Every person is a "body-soul-in community". So our efforts to feed and clothe people, to take stands for justice, counsel and comfort individuals through times of difficulty and more are all efforts that continue the ministry Jesus established here on earth.

Continued on Page 2, Rev. Bob Shepard

UPCOMING EVENTS

• – Mark these dates on your calendar – •

Back to School Giveaway

Saturday, August 13, 2011 7 am-noon

Please sign-up to help with this event- please see the Back to School flyer insert

All Valley Worship

(Celebration of Serve Wenatchee Valley's 10th anniversary)

Sunday August 28, 2011

at Eastmont Baptist Church 400 S. Kentucky

Stuff the Bus for Back to School

Tuesday, July 19, 2011

at Albertsons and Walker's Furniture parking lots.

8:00 am- 5:00 pm

Bring new and gently used children's clothing, school supplies, or monetary donations and help us fill the bus!

Continued from Page 1, Rev. Bob Shepard

Proclaiming Jesus is Lord of ALL: By definition a kingdom is the place that reflects the character and values of the King. It is a place where things operate the way he likes them. As the Kingdom of God is both present and future, God's rule has not been completely realized in our valley, but as it unfolds it will be present in our public and private lives. As Ron Sider has written, "Jesus is Lord of the bedroom, the ballot box and the board room." As Christians we are called to work in economics and politics to help bring the day when every sphere and every realm belongs to God. Unjust laws, economic oppression and racism are equally considered sinful as much as private acts of adultery, stealing and lying.

I want to personally thank you for your partnership during these past ten years. Truly it has been an amazing effort from our local Body of Christ. There is still much to be done, but God has laid a solid foundation upon which we can continue to build. The economic conditions we face may make it more challenging, but they also present an amazing opportunity for the church to be the answer to the petition we pray in the Lord's Prayer.

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OUR Oneness is our Witness



All Valley Worship

(Celebration of Serve Wenatchee Valley's 10th anniversary)

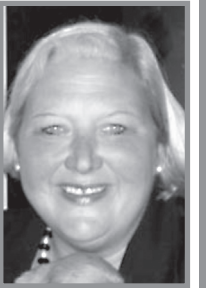
Sunday August 28, 2011 at Eastmont Baptist Church 400 S. Kentucky

Serve Wenatchee Valley Support Update

As you can tell from the financial figures, we are feeling the pinch of the economic crunch. If you are not currently financially supporting our ministry we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so, no matter what the amount. Together we can accomplish more in furthering God's will for our valley.

	June 2011	Year to Date
Income	\$13931	\$77,733
Expenses	\$13059	\$88,855

Gretchen's Prayer Corner



I had the opportunity once in my life to be in a meeting with Leonard Ravenhill and Winkey Pratney. We, as Believers in the Lord Jesus, have 24 /7 opportunity to be in the very Holy of Holies: the Presence of the Father, fellowshiping in the Holy Ghost, made possible by the shed blood and finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ. In light of this, I have never actually, by Grace, made a huge deal out of following this name or that here or there. But, when Leonard Ravenhill and Winkey Pratney are in the same meeting this side of heaven, it behooves one to hear what the Spirit is wanting to say to His Bride.

So, it is in humility that I offer here the words of Leonard Ravenhill, who is now very much with Jesus in eternity. The man lived Prayer, and still his words ring true. I really have nothing to add to this quote, except that I love you all. I pray that the Holy Spirit ministers to you, as He has to me through these words. May He challenge us all to "Press on to the High Calling in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Love, Gretchen

A Classic Quote on Revival from Leonard Ravenhill

"I offer it as my considered judgment that the main reason why we do not have heaven-born, Spirit-operated revival in our day is that we are content to live without it.

"Lesser 'blessings' make us happy. Another bus for Sunday school is all that some ask. A bigger attendance this year at Easter and Christmas elevates the joy of many promotion-gear'd churches. Others boast in a bigger offering for missions. But I warn you again that the devil and hell fear none of these paltry flesh-born goals. Revival alone shakes the devil's kingdom, brakes his power, robs him of eternal possessions, and releases his captives. Out of revival alone springs a vanguard of men who will eagerly hazard their lives for His dear sake. Revival alone inspires men to carry over-sized loads without a murmur, as did their Lord, men who will blaze new trails where souls by the million now sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

"Brethren! When we get humble enough, and low enough, and desperate enough, and hungry enough, and concerned enough, and passionate enough, and broken enough, and clean enough, and prayerful enough, then God will send us a revival that equals and surpasses the awakening this country experienced in the days of Charles Finney.

"No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. The pulpit can be a shop-window to display one's talents; the prayer closet allows no showing off. Poverty-stricken as the church is today in many things, she is most stricken here, in the place of prayer. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players, few pray-ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here we fail everywhere. The two prerequisites to successful Christian living are vision and passion, both of which are born in and maintained by prayer. The ministry of preaching is open to few; the ministry of prayer - the highest ministry of all human offices - is open to all. Present - day preaching, with its pale interpretation of divine truths, causes us to mistake action for unction, commotion for creation, and rattles for revivals. The secret of praying is praying in secret. A sinning man will stop praying, and a praying man will stop sinning."