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Being the heart and hands of Jesus Christ for our valley

Vol. XI Issue VI

June 2011

Rev. Bob Shepard, Executive Director



FAN OR FOLLOWER?????

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27

D –T –R. Some of you will recognize what these letters stand for. For a young man in a relationship, these letters strike fear in their hearts. They dread the DTR talk. It makes single men so uncomfortable they will only use the initials DTR. The objective is to postpone, run away, and put off DTR for as long as possible. In fact many men are so afraid of the DTR, they will terminate the relationship PDQ when they sense the DTR talk is imminent. Now do you want to guess what DTR stands for? D.T.R. stands for Define the Relationship. This is an official talk that takes place at some point in a romantic relationship to determine the level of commitment. You define the relationship and decide where things stand – is it casual, or is it committed?

Some feel uncomfortable when confronted with the DTR talk in our relationship with God. What exactly is the commitment level? Some are going to get a little uncomfortable, a little anxious...they may even have a fight or flight response because they kind of like the current arrangement you have with Jesus. He seems like a good guy – and they like having something to do on the weekends – what it comes down to is this - they want to have a relationship with Jesus with all the benefits but none of the commitment. A “no strings attached” arrangement – where they can connect with him from time to time – but it doesn’t really mess with your life. They want to be a fan of Jesus – but not a follower. In Luke 9:23 Jesus put it this way “If anyone would come after me he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me. Followers deny themselves, take up their cross and follow him... A fan is simply defined as an enthusiastic admirer.

Jesus in Matthew 7 warned his audience that being a follower involved more than words, but included actions. “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Matthew 7:21-23

And the DTR question concerning Jesus is this: Are you a fan or a follower?

UPCOMING EVENTS

• – Mark these dates on your calendar – •

Applebees Flapjack Fundraiser

Saturday, July 16th

Serve Wenatchee Valley will have a Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebees from 8 am until 10 am, more information inside newsletter

All-Valley Worship Service

Eastmont Baptist August 28th 4pm.

Come be a part of Serve Wenatchee Valley’s 10th year Anniversary
“OUR ONENESS IS OUR BEST WITNESS”

Applebees Flapjack Fundraiser July 16th

On Saturday July 16th, Serve Wenatchee Valley will have a Flapjack Fundraiser at Applebees from 8 am until 10 am. It's an all-you-can-eat breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, juice and coffee for only \$10 and the best part is that \$5 of the purchase price will be given to Serve Wenatchee Valley for our Back To School clothing fund.

Tickets need to be purchased ahead of time- which can be done at our office and/or some of our participating churches. We will need some volunteers to help serve at Applebees- if interested, contact our office. After you're done eating your breakfast, stop by the Albertson's parking lot and get your car washed for a donation of your choosing.



Pastors' Golf Tournament

Congratulations to the award winners at our 2011 Pastor's Golf Tournament;
 Pastor Myron Vierra –lowest score...
 Pastor Steve Whitney highest score...
 Pastor Jim Deal The Road Less Travelled Award (most out of bounds shots) and
 Pastor Darren Crutchfield "Closest to the Pin" award.



Attention Coffee Drinkers!!!!

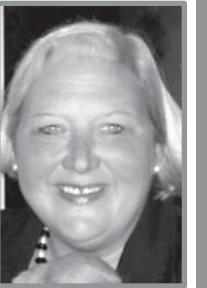
Java Station situated at the 76 station at the corner of Cherry and Miller is offering their "Give Back Wednesday" specials throughout the day each Wednesday in June. For each drink bought, a portion of the purchase price will be donated to our ministry.

Serve Wenatchee Valley Support Update

We continue to pray that God will provide for our ministry through the local Body of Christ. Due to the abundance of requests, we have spent our annual allotment for our food ministry by the middle of June and our non-food pantry funds are almost depleted as well. The deficit for our program budget is causing us to draw upon the reserves that God has graciously provided through our earlier years of ministry. Please keep our ministry in your thoughts and prayers.

	May 2011	Year to Date
Income	\$13,184	\$63,802
Expenses	\$16,973	\$75,796

Gretchen's Prayer Corner



"Peter fairly exploded with his good news: 'It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites!!! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from - if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open: The Message He sent to the children of Israel - that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again - well, He's doing it everywhere, among everyone.'" Acts 10:34-36

I am very touched by Acts 10 and my new-found friend, Cornelius, the Gentile Centurion. He and his house are some of the first Gentiles to hear the Gospel since Pentecost. Acts 10:2 describes Cornelius as: "He was a thoroughly good man. He had led everyone in his house to live worshipfully before God, was always helping people in need, and had the habit of prayer." (The Message). These descriptors all point to a really great guy. And I believe that he is! He's a Roman captain who appears to understand how to be in authority, and most probably, how to come under it. So far so good. It's hard to beat someone calling someone else "devout." It certainly seems, however, that this squeaky-clean life and life-style are still not enough to cause a man to be justified before God – to actually be righteous before that audience of ONE. So, good, King Jesus dispatches a full-blown angel to Cornelius at 3:00 in the afternoon. This angel tells Cornelius to send men to Joppa to "get Simon, the one everyone calls Peter." This sincere, good man does not say, "Wow!!! Maybe I just ate some really bad mushrooms on that pizza and just imagined all of this stuff..." No. He *immediately* sends two of His servants and "one particularly devout [note how this word is used again!] soldier from the guard" off to Joppa, exactly as the Angel had instructed. It seems that among other meanings, "devout" implies precision, attention to details and then orders being carried out expediently.

What I find astonishing is that God is dealing with a nice, but religious Gentile in Caesarea through an angel, while 21 hours later in Joppa, the Lord is speaking through a vision to Apostle Peter. Peter, the one who walked daily with our Lord, a Jewish ex-fisherman, is now a true Born-from-Above Christ-Follower. But, it appears Peter still has some religious baggage "from the old days" that the Lord wants to free him from as well: "While lunch was being prepared, he [Peter] fell into a trance. He saw the skies open up. Something that looked like a huge blanket lowered by ropes at its four corners settled on the ground. Every kind of animal and reptile and bird you could think of was on it. Then a voice came: 'Go to it, Peter - kill and eat.' 'Oh no, Lord [Peter says back to God!!!] I've never so much as tasted food that was not Kosher.' The voice came a second time: 'If God says it's okay, it's okay.' This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies." (The Message, Acts 10: 11-16)

Really, until Pentecost, it did not occur to the Church that anyone could be saved unless he was circumcised and kept the law of Moses. This fallacy perhaps would have continued, had not God intervened and convinced Peter otherwise, and then through him, the other Apostles as well (Acts 10:9-28). Religion will never cut it! So, in this beautiful passage, I think that I see that the Holy Spirit is dealing with a Christ-Follower (Peter) about letting go of some religious baggage, while the religious Gentile, Cornelius, is about to become a Christ-Follower!!! And, somewhere in the middle of his being graciously freed from legal baggage, Peter has Holy Spirit-inspired, living words to give to Cornelius and his household:

"Peter fairly exploded with his good news: 'It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites!!! It makes no difference who you are or where you were from - if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open. The Message He sent to the children of Israel - that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again - well, He's doing it everywhere, among everyone'" (Acts 10:34-36).

"If you want God - and are ready to do as HE says, the door [through JESUS CHRIST] is wide open"(Acts 10:35). Peter had words to give, and Cornelius found these words to be life-changing, because of the work of the Person of Christ. And He, Christ, is doing this everywhere, among everyone! We here at Serve Wenatchee Valley are so thrilled to be about what the Lord is doing in this valley. We are so grateful to be a part of the Lord's Body, and on a daily basis, to be the Hands of the Lord extended as He Graces us with His opportunities – the beautiful people that walk through the doors at Serve. And, we know that you, dear reader are a part of "this" on-going work and prayer with us as well.

Blessings on you this summer as we see where the Lord is leading us and go with Him through all doors!

Love, Gretchen.