



Rev. Bob Shepard, Executive Director

Kathy Ochs, Clearinghouse Coordinator

Juan Miranda, Administrative Assistant

Being the heart and hands of Jesus Christ for our valley

Vol. XI Issue X

October 2011



REV. BOB SHEPARD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy” Lev. 19:2

Without question, one of the central themes that runs throughout the story of God and His people is God’s constant command, “Be Holy because I am Holy.” But what does the holiness of God mean and once we understand that then the question arises ... what does it mean for those who follow God to be holy.

Typically holiness has been defined by ideas of separation, isolation and withdrawal from the world. Holiness was linked to personal piety. In order to get more holy one needed to retreat from the world into one’s own world and there one would experience more of God. Holiness was about a “special” place and “special” activities.

Yet, as we consider God’s holiness, it is not marked by absence, but by a distinctive presence. Not about withdrawal but engagement. The word “holy” originally meant different or other. But over the ages the term became encrusted with layers of cultural misinterpretations of withdrawal, detachment and isolation which gradually distorted the meaning of the word.

What did the Hebrews of the Old Testament hear when Yahweh’s challenge came to them..” Be holy as I am holy” They heard “ be different as I am different.”

To understand how Yahweh was different we need to hold up the character of God against the character of the plethora of the many other gods of that region who were famous for their unfeeling, irrational, angry and capricious natures.

What quickly jumps off the pages of Scripture is not merely that our God, the God of Israel, was a powerful God (ElShaddai) but what made the God of Israel different was that He is a covenant-making God- one who was faithful and trustworthy ... one who made and kept His promises.

With Yahweh, holiness is not about an otherness that is removed and isolated from the world, but exactly the opposite. He is involved with His people and on their side. It is this character trait that sets Him apart from other gods.... And is to set His people apart from other people.

God supremely manifested his character as a God who is distinctively present, and faithful to his word in His Son Jesus Christ. The writers of the New Testament are clear: God’s character is fully accurately and completely revealed by Jesus, who came, self-sacrificially served, died on the cross rose again and sent the Holy Spirit to illumine, empower, guard and guide us.

And if there is any one word used to describe the life and mission of Jesus it would be the word different- different in his treatment of sinners, the oppressed and outcasts of society, different in his approach to faithful living than that of the religious leaders of his day. If we want to understand what it means to be holy as God is holy, we are given the opportunity to see up close the embodiment of that holiness in the compassion, mercy, justice courage, patience gentleness and love of Jesus.



CAN YOU HELP US WITH THE BASKETS OF BLESSINGS ?

Enclosed in this newsletter is a sign-up sheet to volunteer for our Baskets of Blessings event scheduled for November 22. Once again this year our target is 375 baskets and we need people to decorate the baskets prior to the event and/or help assemble and distribute them on November 22.

All the food for the baskets is pre-purchased and can be sponsored for \$35 each.



Serve Wenatchee Valley Support Update

November 1st marks the date for significant reductions in state benefits offered to hundreds of families in our valley. We anticipate an increase to the already-increased (up nearly 40% this year) number of requests for assistance. Your continued support of our ministry is even more crucial at this time, especially as we approach the holiday season. I believe God is giving the Body of Christ an opportunity to display God's love and mercy in new and creative ways.

	September 2011	Year to Date
Income	\$6,371	\$113,774
Expenses	\$13,768	\$129,732



FOOD DRIVES

A special word of thanks is extended to all the local businesses who recently participated in the "We Love This Town" food drive coordinated through the Town auto dealers. Altogether nearly 14,000 pounds of food was collected for our food ministry. It came just in time as our warehouse was down to only soup and beans.

Mark your calendar for our food drive at the Grand Opening of the Wenatchee Wal-Mart on Saturday October 29th. We will be there from 9 am to 4pm. collecting donations. Stop by and say Hi!



Gretchen's Prayer Corner

SECRETS



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for the many comments sent my way, as well as the true prayer burden as a result of last months' Prayer Corner article with Little Gibbie's story. I just knew that you would want to "meet" him, and that the Holy Spirit would lead us into prayer. As the Lord reveals to us how much is accomplished in the heavens as a result of true intercession, it compels us to pray more. This is a hidden, secret life. SECRETS. Although many secrets are "bad", this in fact is a time when secrets are considered a very good thing. Matthew chapter six starts out in red letters in our Bible, as our Lord Jesus Christ continues teaching us from what we call the Sermon on the Mount.. The first four verses speak very clearly that we are to give to the poor, but Jesus is crystal-clear, for all of our sakes, exactly HOW we are to give. The Lord exhorts us to not even let our left hand talk with our own right hand about what it might be doing as far as giving! Christ certainly uses the exact word and concept of secrecy (and I might add, humility) when it comes to giving.

Closely on the heels of verse number four on secret giving, follows red-lettered verses five through fifteen - all on secret praying. These passages proceed directly into the Lord's Prayer itself - the beautiful MASTER'S - PIECE!

"And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matthew 6: 5-8 Holy Bible, ESV)

With strong exhortation to refrain from hypocrisy - explained as "acting", or "feigning principles not adopted and passions not felt" - in BOTH giving and praying, Jesus teaches us clearly in verse six exactly HOW TO pray. It is specific to me: Gretchen - when you pray, enter into your closet, alone in the car while driving, in the elevator, or sometimes simply in your head, shut your door, and pray to YOUR Father - WHO IS IN SECRET. This secret is a really, really, REALLY GOOD secret. He is a really safe, secret place - able to hold all of the things said in secret - Because He IS Perfect, Agape Love. Anything and Everything said to Him in secret stays with Him. Period. But, because He alone Loves all parties involved - the good, the bad, the ugly - He answers perfectly. He knows the entire behind-the-scenes story, all of the principle and second-string players, and all of the hairs on all of the heads as well. But, there's more. The end of verse six says: "Your Father Who sees in secret shall reward you openly." Did you notice on this that the Lord never mentions "timing"??? I am acutely aware of this. My experience also at times has been: "need not be present to win"Ö.. But, with all joking aside, THIS Safe, Secret, Perfect Agape Father promises to bring His reward out into the open arena. In this day and age when things are truly tough, and it appears that some things may become even less dependable, our Father's Word is able to be taken to the bank.

I believe with all of my heart that Father wishes to lead us all deeper into this His secret place. He desires to train us in prayer and to teach us because this - above pretty much all else - is SO effective and also so intimate. Of course He knows what we "need" - He's God and we are not - but He's Divinely interested in us; deeply desirous of us entering into this place of secret fellowship and intimacy called prayer. He does reward openly in His Perfect Love and Timing. He receives ALL Glory. We have already seen so much of His mercy in our lives and the lives of the precious ones that He trusts us with each day at Serve Wenatchee Valley. But, we have only one life to live, and there is so much more in prayer to be a part of. We know clearly from Scripture who we are to pray for: people in authority, our enemies, our friends, our neighbors, the sick, the poor, our cities, nations, world, and certainly those who do not yet know His Amazing Grace.

I would like to close this out with one of my favorite verses in the entire Bible. It is about the Father's best secret, revealed.

"Now to Him that is of power to stablish you according to My Gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, WHICH WAS KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to ALL NATIONS for the obedience of faith, To God only wise, be Glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." (Romans 16: 25-27, Holy Bible, KJV)

Love, Gretchen.

212 S. Mission St.
P.O. Box 5543
Wenatchee, WA 98807
(509) 663-4673 (ONE-HOPE)

email: info@servewenatchee.org
www.servewenatchee.org



Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Wenatchee, WA
Permit No. 308

October 2011

→ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ←

• – *Mark these dates on your calendar* – •

Make a Difference Day

Saturday, October 22, 2011

Food Drive

Saturday, October 29, 2011
at Wenatchee Wal-Mart Grand Opening
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Baskets of Blessings

Tuesday, November 22, 2011
See insert for sign up and information