

The Connection

Volume 6, Issue 1, January 2008

from Pastor Mike...

Renewed Hope

Welcome to a brand new year — 2008! I trust that you ended 2007 with a sense of peace and joy, knowing that the Lord has guided and at times carried you through yet another year and that you have experienced again His faithfulness, love and mercy.

Many of us enter a New Year with a great sense of hope, a new beginning, and a fresh start. Some of us however, carry with us a desire of restored relationships, a hope of better health, or a thriving bank account. I don't know about you, but each New Year I write out my goals, objectives and aspirations. I take those dreams to the Lord and seek His direction for me, my family and our church family. With great expectation and renewed hope I anticipate and believe that God will lead and guide me. The writer of Proverbs instructs to: *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths. Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn your back on evil."* Proverbs 3: 5-7. These are sound words as we begin a New Year.

There are two poems I've come across that give a strong reminder of how to begin and finish

this New Year. I believe they will inspire you and provide hope in the days to come. May the Lord's Blessing be upon you and your families in this New Year as you follow Jesus Christ.



Christian New Year's Resolutions

How can I use the New Year
To better serve my Lord?
I'll read my Bible every day,
And be more in accord.
I'll find new ways to serve others;
I'll love my neighbor, too.
I'll focus on "give" instead of "get"
In everything I do.
I'll forgive the people I'm mad at;
Angry feelings I'll discard;
I'll try to love my enemies,
Even though it's hard.
In the new year, I'll lift people up,
Instead of putting them down.
I'll fill my heart with love and joy,
And never wear a frown.
I'll let go of my worries;
I'll put it all in His hands;
I'll repent and try to sin less,
And obey all His commands.
These new year's resolutions
Are difficult, at best,
But there's something I can do each day
That will put my soul at rest:
I'll love my Lord with all my heart,
With all my mind and soul,
And if I do that essential thing,
All the rest will be in control.

By Joanna Fuchs

continued on page 6



As We Start the New Year

I finally got all of the new calendars up and my 2008 planner ready to go. A new year...I wonder what God has in store for me this year? There were certainly lots of special surprises and challenges last year that I never saw coming. How about you? Beginning a new year can be daunting to some but I pause to consider all of the places God will take me this year.

There is the adventure of church administration. We will be developing plans to rejuvenate some of our buildings on campus. We will search out a new Worship and Arts Pastor. There will be new opportunities to help those in need in our valley. And I can't leave out the ongoing challenge of budgetary stewardship. I hope that administratively we have the best year ever.

As a family, I look forward to creating special memories for my grandkids, seeing my kids accomplish amazing things, spending quality time with my wife every day and special visits with my Dad and my brothers and sister and their families.

Of course I must comment that I again want to improve my golf game and have hopes of taking a run at qualifying again for the USGA Senior Amateur and perhaps the Senior Open.

Until next time...

Pastor Dan II

New Classes coming in the New Year

In order to increase attendance in Kids' Club, Families in Training is moving to Sunday nights from 5:30-7:30. Come at our new time and see what's in store for you. Most classes require registration through the church office.

Financial Peace University—Worship Center
Learn to control your money instead of letting your money control you.

Beth Moore—Matthew 3
Living Beyond Yourself
— a fruit of the spirit study for women.

Life Development Classes—Matthew 4
101— Jan 6, Jan 13
201— Jan 20, Jan 27
301—Feb 3, Feb 10
401— Feb 17, Feb 24

Understanding Islam — Mark 3&4
Learn the cultural and religious heritage of Muslims and how to share the gospel with them.

Confronting Life Issues — Matthew 1
Video series that answers tough questions about life from a Biblical perspective.

Also on Sunday Mornings

What Every Christian Needs to Know part 2

Taught by Pastor Mike Hinrichsen

Noomas

Rob Bell speaks the truth of God's Word in today's language. Each short video is followed by discussion. Taught by Diane Miller

Exploring the Meaning of Worship

Taught by Richard Easton

Check out the new CE Brochure for more information



New Year, Heart, and Salvation
by Pastor Sharon

The beginning of 2008 will have people making New Year's resolutions all over the country. A New Year's resolution is the tradition of changing old habits, and doing new things, and making promises that we won't do certain stuff anymore. Many of these well-intentioned promises will never make it to see the shadow of the groundhog. The real problem with New Year Resolutions is in our process, we forget we actually need God to help us to make, change and keep a New Year's resolution!

The reason we celebrate Christmas is because of the birth of Jesus. Jesus Christ came to the world to make a re"soul"ution. Not just a resolution that He was going to help the world a little bit, but completely change the world forever. Jesus saw the condition of our hearts and lives and desired to make a change in us due to the dark decay caused by sin in our life. Therefore, Jesus came to make a re"soul"ution in your heart. This heart condition is what happens when we sin, when we mess up, when we say bad things to our parents or make fun of people, or steal or lie or anything sinful.

The Lord came to fix our heart problem. Jesus does this when we accept His unconditional love into our hearts. God completely transforms our hearts, and makes a re"soul"ution in our lives. Jesus asks us to do the same! He asks that we help to make a resolution in the world by being world changers!

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

From Pastor Ike



Adjusting is one of those things that always takes time, and you never know just how much time it will take until one day you sit back and say "Huh...I feel like I am finally adjusted to this place." Well we are not there yet, but God is good and He is making adjusting a bit easier. Amy and I feel so very welcome here, and although we do not know all the names and all the faces (let alone put the names with the proper faces) we feel like you all are our friends.

As for the Youth Group, we are in process of some adjusting as well. We are in the works of creating a new name as well as a revamped program that will begin to take shape in early January and will continue throughout much of 2008.

Starting on January 9th, Senior Highers will be going through "Life Hurts, God Heals." It should run for a total of 13 weeks, but we will be taking off every 4th week for some recovery from the intensity of the program.

The Jr. Highers will be meeting during the regular F.I.T. hours on Sunday.

Upcoming Events:

Sr High Winter Camp — February 15th- 18th at Double K ranch

Newsletter Deadline

If you have an upcoming event you'd like to promote, faith story or poem you'd like to share, or anything else that pertains to the life of the people of Blue Mountain Community Church, please consider writing a small article (300 words or less) and submitting it to the newsletter. The deadline for articles is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

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|----|----------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|------------------------------------|
| 1 | <i>Marty Ybarra</i> | 19 | <i>Carrie Freiberg</i> | 2 | <i>Kelly & Mary Fleming</i> |
| | <i>Sierra Ybarra</i> | | <i>Ed Hendricksen</i> | 7 | <i>Dave and Cindy Houk</i> |
| 2 | <i>Sabastian Alban</i> | | <i>Dave Houk</i> | 9 | <i>Jack & Debbie Sands</i> |
| | <i>Reva Ewing</i> | | <i>Erik Jensen</i> | | <i>Paul & Leanne Howard</i> |
| 3 | <i>Jeff Simmons</i> | | <i>Elise Pettyjohn</i> | 17 | <i>Rick & Jolene Queen</i> |
| | <i>John Ermacoff</i> | | <i>Nancy Stewart</i> | 24 | <i>Vincent & Kelle Cannone</i> |
| 4 | <i>Doris Cook</i> | 21 | <i>Andrew McMillan</i> | | |
| | <i>Megan Houk</i> | | <i>Sharon Wiles</i> | | |
| 5 | <i>Michael Klicker</i> | 23 | <i>Chelsea Steiner</i> | | |
| 6 | <i>Jason Cowles</i> | 24 | <i>Jessica Groat</i> | | |
| | <i>Elizabeth Thomaston</i> | | <i>Michael Hinrichsen</i> | | |
| 7 | <i>Holly Carrera</i> | 25 | <i>Robert Joshlin</i> | | |
| | <i>Sara Huie</i> | 26 | <i>Morghan Carrera</i> | | |
| 8 | <i>Carol Schirman</i> | | <i>Jerold Cook</i> | | |
| 9 | <i>Gary Burns</i> | | <i>Betty Eyestone</i> | | |
| | <i>Kariss Carrillo</i> | 27 | <i>Jean Lamb</i> | | |
| | <i>Travis Haen</i> | | <i>Steve Mize</i> | | |
| | <i>Mike Lydon</i> | 29 | <i>Brenda Hobbs</i> | | |
| | <i>Rosalie Vogt</i> | 30 | <i>Anna Frazier</i> | | |
| 10 | <i>Xander Freiberg</i> | | <i>Ron McBride</i> | | |
| | <i>Dona Rahn</i> | | <i>Bill Parker</i> | | |
| | <i>Allison Snider</i> | 31 | <i>Randy Knudson</i> | | |
| 11 | <i>Ben Brink</i> | | <i>Myron Rogers</i> | | |
| 12 | <i>Russ Kroum</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Kendra Voeks</i> | | | | |
| 13 | <i>Shelby Mountain</i> | | | | |
| 15 | <i>Carol Grubb</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Marie Hickman</i> | | | | |
| 16 | <i>Ethan Guse</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Shane Mings</i> | | | | |
| 17 | <i>Louise Doyle</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Rick Guse</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Keilsee Leisle</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Frances Winters</i> | | | | |
| 18 | <i>Rick Maxwell</i> | | | | |
| | <i>Austin Walker</i> | | | | |



Celebrating Anniversaries and Birthdays



Special Days

- 1 New Year's Day
- 6 Epiphany
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Monthly Events

- 1 Office Closed
- 3 SAMS 10:00 AM
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 7:00 PM
- 8 Quilter's Guild 6:00 PM
- 10 MOPS 9:00 AM
Board of Elders Meeting 6:30 PM
- 12 Men's Breakfast 7:30 AM
- 14 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 17 SAMS 10 :00 AM
Missions Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
Building & Grounds Commission 7:00 PM
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 20 Semi- Annual Business Meeting after service
- 21 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM
- 25 MOPS 9:00 AM

* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries
MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers

Weekly Events

- Sunday**
Families in Training 5:30 PM
- Tuesday**
Taking Off Pounds Sensibly 5:30 PM
Boy Scouts 7:00 PM
- Wednesday**
Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM
Adult Bible Study 6:30 PM
High School Youth Group 7:00 PM
- Thursday**
Worship Team Rehearsal 7:00 PM
- Friday**
Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM



The Bean Seed Grows Up

by [Debbie Roome](#)

It was cold and wet under the dark brown soil and the seed shivered. There must be a mistake. He was supposed to be a tall, green beanstalk. “God!” he cried out. “What’s happening to me? I’m supposed to be a tall, green beanstalk”

God whispered back. “Wait.”

And so the seed waited. He waited all day and all night and all that changed was his skin became loose. “God!” he cried out. “What’s happening to me? I’m supposed to be a tall green beanstalk.”

God whispered back. “Wait.”

And so the seed waited. He waited all week. Seven days and seven nights and all that changed was his skin fell off and a root started to grow. He liked the root for it pushed him up through the soil, closer to the warmth of the shiny, yellow sun. But he was still worried.

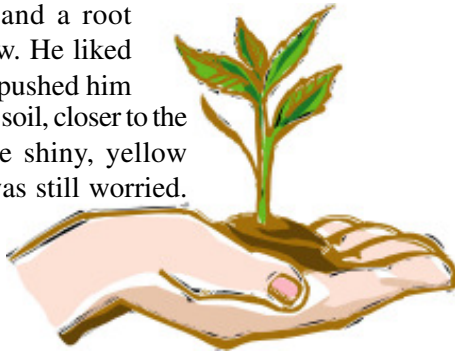
“God!” he cried out. “What’s happening to me?”

I’m supposed to be a tall, green beanstalk.”

God whispered back. “Wait.”

And so the seed waited. He waited another week. Seven days and seven nights and all that changed was the root pushed him above ground and he grew two small leaves. He was happy to be in the sun, but he still wasn’t a beanstalk. “God!” he cried out. “What’s happening to me? I’m supposed to be a tall, green beanstalk.”

God whispered back. “Wait.”



continued from page 1

You’re Always There for Me

When the world comes crashing in

And chaos rules my mind,

I turn my heart to you, Lord,

And pure, sweet peace I find.

You lift me out of trouble

You comfort me in pain;

You nourish, heal and cleanse me,

Like cool, refreshing rain.

In times of joy and bliss,

When things are going right,

You lift me even higher,

And fill me with delight.

You listen to my prayers;

You hear my every plea;

I’m safe because I know

You’re always there for me.

By Joanna Fuchs

And so the seed waited. He waited two weeks. Fourteen days and fourteen nights and all that changed was he grew some more leaves and roots. He knew he was getting stronger as the rain watered him and the sun warmed him, but he wanted to be tall. “God!” he cried out. “What’s happening to me? I’m supposed to be a tall, green beanstalk.”

God whispered back. “Wait.”

And so the seed waited. He waited another two weeks. Fourteen days and fourteen nights and at last his dream came true. He looked down at himself and he was tall and green and strong with healthy leaves and small white flowers which nodded in the sun. “God!” he cried out. “Thank you for making me a tall, green beanstalk.”

God whispered back. “You’re welcome.”



Celebrate Recovery

by Teri Stewart

Step 2: We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity. *For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.* Phil 2:13.

There is a rock song that says: “It’s the end of the world as we know it.” I believe that these are the end times. I don’t apologize for that. Abraham believed God’s plan would be accomplished in his time and he was a man of renown, considered righteous and of great faith.

Movies like the Golden Compass, dissertations on the internet supposedly proving the fallacy of God — these things have actually **boosted** my faith in recent days. It closely follows scripture. The constant “war and rumors of war” shouted from every media corner, the breakdown of governmental trustworthiness, the disappointment again and again of how the human race handles things; these things are in our manual for living, the Bible.

The message to me is this: stand firm, keep the faith, and await the promised coming of Christ. It fills me with excitement and a feeling of great responsibility.

We need to be compassionate to those who are duped by the world. There are so many out there who **are** frightened because of the times. Who are disconsolate and believe there is no hope.

As for the Golden Compass and all the media exposes saying there is no God; I say, “Bring it on— because my God is **unstoppable!**” I believe that once people finally get miserable enough, they will finally turn to Him, who is able to heal, and we can get to our great future, which is also foretold.

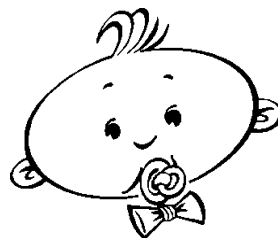
It’s the end of the world as we know it, and I feel fine.



MISSIONS CORNER

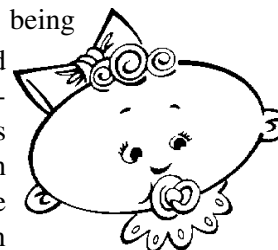
by Joyce Paine

This month I would like to tell you a little about **Birthright of Walla Walla**. It is one of the missions we support with our faith promise dollars, and one that I am personally involved with. Birthright is a pregnancy aid service that was begun in Canada in 1968 and our local center was opened 21 years ago. The guiding principle of Birthright is “**It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every**

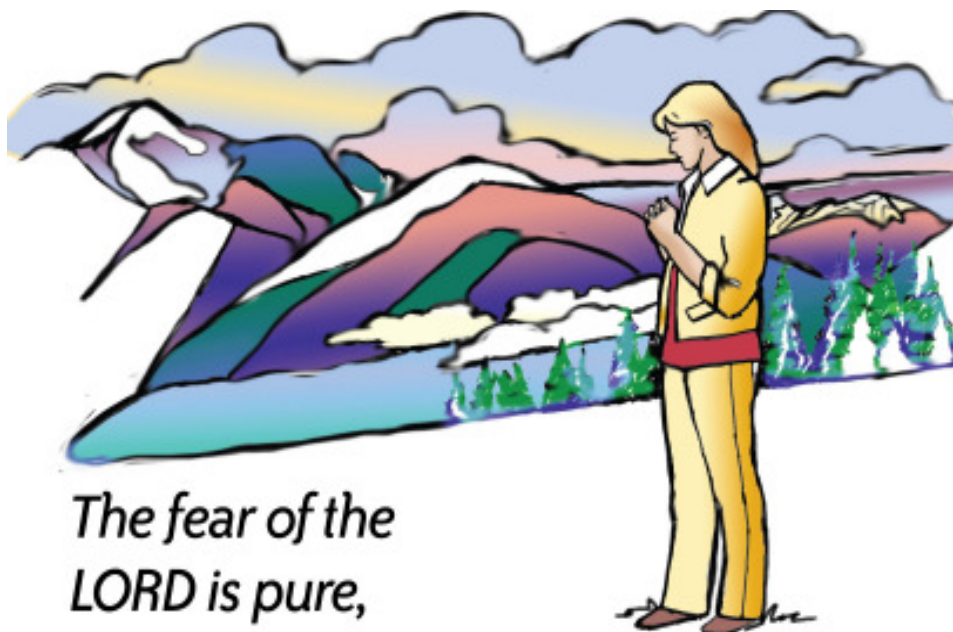


child to be born.” Birthright offers free confidential pregnancy tests and through friendship, counseling, love, compassion, and resources do everything they can to help every woman that comes into their office carry her baby to term.

Through many years of fundraising, Birthright was blessed this last year with being able to purchase a home and move into a permanent location. Their new home is located at 609 W Birch Street, across from the Iceberg. You are more than



welcome to stop by and visit. If anyone feels led to become a volunteer, please give Birthright a call at 509-529-8678. You, through your faith promise dollars, are making a difference in the lives of women and children in our community – thank you, Blue Mountain Community Church!



*The fear of the
LORD is pure,
enduring forever.*

Psalm 19:9, NIV

Our Ministry Team

Senior Pastor — Mike Hinrichsen
Administrative Pastor — Dan Huntley
Children's Pastor — Sharon Wiles
Student Ministries Interim — Adam Hinrichsen
Worship Interim Pastor — Richard Easton

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