

# The Connection

Volume 7, Issue 5, May 2009

## 2009 PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Beth Moore  
2009 Honorary Chairman  
National Day of Prayer Task Force

Father in Heaven,

We lift our eyes toward Your Throne,  
where You reign in righteousness.

Your Word assures us that when Your people  
cry out in sincerity and humility, You will never  
turn a deaf ear to us.

We call upon You now,  
seeking Your forgiveness and favor.

Look over this fevered landscape  
and heal us, Lord.

Drop knees to the floor and raise eyes to the sky,  
for we know where our help comes from.

Unite these States again in devotion to You, and  
blur every dividing line.

Do not give us over to our sins. Give us, instead,  
over to passionate prayer that moves Your heart.

“May Your unfailing love rest upon us, O Lord,  
even as we put our hope in You.”

In the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ  
Amen

## Types of Prayer

From the National Day of Prayer Task Force

**Worship:** [Heb. shachah {shaw-khaw'} = bow down, prostrate oneself]. The true worshipper God seeks worships in spirit and in truth. (John 4:23). God wants truth in the inner parts (Psalm 51:6). In true worship, there is a total bowing down of the heart to God. In worship we express love and admiration to God which is a response to the revelation of who God is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. Worship is voluntary submission to the love, the will and the law of God. Any hypocrisy disqualifies us for true worship. In worship we hear the voice of God.

**Confession:** 1. In confession of sin, we tell God with our mouth our sin. We should specifically tell God what we did, or acknowledge what we failed to do that we should have done. This is necessary to restore communion with God and is a preparation for further fellowship. 2. In confession of the Word, we tell God with our mouths what He has said in His Word. We express faith and confidence in God and God's Word verbally, and it releases the blessing of God to us. Very rarely do we rise above the level of our verbal confession before God.

**Thanksgiving:** This is thanking God for what He has done for us. We can thank Him both for blessings seen and those as yet unseen. It is a key to faith and it is natural and right that we give thanks always to the One from whom all good things come. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

*continued on page 4*

## *from Pastor Mike...*

### *Spring Has Come, A Time to Celebrate*

Wow, we made it through another winter. Is it me or did it seem that winter was extra long this year? I have so longed for the bright sunny and warm days of spring. It's wonderful to walk outside and see the signs of new life all around us, everything from the budding trees, to the blooming flowers, and watching people enjoying an afternoon walk. Truly it's time to celebrate.

What comes to mind when you think about the month of May? For some it is the excitement of the annual Walla Walla balloon stampede weekend. Rising early with coffee mug in hand dragging the kids and out of town guests to the launch sight at Garrison in order to witness the inflation of each balloon and see them lift off one by one and fill the sky with their brilliant colors that creates those marvelous photo opportunities. It's about creating memories. It's a time to celebrate.

For others May is the time we focus on our Mothers. Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup> is Mother's Day. It's a time to give thanks to God for blessing our lives with the gift of our moms. The scripture teaches us that mom's play a very important role in the life of their children. Moms, your role is critical in laying a foundation of faith, hope, and love in your children. Establishing these key principles is a daily and sometimes hourly gift that you give your kids. The Bible says "*don't grow weary in doing good for in due time you will reap a harvest of joy.*"

Author Helen Steiner Rice has written a poem that speaks so well of the value of Mothers.



## A MOTHER'S LOVE

A Mother's love is something  
that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion  
and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish  
and enduring come what may  
For nothing can destroy it  
or take that love away . . .  
It is patient and forgiving  
when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters  
even though the heart is breaking . . .  
It believes beyond believing  
when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty  
of the rarest, brightest gems . . .  
It is far beyond defining,  
it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret  
like the mysteries of creation . . .  
A many splendored miracle  
man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence  
of God's tender guiding hand.

Take some time to reflect and see what it is that you need to celebrate. Then thank the Lord. There is more. Celebrate!

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Articles are always welcome from any member of Blue Mountain Community Church. Submit it to [bmcc\\_newsletter@charter.net](mailto:bmcc_newsletter@charter.net). The deadline is the second Wednesday of each month. The editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

# UpStreet® Update

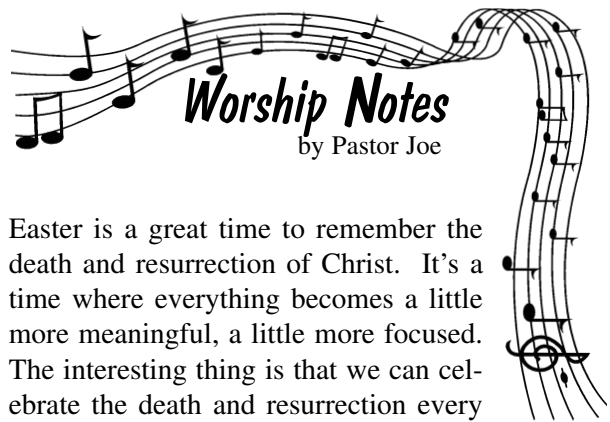
by Cailey Dumler

If you were not able to attend Blue Mountain Community Church on Palm Sunday, you missed a wonderful performance by the UpStreet kids. They worshiped with their whole heart, soul, and mind as they sang, “My Redeemer Lives.” They raised banners toward Heaven and praised God with up-lifted hands.

I often wonder if we could learn something from these precious children. I am inspired to observe their devotion to God as they worship without concentrating on others around them. May God challenge us to worship Him as if nobody else were around us, basking in His glorious presence. He is worthy of our praise! Thank you to Troi Coram, Kristi Webb, and Pastor Joe for supporting these kids and helping them to utilize the gifts and talents God has given them.

*“It is good to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.”*  
Psalm 92:1,2 (NIV)

Let us demonstrate praise to God through our lives, not just in music, but in all that we do. As we lift up His name, prepare to see the power of God move in mighty ways!

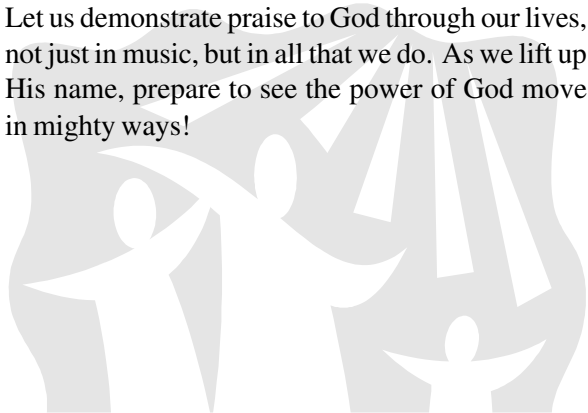


Easter is a great time to remember the death and resurrection of Christ. It's a time where everything becomes a little more meaningful, a little more focused. The interesting thing is that we can celebrate the death and resurrection every day!! Christ continues to have victory over sin even past Easter Sunday.

As we worship God, hopefully daily, we worship a God who we cannot comprehend. He has defeated death and sin... He has interacted with humanity in many different ways... He is currently present and yet timeless... God is truly an amazing, awesome, BIG, mysterious God. Every day we should celebrate the fact that such a big God wants to have a meaningful and eternal relationship with every one of us.

The cross and resurrection is about grace, forgiveness, sacrifice, redemption, pain, love... Jesus' life, death and resurrection are pivotal events throughout all time. They not only break time between BC and AD, but they break the barrier between us and God. Jesus is the bridge for humanity to have eternal relationship with Divinity. What a great thought that only through Christ can we know God and have eternity with Him.

God is not an event in time. He is here. His Spirit is among us, living and active. This week live in the love, forgiveness, and power of a living God, even past Easter. Worship Hard!!



## *Celebrating May Birthdays and Anniversaries*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1 <i>Andrea Gonzalez</i><br/><i>Ken Jurgensen</i></p> <p>2 <i>Linda Cline</i><br/><i>Teresa Maxwell</i></p> <p>4 <i>Skip Harrold</i><br/><i>Joshua McDaniels</i><br/><i>Rachel McMillan</i></p> <p>5 <i>Bettie Baker</i><br/><i>Pat Hanford</i><br/><i>Cody Turner</i><br/><i>Patty Phelps-Lydon</i></p> <p>6 <i>Darby Clark</i></p> <p>7 <i>Dodie Bruggeman</i></p> <p>9 <i>Frank Aichele</i><br/><i>Dan Huntley</i><br/><i>Talise Minter</i></p> <p>10 <i>Ryan Houk</i><br/><i>Bev Kuljis</i><br/><i>Kristi Webb</i></p> <p>11 <i>Kris Eagon</i><br/><i>Tanner Gorze</i><br/><i>Maggie Miranda</i><br/><i>Christene Thrasher</i></p> <p>12 <i>Anna Rice</i><br/><i>Herb Smeed</i><br/><i>Maranatha Snider</i></p> <p>13 <i>Caleb Mountain</i><br/><i>Cy Barnes</i></p> <p>14 <i>Ed Voss</i></p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: 0;"/> <p>1 <i>Gene &amp; Cheryl Cowles</i></p> <p>4 <i>Michael &amp; Wendy Baird</i></p> <p>7 <i>John &amp; Betty Hamby</i></p> <p>13 <i>Rick &amp; Cyndi Walters</i></p> <p>17 <i>Bob &amp; Diane Benfield</i></p> <p>25 <i>Jim &amp; Cindy Tackett</i></p> <p>29 <i>Tom &amp; Cindy Angotti</i></p> | <p>15 <i>Alec Carrera</i><br/><i>Frankie Weed</i></p> <p>16 <i>Cindy Blair</i><br/><i>Judi Easton</i><br/><i>Kelly Hutcherson</i><br/><i>Marissa McBride</i><br/><i>Deborah Minter</i><br/><i>Joan Owens</i></p> <p>17 <i>Jared Burns</i><br/><i>Timothy Goodwin</i><br/><i>Adam Hinrichsen</i><br/><i>Jarod Mings</i><br/><i>Adora Osborne</i></p> <p>19 <i>Mary Fleming</i><br/><i>Dora Wilson</i></p> <p>20 <i>Janice Aichele</i><br/><i>Spencer Conwell</i><br/><i>Ethan Harris</i><br/><i>Dianne Mosher</i><br/><i>Joelie Voeks</i></p> <p>21 <i>Dina Anderson</i><br/><i>Lin Myers</i><br/><i>Andrew Somers</i><br/><i>Chelsey Wood</i></p> <p>24 <i>Abigail Berger</i></p> <p>25 <i>Beverly Lemons</i><br/><i>Bernice Shivley</i></p> <p>27 <i>Dave Hale</i><br/><i>Vonda Rand</i></p> <p>28 <i>Brenda Jones</i></p> <p>31 <i>Jennifer Edwards</i><br/><i>Donnette Filan</i><br/><i>Jerry Musick</i><br/><i>Donna Raugust</i><br/><i>Kaleb Webb</i></p> |
|--|--|

*continued from page 1*

**Praise:** This is declaring good things about God, both about his character (who he is) and also His actions. To say “God is good” is to praise God. There are many styles of praise. Some are noisy and exuberant, others are calm. Praise is well-expressed through music, singing, words, shouting, clapping, dancing and giving to God.

**Petition:** This is asking God for the things we desire. Jesus said, “Ask and you shall receive.” (Matthew 7:7). We are commanded to ask.

**Intercession:** The ministry of intercession involves all the other types of prayer. However, the emphasis of the prayer ministry in intercession is the needs of others, and the advancement of God’s interests in the world. It is not focused on praying for things for oneself, but for others.

**Waiting:** (Habakkuk 2:1). This is a form of prayer in which the soul is silent and waits for God to move it or speak something by His Spirit. God promises to renew the strength of those who wait on Him (Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 27:14). We are to wait patiently on God. Through this we express to God in a practical way - not my will but Yours be done. If we are always talking in prayer we will not be able to hear what God is saying.

**Warfare:** (Psalm 149:6-9). This is prayer directed against the powers of darkness. Our praises to God are also a weapon directed against the powers of darkness (demons, fallen angels who are at work in the affairs of the world and the church). We pronounce against them the written judgment by reading the Scriptures of judgment against them (Psalm 149:9), we command them to be bound or to leave their positions of influence or authority in the name of Jesus. (Matthew 16:19; Mark 16:17). In “praying for the sick” we should pray prayers of command ordering the bodies of people to be healed in Jesus’ name. This is a form of spiritual warfare since it is part of destroying the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8; Acts 10:38).

# Ner ocity

by Pastor Brent

## Is your faith hands-on or hands-off?

There is a difference, and I would suggest that at times we have all operated our lives under both approaches. The hands-off approach puts our faith into overdrive. It's like switching to cruise control on the highway and then going to sleep, trusting the car to do the driving. Another example might be spending eight hours a day in prayer for employment, yet never leaving the house. This is a hands-off faith. It puts all the responsibility on God and nothing on us. Now, I'm not saying that there's never a time to give it all up to God. What I am saying is that those times are few and far between, and only when our circumstances are so overwhelming that it's all we can do to keep our eyes focused on Him.

The hands-on approach is exactly the same as the above mentioned faith...with one huge difference. With hands-off faith, we say "God, I give all my problems and stress to you. Please fix my life for me. Amen." Conversely, hands-on faith would approach it by saying "God, here's what I've got going on in my life. I trust that you will walk through this situation with me and empower me to take appropriate actions...actions that will bless me and make you smile. Amen."

Now, let's apply this. Have you ever had a disagreement with your spouse? Has a family member or close

friend ever offended you? Have you ever experienced negative feelings toward an employer, pastor, teacher, or parent? Sure, we all have. It's what we do or don't do in those times that defines our character as a believer.

### James 2:21-24 says...

*Don't you remember that our ancestor Abraham was shown to be right with God by his actions when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see, his faith and his actions worked together. His actions made his faith complete. And so it happened just as the Scriptures say: 'Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous because of his faith.' He was even called the friend of God. So you see, we are shown to be right with God by what we do, not by faith alone.*

This month, may you have the strength to work on your marriage. May you be encouraged to confront that influential person in your life, seek out employment, or look that uncomfortable situation dead in the eyes and say, "With God's help, I'm dealing with this and moving on!" In short...may your faith *move* you!

*faith*  
WORKS

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## Women's Ministry

by Cailey Dumler

Evelyn Wallace held our first of many craft nights to come. It proved to be beneficial as many cards were handcrafted with a personal touch for the ministry to newcomers and birthday celebrations. In addition, thank you cards were made for the numerous volunteers who give of their time to Blue Mountain Community Church and this community. It is awesome to be able to express appreciation with a heartfelt “thank you” by means of the gifts and talents of our church body. It is amazing to witness this ministry supporting other ministries within the church. Kudos to those ladies who participated!

*“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Galatians 6:10 (NIV)*

Let us be inspired to serve one another, just as Christ served while here on earth. Let us also express appreciation to those who serve, whether verbally or written. God often uses insignificant people to accomplish significant things. Allow Him to use you *today!*

### Upcoming Events:

**Craft Night** Hosted by Evelyn Wallace  
May 15 Baker Hall

Dinner provided @6:00 (\$3.00) Craft begins @6:30  
Please RSVP if you would like to enjoy the dinner.  
RSVP by Tuesday, May 12 to Evelyn Wallace @ [hompom27@yahoo.com](mailto:hompom27@yahoo.com) or call 525-1658.

### Women of Faith Conference

May 29-30 Spokane, WA  
Cost: \$99 (includes Friday and Saturday lunch)  
Contact Carolee White if interested at 525-1650



## Celebrate Recovery

by Darlene Mings

### Inventory

Principal 4: Openly examine and confess my faults to myself, to God, and to someone I trust.

Step 4: we made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

When I came into Celebrate Recovery, it was hard to admit to myself that “I” had a problem. It was easier to see other people’s shortcomings, that way I didn’t have to look at me.

First, I had to step out of my denial (I do not have a problem).

Second, admit that I am powerless to make the right decisions. (I had to step out of myself and let go of my pride.)

Third, believe that God has the power to change me. (I had tried to do it myself and failed).

Step 4—Find a quiet place, praying to God to open my eyes to see what in my life is out of control, or who I have hurt and who has hurt me. Being honest, even when it hurts, and not making excuses.

Is this painful? Yes. Is it worth the time and pain? Yes. Do I have to forget the past? No, but I only use it to remember where I was and how God brought me through all of it.

Do I backslide? Yes, but by taking a daily inventory, God brings to my mind who I may have been short with, or if I am looking at other’s shortcomings rather than my own. (I just have to be willing to look at me or I will not continue to grow.) God truly is a God of miracles! I thank him every day for the wonderful program of Celebrate Recovery!

## *Jesus Loves Me*

by Ginny Mooney Withrow

Though Azalea has been fascinated with my jewelry for quite some time, she had never worn any of her own. I decided she was now old enough to try on some of her jewelry. So I took out the two little necklaces she had been given for her second birthday.

“Heart,” she said.

“Right,” I encouraged her.

Next I lifted out the necklace with the cross and held it up. She looked at the tiny gold image intently but didn’t seem quite sure what to make of it. Though she has lots of books about Jesus, most of them tell stories of his healings and miracles in child-friendly language. Few try to tackle the cross in toddler-talk. So I held the necklace up and said simply, “That’s Jesus’ cross.”

A few hours later as we were getting ready to go out, she asked to wear her necklaces. When I took out the gold cross, she pointed eagerly to it and said with great conviction, “Look Mommy. It’s a Jesus lumme!” Which translated is, “It’s a Jesus loves me!”

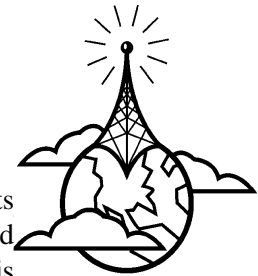
How perfect. How beautiful. How true.

However she arrived at her word choice, what better description of the cross could there be? The sign of eternal love. The proof we all need that Jesus truly does love us.

Now, whenever we drive anywhere, my daughter inevitably spots a church with a cross on the top of the steeple. And I know each time exactly what she’s going to say. And each time my heart echoes the words along with her. “Look Mommy! It’s a Jesus lumme.”

## Faith Promise News

by Vic Phillips



We see and hear news reports about how Islam is growing and Christianity is dying. The truth is just the opposite. Muslims are converting to Christianity by the thousands. Churches in the Middle East are thriving even though they suffer great persecution and threat of death.

In most countries controlled by Muslims it is illegal to convert someone from Islam to another religion, especially Christianity or Judaism. In Sharia (Islamic) law the penalty for conversion is death.

In Joel Rosenberg’s novel, The Ezekiel Option, the hero races through the Iranian mountains in a driving rainstorm when suddenly the steering locks and he nearly flies over a cliff. There is a knock on the window. Frightened because he had a box of New Testaments in the car, he thinks he must have been discovered by the Iranian police. But the person knocking on the window is a bearded old man. The old man asks, “Where are the books?”

“What books?”

“The books about Jesus.”

The old man and people in the village had seen angels who told them about Jesus and the whole village converted to Christianity. He then had a dream where a man told him to climb down the mountain and wait beside the road where a man would bring them books that would tell them more about Jesus.

The Ezekiel Option is fiction but this story was taken from a true incident.

God is working in Muslim lands. We need to pray for these new converts and for the few brave missionaries who are working in the Middle East, some whom we support.

## *Monthly Events*

- 2 Men's Conference in Tri Cities  
5 Men's Ministry Meeting 6:00 PM  
7 SAMS\* 10:00 AM  
Celebrate Recovery Leaders 6:30 PM  
9 Men's Breakfast 8:00 AM  
11 EOD Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
Worship Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
12 Quilter's Guild 6:30 PM  
13 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM  
14 MOPS \* 9:00 AM  
Board of Elders 6:30 PM  
17 Manic Drive Concert 7:00 PM  
19 The Ark Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
21 SAMS\* 10:00 AM  
CE Commission Meeting 6:30 PM  
Missions Commission Meeting 7:00 PM  
Building & Grounds Commission 6:45 PM  
23 Youth Service Project & Bowling 12:00 PM  
**25 Office Closed for Memorial Day**  
**26 Annual Reports Due**  
28 MOPS \* 9:00 AM  
\* SAMS- Senior Adult Ministries  
MOPS- Mothers of Preschoolers

## *Weekly Events*

### **Sunday**

Middle School Group 6:00 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 Group 7:00 PM

### **Thursday**

Worship Team Rehearsal 6:30 PM

### **Friday**

Celebrate Recovery Dinner 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery 7:00 PM