



Prayers from Prison — II

By Sue Redhed

Back in the June issue of the Press I wrote about the prisoners in the King County Jail and the Regional Justice Center in Kent, and how Boulevard folks can encourage them by lifting to God the prayer requests they send us. Now it's time to get acquainted with the work of our church's Prison Ministry Team.

I talked with the group's leader, John McGill, whom you'll often see delivering new prayer request sheets to the Welcome Desk on Sunday mornings. John has been involved in this work for about 29 years, first at Grace Baptist Church, then here. Here's how his story begins.

"I was reading my Bible and thinking, 'Lord, there's no fruit in my life.' Then I simply prayed, 'Lord, would you use me?' At church *the very next weekend* Ralph Huntzinger, a long-time prison volunteer, asked me, 'John, would you come help with the worship at the jail?' And I said, 'Sure!'"

"I remember the first time I was there leading worship. My guitar just hung over my neck and we sang a cappella because I didn't know how to play any of those songs! So it's evident to me now that God isn't just looking for people with abilities; He's looking for people with availabilities."

These days John and his group go to the downtown jail every Wednesday night of the month except the first Wednesday, when they go to the Regional Justice Center.

And what exactly do they do there?

"We try as much as possible to have it be a regular worship service. We share the fundamentals of the Christian faith, followed by worship and singing, then Bible teaching. Sometimes we gather hands and pray together; often at the end we'll give an opportunity for the men to accept the Lord. But since a lot of them have already done that, more often we're just encouraging."

Yet people do get saved. "Four years ago there was a guy named Wilbur. When he came in he was the last person in the world anyone would have picked as the one God would save. Because of being hit with a machete, he had a wound, still healing, all the way down his face. Because of a metal plate in his head he was suffering from terrible migraine-type headaches, and he was just covered with tattoos.



Sue Redhed and John McGill, alongside prison prayer requests at the Welcome Desk

"But the second time he came, he got saved. And now he was totally on fire for the Lord. He went back to the tank; he was sharing in the tank and reading the Word. At that time we were having six or eight people coming to the meetings. After four or five weeks of Wilbur, we were starting to have eighteen or twenty or more coming. And he was bringing Muslim men in; several of them got saved.

"On the other hand, there was the guy who was there for seven years, and he just always came. I still have one of his prayer requests: 'Thank you for giving me a moment of happiness, because in here all is sadness.' It just touched my heart. Sometimes maybe all we do is give somebody a moment of happiness, when his life in there is total sadness."

John's team includes Siggie Finnsson, Marilyn Mades, Mary Miller, Don Hale, Buzz Huget, and Matt Recker. Usually one of them comes with John on a Wednesday night. "We could sure use more. I wish there were more churches and more groups, more of everything, as there used to be years ago. I'd love to find younger people."

But John's not looking for curiosity-seekers or once-and-gone volunteers. Recalling his own background, he says, "They would have to be really thinking that God's calling them, that they'd want to make a commitment for at least once a month or more.

Yet think of the rewards!

PAGE 2: YOU AND YOUR GLOBAL WORKERS Twosomes Partnering with God around the World

This monthly PAGE 2 column reminds us that a partnership takes two. We should all be active, on-going SENDERS partnering with the SENT.

Compiled and edited by Ellyn Roe

Faith Promise Opportunity – Witnessing to Muslims

Marlene Etter faithfully shares the gospel every opportunity she gets as she works in Chad, which is 90% Muslim in the northern area where she works. She does this through conversations but also places information in their hands to be viewed later via memory cards that load into cell phones.

Onto these phone cards she loads the Jesus film, the Chadian New Testament and several other movies and audio files in appropriate languages for the person she's speaking with. (She has 3 versions of the phone chip.)

These cards cost \$2-\$3 each (used) and are very popular. She commonly runs out and needs donations to get more. Through Faith Promise funds, we provided enough for a few months, but we want to take care of the next need as well.

Missions will match any donation given for this purpose over the next two months. However you give, note "Faith Promise—CHAD" (on the check, giving envelope, or via online giving) and it will go to purchase these phone cards.

— Randy Boyd

Packing Advice

Mark and Joanne* have just returned from a month in Ukraine, but before they left, they visited the BPC Pre-K Children's Church class and got advice on what to pack. The children prayed each week for them, and also sent pictures they drew.



An Answer to Prayer



I am making friends in my neighborhood! Thanks for your continued thoughts and prayers. — Craig*

*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact Ellyn Roe: ellynroe@comcast.net

Faith Promise – Dragnet Style ("Just the facts, Ma'am.")

By Randy Boyd

What exactly is going on here? Boulevard Park Church is renewing its commitment this year to Faith Promise as a means of providing additional budget for missions. It affords an opportunity for people to give above and beyond their normal giving to the church, as God provides them the financial opportunity.

You'll need to give us more than that, son. Faith Promise provides 100% funding to some of our missionaries and supplementary funding to a few others. It also provides for our poverty project each year, which currently focuses on putting clean water wells into disadvantaged neighborhoods in the name of Christ. Additionally, it provides our emergency and one-time project money for missionaries: dental work, transmissions, phone memory cards (see sidebar), special trips, etc.

Exactly how much dough are we talking about? Faith Promise accounts for around

25% of the overall budget for Missions at BPC. The current proposed plan for 2017/18 is \$58,500, and since we have an existing balance, the current need is \$48,000. Since we're late in communicating, we will not ask for written commitments; instead we will let you know the needs and how Faith Promise contributions are trending.

What does that look like monthly?

Giving needs to average \$4,000 per month. Currently, over the last four months, it is averaging \$2,400 per month.

Do you have anything else to say in your defense? We apologize for being late this year on this. We'll have two to three more Mission spotlights during services over the next six weeks and we'll let you know more regularly how giving is doing. Look for more information in coming weeks.

Can God Really Do Everything?

By Pastor Bud

The fact that God is sovereign and omnipotent (all-powerful) is not in doubt. The Bible clearly portrays God as sovereign (Ps. 103:19; 115:3; 135:6) and omnipotent (all-powerful – Jer. 32:17, 27). These are significant theological themes that have eternal consequences. However, too often, these themes are employed as a theological cop-out for answering hard exegetical questions about the nature of God’s progressive work of redemption.

Often, I hear the “God can do anything” claim in the context of a discussion about faith healers, modern-day prophets, and speaking in tongues. The aim of this article is not to answer questions about these issues. Rather, I want to challenge the premise of the argument by asking, “Can God really do everything?”

I want to suggest that God cannot do everything. I know what you’re thinking; even God Himself implied that nothing was too difficult for Him to do (Jer. 32:27). Think about Job 42:2 for a moment. Job says that God can do all things, but the “all things” of the first line is clarified by the “purpose” of the second line. Everything God purposes to do, He can do. Given that qualification, let me suggest a couple of things that God cannot do.

• **God cannot do anything against His nature.**

The nature of God is the source from which His actions flow. For example, John 4:24 says that “*God is spirit.*” We also know that God is love (1 Jn. 4:8), light (1 Jn. 1:5), He is untemptable (Jas. 1:13). Among other things, these statements of who God is limit what God does. Can you tempt God to do evil? Of course not. Why? Because God cannot be tempted by evil. So, we must conclude that God cannot do anything against His nature.

• **God cannot do anything against His will.**

In other words, God cannot do something and then go against that will. To will something is a reflection of one’s nature. We are by nature children of wrath (Eph. 2:3), so we sin. The

Bible can safely declare that all have sinned (Rom. 3:23) because we cannot do anything against our nature, and our nature informs our will. This is what Job was getting at in Job 42:2. God can do everything He purposes. For this reason, John proclaims that if we ask anything according to the will of God, we have it (1 Jn. 5:14-15). Nothing can stop God’s sovereign will from being accomplished. But, if we pray for something that is not in the will of God, He cannot grant that prayer because God cannot do anything against His will.

• **God cannot do anything He said that He cannot do.**

This is not double-speak. Let me illustrate with two familiar passages of Scripture. Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Paul declares that God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). Again, the writer of Hebrews writes, “*it is impossible for God to lie*” (Heb. 6:18). If we accept that Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16), and that no human is the creative source of its content (2 Pet. 1:20-21), then we must conclude that God has limited Himself in these texts. In essence, God is telling us that there are some things He cannot do.

What is the point of all this? This point is that the “God can do anything” phrase is not a legitimate answer to get us off the hook when dealing with apparent theological conundrums. Firstly, it just isn’t a true statement. Secondly, Scripture clearly indicates that while God’s power is limitless, He limits Himself by His nature, His will, and His word.

So, where do we go from here? The appropriate response to an article like this is to seek diligently to know God more. Discover His nature and His will as expressed in His word. Do not exceed what is written, but glorify God for who He is and what He wants to do. Avoid imprecise claims that open the door for attributing to God that which is not true of Him; that brings Him no glory.

Milestones

Baptisms

Tamara Mackey

August 11, 2017

in Wenatchee, Washington

Katie Turner

August 27, 2017

Farouq Hammo

August 27, 2017

Staff Notes

In mid-September Pastor Bud received the disappointing news that **Adam Street**, our Director of Family Ministries, was resigning from his position. Adam was not dismissed, nor was any sinful behavior a factor in the situation. On September 30, Adam, Michelle, and the children will move to South Carolina where Michelle has been offered a job and Adam will seek employment. Please pray for the Street family as they begin a new life in South Carolina.

Watching a Call Develop

By Sue Redhed



Photo Credit: Jessica Barton

Since Luke Diener at age 19 was recently appointed to a year-long internship with Youth Ministries here, it seems fitting to catch up with how he got to this point, and how it fits into God's plan for his life.

SR: Luke, what are your responsibilities as a youth intern?

LUKE: I'll be helping out with youth ministry,

assisting Joel in any way I can. I'll be doing some studying, a lot of reading, a lot of paper-writing.

SR: How did you decide to do this?

LUKE: Well, growing up with my dad being a pastor and training pastors, I always knew that ministry was kind of at the core of our family. But it was years later that I felt the call to ministry, so when this internship opportunity came up I thought it was perfect. I could learn more about how to become a pastor and actually lead ministry. I could learn from some great guys.

SR: Do you have thoughts of youth work as a long-term ministry, or of being a church pastor?

LUKE: I'm waiting for God to make that a little clearer for me.

SR: And what do you hope to contribute to the youth work here?

LUKE: I want to see that the students we have grow, and I'd love to be able to give any assistance I can in that. For the last half year I've been taking a small group of guys aside for a weekly Bible study. I'm trying to learn how to lead a small group. It's been good and amazing to see how much growth I've seen from them so far.

SR: Could you catch us up on what you've been doing in the two years since your family came back from South Africa?

LUKE: For the first bit of time I was home-schooled, trying to figure out being back in America. It was a huge adjustment! After that I started up at Highline Community College,

and have been studying there for a year or a year and a half — getting all the basic education stuff out of the way so I can eventually go to Bible college. And I've been helping out here with youth ministry and with kids' ministry a bit.

SR: What was it like growing up in a pastor's family?

LUKE: Well, you know, my dad is a godly man. He knows the Scripture like I've never seen. He can quote verses just off the top of his head; it's unbelievable. Growing up with such a soul and mind to gain wisdom and knowledge from has been one of the reasons why I feel I'm called to ministry. He's taught me most of the things that, without him, I never would have known, wouldn't have been prepared for.

He was the one who asked me the tough questions, like, "Hey, you're thinking about being a pastor, right?" I said, "Yeah, I'm thinking about going into the ministry." He said, "Can you imagine yourself doing anything else?" I thought to myself. "No," I said. "So then you're called to ministry." It was one of the defining moments of deciding what I wanted to go into.

SR: And what are your interests, hobbies, pastimes?

LUKE: I'll start with one that makes me sound smarter: reading. As an example, on a trip to California I read a book of theological terms, basically a theology dictionary. My mom and dad in the front seat were saying, "He's reading a dictionary!" But theology is my number one interest, one of the most interesting things I can ever talk about.

Other than that, hanging out with friends, biblical friends mostly, has always been a big thing for me; I'm so thankful for it. Oh, and I play guitar a little bit.

SR: Any final words?

LUKE: My hope is that people can look at my life and take from that what is true and accurate of me. I try to represent Christ as much as I can. I'm human; I don't do the best job of it, but my prayer is that I don't have to say much in that regard. I hope they can just look at me and tell where my heart is.



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Farewell to our Friend, Tom

By Peggie Recker

Our good friend, Tom Goessman, has worked for 23 years in Seattle's 4th Avenue Costco store but because our winter weather is difficult for his health, he is relocating to Phoenix.

Tom is the smiling face of Costco Member Services and he will continue in his same job, just in a warmer place! He has a photographic memory and not only is quickly able to match up the items in your cart with the items on your receipt, but he also plays a little game with the customers. Without looking at the bottom line, he guesses the total amount they spent. His goal is to be within ten percent of the actual amount and he's pretty accurate! Those Arizona shoppers will be amazed and blessed as they leave the store when they meet our Tom! He laughed and told the Press that he has the gift of giving people a hard time!

Tom came to this country at the age of

11 when he was adopted by an American family. He grew up in the local area, graduating from Tyee High School. Thirteen years ago, he bought a house quite near to the church and has been coming to BPC ever since. Tom will miss us and we most certainly will miss him.

Let's pray for Tom that all aspects of his move will go smoothly and that he soon will find a new church and new friends.

May God bless you, Tom, and continue to use you to reflect the love of Jesus to the folks in Phoenix.



Photo credit: Peggie Recker

New Committee Named

What's New in Renovation?

By Kathy Rainey

A Renovation Committee has been formed to review possible upgrades to the church facility as a continuation of the work that was done in the basement this past year. The committee's first considerations are enlarging and upgrading the bathrooms and improving the "meet and greet" area.

They plan to meet with architect Steve Hammer to consider feasibilities and direction. Steve is familiar with Boulevard Park Church and was involved with the Narthex renovation project.

Committee members are: Pastor Bud and Teresa Diener, Linda Huck, Sharon Nickels, Kathy Rainey, Randy and Suzanne Sneesby, Shawn Will, and Marcie Willis. Please pray for the Lord's guidance for this group.

Evangelism Training on October 14

Learn How to Share Your Faith

By Pastor Bud

Statistically, the number one reason why people don't share their faith is fear. In America, it is not fear of danger; it is fear of not knowing how to start a spiritual conversation, or how to share the gospel "properly." Let's come together and try to get over some of those fears.

On **Saturday, October 14**, from 9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., we will take the first steps toward becoming proficient at sharing the greatest message the world has ever heard.

If you would like to be a part of the class, please contact Pastor Bud at bud.diener@bpcburien.org or call the church office.

Deacon News

Annual Luncheon

On Sunday, October 1, at 12:30 p.m. the Deacons will have their annual luncheon at the Rainier Golf and Country Club. This event is especially for those who are single or widowed.

Bicycle Donation

A girl's 10-speed bike with a babyseat has been donated to the church. Please contact a deacon or the church office if you know of someone who would benefit from having a bike.

Because you matter...
Because you are loved.



Local Outreach

Because They Are Loved...

By Peggie Recker

The Care Boxes supplied by BPC for children transitioning into foster care were gratefully received by the Rainier DSHS office. We have several more boxes nearly complete, just waiting for one or two additional articles to make them ready for a child.

For your shopping convenience, the individual items still needed are written on sticky notes attached to the Care Box poster in the MPR. If you'd like to donate to this project, remove the note(s) from the poster as your reminder, and return your "assigned" gifts during the month of October to the bin in the Multipurpose Room.

Thank you for your support. We will publish periodic updates of the needs for this ongoing outreach to our community.

Celebrations!

October Birthdays

- 1 Lisa Barton
- 2 Krista Chapman
Lisa Finnsson
Trent Siedenburg
- 4 Nick Papini
- 5 Vicki Gray
- 6 Katie Turner
- 7 Gladys Baxter
- 8 Brian Hudson
Miki Vercammen
- 9 Amelia Harder
Vi Nyholm
Glen Rose
- 10 Lois Esser
- 12 Sandy Rice
Debbie Wood
- 14 Alan Conroy
Jim Walters
- 15 Karen Gilleland
Andrew Neumann
- 16 Dave Becker
Gerardo Gonzalez
- 17 Jean Bakken
Fay Barton
Mary Payne
- 22 Vince Partridge
Sally Sisley
- 23 Bev Bowman
Thomas Cross
Chris Donar
Maria Faulkner
- 24 Randy Boyd
- 26 Don Bowie
Marilyn Mades
Penelope Neff
- 27 Jocelyn Jordan
Wesley Mattson
Suzanne Sneesby
- 30 Jessica Barton
- 31 Kathy Rainey
Rick Rose

Early November B-days

- 1 John Clifton
Joyce Symons
- 2 Jocellyn Martinez
Lois Nordblad
- 3 Joshua Henry
Serena Owens
- 4 John McGill
- 5 Candis Bingham
Linda Mussey
- 6 Lauren Recker
- 7 Bill Turner

If your birthday is not listed,
please contact the church office.

MEN'S MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

at 6 p.m. in the MPR

Presented by the Men's Ministry Team

The Men's Ministry team will host a pizza and special movie night beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 6, in the MPR. (The movie will start about 6:45 p.m.) All who are interested are invited to attend.

The movie, "FACING DARKNESS," is a true story about trying to arrest the Ebola pandemic which was sweeping through western Africa in the spring of 2014. One organization stepped up with people and resources to provide compassion and care in the name of Jesus. But when the deadly virus infected its own medical personnel, including Dr. Kent Brantly, the epic crisis hit home for Samaritan's Purse and its leader, Franklin Graham.

"FACING DARKNESS" tells an incredible true story of faith, determination and prayer...and of how God performed a miracle.





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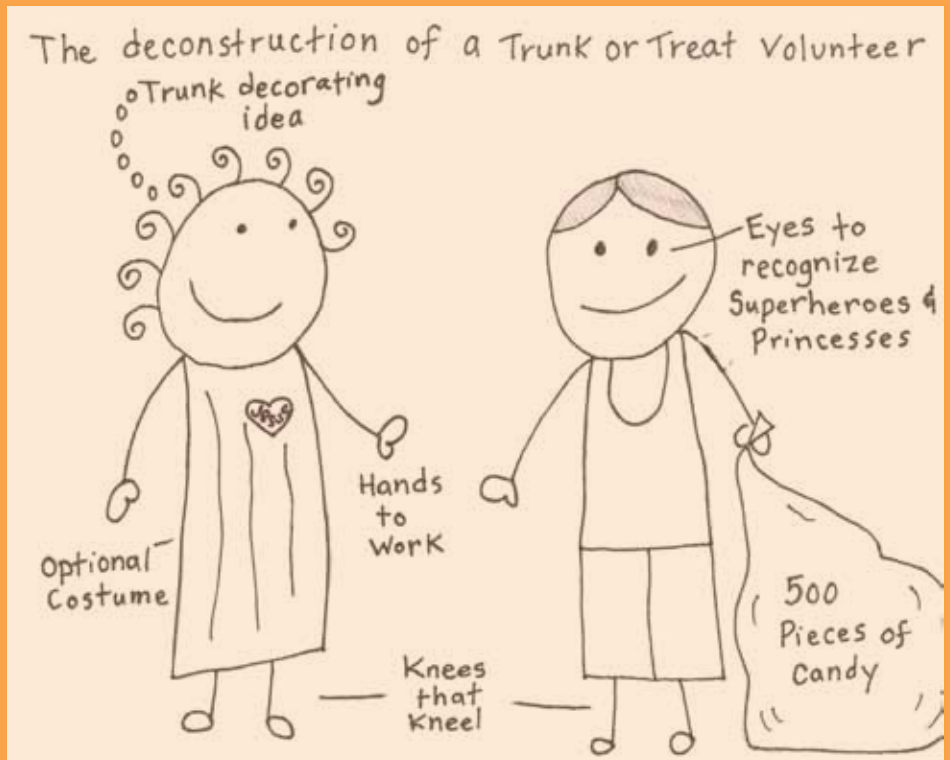
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Trunk or Treat

**Tuesday, October 31, 2017
6 p.m.-8.p.m.**

Come one, come all to the 2nd annual Trunk or Treat located in our parking lot. Bring your children, grandchildren and the neighbor's children to this delightful event. No kids? Then volunteer! Consider decorating a trunk and giving out candy or working in logistics. There is a job for everyone. Talk to Jill or Randy Boyd in the MPR this October.



Art by Jill Boyd