

March 2010 Edition

“HEAVENLY HERALD” NEWSLETTER

Pastor Ralph Orton, Ministering
Sherry Orton, Bible Study

Church of God 7th Day
1150 NE 9th St., Grants Pass, OR 97526
541.479.2440
www.sabbathfellowshipofgrantspass.org

11:00 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Worship Service & Sermon
1:00 Potluck Open to the Community

WELCOME
to the

“*Biggest Little Church in Town*”



CHURCH NEWS:

- Our church hosted the “Creation Seminar” on January 30, 2010 at the Josephine County Fairgrounds Arts Building. Dr. Kindell, a nationally renowned Creationist speaker, presented arguments supporting a literal interpretation of the Genesis account of creation. Among the many facts presented, were historical visual aids of a variety of geological and astronomical scientific data, which supported a Creator / Designer. He also discussed how scientists have an agenda to preserve their preconceived theory of evolution, as a means to reject God, our Creator, entirely, in spite of the facts that do not support their theory. It was an interesting two-part seminar. Afterwards, the remaining attendees cleaned up and headed for pizza!
- We now have our church “Directory” completed and ready to enjoy! Cover to cover, it’s composed of photos of our church family. The first section features our pastoral staff, including elders and teachers. The second section features individuals and family photos with personal data. The third section features collage pages with various church activities outlined in pictorial story form. Pastor Ralph added a clear protective covering (front and back). It also is spiral-bound for ease of use. All in all, we are blessed to *finally* have our “Directory”.
- A Christian songbook has been compiled for those who would like to have their own songs for home use. It includes songs that we sing during our prayer and worship time, old-time hymns, and more current youthful worship songs which are sang in a variety of churches today. The songbook includes a ‘forward’ page, ‘dedication’ page, table of contents, lyrics to 168 songs, photos that complement the lyrics, and a final page of a listing of the books of the Bible. Pastor Ralph printed them, made a spiral binding, and added a nice plastic protective cover (front and back). A special thanks to Pastor Ralph. We’re grateful to have these songs to lift up to our Lord! Now, let’s *SING!*
- As always, we are continuously in need of donations of food and money to add to the “Helping Hands” ministry, to the food pantry, and to the homeless ministry. If you have any dry goods, canned goods, or household personal products (i.e. toothpaste, soap, shampoo, paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex, dish soap, cleanser, etc.), please see Pastor Ralph with your contributions. All donations are appreciated; and they will be distributed as the needs arise. If you are in need of help, please speak with Pastor Ralph. Your conversation will be held with the highest level of confidentiality. May God bless all, who so freely give to others. God loves a cheerful giver!



PASTOR RALPH'S
NOTES OF ENCOURAGEMENT



“Those Who Have Fallen Asleep”
Hope Eternal

The recent unexpected loss of our dear sister, Lindy, causes us to look at the situation we all find *ourselves* in. Lindy is waiting now for the return of our Lord; but her son, her daughter, her mother and others are left to cope with their loss. Still, we are not lost or without hope, even in times of grief. We must remember that our *hope* is not in this world, but in the world to come. We most certainly will grieve (and we should); yet, thank God for what we have had and what we will have. We have had the great pleasure of knowing Lindy, and how she would not be defeated even in the worst of circumstances. Let us strive to learn from her and be like her. I am reminded of this passage:

(1 Cor 15:19-20 NIV) If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men. {20} But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Now, what should *we* do? We need to be there for her family to the extent they want us to be. We need to honor her memory with words and actions. We also need to apply our faith to our own lives.

We routinely make plans, as if it was certain that we would be able to carry them out. We *should* plan, but we should also be aware of the uncertainty we all face. There is not enough time for bickering and petty disputes. We need to say “I love you”, “I appreciate you”, and “thank you” every chance we get. We might not get another chance. We need to be diligent in our relationships with our families, friends, and all with whom we interact. Above all, we need to have a superb relationship with our Lord. I look back, at times, and think how wonderful it would be to tell my mom how much she meant to me, to tell my grandfather how much I loved him, to play once more with my cousin that died in his early twenties. Thank God this life is only the beginning!

(Rev 21:3-5 NIV) And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. {4} He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." {5} He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Pleased to be yours in Christ,

Pastor Ralph

[19] For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. [20] For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. [21] For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: [22] Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: [23] Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously: (I Peter 2:19-23)

UPCOMING EVENTS & COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Wednesday Evening Bible Studies, led by Pastor Ralph Orton. Class is on break until further notice.
Women's Luncheon 3rd Wednesday of each month. Meeting on March 17th, 12:00 pm at "Ethereal Café" located at 208 SW "6th" St in Grants Pass next to the Kitchen Store between "G" & "H" Streets.
Christian Music Jam: 1st Friday of each month at "The Grange" on Redwood Avenue, 6:00 pm.
Family Movie Matinee: March 6th at 2:30 pm following the potluck in the sanctuary. The movie is entitled, "*March of the Penguins*".
Bible Forum: March 13th at 2:30 pm following the potluck. Bring a scripture that has impacted your life; and be prepared to share it, along with your story as to *how* it influenced your life.
Church Business Meeting: March 20th at 2:30 pm following the potluck.
Prayer Meeting: March 27th at 2:30 pm following the potluck.

Women's Luncheon Update: On February 17th, our monthly luncheon was scheduled to meet at "Ethereal Café", located at 208 SW 6th Street. In attendance were Mary, Sherry and Vicky. As always, they had a wonderful time!

Hopefully, you and a guest or two can join us next time. It's a standing invitation.

*Ethereal is a Christian business with the gift of hospitality.
Stop by and introduce yourself sometime.*



In this economy, we need to work together to make certain that no one is lacking; so let's make sure we make our need for jobs known. By the same token, if you are fortunate enough to be able to offer a job to someone, then advertise it here.

Jason Poole: Discount Carpet Cleaning / Handyman, no job too big or too small. 541.441.0366

Valentine & Owings: Home Improvement (all types): painting, lawn & garden, fencing, etc. Free estimates. 892.6886

Free land! If you have free land (an acre or so), or know of somebody who can donate their land, please contact Pastor Ralph at 541-479-2440, as we are in need of a church building site, or even a small church.

Free travel trailer needed. Contact Jason Poole at 541-441-0366

(room for more ads here) Call with your ad info. 479-2440



“SHERRY’S MESSAGE”



“TAPS”

In 1862, during the Civil War, Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison’s Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moan of a soldier who lay mortally wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the captain decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention.

Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the captain reached the moaning, stricken soldier, and began pulling him toward his encampment. When the captain finally reached his own lines, he realized the soldier had died and was a Confederate. Captain Ellicombe lit a lantern. Suddenly, he went numb; and in his shock, struggled to catch his breath. In the dim light he saw the face of the soldier. It was his only son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, Captain Ellicombe asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status. His request was partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. Since the soldier was a Confederate, that request was turned down. However, out of respect for the father, the Captain, they did say they could give him only one musician. The Captain chose a bugler, and asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of his dead son’s uniform. This wish was granted.

This haunting melody is the music known as “Taps”. It is used at all military funerals, and played each evening at all military facilities.

TAPS



**Day is done.
Gone the sun,
From the lakes,
From the hills,
From the sky.
All is well. Safely rest.
God is nigh.**

**Fading light
Dims the sight;
And a star
Gems the sky
Gleaming bright
From afar. Drawing nigh,
Falls the night.**

**Thanks and praise
for our days
'neath the sun,
Neathe the sky,
As we go.
This we know:
God is nigh.**





"DRINK! I SAY, "DRINK"!

If you want to get healthy and stay healthy, then one key, is to drink a lot of water every day. First thing in the morning, before you get out of your bed, drink 16 ounces of water straight down! Yes, you heard me ... straight down (or at least within a minute or so). Doing this, will jump-start your metabolism and burn calories in high gear for up to 1 1/2 hours. It gets your intestines moving, hydrates your skin, flushes toxins, helps you lose weight, and does *so much more* to keep you healthy.

Carry a water container with you throughout the day wherever you go, and before you become thirsty, **DRINK!**

(Make sure your container is in the 'green' category.)



Tip it up, put it to your lips, and drink to better health!



"If you can'?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" (Mark 9:23-24)

Christ is pointed out as the sure Foundation for all believers.

[Isaiah 28:16] **So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.**

Matthew 24:13 "... But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved..."

**Counterfeit: 1. to make a copy of, usually with the intent to defraud; to forge;
2. to imitate**

I Corinthians 9:19-22, *"For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it."*

Paul knew how important it was to become all things to all people, in order to achieve the goal of winning souls to the Lord. He used a simple psychology tool exercised by many people with powerful goals. (Become all things to all people.) Paul employed the second definition of 'counterfeit' above.

Many of our world leaders are employing the first definition of 'counterfeit'. Though church and state should *never* become one with the other, world politics are beginning to shape up in such a way, as to combine church and state (politics and religion). Very dangerous! Be aware that those in high positions are attempting to use a similar psychology. (Be all things to all people.) Pay attention; and pray for the leadership, that they will honor God, our Creator, and not be deceptive; but instead, be true followers of Christ.

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. (Acts 9:31, NIV)



“The Safest Place”

How to stay safe in the world today ...

1. Avoid riding in automobiles, because they are responsible for 20% of all fatal accidents.
2. Do not stay home because, 17% of all accidents occur in the home.
3. Avoid walking on streets or sidewalks, because 14% of all accidents occur to pedestrians.
4. Avoid traveling by air, rail, or water, because 16% of all accidents involve these forms of transportation.
5. Of the remaining 33%, 32% of all deaths occur in hospitals. So, ... above all else, avoid hospitals.

However, you will be pleased to learn that only .001% of all deaths occur in worship services in church; and these are usually related to previous physical disorders. Therefore, logic tells us that the safest place for you to be at any given point in time is at church!

... and ... Bible study is safe too.
The percentage of deaths during Bible study is even less ...

Summary: Attend church, and read your Bible.

IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE! MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

HEADS UP! We are about to begin an exciting new series. This lecture series is called, "The Truth Project", and consists of 12 DVD sessions each (estimating about 50-55 minutes in length). Dollie Newstrand will lead a half-hour discussion period, which will take place after each session. When the "Truth Project" begins, we will meet at 10:30 in the morning on Sabbath, rather than the 11:00 a.m. time we are currently holding. This will allow us the time needed to complete each session by noon; and we will then pick up our regular schedule from there.

When "The Truth Project" will begin, depends on how long it takes for the *current* Bible Study, which is taught by Sherry Orton, to be completed. As we move closer to the close of the *current* Sabbath morning Bible Study, Pastor Ralph will begin announcing the date that the new series will start.

**PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GRACE IN HEARING &
ANSWERING OUR PETITIONS IN PRAYER!**

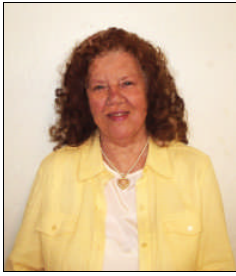
Prayer Requests

For removal of prayer requests, or to request prayer, please call 541.479.2440.

Please pray for:

Our Church Congregation, for the Holy Spirit to unite us in love through Him, and for God's strength in our church body.
Our Church Building, that God will bless us with free land to build His church upon, or a church building and land of our own.
Seeds Planted, that we will continue to plant seeds for the Lord; and those planted will yield good fruit.
World Leaders, will seek God's counsel; and that Christians will have a burden to pray for them.
Christians Around the World, to be aware of government restrictions & prepare for persecutions that lie ahead; safety for all missionaries; and that freedom of worship continues; unity of God's churches.
Israel & the Middle East, for peace, the return of our Messiah, & love of the Israeli people.
Healing Room Ministries, blessings as they grow internationally and locally; inception of 24/7 prayers.
Lost Loved Ones, to find God.
Children of the World, that they will come to know Jesus, and be guided by His Holy Spirit
Children, safety from sexual predators and other perpetrators.
Teens, will turn to God, have hope & coping skills in prevention of suicide; & that pregnant teens will make informed choices.
All Families, for marriages to be held together in unity through their faith in God; & all people will turn to God.
Homeless, for shelter, food & healing; and that they will know God's love & the love of others.
Our Thoughts, that God will guard our thoughts & He will put a protective hedge around us.
Godly Sorrow, which leads to repentance, as repentance leads to salvation; and for enlightenment in Christ.
Women of our church, healing and renewed strength in their daily lives.
Ralph, for God's leading as pastor; for **Sherry**, as she teaches Bible studies, healing of throat ulcers & asthma; **Johnny** needs God's leading; **Michael**, strength in the Lord; **Ray & Jan**, need help coping.
Vicky, healing, well-being and joy.
Eric, for continued healing, a good quality of life; and that God is glorified in his healing.
St. Jude's Church, blessings & growth in the Lord; for a good relationship with us; & blessings for **Tom**'s family and ministry.
Rich & Dollie's Ministry, continued healing for Dollie from her surgery; Godly sorrow for her children; **Devin**, healing & that he will seek the help he needs; **Kiely**, God's guidance; **Phil**, to turn to the Lord; **Lori**, complete healing from her colon removal and upcoming surgeries.
Pastor Rich a renewal of energy & rest; **Don**, to find gainful employment.
David, who needs the Lord & healing.
George, unspoken prayer.
Tom, that God will give him a calm, even temperament, peace & healing.
Sonny, house sale in God's timing; healed shoulders; her neighborhood's safety; and strength & endurance on her new job.
Patricia & Rolf, an unspoken prayer.
Terry, Shalii & family, blessings on their family and business.
Matt, for God's guidance & peace, and freedom from worldly addictions; & to be a positive role model for his children.
Isaac, for a calm spirit & joy in his life.
Grady & Kendall, financial blessings and peace in their lives.
Jodie, financial blessings.
Sue, healing.
Larry & Rita, that they will find full-time work.
Terry, for healing, strength & perseverance, as he struggles from serious health issues.
Vera, for healing & peace; and the title and registration for her van.
Linda, will be blessed with a job in her field.
Tom, that his health will hold up and he will be able to see his 3 grandchildren's marriages & his 2 great-grandchildren born.
David, continued healing of his brain & substance dependency; and for normalcy.
Carolla, continued healing, and a better quality of life.
Richard, healing from his Parkinson's Disease, & the ability to cope.
Andres, delivery from alcoholism & drug abuse; and strength in his recovery to not relapse.
Dude, two year old boy who needs continued healing of his heart.
Roy & Claudia, that God will bless them with good jobs & give them peace.
Marjean, for healing from the death of her husband; and peace to return to her.
Dan & Suzanne, God's leading for spiritual direction; and strength as they endure financial problems.
Adrian, delivery from his affliction with Autism (young boy child).
Roy, return of good health.
Valerie, to have a better quality of life (leg issues).

Patti Ann, emotional healing & delivery; **Rich**, peace in his life & a good job; **Mary**, healing of health issues.
Nehemiah, healing & well-being; guidance in his marriage; that he will take his much needed medicines daily.
Claude, God's blessings & guidance in the homeless ministry; **Emil**, recovery from a stroke; **Candee**, for well-being & blessings.
Ginny, healing on her hearing, heart, bones, Fibromyalgia & other ailments; & for Ginny's family members; **Dick**, relief & healing from his cancer removals & plastic surgeries; **Valli**, God's leading; **Verl & Patty** an unspoken prayer; for **Vicky**, for healing of eyes & other ailments, & for a friend who can help her to understand her life; **Floyd**, recovery from a heart attack; **Loretta**, healing of her left hip & restoration of health; **Barry & Heather**, for God's leading & to raise their child in the church; **Ginny's two granddaughters** healing; **Curt** healing from diabetes as his eyes are going bad; **Jay**, who can't walk well & needs healing; **Jerry & his family**, healing from the loss of his wife.
Bob, his safety in feeding the homeless.
Brandon, healing of muscular issues and a continuing witness for the Lord.
Robert & Barbara, strength and healing from Robert's open-heart surgery & speedy recovery; relief from Robert's back pain; blessings and guidance in building their new marriage; **Joe**, healing from a car accident; **Don**, continued guidance and growth in Jesus; healing of his blood clots; protection for Tovah & Smiles, and a reunion with them; **Linda**, being falsely accused of notary falsification..
Savannah & Devan, comfort & healing in the loss of their mother, Lindy; and for Lindy's mother, that her depression will lift & she will recover.
Jason, for a steady job & joy in his life; a travel trailer or apartment, tires for his truck; & for God to open his eyes and ears to Him.
Rebecca, strength and peace as she deals with her children and her life.
Lindsay, was diagnosed with cancer. He needs healing, peace & God's comfort; and for Dane & their family's peace.
Christine, healing from lupus.
Lowell & Margie, for their salvation.
Roger's family will return to the Lord.
Jerry, family & church, healing from cancer & many other attacks.
Kathy, for return of good health & good breathing; for Ken's and Kathy's family to know the Lord; **Jeanie**, continued healing.
John, delivery from alcoholism & healing of his liver; **Holly** needs Jesus.
Ron, to continue claiming his delivery from the vices of his past.
Brett, to stay one with God, and for his faith in God to continue to grow and remain strong; and for Joey, Cody & Casey.
Freddie, that God will impress upon him the necessity of remaining on his medications.
Mike, for God's guidance, strength & blessings; **Steve**, healing, delivery from alcoholism; and that he will know the Lord; **Tom**, delivery from tobacco; **Grant**, healing & delivery.
Laura, God's guidance & direction.
Charlie, deliverance from pain medicine.
Betty, needs healing.
Tanner, needs healing from the loss of a kidney.
Jessie, comfort, peace and healing for him and his family at the passing of his dad.
Jennie, continued healing from her heart issues, and release from the hospital.
Richard & Gladys, and family as they are enduring difficulties.
Rick, delivery from alcohol; and strength as he is facing possible jail sentence.
Zeldna, for healing & blessings; and for her friend, Carol.
Ruby, as she deals with Alzheimer's. Pray for her peace.
Cynthia Teresa, who is in a Texas prison, that God will protect her from prison guards & lesbianism, and put a protective hedge around her. She needs courage, strength and hope.
Mike, for guidance of the Holy Spirit.
Nadia, complete healing from her diabetes & intestinal issues.
David, deliverance from drug abuse.
Gary, to stop abusing his girlfriend, Carla; and for her safety.
Trisha, continued strength in the Lord.
Steve & Mike, delivery from alcoholism & other health issues.
Tom, healing and guidance.
Tom, continued healing.
Kelly, peace, comfort & healing from the loss of her husband, Michael.
Jonathan & his parents, lift them up.
Don & John, serious Rheumatoid Arthritis.
Joe & his family, who lost his job, that he find another one; and for Asante's corporate VP.
John, needs steady work & a safe place to live.
Jackie, for her peace.
Vic, healing of kidney, leg problems, & skin cancer.
Toni, comfort, strength and guidance in their family after her husband passed on.
Tom & Charolette, their family's salvation.
Sam, that he will return to the Lord; and that God will heal him of rectal cancer.



HEALTH TIPS



“Stronger Bones”

Offered by Ginny Sorensen

When you should *NEVER* eat strawberries! (or nuts, spinach and chocolates)

If you’re one of the millions of Americans who take calcium supplements, you need to know that a chemical found in spinach, rhubarb, nuts, chocolate, tea, wheat bran, and strawberries can block calcium absorption! Even dried beans contain a calcium blocker. If you like these foods, just make sure you eat them an hour before or two hours after eating calcium-rich foods or taking calcium supplements.

Stronger bones in a matter of months!

Here’s a fact: The majority of Americans over the age of 50 have osteoporosis, or are in danger of getting it, according to the National Osteoporosis Foundation.

Now here’s the good news: Simply eating a handful of dried plums each day can help keep your bones healthy and strong!

* Taken from “Your Power to Heal” magazine

** The information published in this article is not intended as a substitute for personal medical advice. Before making any decision regarding your health, please consult a physician or other qualified health-care practitioner.*

Why most calcium supplements are useless for osteoporosis ...

For years, American women have been taking calcium supplements for stronger bones. Yet they continue to get osteoporosis in record numbers. Why? Because taking supplements is not enough. You also need to engage in weight-bearing exercise.

But here’s good news: You don’t have to lift heavy weights or do torturous aerobic workouts. Researchers have studied the effect of different activities, and they’ve found that one of the best bone-building activities is gardening! In fact, gardening was more effective than almost all the other activities studied.

Bonus: Because gardening is performed outdoors, your body is also exposed to sunlight, which provides bone-building vitamin D. Just make sure you apply sunscreen if you’re going to be spending more than 15 minutes in the sun.

**Article published in ‘Bottom Line Health Magazine’*



Offered by Robert Camelli



** The information published in this article is not intended as a substitute for personal medical advice. Before making any decision regarding your health, please consult a physician or other qualified health-care practitioner.*

Should You Keep the Weekly *SABBATH*?

In the late 1980's, small groups of Methodists laid siege to **Suva, the capital city of Fiji**. Men, women and children - all dressed for church - manned 70 roadblocks. They stopped all commercial traffic as well as domestic and international flights. What prompted that action? A demand to make the nation return to strict Sabbath observance.

In Israel, every new multi-story building erected since 2001 must have at least one elevator that automatically stops at each floor. For what purpose? So that devout Jews, who *observe the Sabbath from Friday evening until Saturday evening*, do not have to do the "work" of pressing the buttons in the elevator.

In Tonga, a kingdom in the South Pacific, all work is forbidden on Sunday. No aircraft is allowed to land, and no ship is permitted to dock. Any contracts signed on that day are not viewed as valid. The constitution of Tonga requires that *Sunday be "kept holy"* by all, regardless of a person's religious beliefs. Why? To ensure nationwide observance of the Sabbath.

As the above examples show, many people feel that God requires them to keep a weekly Sabbath day.

CYCLONE RENE LASHES THE ISLANDS OF TONGA

Northern and central Tonga were slammed by Cyclone Rene today. Powerful winds ripped off roofs, tore down trees and power lines and cut communications with the capitol in the south of the country, officials said.

"We don't know the extent of the damage right now, though there are no reports of serious damage or injuries", said Mali'u Takai, deputy director of the South Pacific nation's National Disaster Office.

Contact with the northern Vava'u island group was lost shortly after midnight as Rene buffeted the low-lying atolls. Initial reports were that the storm's winds had reached 72 mph near the main northern town of Neiafu, then dropped to 8 mph as the cyclone's eye passed over the area. Damage was not as widespread as feared, Takai said.

Tonga's Meteorological Office Director, Ofa Fa'anunu said the storm's center was forecast to head toward the main island, Tongatapu, later today.

USA TODAY, Monday, February 15, 2010

ISRAEL On West Bank: "We Will Stay Here"

Israel's leader declared his country's permanent claim to parts of the West Bank, angering Palestinians and complicating efforts by U.s. Middle east envoy, George Mitchell to restart peace talks.

"Our message is clear: We are planting here. We will stay here. We will build here. This place will be an inseparable part of the state of Israel for eternity," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, claiming two areas south of Jerusalem.

... Palestinian Pres. Mahmoud Abbas responded ...

HOW POLITICS AFFECT CHRISTIANITY

submitted by Claude Sorensen



FOREIGN DEMAND FOR US TREASURIES FALLS

Foreign demand for U.S. Treasury securities fell by the largest amount on record in December, with China reducing its holdings by \$3.2 billion. The reductions, if they continue, could mean higher interest rates to lure buyers. The Treasury Department said foreign holdings fell by \$53 billion. The previous record: a \$44.5 billion drop in April 2009.

LATE MORTGAGE PAYMENTS HIT RECORD

The percentage of homeowners late with mortgage payments hit a record in the last quarter of 2009, and they fell behind at a faster pace, a new report says. For the fourth quarter, 6.89% of mortgage payments were 60 or more days past due, according to credit reporting agency TransUnion, up from 4.58% in the final three months of 2008. It was the 12th-consecutive quarter that delinquency rates have risen from the previous year ... the National Association of Home Builders said Tuesday, that its housing market index rose 2 points in February, a sign that low interest rates and federal tax credits are boosting demand for new homes.

NEW MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR BACKS ABORTION RIGHTS

Republican Senator-Elect, Scott Brown of Massachusetts said he opposed federal funding for abortions, but thinks women should have the right to choose whether to have one.

As he said during the campaign, Brown told Barbara Walters of ABC's *This Week* that he disagrees with his party's position that the Supreme Court decision should be overturned. "This issue is best handled between a woman and her doctor and her family."

Brown also said states should decide the issue of gay marriage, not the federal government. He described himself as fiscally conservative but moderate on social issues.

Brown recently won the Senate seat long held by liberal Democrat Edward Kennedy, who died last summer.

GREEK UNIONS STRIKE AGAINST AUSTERITY PLAN

Protesters hold a banner that reads in Greek, "We are struggling to live", during a protest today in central Athens. About 7,000 people took part in two separate, peaceful marches. ATHENS, Greece -

A strike by civil servants grounded all flights and shut down public services across Greece today, as labor unions mounted their first major challenge to austerity measures in the debt-plagued country. Air traffic controllers, customs and tax officials, hospital doctors and school teachers walked off the job for 24 hours to protest sweeping government spending cuts that will freeze salaries and new hiring, cut bonuses and stipends and increase the average retirement age by two years to 63. The strike left state hospitals working with emergency staff only and disrupted national rail travel, although urban mass transport was unaffected. "It's a war against workers and we will answer with war, with constant struggles until this policy is overturned," said Christos Katsiotis, a representative of a communist-party affiliated labor union. Prime Minister George Papandreou, meanwhile, declared that the austerity program would go forward "in every measure".

Recipe of the Month
Sweet Potato Fries
Recipe of Ellie Krieger, All Rights Reserved



Sweet Potato Fries

Yield: 4 servings

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 30 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ pounds sweet potatoes, peeled (2 medium potatoes)
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- ½ teaspoon salt, plus more, to taste
- Cooking spray

Directions:

- Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F.
- Cut the potatoes lengthwise into ¼-inch thick matchsticks.
- Toss with the oil and ½ teaspoon salt.
- Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.
- Arrange the potatoes in a single layer on the baking sheet and bake until the "fries" are tender and crisp (about 30 minutes).
- Season with additional salt, to taste.
- Serve immediately



GARDEN or HOUSEHOLD TIPS



A dog series ... part 3 of 3 parts



"Unusual Household Toxins"

Submitted by Adam J. Reiss, DVM, DACVECC

Macadamia Nut Toxicity

Ingestion of macadamia nuts may cause profound rear leg weakness, paresis, tremors and ataxia. The toxic principle in Macadamia nuts is unknown. Symptoms may be confused with other toxins or neuromuscular disease. Recovery is usually complete within 48 hours.

You may call ASPCA poison hot line at 888.426.4435. There is a fee payable by credit card over the phone. Anytime your pet is experiencing a medical emergency, you may also contact Southern Oregon Veterinary Specialty Center open 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 days per year.

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. (I John 3:22)

Scripture Readings For February

February 6 - II Chronicles 7:12-16

Theme: "Humble Ourselves And God Will Listen"

February 13 - Matthew 11:25-30

Theme: "We Know God, *Only* Because Jesus Revealed Him To Us"

February 20 - John 14:27-31

Theme: "Be At Peace. Christ Has Gifted Us With Peace And Hope"

February 27 - Psalm 134:2 - Psalm 135:3

Theme: "Bless the Lord"

Person of the Month



Robert Camelli

Robert Camelli was born in Youngstown, Ohio to a family of seven. His growing-up years were in Youngstown; but he left at age 17, headed for California. He quickly met an 'influential someone', who was in the movie industry. This individual introduced him to others, and before he knew it, his career began. His talent won him a job, building movie sets; and he eventually became a Transportation Coordinator to stars in the motion picture industry. During his 33

years in California, Robert met and became friends with some fascinating people, among whom were Ronald Reagan, the girls of Charlie's Angels, Danny and Marlo Thomas, and many others. He speaks often of his fond memories in Hollywood; but seems to be most proud of his long-standing friendship with Marlo Thomas, who remains in touch with him on a regular basis. He speaks very highly of her.

Robert retired to Oregon in 1998, where he currently resides, and attends the Grants Pass Church of God 7th Day. As fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, we are happy to share potluck meals each Sabbath, where we enjoy his healthy dishes. Robert is a *fabulous* cook, who takes particular care in the selection of herbs and spices he uses in preparation of his enticing cuisine. Most of us have enjoyed his presentations.

Robert married Barbara on November 7, 2009, in our church sanctuary. Pastor Ralph Orton presided over their ceremony; and there was a quaint reception following, which was prepared by Sherry Orton. They were both thrilled and surprised by the work that was put into the wedding and reception; and happy that so many of our congregation were present as they said their vows to one another.

Robert is an animal-lover of sorts. Prior to his recent marriage, he had two dogs and one cat of his own, but has enlarged his family by one more dog, which Barbara brought into their fold.

Robert and Barbara were introduced by a mutual friend named Jerry. When Robert told him that he was in need of an open-heart operation, Jerry was very encouraging to Robert, since he had survived a similar operation himself. He is now 93 years old, and very healthy. Robert's surgery was on February 12th, and he is also recovering very well after a quadruple bypass. Praise God! May he heal and gain more strength with each passing day. We appreciate you!



“Be Like Little Children”

Jesus says in Matthew 18:3-4,

"I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

When I read this verse anew the other day, I was drawn to the words, ‘change’, ‘become like little children’, and ‘humbles himself (herself) like this child’. It reminded me of the little song, “Change My Heart, Oh, God”.

**Change my heart, Oh, God.
Make it ever true.
Change my heart, Oh, God.
May I be like You.**

I believe God asks each of us to ‘change’ and ‘be like little children’ in the aspect of humility - to learn to live the characteristics of humility (trust, dependence [for everything], grateful, teachable, putting others first), and the list could go on. These characteristics are to *truly* be evident in our lives. He wants us to be like Him. In Matthew 11:29 Jesus says, *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* God tells us in Psalms 25:9, that He will guide the humble in what is right and teach them His way.

I want to be like little children, desiring to be just like my Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ. When God brings people into His church, young or old, they must see and experience the *true nature of God* in the lives of those there.

LET IT BEGIN WITH ME

“VERSE OF THE MONTH”
II Timothy 4:5-8 [KJV]



[5] But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. [6] For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: [8] Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

In Loving Memory of

LINDY TAYLOR

October 18, 1961 - February 21, 2010

Lindy is survived by her mother, Helen,
one son, Devon and one daughter,
Savannah



*Lindy spoke of her favorite scriptures as being
the entire Book of Psalms.*

Lindy had been attending the Church of God 7th Day at our current location for this past year. She first came to us through an invitation from Jason Poole, who remained a friend of hers and her family. Due to health issues with her back and respiratory system, she was unable to participate as much as she wanted; however, she maintained a relationship with this body, and brought her daughter, Savannah to church; and whenever possible, brought her friend, Shay Lynn. It was her heartfelt desire that Savannah be brought up in the Christian faith. She enjoyed seeing Savannah having fun in Children's church with Pastor Rich and Dollie.



The photo to the left is one taken for our church Directory in December of 2009. She and Savannah posed together, looking forward to being listed as fellow church members.

The photo to the immediate right was taken the day of our church talent show. Though Lindy wasn't feeling well, it was important to her that Savannah attend with Shay Lynn, so they could participate. They had a couple of routines worked out, as 'child's-play' will go. She was fully pleased that the children were added last minute to the talent show program, (as were the girls).



Lindy joined the rest of us at the Sis-Q church barbeque. She brought Savannah and Shay Lynn along. They had a wonderful time in the paddle boats, feeding the fish, and enjoying the open air, as they frolicked here and there on the acreage. The girls even participated in the balloon toss! We were grateful that Lindy was able to bring the girls, and could be with us that day.



We will all miss Lindy. She now rests in the Lord awaiting the day of His return. Her long time of suffering has ended. We give thanks that she has blessed our lives, and will see the face of Jesus Christ soon.

Our prayers are now for her children and mother, that they will seek the comfort of the Lord Jesus, and will be comforted and strengthened through His grace and mercy.

CONTENTS OF OUR NEWSLETTER



If you have items of interest that you would like to share with the rest of our congregation for the monthly newsletter, please gather them up during the month, and give them to Sonny on Sabbath. Make sure you get your golden tidbits in no later than the third week of each month. If you see a person's photo by an article, that's because that person has been invited to contribute to that category each month ongoing. Maybe you could give them short articles for their category from time to time. They most likely will share their spot.

Some items that might interest you, could be church history, current world events pertaining to the church in general, recipes, sewing tips, garden tips / household tips, spiritually inspired short stories (funny or serious), shared experiences you've had with other church members in our congregation (with their permission of course), personal writings, or writings from another author, your personal testimony, job requests or offers for our work-related ads, items for sale or trade, praises of thanksgiving and so on ...

Be creative! We'll look forward to reading all about it (whatever "it" might be). If our newsletter becomes too long, your item may appear in the next newsletter (if it isn't time-related). Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Please remember to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ and all other requests submitted on our weekly "**Prayer Requests**" sheet. As we lift others up in prayer, be assured that God hears each and every prayer that we hold up to Him. When you have prayer requests that need to be addressed immediately, you may fill out a "Prayer Request" form and drop it in the box on the sanctuary table by the door; or simply call 479-2440 to receive prayer on the "**Prayer Chain**". You may also ask our **elders to pray with you.**

When you need private counseling, you may contact Pastor Ralph Orton at 479-2440. His desire is to shepherd this flock. During our "**Prayer & Praise**" portion of the weekly Worship Service, we encourage you to speak your prayer requests, and they will be honored at that time.

Church of God 7th Day Newsletter
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The information and/or views as are expressed in this newsletter by individuals, are not necessarily the views of the Church of God 7th Day, and therefore, the church is not to be held responsible for their content.