

MOVING SPIRIT

September, 2002

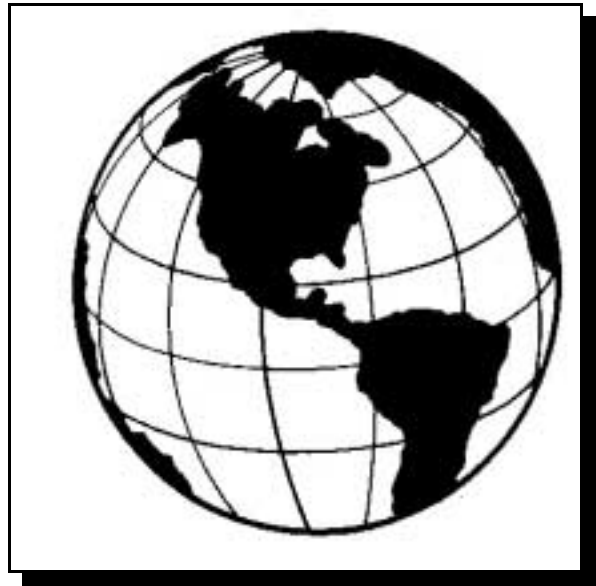
Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

The late Jim Durkin of Eureka, the most influential preacher in my life, stood in his pulpit one morning proclaiming to his flock of less than a dozen seniors, these words, "We are going... we are going into all the world to preach the Gospel." A youth, who slipped into church that morning, thought Jim was crazy and walked out laughing. A year later he returned to find Jim's church packed wall to wall with young people who were being sent out to preach Jesus Christ.

When asked at a recent staff meeting at Arcade Wesleyan Church to share my goals for EVCC, I declared my vision, which is like Jim Durkin's: "We're going into all the world to preach the Gospel." How so? By planting a Sunday evening church locally that will partner with EVCC as a joint training ground for new preachers and ministerial students. Through these new Christian workers, trained to serve then sent out, we can meet ministry needs locally and beyond, and literally be going "into all the world to preach the Gospel."

The *Bee* reported Sacramento ranks low (246 out of 276 regions) in its percentage of church affiliations per capita. The need is there, and Eskaton residents can't go, but we can send! Paul wrote: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have



not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent?"

EVCC is a church with a mission and on mission, till He comes! -- Pastor David

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Parish Proclamations

New Video Series Starts

EVCC is sponsoring another 6-week educational video series called, "**The Trial and Testimony of the Early Church.**" It will be on Fridays, starting Oct. 4th and running through Nov. 15th (skipping October 25th), from 1:00 to 2:00 PM in the TV Room. The videos are 30 minutes long and will be followed with a short discussion led by Pastor David. Be sure to mark those dates down and invite

your friends to come.

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Is Pastor David Leaving?

"I have no plans to *leave* EVCC, but when I die, I want to *leave* behind at least 50-60 bivocational ministers who have a similar or greater ministry than I do now. To accomplish that, I will first need to survive bivocationalism myself, which for me means sleeping in on the Sunday mornings when I've worked the night before. And to do that, I will need to become a *senior* pastor at EVCC (*no pun intended!*), and bring onto my staff a steady stream of ministerial students as assistant pastors who will commit to EVCC as their place of internship. This will free me half-time for planting a Sunday evening church where I hope to lead more and more believers into Christian service, and keep the flow of ministers-in-training constant. No, I'm not leaving EVCC, but I hope to see a myriad of ministerial students come to EVCC to help in the ministry here and *leave* as well-trained ministers to serve the cause of Christ beyond Eskaton. I can die in peace with that thought and *leave* not only Eskaton, but the whole planet behind with joy!" -- *Pastor David*

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Personal Pulpit

Understanding the Continual, Normal Evidences of the Spirit's Empowering
So, then, you may ask, "What is this realistic and relevant view of the Christian life? What can I expect to see as continual and normal evidences of Christ in my

life?" Numerous things come to mind. Because I am a Christian and therefore rightly related to the Son of God:

♡ I am in Christ. ♡ I live in Him and He lives in me. ♡ I know the relief of being cleansed from personal sins. ♡ I am able to live above sin's dominating control.

♡ I have immediate access to the Father through prayer. ♡ I can understand the Scriptures. ♡ I am able to forgive--and should forgive--whoever wrongs me. ♡ I have the capacity to bear fruit, daily, continually, routinely. ♡ I possess at least one (sometimes more than one) spiritual gift. ♡ I worship with joy and with purpose. ♡ I find the church vital, not routine or boring. ♡ I have a faith to share with others. ♡ I love and need other people. ♡ I look forward to having close fellowship with fellow Christians.

♡ I am able to obey the teaching of the Word of God. ♡ I continue to learn and grow toward maturity. ♡ I can endure suffering and hardship without losing heart. ♡ I depend and trust in my Lord for daily strength and provisions. ♡ I can know God's will. ♡ I live in anticipation of Christ's return. ♡ I have the assurance of heaven after I die.

This list could continue for pages, but perhaps this sampling will alert you to the fact that these are the kinds of unique possessions, experiences, and blessings that are ours by God's grace to enjoy simply because we have been accepted into His family. They are ours to claim every day. And when we add them all together, they represent an impressive list of incredible realities. --Chuck Swindoll

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Pithy Pieces

The young man was at the end of his rope. Seeing no way out, he dropped to his knees in prayer. "Lord, I can't go on," he said. "I have too heavy a cross to bear." The Lord replied, "My son, if you can't bear its weight, just place your cross inside this room. Then, open that other door, and pick out any cross you wish." The man was filled with relief. "Thank you, Lord," he sighed, and he did as he was told. Upon entering the other door, he saw many crosses, some so large the tops were not visible. Then, he spotted a tiny cross leaning against a far wall. "I'd like that one, Lord," he whispered. The Lord replied, "My son, that is the cross you just brought in."

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There is no scale on earth
To measure what a friend is worth.
-- Emerson

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Time is...
too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice,
But for those who love--
Time is eternity.

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People are like stained-glass windows:
they sparkle like crystal in the sun, but
when darkness falls, they continue to
shine only if there's a light from within.

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There's an open gate at the end of the road,

Through which each must go alone,
And there in the light we cannot see
Our Father claims his own;
Beyond the gate, your loved one
Finds happiness and rest,
And there is comfort in the thought
That a loving God knows best.

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Oh! You are so great and I am so small,
I tremble think of you, world, at all;
And yet, when I said my prayers today,
A whisper inside me seemed to say,
"You are more than the Earth,
Though you're such a dot,
You can love and think
And the Earth cannot!

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Praise's Portion

When we have exhausted our store of
endurance; when our strength has failed
'er the day is half done; when we reach
the end of our hoarded resources, our
Father's full giving has only begun. His
love has no limit; His grace has no
measure; His power no boundary known
unto man. For out of His infinite riches in
Jesus, He gives and gives and gives again.
-- Annie Flint

Prayer's Priority

Give My Words Wings

Give my words wings, Lord.
May they alight gently on the branches of
men's minds
bending them to the wings of thy will.
May they fly high enough to touch the
lofty,
low enough to breathe the breathe of

sweet encouragement upon the downcast soul.

Give my words wings, Lord.
May they fly swift and far,
winning the race with the words of the worldly wise to the hearts of men.
Give my words wings, Lord.
See them now nesting down at thy feet,
silenced into ecstasy,
home at last. -- Jill Briscoe

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Poetry's Place

Equipment

Figure it out for yourself, my lad,
You've all the greatest of men have had,
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two eyes,
And a brain to use if you would be wise.
With this equipment they all began,
Start at the top and say "I can."
Look them over, the wise in the great.
They take their food from of common plate,
And similar knives and forks they use,
With similar laces they tie their shoes.
The world considers them brave and smart,
But you've all they had when they made their start.
You can triumph and come to skill,
You can be great if you only will.
You're well equipped for what fight you choose,
You have legs and arms and a brain to use,
And the man who has risen great deeds to do
Began his life with no more than you.
You are the handicap you must face,
You are the one must choose your place,
You must say where you want to go,
How much you will study the truth to

know,
God has equipped you for life, but He
Lets you decide what you want to be.
Courage must come from the soul within.
The man must furnish the willed to win.
So figure it out for yourself, my lad,
You were born with all that the greatest
have had,
With your equipment they all began,
Get hold yourself and say "I can."

-- Edgar Guest

Pearls of Prudence

God doesn't deprive of the heavenly kingdom sinners who don't repent. They themselves simply cannot bear its light.

--Innocent of Alaska

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By renouncing the world we conquer the world, rise above it multiplicity, and recapitulate it in the simplicity of a love which finds all things in God.

--Thomas Merton

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A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all other virtues.

--Cicero

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In the developed countries there is a poverty of intimacy, a poverty of spirit, a loneliness, a lack of love. There is no greater sickness in the world today than that one. --Mother Teresa

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Pleasurable Pastime

The Atheist

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that the "accident of

evolution" had created. "What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself.

As he was walking alongside the river he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. He turned to look. He saw a 7-foot grizzly charge towards him. He ran as fast as he could up the path. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing. He ran even faster, so scared that tears were coming to his eyes. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. His heart was pumping frantically and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up but saw the bear; right on top of him; reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him. At that instant the Atheist cried out "Oh my God!...."

Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. Even the river stopped moving. As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky, "You deny my existence for all of these years; teach others I don't exist; and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?"

The atheist looked directly into the light "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask You to treat me as Christian now, but perhaps could you make the bear a Christian?"

"Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The river ran again. And the sounds of the forest resumed. And then the bear dropped his right paw, brought

both paws together, bowed his head and spoke: "Lord, for this food which I am about to receive, I am truly thankful."

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Precious Principles

Holiness expresses our true personality. Just as no two leaves are the same, so every person is unique. But sin levels us and makes us uniform. The saints, however, are all different. They have realized the unique identity to which each of us is called but which we have lost through sin. --Ernesto Cardenal

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Faith is not a leap into the dark, but into the light. --John Polkinghorne

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I understand how scarlet can differ from crimson because I know that the smell of an orange is not the smell of a grapefruit.... Without color or its equivalent, life to me would be dark, barren, a vast blackness.--Helen Keller

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All people smile in the same language.

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Past Pathways

You Can Be Strong Enough

(a story by Norman Vincent Peale)

From a little town overlooking the Hudson River comes a story of a woman whose troubles began, or may be culminated, in a nervous breakdown. There had been too much work with too little relaxation, deaths of several relatives, and other problems. So in the prime of life this woman developed so

much tension that she had a heart attack, followed by nervous exhaustion.

Passing time did not bring recovery. At the slightest fatigue she would have another spell of nerves, always feeling that she was going to collapse. Her heart would pound, she would struggle for breath. Her hands would be hot and wet, forehead cold. This unhappy condition continued off and on for 15 pretty miserable years.

Then something wonderful happened. It came during a service of Holy Communion at her church. "I was struck by the feeling," she writes, "that I could not even walk to the communion rail. Desperately I prayed, 'Help me, help me! Let me be able to do things as long as I am still on earth! Help me not to feel afraid.'

"I was able to walk up the aisle and I dealt at the end of the rail, next to a wall. Suddenly I sensed, between me and a wall, a Presence. I shut my eyes. I did not dare to move. But mentally I turned my head and looked." (This is an interesting touch. She did not look with her eyes; she looked mentally.)

"They are in the midst of a radiant oval all blinding white light was the figure of a man, tall and beautifully formed, with long straight muscular back and broad shoulders from which a robe fell away, seeming to melt into the light.

"The head turned in a strong, clear-cut phase, like in the painting of Hosea by Sargent, looked down me. Benevolence and tenderness flowed from that face.

"I felt as though I had been shot through with electricity. The light was so strong to endure. It seemed to be beating into my brain. Then it began to fade.

"I realize that people were standing up and leaving. I too stood and moved away, trying to walk naturally, for I had no sensation of moving my feet, it seemed to be floating on air. Doing my best to maintain a normal demeanor, I returned to my pew.

"Later, outside the church, I stopped to speak with a friend. 'What ever happened to you at Communion?' she asked. 'When you came down the aisle you had the most wonderful light on your face.' So there had been something noticeable to another person.

"I have never had the feeling of complete inability since. Even after the passing of my husband, I had physical exhaustion, but no fear. I was able to do everything I felt I should, reminding myself that God had cured me." ♡