

MOVING SPIRIT

June, 2006

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

When people find themselves going to church against their will, they can identify with the poor guy whose legs are shown in the picture at the side. The figurative expression that gives this cartoon its humor is the feeling that some have of being "dragged to church."

I remember my mom getting me to church when I would rather have been at the flea market or at a bargain-rate theater downtown. After asking Christ into my heart at age nine, I felt it a duty to be in Sunday school and church each week. In my early teens, that obligatory sense faded, and I stopped going. But when a spiritual awakening happened in my life in my later teen years, I was at church whenever the doors were open.

I didn't get much out of church when I was "dragged" there, but I did receive a tremendous blessing by attending when I was actually seeking God in my life. So the key, to avoid feeling pushed, pulled, dragged or bagged, is to focus on a personal relationship with God. Then church attendance has a natural feel to it, and it can be very rewarding.

God has seen fit to keep the doors of EVCC open each Sunday for the past ten years, and I do not foresee those doors



closing any time soon. I hope never to see anyone "dragged" through them as in this cartoon, but I am always delighted to meet fellow travelers on the journey through life who are giving in to God's heart-tug and come to church to get to know Him better. -- *Pastor David Hatton*

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Parish Proclamations

Pastor Terry is Being Commissioned

At the Pacific Southwest District Conference of the Wesleyan Church in July in San Diego, Terry Brown, who has been serving as assistant pastor at EVCC for the last 2½ years, will officially

become a commissioned minister. He chose Pastor David to be the minister to offer the prayer for him during the commissioning service. At the same conference, Pastor David is being recognized for ten years of service as a minister in The Wesleyan Church. Almost all of that ministerial time and service was performed here in Carmichael at Eskaton Village.

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Personal Pulpit

Malachi 3:3 says: "*He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver.*"

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at the next Bible Study. That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it." If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has His eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you.

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Pithy Pieces

A RECIPE FOR LOVING

Love even the most unlovely part of yourself. Openly and honestly listen to others. Share your love with those closest to you. Realize that we all have different values, and that is OK. Face your own anger and fear, and share it without dumping it on the other person. Share love with your acquaintances, colleagues and coworkers in ways that will help them flower. Share love with strangers so that they may be welcomed and be spared loneliness. Share love with enemies and thereby accept the part of you that you like least. -- *Church of the Resurrection, Bellevue, WA*

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Praise's Portion

PRAISE OUR CREATOR

Praise our Creator and Savior eternal,
Him Who redeemed us from death and
the grave;
Sing of His greatness, O hail and adore
Him,
Strong to deliver, and mighty to save.
Praise our Creator and gracious
Defender,
Rock where in safety we still may
abide;
He is our Shepherd, how gently He
leads us,
Where in the valley the cool waters
glide.
Praise our Creator, the Fountain of
goodness,
Now in His grandeur exalted above;
Rest in His mercy and trust in His
promise,
Ever to keep us, upheld by His love.
-- Fanny Crosby (a blind hymnwriter)

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Prayer's Priority

YOUR LITTLE PRAYER ROCK

--author unknown

I'm your little prayer rock,
And this is what I'll do:
Put me on your pillow,
Until the day is through.
Then turn down the covers
And climb into your bed:
WHACK! Your little prayer rock
Will hit you in the head.
Then you will remember,
Before your day is through,

To kneel and say your prayers
The way you wanted to.

Then when you are finished
Just dump me on the floor.
I'll stay there through the night
To give you help once more.
You'll get up next morning
And CLUNK! I'll stub your toe,
So that you'll remember
Your prayers before you go!

Put me back on your pillow
After your bed is made
And your clever little prayer rock
Will continue in your aid.
Because your Heavenly Father
Cares and loves you so,
He wants you to remember
To talk to Him, you know.

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Poetry's Place

LET ME GIVE

I do not know how long I'll live
But while I live, Lord, let me give
Some comfort to someone in need
By smile or nod - a kind word or deed
And let me do what ever I can
To ease things for my fellow man.
I want naught but to do my part
To lift a 'tired' or weary heart.
To change folks frowns to smiles
again-
Then I will not have lived in vain
And I'll not care how long I'll live
If I can give-and give- and give.

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Pearls of Prudence

TAKE TIME

Take Time To Think,
It Is The Source Of Power.
Take Time To Play,
It Is The Secret Of Perpetual Youth.
Take Time To Read,
It Is The Fountain Of Wisdom.
Take Time To Pray,
It Is The Greatest Power On Earth.
Take Time To Love And Be Loved,
It Is A God-Given Privilege.
Take Time To Be Friendly,
It Is The Road To Happiness.
Take Time To Laugh,
It Is The Music Of The Soul.
Take Time To Give,
It Is Too Short A Day To Be Selfish.
Take Time To Work,
It Is The Price Of Success.

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What we know and even what we believe are not that significant if they don't show up in the way we live. Pure and simple, faith not lived everyday is not faith, it is facade. -- Anonymous

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Never borrow from the future. If you worry about what may happen tomorrow and it doesn't happen, you have worried in vain. Even if it does happen, you have to worry twice.

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Pleasurable Pastime

JUST SHUT UP

Several years ago, our new assistant minister was delivering his first sermon

to the congregation, when an elderly woman in one of the front pews shouted, "Oh, shut up!" The young preacher, taken aback, stopped mid-sentence, held on to the pulpit, and, with his mouth agape, stared at the displeased parishioner. He soon discovered that her harsh words had been directed not at him but at her squeaking hearing aid. --Eva R. Priestly, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey (from *Christianity Today* website)

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Precious Principles

36 WAYS TO REDUCE STRESS

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day not feeling rushed.
4. Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule, or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many).
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.

13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough rest.
18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.
20. Listen to! a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.
21. Write down thoughts and inspirations.
22. Every day, find time to be alone.
23. Having problems? Talk to God on the spot. Try to nip small problems in the bud. Don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray.
24. Make friends with Godly people.
25. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand.
26. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you Jesus."
27. Laugh.
28. Laugh some more!
29. Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all.
30. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).
31. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).
32. Sit on your ego.
33. Talk less; listen more.

34. Slow down.
35. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.
36. Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.

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Past Pathways

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak..."I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What you got there, son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you gonna do with them?" I asked. "Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time." "But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do?" "Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them." The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds! They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!" "How much?" the pastor asked

again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?" The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free.

Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story.

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!"

"What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You

don't want those people!!"

"How much?" He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage with the open door and walked from the pulpit.

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Priceless Prose

I have met people so empty of joy that when I clasped their frosty fingertips it seemed as if I were shaking hands with a northeast storm. Others there are whose hands have sunbeams in them, so that their grasp warms my heart. It may be only the clinging touch of a child's hand, but there is as much potential sunshine in it for me as there is in a loving glance for others.--Helen Adams Keller (1880-1968)