

MOVING SPIRIT

devotional newsletter of

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

This cropped photo by Elliott Ewritt represents one of many candid snapshots he took of American life during the last half of the 20th Century. It captures the common plight of people attending large public events where they become lost in the crowd. Whether by *hesitation* or by *hurry*, by *distraction* or by *inattention*, loved ones can get separated and end up in “THE LOST PERSONS AREA.”

Our journey with God can be similar to this illustration. Our days are crowded with things that *distract* us from being *attentive* to the One Who brought us to this large event called earthly life. God may be calling us to keep up with His pace, while we *hesitantly* lag behind. Or He may bid us sit still with Him to rest and restore our souls, but we *hurriedly* run on ahead, losing His comforting presence in the process. This happened in the beginning, and it continues today. At one time or another, all humans end up in “THE LOST PERSONS AREA.”

But we are God’s loved ones, and although “*all we like sheep have gone*



astray,” each turning to “*his own way*,” the Lord is our Shepherd, Who searches for lost sheep. In Christ, He became “the Good Shepherd” Who paid the price to bring us back to Himself at the cost of His own life.

Jesus said that He came “to seek and to save that which was lost.” Although that refers to the whole creation, it was our own lost condition that affected all else. Our part is not hard in this, all we have to do is recognize our situation and honestly admit. We then suddenly find ourselves found! – *Pastor David Hatton*

Personal Pulpit

Letter from a 73 Year-Old Believer

I find it that the older I get, the more that I want to learn and find out about God. I want to get closer to him, you have to put your negatives aside and get to know the Lord. I have lots of stuff in my past that I am not proud of, but I am still coming to the Lord. They don't want to hear it because they know that it is true. Just forget about "your negatives" and get down on your knees and ask God to forgive you. Now is the time to start. When you are laying in a hospital bed and dying, you don't have any time left to ask forgiveness for all the stuff that you have done in "your lifetime." You have been wasting so much of your life doing negative things. I spent 3 tours in Vietnam, doing a job that I did not like. I lost lots of my friends. I lost a young Rabbi who was assigned to my squad, because he would not listen to me and stay in one spot, instead he crawled up to me saying, "I am here to protect you." He was wrong and died in my arms. Then I turned away from God, I stayed away from believing in God for 30 years. After I had lost my family (mother, sister & father) I turned to God to take away my pain. To ask God for

his forgiveness in turning away from him in the first place. I opened my heart when I heard God "Knocking on the door" that has no handle on the outside and you have to let him in. I have done that and now I have been walking with God since. Everyone uses the saying "WWJD" Some people say "What Would Jesus Do." I say this "Walking With Jesus Daily," because that is what I am doing. I just wish that more people would be walking with me.

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Pithy Pieces

Economic Hardship:

Ten Ways Faith Responds

By Bill Choler (pastor of Capital Life Church, Arlington, Virginia)

Faith feeds hope and starves fear.

Faith shapes a future economists can only predict—if they're lucky!

Faith believes retirement means more than a gold watch and rocking chair.

Faith gives thanks in all things.

Faith looks for a future beyond Social Security, even beyond life expectancy.

Faith reaches out to meet others' needs.

Faith sows seeds today for tomorrow's harvest.

Faith chooses a good name over riches.

Faith aims high, steps forward, and

doesn't look back.

Faith reminds us Who's really in charge.

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Praise's Portion

FAITH

(from a resident's blind, diabetic cousin)

I have lost the precious gift of sight. However, when you talk to me, please don't avoid using phrases such as "Did you see..." or "Look at this," because when you speak of a summer day, I can visualize the golden shaft of the morning sun transforming the dew into a glistening bed of diamonds displayed on a velvety green lawn; the beautiful sapphire blue sky randomly dotted with billowy marshmallow white clouds; the stunning splashes of color in a flower garden like the dabs of paint on an artist palette held in the hand of God.

Then fall arrives and I can recall the riotous array of color in the ridge above town, flashy reds, subtly golds, brilliant yellows, and here and there a cluster of green leaves, stubbornly refusing to change their summer garb; the whimsical, toothless grin of a jack-o-lantern blinking down from its perch on the porch rail; the golden harvest making eerie silhouettes of the leafless tree.

Then suddenly we are in winter's grasp, and I remember the fresh white

snow bending the branches of a pine tree like nuns with their heads bowed in prayer; the water in the brook that once splashed and bubbled over the rocks now lies silent and motionless in a sheet of ice; the windows of the homes brightly decorated with Christmas trees, and a lone candle in the window, casting its golden glow on the snow, reminding us of the single star that shined in the East several centuries ago, heralding the news of the birth of Christ.

Then the winds soften and spring is here. I recall the rainbow in the sky after a rain that has washed away the ashes of winter; the sweet aroma of lilacs; the trees, their buds swollen with the blossoms that are harbingers of the fruit soon to arrive. Everywhere, signs of rebirth and the beginning of new life recall that Easter Sunday centuries ago when Christ rose from the grave, His promise kept, His vow fulfilled. Yes I am blind, but I see more clearly now than ever before. I know that life is a gift from God and that living is how we handle that gift.

Close your eyes and think back to the words of Christ, "I am with you always." Faith is simply knowing that he is with you always and in all ways.

— Alma S. Homer, February 12, 1987

Prayer's Priority

I Said a Prayer for You Today

I said a prayer for you today
And know God must have heard--
I felt the answer in my heart
Although He spoke no word!
I didn't ask for wealth or fame
(I knew you wouldn't mind)--
I asked Him to send treasures
Of a far more lasting kind!
I asked that He'd be near you
At the start of each new day
To grant you health and blessings
And friends to share your way!
I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small--
But it was His loving care
I prayed for most of all!

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INDIAN PRAYER

Oh, Father, whose voice I hear in the winds, hear me. I am a little one before you, one of your many children. I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom. Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunsets. Make my hands respect the things you have made—my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may know the things you have taught my people, lessons you have

hidden in every leaf and rock. I need strength, Father, not to be superior to my brother but to be able to fight my greatest enemy—myself. Make me ever ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes, so that when life fades as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

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Perpetual Precepts

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

The Cross was meant for punishment;
it became merciful forgiveness.
The Cross was meant for torture;
it became the image of redemption.
The Cross was meant to mock Christ;
it became a symbol of His power.
The Cross was meant to humiliate Him;
it became His Glory.
The Cross was meant to bring despair;
it became the hope of all mankind.
The Cross was meant for death;
it became a source of new life.
The Cross was meant to crush Christ;
it became His royal throne.
The Cross was meant to hurt;
it became an instrument of healing.
The Cross was meant to stop Jesus;
it became the new beginning
that has given us our future.

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Poetry's Place

IN HIS STEPS

(adapted)

“O Lord, the road’s too rough,” I said,
“There are stones that hurt me so.”
And He said, “Dear child, I understand,
I walked it long ago.”

“But there’s a cool green path,” I said,
“Let me walk there for a time.”
“No, child,” He gently answered me,
“The green path does not climb.”

“My burden,” I said, “Is far too great.
How can I bear it so?”
“My child,” He said, “I recall its weight.
I carried the Cross, you know.”

But I said, “I wish my friends were here,
Who would make my way their own.”
“Oh, yes,” He said, “Gethsemane
Was hard to bear alone.”

And so I climb the stony path,
Content at last to know
That where my Master had not gone,
I would not need to go.

And strangely then I found new friends,
The burden grew less sore;

And I remember—long ago
He went that way before.

--Olga J. Weiss

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POEM

I knelt to pray but not for long,
I had too much to do.
I had to hurry and get to work,
For bills would soon be due.
So I knelt and said a hurried prayer,
And jumped up off my knees.
My Christian duty was now done.
My soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time
To spread a word of cheer.
No time to speak of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me, I'd fear.
No time, no time, too much to do,
That was my constant cry,
No time to give to souls in need,
But time, at last, to die.

Before the Lord I had to come.
I stood with downcast eyes,
For in His hands He held a book:
It was the book of life.
God looked into His book and said,
"Your name I cannot find.
I once was going to write it down,
But never found the time."

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Pearls of Prudence

The person of simplest means becomes wealthy the moment they receive the gift of gratitude. – David Peter

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Forget what you have done for your friends, and remember what they have done for you. Disregard what the world owes you, and concentrate on what you owe the world. – S. H. Paver

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Jesus said, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" Scripture tells us that "Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." In these challenging times, it is comforting to know that certainty begins with faith.

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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

Exercise for People over 50

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface, where you have plenty of room at each side.

With a 5-lb potato bag in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try it for a full minute, then relax.

Each day you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a few weeks, move up to 10-lb potato bags. Then try 50-lb potato bags. Eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100-lb potato bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute. (I'm at this level.)

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each bag.

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Precious Principles

Christian Ways to Reduce Stress

1. Pray, and go to bed on time.
2. Get up on time so you can start the day not feeling rushed.
3. Say "NO" to projects that won't fit with your schedule or mental health.
4. Delegate tasks to capable others.
5. Simplify and unclutter your life.
6. Discover how "less is more."
7. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
8. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time.
9. Take one day at a time.
10. Separate worries from concerns. If a

situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do. If you can't do anything about it, forget it.

11. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.

12. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.

13. KMS (Keep Mouth Shut). This advice can prevent a heap of trouble.

14. Let out the Kid in you everyday.

15. Carry a Bible to read while waiting.

16. Get enough rest, and eat right.

17. Organize so everything has its place.

18. Listen to a good tape while driving.

19. Write down thots and inspirations.

20. Every day, find time for solitude.

21. Nip worries in the bud by praying on the spot. Don't wait till bedtime to pray.

22. Make friends with godly people.

23. Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand at all times.

24. Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a "Thank you Jesus."

25. Laugh, then laugh some more!

26. Take your work seriously, but never take yourself seriously.

27. Develop a forgiving attitude (most people are doing the best they can).

28. Be kind to unkind people (they probably need it the most).

29. Sit on your ego, most of the time.

30. Talk less; listen more.

31. Slow down.

32. Remind yourself that you are not the general manager of the universe.

33. 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

"Single missionary candidate seeks adventurous female"

By the 1830s, the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) prohibited unmarried persons from entering the mission field. The Board believed that married missionaries could cope better with hardships and resist sexual temptations. Thus they required young men to be engaged at least two months before entering the mission field. To help the would-be missionaries find wives, the ABCFM had an ongoing list of "missionary-minded" women who were considered "young, pious, educated, fit, and reasonably good-looking." Often these missionary couples would leave for foreign lands within a week after their marriage.



At Eskaton to Serve You

Eskaton Village Community Church is an opportunity for interdenominational Christian worship sponsored by Arcade Wesleyan Church. Honoring tradition, we maintain an evangelical spirit focused on the Holy Bible as the Word of God. Congregational unity is expressed by our confession of the ancient Apostle's or the Nicene Creeds at our monthly Holy Communion. We hope residents without a church home (or who find travel to their own churches too difficult) will visit our fellowship.

Rev. David Hatton, also an RN, leads

EVCC with the help of Rev. Terry A. Brown and Pastor Dawn Valerio, who both are also bivocational ministers. All three are available for pastoral visits and spiritual counsel by request:

Pastor David's cell phone: 605-9615

David & Rosemary home: 920-5854

Pastor Terry's cell phone: 425-4731

Pastor Dawn's cell phone: 764-2328

Or leave a message for any of them at the Arcade Church office, 487-5123.

Regular Meetings:

Worship (Music Room) . . . 10:00 a.m.

Worship (Assisted Living) 11:15 a.m.

Communion . . . 1st Sunday each month

Eskaton Village Community Church

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c/o Arcade Wesleyan Church
3532 Whitney Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95821

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