



# Tell It On The Mountain

Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church

559-683-6742

July 2005

**Dear Friends,**

Do you want to know one simple, profound, real and difficult way to remedy most problems with relationships with other people? (Let me warn you that the answer will tempt you to say, "Been there, done that. Is there anything else I don't know?" so please read on.)

The answer is to maintain a grip on just how much God loves you.

Ask yourself what causes most of your problems with other people (beside the things they do, over which you have absolutely no control)? I'm thinking of things like fear of rejection, jealousy, feelings of inferiority or of superiority, ambition, lust, greed, self-centeredness, lack of trust....

If you are filled up on the inside with confidence in God's undying love for you, those things pretty much go away. You are then set free to concentrate on how you can give to others without fear or jealousy or competition. When you experience God's patience with you, you can be patient with others.... Then, they are more likely to be patient with you...!

How was Mother Teresa able to give herself so completely to the least lovable of people? She was filled with God's love, a love which she first experienced for herself. As a result she was able to love others out of the overflow.

And how did she maintain such a strong flow of love into and through her being? By spending time with her Lord. (The three or four hours she spent with him each morning is a stretch for most of us, but could explain why most of our lives lack the impact hers had on the world.)

Start where you can in spending time with the Lover of your soul, even if it's five minutes a day. Then consider adding to it by focusing upon him when you're doing the dishes or stopped at a red light or brushing your teeth. He longs to commune with you. Jot a prayer and a thought in a journal. Meditate on a word or phrase from a verse of scripture. Or just be quiet in his presence.

**"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."** (Ephesians 3:17-19)

Buoyed up by His Love,  
Rick Irish  
Interim Pastor



## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

A great big "THANK YOU" to all the people who helped as we went through the many tasks and processes associated with getting our new pictorial directory put together and off to the publisher. First, I must recognize my faithful program committee: Yhonna Loy, telephone leader; Aileen Gilders, hostess leader; Denise Jones, layout leader; and Carolyn Weisman, extra photography. Then come Val and Karen in the office, who so graciously answered my umpteen questions and provided me with mailing lists and other secretarial duties. We also couldn't have done it without all those faithful volunteers who signed people up, both at church and by phone, hosted during the photography sessions, set up the rooms, submitted pictures of their activities, and unlocked and locked the church. And finally, thanks to all those who took the time to have their pictures taken in order to make our new directory as complete and useful as possible. I'm sure our new pastor will be quite appreciative, not to mention the rest of us.

Carolyn Croker, Directory Coordinator

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## Stephen Ministers: The After People



Frequently friends will ask, “I know you’re involved in Stephen Ministry. Can you tell me exactly what a Stephen Minister is?” I like to explain that Stephen Ministers are “After People.”

### **Stephen Minister are there:**

- . . . *after you’ve washed and returned the last casserole dish.*
- . . . *after the divorce papers have been served and the bottom falls out of your life.*
- . . . *after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away – and the house suddenly seems incredibly empty.*
- . . . *after you arrive home following the funeral service and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you.*
- . . . *after the relationship has ended but the wounds are still bleeding and painful.*
- . . . *after the doctors have said, “There’s nothing more we can do.”*
- . . . *after the door has slammed shut – for the last time.*
- . . . *after the phone call you’d always hoped you’d never get.*
- . . . *after you realize the hands on the gold watch you received at your retirement party move more slowly than you ever imagined.*
- . . . *after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to you new home.”*
- . . . *after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.*
- . . . *after the baby has arrived, putting more demands on you than you ever dreamed possible.*
- . . . *after you find the pink slip inserted with what is now your final paycheck.*
- . . . *after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.*

Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” We are ready to come alongside you – or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long “after” as we are needed.\*

Contact Betty Erford at 658-8139.

\* The above was adapted from a presentation made during a worship service by Enie Bourland, a lay Stephen Leader at Houston’s First Baptist Church in Houston, Texas.

## Pastor Nominating Committee Update:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have prayed for us during our meetings the last few weeks, whether at the church or in your homes. God has been with us as we have continued to seek His will in this process. We are completing the last of our preliminary interviews with a selected group of our candidates. The next step is to narrow the field a little bit more if we are able and to contact the references of all the remaining candidates. We expect this part of the process to take us at least a couple more weeks. Then we will be making further contact with each of our candidates. In each step of the process, the field is usually narrowed a little bit more. Eventually our final candidate will have been checked out by presbytery, will have been to Oakhurst, will have been interviewed in person and the PNC will have heard him or her preach in person. Since each step involves more than one candidate, and since we are operating within the candidates’ schedules as well as trying to accommodate the individual PNC members’ schedules, you can see that this process will not be over for a while. We do thank all of you for your patience and ask that you will continue to pray for us during this time – seeking the Lord’s guidance and His wisdom as we continue to seek the candidate that HE has prepared to be Sierra Vista’s pastor.

### **SENIORS**

The July Senior Grizzlies Baseball Trip is now taking Reservations.

The game is on Wednesday night, July 20th. Our “Classic Charter” bus will leave the church parking lot at 5:30 PM for the 7:05 start of the game.

The cost for transportation and the game is \$20.00 per person.

Please sign-up to reserve your seats as soon as possible.

For information  
and reservations contact:

Walt and Dori Hartman  
877-8704 or  
[hartman1@netptc.net](mailto:hartman1@netptc.net)



# Vacation Bible School

July 18-22, 2005 5:30-8:00



### Registration:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School grade entering: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other (relationship): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt (cost \$3 each) indicate how many of each size:

Child: small \_\_\_\_\_ medium \_\_\_\_\_  
 Youth: large \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adult: medium \_\_\_\_\_ large \_\_\_\_\_  
 I'll bring a t-shirt from home \_\_\_\_\_

Other children in the same family:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School grade entering: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School grade entering: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 School grade entering: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies or Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



## Will You Help?



Before VBS, I would like to help with:

- Praying for teachers & students
- Pre-registering students
- Distributing publicity materials
- Providing craft materials
- Making backdrops, painting, etc.

During VBS, I would like to help in one or more of the following areas:

- Teacher/Story Teller
- Preferred Age Group \_\_\_\_\_
- Music Center Helper
- Snack Coordinator
- Registration
- Story Teller/Drama
- Co-Director
- Craft Center Helper
- Snack Center Helper
- Missions Helper
- Helper in Centers
- Teacher's Helper

After VBS, I would like to help with:

- Praying for students
- Writing follow-up postcards

During the summer, I would like to help on a rotating basis with:

- Children's Church
- Nursery

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring this to the Church.



## THE SIERRA VISTA PRAYER CHAIN

Dear Sierra Vista Family,

Please feel free to post/phone in any and all prayer requests. We have many prayer warriors in our congregation who faithfully pray for the people and needs that are shared via this important ministry. Requests can be put on the prayer chain by calling Mary Lou Walker at 642-3954 or by posting them on our on-line prayer chain at [www.quicktopic.com/16/H/RVXHRa83jmcRZ](http://www.quicktopic.com/16/H/RVXHRa83jmcRZ). You can also receive updates from the on-line prayer chain and join us in praying by going to this site and following the directions there.

We want everyone who uses the prayer chain, both those who post prayer requests and those who pray, to remember, that the needs and names posted there are always to be given the utmost privacy. If you use it to request prayer, please be assured that those who see the prayer request will not share any names outside of the circle of those praying. Because we live in a small town, and we post our requests on the world wide web, please feel free to leave out names if you feel you need to. Needs can be prayed for anonymously if necessary, the Lord knows who we are talking about!

It is our great joy and pleasure to be able to join in praising the Lord when requests have been answered/resolved. If you post a request, please allow us to join with you in praise by also posting the answer or resolution of a request. In the absence of information which updates a request, or lets us know of the resolution, we will take requests off our prayer lists after they have been on for a month or more. However, we appreciate it very much when we are able to know of any resolution that has occurred.

Glad to be praying with all of you!

The Sierra Vista Prayer Team

Ginny Harrison,  
Elder Prayer Ministry



## MISSIONS & OUTREACH

A new season is upon us, summer, with all of its highs and lows. We know of two missionary families that we support that are also going through a new season of life. Pray diligently for these two families and their children as they make adjustments in this new season.

David & Ellyn Hoffman, Dustin (13) and Taylor (10), will have been here for 10 days in Oakhurst preparing their way for the move to Boise, Idaho. They have been with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Shell, Ecuador for 5 years as short-term missionaries. MAF is relocating from Redlands, CA. to Nampa, Idaho within the year. David & Ellyn have been called to come on board as full time missionaries serving at the headquarters in Idaho.

Prayer items for David, Ellyn, Dustin & Taylor: (1.) Selling of their home in Oakhurst; (2.) Finding the right place to live in Boise; (3.) For Dustin & Taylor as they transition to school in the US; and (4.) For more partners to join their team and that they will quickly reach their new required support level. They will be driving to Idaho the end of June to find a place to live, unload their belongings, and find a school for Dustin & Taylor. They will need to be back in Redlands for debriefing and training with MAF and then back to Idaho to settle in and begin deputation. When they have reached full Career Staff funding level they can begin working on the MAF move from California to Idaho.

Steve & Kim Hiett, Jakob and Dana, were with us at the end of June. They have been with Christian Veterinary Mission in Cambodia for the last three years. They are returning back to the United States.

Prayer items for Steve, Kim, Jakob & Dana: (1.) For peace, joy and energy as they visit family and friends in the Fresno/Oakhurst area and in the Oregon/Washington/Idaho area; (2.) Getting settled and continuing some CVM activities in mid-August; and (3.) Jakob and Dana starting school and life as stateside veterinarians again.

What a privilege it has been to walk beside these families!

On June 26, the Park Ministry started. This is a chance for the SVPC body to be involved locally in sharing God's love. We meet at 6:00, by the gazebo, for a meal. We need salads and deserts, as we provide a main dish and drinks. We have camp staff from Summit that will be helping with games.

### Matthew 5:13-16 The Message

*"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage. Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand – shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven."*

**God's Best To You! Christ's Blessing On You!**

**Lana Jackson, Elder of Mission & Outreach**

*This is the fifth in a series of 6 articles written by Gene Johnston to encourage us to get “into the Word” of God and make it an integral part of our lives.*



**FROM THE LORD'S TABLE: Part 5**

**SCRIPTURE: “Your Words were SCRIPTURE:  
"Your Words were found, and I ate them, and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O Lord God of hosts.” (Jeremiah 15:16)**

**TITLE: IS GOD’S WORD DWELLING RICHLY, WITHIN YOU?**

We have now come full circle. The introductory article opened with the challenge “The Choice Is Yours, Let, God’s Word Dwell In You.” We have looked at and discussed many Scriptures describing the way in which God’s servants have had His Word in them.

It really comes down to those who truly desired to be intimate with the Heavenly Father. The lead Scripture tells us that Jeremiah, even when he was suffering dejection, rejoiced, “taking in” the Word of God. Another example is Job when proclaiming God’s righteous judgment he writes; “But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold. I have not departed from the commandment of His lips; I have treasured the Words of His mouth more than my necessary food.” (Job 23:10,12)

Ezekiel, when sent to rebellious Israel, speaks of the Lord God saying to him; “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, feed your belly, and fill your stomach with this scroll that I give you. Son of man, go to the house of Israel and speak with My Words to them.’” (Ezekiel 3:3,4) Again in verse 10 we read; “Moreover He said to me; ‘Son of man, receive into your heart all My Words that I speak to you, and hear with your ears.’”

The Psalmist in Psalm 119 says over and over again; “I meditate on Your precepts.” (v.15) “And I will meditate on Your statutes.” (v.48) The whole of the Psalm is focused on the Word of God. We should read it over about 10 times just to get a little of the inner joy that he received. Now in the New Testament, the Apostle John writes of this abiding concept: (Jesus is speaking) “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-dresser. If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. [why?] By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.” (John 15:1,7,8,) (The Words in [ ] are mine for clarity). Jesus was speaking to the 12 in the upper room. Again He said, “I am the vine, you are the branches, he who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for

without Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5) Oh my! The question comes to me; “Gene are you abiding in Me, are My Words abiding in you?”

When we were on staff at Hume Lake Christian Camps, each department would have a short devotion before going to work each day. This day it was my turn and the text I had chosen was John 6:48-68. The thought was “Jesus is the Word of God” (“Logos” John 1:1-3,14), and “the Word of God abiding in us” (“Rhema” John 15:7). I asked the group of young men, “How many meals do you plan to eat this week?” Most said, “three a day.” I asked, “could you get by on one or two a week?” They laughed and said, “Are you kidding? We would be weak and not able to work.” Then I asked, “How many times do you plan to feed your spirit?” They looked at me funny and I said, “Don't you see? Feeding your spirit is the same as feeding your body. If you neglect it you will be weak in spiritual matters. Then you will not know who you are in Christ. You will not be able to stand the fiery darts of the devil that come during the week.”

Weightlifters eat certain foods, and sweat and groan a lot as they lift increasingly heavier weights to increase their strength. It is the same way with us in the Christian life. If we want to grow strong in our daily walk with the Lord, we must feed our spirit a special food, on a daily basis. It’s called the Word of God. Our sweating and groaning are the personal choices through the day -- choosing to go God’s way we have just died to self, and we are alive unto Him, glorifying our Heavenly Father.

After our time together, on 12-year-old junior staffer went home at lunch and said to his Mom, - “Wow! I have to read my Bible more.” His mom asked, “Why?” He said, “Mr. Johnston said this morning that we will be weak Christians if we don’t feed our spirits on a daily basis.” She told me later, “He was a very serious young man.”

The “Choice” is ours. It has been since the Garden of Eden. ABIDING is a choice and it was Jesus who said; “If you Abide in Me and My Words abide in you” There you have it – How can I have God’s Word “Abiding in me richly?” By Choosing to commit time to Him daily for “feeding on the Word of God!”

**WAIT! WAIT! WAIT! THIS CANNOT BE THE END IN IT'S SELF. "THIS IS ONLY THE MEANS TO THE END, OR THE GOAL!"**

**WHAT IS THE GOAL? WELL YOU MUST WAIT UNTIL THE LAST ARTICLE TO FIND OUT; WHAT IS OUR LIFE’S GOAL BOTH NOW AND FOR ETERNITY?**

## SESSION NOTES AND VOTES

June 21, 2005

## SESSION NOTES...

- Average attendance May 22 – June 19 was **420**.
- Average attendance for the first three Sundays in June, 2005, was **249** at 9:00 am; **134** at 10:45 am; and **36** at Time and Space at 6:00 pm.
- Guests at Session were incoming Deacons **Don Hendrickson, Lynn Tathwell, Judy Turnbull**, and Elder **Larry Poffenberger**. Also guests were the Long Range Planning Team of **Don Pettingill** and **Hugh Taylor**, and **Tony Biasell** and **Ryan McKenzie** from Time and Space at Sunday Six.
- The Summer Park Ministry sponsored by the Mission Team and assisted by Summit Adventure, begins Friday, June 24.
- The **Rev. Henry Greene** will speak at Sierra Vista on Thursday, June 30, at 7 pm on the work of Presbyterians For Renewal. He will tell of the work of PFR in reference to the work of General Assembly.

## IT WAS VOTED...

- **To approve** the minutes of the Regular Session meeting on May 17, 2005, and the Called Congregational Meeting on May 22, 2005, as presented.
- **To approve** the serving of Communion at Feast of Tents, on Monday am, May 30, 2005.
- **To approve** facility use for the following weddings:  
*Erin Welch/Simon Hunt*, June 11, 2005  
*Lynn Silva/James Bass*, August 27, 2005  
*Rena Miller/Bryant Elkins*, October 8, 2005
- **To ratify** the marriage of **Erin Welch and Simon Hunt** on June 11, 2005 at Sierra Vista. Witnesses were **Heather Eckert** and **Philip Crowe**. Officiating pastors were **Louie Evans, Jr; Tom Elson**, and **William Welch**.
- **To receive** as presented the Statement of Operations for May, 2005, and the General Checking Account report for the same period.
- **To require** that all fliers/inserts need (1) approval by the responsible elder, and (2) to be coordinated through the office staff prior to distribution.
- **To keep** the same format for **Time and Space** with attention to maintaining the core values of an offering, mission announcements, and information about church events in order to have a connectional relationship to the morning services.
- **To reaffirm** with PNC the mandate to develop a vision and statements of mission and core values while incorporating information presented in the Long Range Planning Committee Report presented to Session on 6-21-05.

**Ronna Hendrickson**, Clerk Pro Tem

## Baptism &amp; All-Church Picnic at Bass Lake

July 31, 2005



Come to Sierra Vista's **All-Church Picnic** at Bass Lake Recreation Point. We will have just **one worship service** that morning at **9 a.m. outside** in our amphitheater.

**Baptisms @ 11 a.m.**

**Picnic noon**

If you are interested in being baptized please contact office at 683-6742.

This is a great day to invite friends and neighbors who are not part of a church. Pray about who you will include.

**Hot Dogs & Chicken legs provided for \$1 per person**

**Please bring food to share**

**A-M Salad N-Z Dessert**

**Also bring:** picnic service, your own drinks, chairs, picnic blankets, sunscreen, mosquito repellent, table games, balls, bats, gloves, sunshades, umbrellas, etc.

There will be a **\$3 per car parking fee** charged for parking in the Recreation Point area. You may want to car pool to share the cost.

*Dear Friends,*

Pastor Rick Warren says that "the importance of helping members develop friendships within your church cannot be overemphasized. Relationships are the glue that holds a church together."

In one survey, people we're asked "Why did you join this church?" 93% of the members said, "I joined because of the pastor."

When they asked, "What if the pastor leaves? Will you leave?" 93% said "No." When they asked why they wouldn't leave, the response was "Because I have friends here!"

Do you see the shift in allegiance? Lyle Schaller has done extensive research that shows the more friendships a person has in a congregation, the less likely he is to become inactive or leave. In contrast, I once read about a survey of four hundred church drop-outs who were asked why they left their churches. Over 75% of the respondents said, "I didn't feel anyone cared whether I was there or not."

At Sierra Vista, we are moving closer to hiring a new senior pastor (sorry no timelines) and that's exciting! What's even more exciting is your presence and commitment to our church family. So I encourage you to wait expectantly for what God has in store for us. Let's continue to make Sierra Vista a friendly church where no one stands alone!

Leaning on Him,

Pastor Paul

# July 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## Bible Study Group



Worship  
9, & 10:45 a.m.  
Communion  
& 6 p.m.



10 a.m. Attendance

7 p.m. Prayer Tm  
7 p.m. Mission Tm  
7 p.m. Jr. High Group

10 a.m. Staff Mtg.  
4:30 p.m. Bells Reh.  
6:30 p.m. PNC  
7 p.m. Sr. High Group

6:30 p.m. Worship  
Team @ Lucas'

