



Volume 28 Issue 3

March 2012

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TRY IT THE THIRD WAY

The son steps to the pencil sharpener and begins to grind away. In mere moments the eight-incher has been reduced to a nub. So he begs for another pencil. No, you say, that's not how it works. Sharpen the pencil enough to use it...then re-sharpen as needed. This isn't rocket science. Yet this little tale is repeated over and over all over. A believer emerges from the waters of baptism and begins to get sharpened. And don't we love to see that! But imagine if this disciple wants to merely sharpen, sharpen, sharpen...without using new knowledge, skills and passion to touch and bless the lives of other folk. So it is with Bible study, Bible study, sermon after sermon after sermon...year after year.

Jesus wants us to be sharp, of course. But the grand commission he gave his disciples was to teach new converts to obey what they were taught. And if he emphasized anything it was that we are to touch and bless people all around us. The Nice Samaritan story is at the heart of Jesus' teaching about what it means to be *one of his*. Those first guys, the murderous robbers were *'What's Yours is Mine'* people. We lock our doors at night because their sort live all around us. The next ones to arrive on the scene hurried to the other side of the road and kept on traveling. These *'What's Mine is Mine'* religious types didn't hurt or steal from the victim, but they couldn't be

bothered by a dying man's deep need. Their selfish attitude stinks, even if they were on the way to the Holy City. Finally! A foreigner comes along and springs into action. He is off of his donkey in an instant, cleaning wounds and offering a swallow of water. It is this dear man who represents the person Jesus wants us to emulate. He is the *'What's Mine Is Yours'* model for all who name Jesus as Lord. I call his the Third Way.

One of the many obstacles to being like Jesus and the Samaritan is settling for Sermons, Bible study and study groups etcetera, etcetera. So often it is all lecture...no lab. You know very well that I consider it essential to keep the 'knowing' and 'doing' in balance. I teach that Sunday morning worship is not **IT**. It is part of **IT**, for sure. But **IT** must include intentional, sacrificial service to others. See Matthew 25. I'm hoping that a bunch of Third Way groups will spring up all over the valley...such as the ones already in motion. It is their aim to make somebody's world a better place (many somebodies). At every gathering they remind each other of their purpose...to live out that amazing *'What is Mine is Yours'* mandate.

I'm encouraging our church family and even those outside the area to launch such forays into their commu-

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nities. A pile of spiritual nubs lying on the floor may seem like little trophies to some folk. But I don't think Jesus is one bit happy when his people settle for decades of sharpening and sharpening when there is so much love to be shared. Those religious guys may have been on their way to Sunday school. Or maybe they were late for church. What do you think? Sharpen, sharpen. Okay, so you get the point (pun).




SAINTS ALIVE...

FIRST SATURDAY OF MARCH

The full parking lot at the Iron Skillet portends good chow inside. Sometimes the omelet guy will let us select our own ingredients. Then too, the buffet with pancakes, hash browns, bacon, sausages, country gravy and scrambled eggs makes for low-cal, low cholesterol dining. Oh, don't forget the fruit at the buffet too. Order from the menu or graze at the buffet...either way you'll not be disappointed. Don't forget the senior's discount. The whole point of this monthly gathering is fellowship. Eating together gives us time for that. So come on by the Iron Skillet Restaurant at 9 on March 3. Expect some jokes and laughter. Share some fellowship...with biscuits and gravy on the side. Y'all come! 9 am.

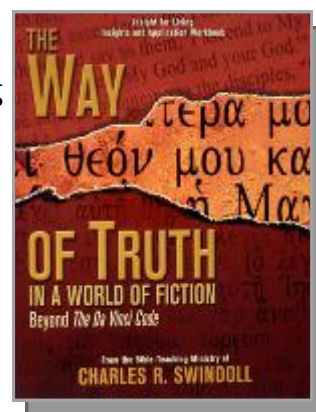
IMPENDING PERIL

"In the confusion, lying preachers will come forward and deceive a lot of people. For many others, the overwhelming spread of evil will do them in--nothing left of their love but a mound of ashes. "Staying with it--that's what God requires. Stay with it to the end. You won't be sorry, and you'll be saved.

(Matthew 24:11-13 MSG)

What does it take to avoid being deceived when we are continually faced with a barrage of fictionalized pseudo-documentaries on Biblical truth? Skillfully offered, enticing media productions are designed to attract the naïve and gullible. A recent example is the *The Da Vinci Code* (book and movie) which skillfully weaves truth and fiction to produce an engaging mystery. Jesus warned in his famous sermon on the mount to beware of religious charlatans (Matt 7:15-20). He knew that we would face deceivers especially as we near the end of the age.

A new study begins on the first Sunday in March. It will equip us to avoid being tripped up by religious fiction. The text shown above (\$10) will help guide us through our 13-week study. To join our discussion, appear in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. If you come 15-20 minutes early you can also enjoy a light breakfast and informal interaction with other members of the class. Hope to see you there.



Gene Stringer

OLD TIME MOVIE NIGHT

The word is out. Even this week a Seniors publication called for details of our Old Time Movie Night. They've heard about this monthly adventure that happens in our sanctuary and want to publicize it. Young people love these ancient flicks. Nostalgia types say they eagerly await the news of the next Third Saturday offering. Mike Royer aims to please...and does. He has a knack for choosing old-

ies...but especially those less available to us common movie lovers. You may be a tad shy about inviting a friend to a Sunday service. Well, here is a chance to walk them into our church house for a fun, non-religious event. Hand deliver one of our newsletters to a special someone and point out the movies for March. It is that easy. See you on the 17th.

39PLUS

Some of us like another look at Jim's Sunday sermon...or at least parts that could use a bit of clarification. At Maries' place, on the First Wednesday, we get a chance to ask questions and gain new perspectives on his latest Acts sermon. We also get this sort of second chance on the Last Wednesday, after folding the newsletter. So here is the schedule:

March 7 We'll converge on Marie Hoffman's place at 61 N. Mountain Avenue. Games at 10... Study Time at 11... Vittles at Noon. Everyone welcome.



March 28 Fold the monthly newsletters...in Fellowship Hall. It's great fun. Then there's that time of study. Noon finds us enjoying a potluck. Bring something to share, of course...and an appetite.

ROGUE RIDERS...OUT AND ABOUT

Oh, the places we have been! This grand touring venture began eleven years ago. Our trekkers have car-pooled, caravanned and even bussed to fairs, parks, restaurants, high country, rivers, lakes, back roads, museums and more. Winter months find us sticking closer to home and supporting local eater-

ies like Tin Tin Buffet, the Black Bear and the Olive Garden. Want to do a bit of traveling? We give preference to affordable excursions, so as to not exclude anybody. Summer is coming and we'll soon be on the road again. Here's the plan for March...

The McKee Bridge Restaurant! Oh, this is a mighty fine well-kept secret. On Wednesday, March 14, we'll load up at the church parking lot (caravanning or carpooling) at 10 a.m. The jaunt will take us to Jacksonville and beyond to Ruch... then up the Applegate River to the bridge and that terrific little restaurant. Care to join us? I'll need to have a rough number in mind when making 'reservations', so give me a call by Monday, the 12th...541-890-3209. I can hardly wait for the journey to begin. Then too, there is apple pie.

Jim Larsen

HOME GROUPS...THE THIRD WAY

This is not a difficult thing to start or do. A Third Way twice-monthly meeting consists of just three components...Camaraderie (fellowship), Character Conversations (discussing various character traits) and Compassionate Action (planning and follow-up on loving service). If you are interested in how this can work I'll gladly discuss it over coffee. Meet with friends, Christian or not. Get better acquainted each time you gather. Plan and carry out compassionate action. Simple as that. Some mighty fine acts of compassion are already being done in Jesus' name. Let's talk. Out of the area? No problem! Jim 541-890-3209

POTLUCK

As luck would have it, it is time for our Quarterly potluck on **Sunday, March 18th!** It won't be too late for the wearing of the green. A - M bring a salad or dessert. N- Z bring a main dish. Singles bring what you can!

Remember the ovens are on for keeping food warm, so please bring your food already cooked.

Kay Killian

REAL MEN DON'T GET IT

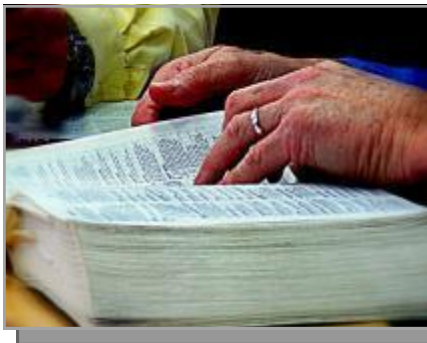
These fine men converge on the Old Farm House in
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Phoenix (Oregon!!) every Monday... 7:45. Sometimes they are oblivious of the impact they make on the staff and other diners. Little Dorothy Thomas and her tall

husband Carl depend on seeing us. They've been married about a hundred years. Dorothy expects all our gents to stop by and share a hug. I observe others observing us. And is pretty amazing isn't it? These manly men holding hands as they pray. Bibles are open and our tables, pushed together end to end, often erupt in laughter. I don't think our guys get it. They are salt and light... as instructed by their salty King. Want to join such a gentleman's club? Monday...be there. Jim L



JACKSON HOUSE... LOVE SPOKEN THERE

Oh, these are dear people. And they love being loved. Hold a hand, listen closely, give a hug or two. Some of our friends have just undergone surgery. Others are long-time residents. What they hold in common is an appreciation for visitors. So we visit. Each Sunday at 2 in the afternoon. Sometimes we bring communion. Always there is Jim's Bible story. We pray. Want to join the love fest? Jackson house is east of Hwy 99 in Talent...on Suncrest Road. Just show up.

MOUNTAIN VIEW...TUESDAYS AT TWO

Cookies and Ice Tea. That gets things going. Jim brings a lesson and gets appreciated help from Marie and Sybil in sorting through the Bible text. Guests, residents at Mountain Retirement Living join us in the special dining room. Of course members of our

church who live there are always glad to see our visiting troupes. Louise Bailey, Marge Zuck and Bobbie Ashby all live at Mt View. But now we've developed lasting friendships with Alma, Sierra, Steve, Buck, Lucy, Francisco, Jerry, Teresa and others. Wow. What a great time is had every Tuesday afternoon. Want to join in the good stuff...come on by. Bring your Bible.



Megan Tiller is a Senior at South Medford High School,. Her Senior Project is to collect diapers to donate to the Rogue Valley Pregnancy Resource Center. RVPRC will distribute the diapers to new mothers in need of assistance. Please bring your diapers to the church and we will have a box in the back to collect them thru Sunday, March 11th. They will be delivered on Thursday, March 15, 2012 between 3:45 pm and 5:45 pm to the Rogue Valley Pregnancy Resource Center located at 2019 Aero Way, Ste 103 (behind Wal*Mart), Medford. 541-772-1921. The RVPRC has a satellite office in our church and donations also help moms in our area. Thank you for your support of this effort. Brad Fish

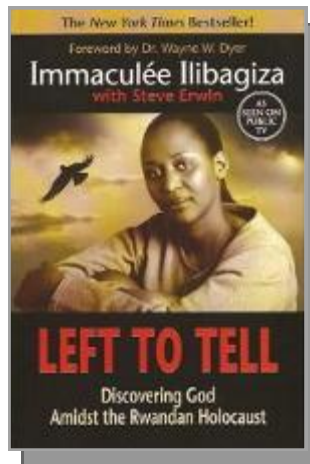
HABITAT FOR HUMANI-TEA

In conjunction with the Apostle's build for Habitat for Humanity, CC of A will hold a "Habitat for Humani-Tea" in the Fellowship Hall at 2nd & B on **Sunday, April 22 fro 4 - 6 p.m.** Hostesses are needed for the tables and people to set up, decorate or clean up. What a great event to invite a friend. Tickets will go on sale Sunday March 4. Proceeds will go to Habitat for Humanity Women's build in May. For more information, see Kay Killian or call 541-621-9192. Kay Killian

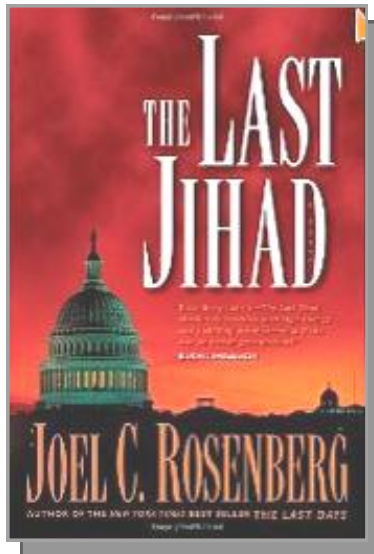
BOOK REVIEWS BY DOYLE CORNWELL

The first book is "Left To Tell", a true account of Immacul'ee Ilibagiza whose family was killed in the

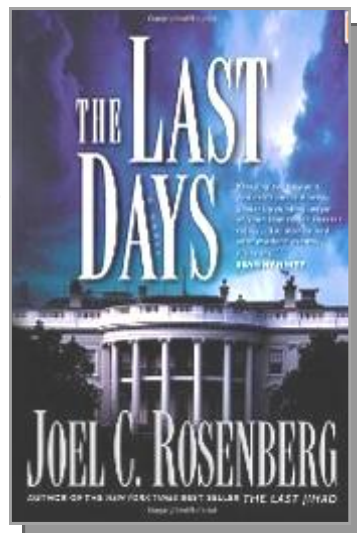
Rwandan Holocaust. It is a look at the extraordinary strength of character of this young lady in unbelievable circumstances. She recounts the struggle to stay alive during the ordeal but most of all how her faith in God saw her through the unspeakable conditions she experienced.



The next one is one of group of many books by the same author, Joel Rosenberg, who is a messianic Jew. The first book is “The Last Jihad” which was written pre 9-11. He was putting the final touches on the book on the morning of September 11, 2001 when his wife called while taking their son to school and asked if he had the television on and when he said he did not she told him that he might want to watch the news as what he had been writing was happening right then. He watched as the second plane hit the second tower of the World Trade Center and thought that he would not be able to get his book published because it was about a plane being flown into a building.

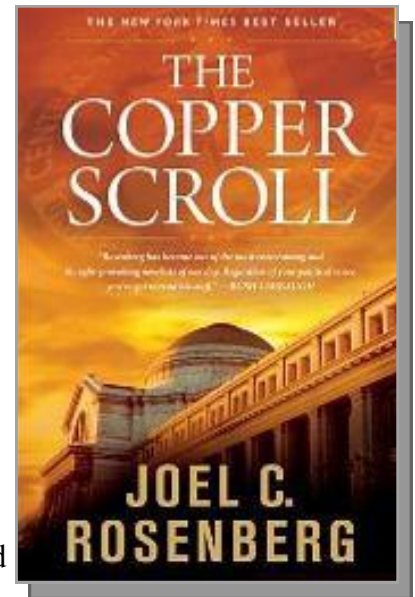


The second thriller opens with the death of Yasser Arafat and a U.S. diplomat convoy ambushed in Gaza. Two weeks before “The Last Days” was published in hardcover, a U.S. diplomatic convoy was ambushed in Gaza. Thirteen months later, Yasser Arafat was dead. When Joel was asked where he was getting his information, he pointed to

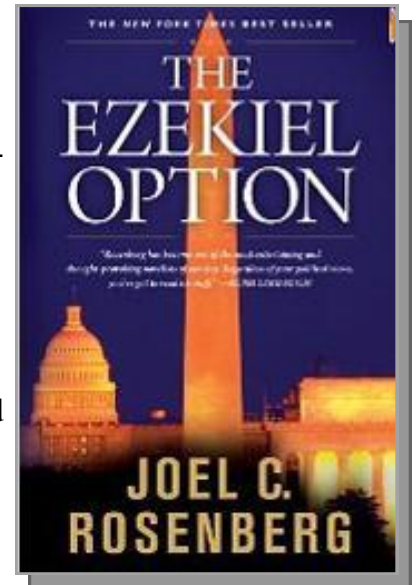


the Bible and especially the book of Ezekiel.

The third book in the Joel Rosenberg books is “The Ezekiel Option” and it centers on a dictator rising in Russia who forms a military alliance with the leaders of Iran, as they pursue nuclear weapons and threaten to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. On the very day it was published in June 2005, Iran elected a new leader who vowed to accelerate the country’s nuclear program and later threatened to “wipe Israel off the map.” Six months after it was published, Moscow signed \$1 billion arms deal with Tehran.



The fourth Rosenberg book is “The Copper Scroll” and in 1956 the New York Times broke a story that captured the imagination of the world. Another Dead Sea Scroll had been found, unlike any before it, describing unimaginable treasures worth untold billions in the hills east of Jerusalem and under the holy city itself. This book tells of a fictional search for the treasures, but uses many scriptural references in the search. It is thrilling and very interesting in light of recent discoveries.



Another little book that I read recently is “The Hope for Immortality” by Ralph Barton Perry. It is “a clarion of hope, a call to courage for those who fear death.” In a few hours one can read this book and it does give some good advice.



CELEBRATE SMILES DAY

Hello Friends!

I thought you would want to know about a very special promotion we will be participating in with other photographers from around the country.

On April 21, 2012 we will host

“**Celebration of Smiles Day**” in Ashland, a wonderful opportunity for you to update individual

portraits of your family members and at the same time support the work of **Operation Smile**, which treats children around the world who suffer with **cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities**.

Along with other participating members of Professional Photographers of America (PPA), we have pledged to **donate 100%** of each **\$24 donation** made to PPA Charities, which has chosen Operation Smile as its charitable partner. Evoking and capturing the smiles of children is our ultimate goal. That’s why we believe so strongly in the work of Operation Smile. Each year this incredible organization of more than 5,000 volunteer doctors, nurses, dentists, and special-ized health care professionals, perform free reconstructive surgeries for children suffering with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities.

Every three minutes a child somewhere in the world is born with a facial deformity. **One in ten will not survive** to see their first birthday. Those who do survive often live in isolation and pain. More than 100,000 children are born with a facial deformity each year in Operation Smile’s 26 partner countries.

I hope you will join with us in helping to make this vital work possible. As always . . . we look forward to creating some truly wonderful portraits of your children!

Warm wishes, Crystal Garcia
crystal@crystalgarcia.com



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 - Karen Larsen
- 7 - Ernest Potter
- 14 - Matt Wing
- 26 - Irma Potter
- 27 - Brad Fish



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 - Jerry and Janie Moore
- 17 - JD and Bonnie Maulsby
- 30 - Bill and Jean Doods
- 30 - Ernie and Irma Potter

Editor’s Note: If I have missed your birthday or anniversary please let me know so I can update my calendar and include them in the future. If I have included any that you would like removed please let me know that also. Just send corrections to the church office. Brad

"JESUS, LORD OF ALL"

"The Family of God"

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>11 12:30 PM Board Meeting Daylight Savings--set ahead 1 hour</p>	<p>5 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>6 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>7 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home Ernest Potter, B'day</p>	<p>1 8</p>	<p>2 9</p>	<p>3 9:00 AM Saints Alive Breakfast - Iron Skillet Karen Larsen, B'day</p>
<p>18 12:15 PM Potluck</p>	<p>12 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>13 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>14 10:00 AM Rogne Riders - McKeel Bridge Restaurant Matt Wing, B'day Jerry & Jamie Moore, Ann</p>	<p>15 16</p>	<p>16 17</p>	<p>17 6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night JD & Bonnie Manisby, Ann St. Patrick's Day</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>19 7:45 AM Real Men-Old Farm House Cafe</p>	<p>20 9:30 AM Piece Corps 2:00 PM Mountain View Small Group</p>	<p>21 28 10:00 AM 39 Plus - Newsletter Folding</p>	<p>22 29</p>	<p>23 30</p>	<p>24 31 Bill & Jean Dooms, Ann Ernie & Irma Potter, Ann</p>

MARCH 2012

February

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26	27	28	29			

April

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

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 Phone: 541-482-1561
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Sunday Service Schedule

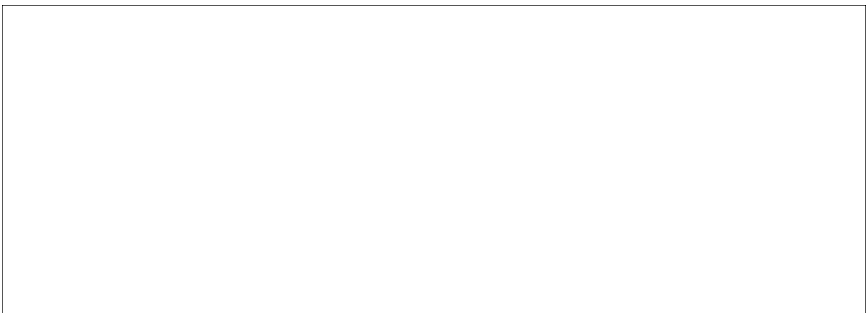
9:30 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Discovery Club
 10:45 AM Worship

Podcast available at:
podcast.cc-ashland.org

Faithful to God, Responsive to People



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

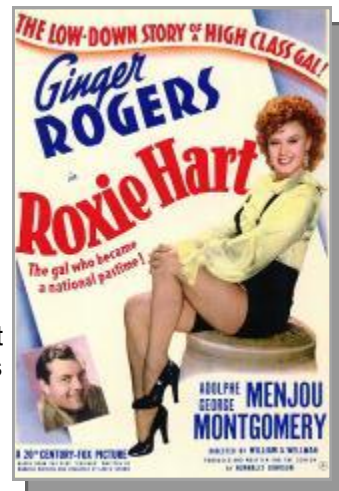


THE MENACING HUN AND THE OUTRAGEOUS BLONDE!



Oh oh...masterminds are stealing British Aircraft secrets in the 1939 tongue-in-cheek espionage tale "**Q PLANES**," released in North America as "**CLOUDS OVER EUROPE**" which reflected to U.S. audiences more accurately Great Britain's situation at the time, with Europe on the brink of World War. Laurence Olivier stars as a devil-may-care flyer and Ralph Richardson, who cracks the case, stars as a daring Secret Service operative. Richardson's portrayal became the blueprint for Patrick McNee's agent *John Steed* in the classic British cult TV series "*The Avengers*." Heroic fun with the British stiff upper lip.

Next up, after our usual intermission of classic drive-in snack-bar ads and vintage coming attraction previews, is a classic comedy farce starring the Rogue Valley's own **Ginger Rogers**. It's the 1942 "**ROXIE HART**," the story of an ambitious 1920s showgirl who confesses to a murder she didn't commit just for the publicity and becomes the center of an outrageous trail. You may recognize the story when it was retold in the Broadway and theatrical hit "*Chicago*." Ginger shines in this hilarious romp!



Our reasonably priced snack-bar will be open most of the evening so bring a healthy appetite.



Be sure and tell all your friends and neighbors! Shout it from the rooftops! Spread the word: The movies are **FREE**...but donations are gladly accepted.

While you're at it, consider bringing something for the Ashland Emergency Food Bank.