



Volume 23 Issue 1

January 2007

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WALK WITH ME



R.S.V.P.

I'm inviting you to a 6-month walk on the wild side. Wild...like in wild-fire. Here's the plan. Tell me what you think of it and if you'd like to fly in formation with me.

Weekly Readers

Between January 1 and June 30 I hereby promise myself to read one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) every week. This, rather than a daily schedule, is more realistic. This journey will allow the words of Jesus Christ to consistently course through my mind and penetrate the core of my being. I'll either watch the Visualized Bible (Matthew and John are in this for-

mat), listen to the scriptures on CD/cassette tape or read from the New Testament.

Monthly Consumers

Every month I'll read through two other New Testament books (Acts, Romans, etc.).

It is that simple. Paul wrote that by consuming the bread of the Word we receive instruction, correction, re-proof and training in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16-17). I want that. Surely you do too. So why not walk the Jesus Trail arm in arm? I'll not post a list of readers. There'll be no fanfare. But we'll want to connect up pretty regularly to encourage one another. So...if you'll pray for me and I pray for you we can't help but develop a spiritual bond that only heaven can understand.

Prayer For Personal Righteousness

You may know that I have found great strength in using a prayer regimen that includes toting along col-

(Continued on page 2)

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ored beads. I will continue to take this daily walk with God. Nothing has come close to this for maintaining a sweet relationship with Jesus. I'll tell you about it and even provide beads (and instructions) if you'd like.

Discipleship Isn't For Weanies

Friend, there is no sauntering on this high road. It is heartbreaking to see Christians put so little effort into their faith-walk. And I know what it means to have a sloppy spiritual life. It took me to places of darkness and destruction. The very least you'll reap from casual and hit-and-miss disciplines is ineffectiveness and a shredded Christian witness. So this is no spanking. I just want to challenge you take a look at your current course and making adjustments to fix on True North. I know we're talking here about effort and extra time. This won't be a cake walk. But it is certainly isn't bearing a cross.

Periodic Adjustments and a Mid-Year Celebration

I'd surely disappoint you if I promised to meet weekly with every one who will sojourn with me. But I can commit to a monthly retreat for a few hours when all of us could pray together and let stragglers catch up. So find a partner whom you can call regularly. Then we'll find a home or other comfortable place where we can regroup. And as for celebration? Wow! Let's do something special. Maybe plan a trip to the coast where we can pray and revel in the new life and vitality that we have found by drawing nearer to God for 6 months. Then we'll do it all over again. By then

we'll know what changes to make in our holy hike.

Want Even More?

Jim Farmer's witness has challenged me to commit more scripture to memory. That which I have locked in my cerebral files have come to my rescue so often. When I am tempted the Holy Spirit speaks to me, almost audibly, and brings to mind words which I had stored away for such a rainy day. Yet I've not memorized any new scriptures in several years. I learned a few chords for piano and guitar enjoyment...that was about 35 years ago... and I lean on those today. Likewise with putting God's in my heart. That has got to change. It isn't about shame or duty or earning God's approval. It is more about daily victory. Thanks, JF, for nudging me to this point of commitment!

Think It Over

If all of this seems a bit much for you right now... well, I understand. But the desperate heart that beats in my chest these days is yearning to fly. I've been a creeper and a crawler and sleeper and a staller. Now it is time to take flight. I'd appreciate your company. If you live outside of the Rogue Valley and receive this newsletter we can still do this together. 1-541-890-3209

jk5larsen@charter.net



MONDAY MEN'S POW WOW

What a way to start the New Year! Annie's will be open on Monday, January 1...so, guys let's keep to our schedule. Expect rich conversation, Bible study, prayer and fellowship with some of the nicest guys in town. Jim Larsen will buy breakfast for any first-timers (must bring this article to qualify). Annie's is in Phoenix. Time: 7:45 a.m.

- Every Monday
- Annie's in Phoenix
- 7:45 a.m.

ROGUE RIDERS TAKE SHORT JAUNT TO TALENT

The Avalon Restaurant is just a few minutes from the church...so let's meet at the church at 10:45 a.m. on January 17. If you plan to meet the group at The Avalon, drop by the restaurant at about 11:20 or so. Thanks to our guide, Helen Jane Slack. She has been proven to be an exception leader...taking us on trips all over Southern Oregon and even Northern California. On these winter days shorter trips are our best bet.

STRINGER'S NEW YEAR'S EVE-NT...

ON EASTERN STANDARD TIME!!

Perhaps you have received this month's newsletter in time for you to get in on a neat New Year's Eve Party.

Are you past the day when it sounded like fun to stay up late so you could yell "Happy New Year" at precisely midnight? Here is the party for you. We will do it at midnight...EST and go home. Bring a favorite table game, snack or old video to share. It will be pure unstructured fun.

- December 31, 6-9 pm PST
- 2808 Anderson Creek Rd
- Talent, OR 97540
- RSVP 541-512-2856

Gene and Janice Stringer

SAINTS ALIVE IS MORE THAN BREAKFAST TOGETHER

The key word in 'breakfast together' is... together. We get the month started with an upbeat breakfast on the first Saturday...our next time of nibbling and munching together is Saturday, January 6. The place remains constant: The Iron Skillet, just off the freeway in Phoenix. The time is unchanged as well: 9 a.m. The main question is this: Will you be on hand? The food is reasonably priced. The company is superb. You don't have to be a saint to join the fun and fellowship. See you there?

39PLUS DIGS INTO THE BOOK OF REVELATION!

Jim Larsen promises that his 'Revelation 101' course will give you a handle on this mysterious last book of the Bible. Everyone is invited to sort through the candle sticks, colored horses and dragons to find powerful truths which have given courage and hope to Christians for 2000 years.

39PLUS began as a ministry to Seniors but it has become a good place to fellowship, cavort, study the Bible and enjoy lunch together. Other than the week of Rogue Riders we meet each Wednesday. Here is the schedule. Arrive at 10 for Dominoes or Uno, get into the Word at 11...then stay for a noon lunch. Everybody welcome!

- **January 3** Meet in Fellowship Hall. Lunch is potluck.
- **January 10** Marie Hoffman invites us to her home and provides lunch.
- **January 17 Rogue Riders** enjoy lunch at the Avalon in Talent...11:30 a.m.
- **January 24** Larsen's host a presentation of Jim's trip to Peru
- - Start at 10...Soup and Sandwiches at Noon
 - Larsen's live at 114 Autumn Ridge, Talent 535-7959
- **January 31** Fold Newsletter at 10, Bible Study at 11, Potluck Lunch at church

LORI JO, BRIAN AND CIELO...OFF TO SOUTH AMERICA!

The Marlia-Larsen's will conduct most of the Sunday service on January 7, days before they fly to South America. We'll all want to be on hand to encourage them. Both Brian and Lori Jo will speak and Lori Jo will bless us with songs of the heart.

You know that these two have been working hard and getting top grades in their classes. After a stint in Chile and Peru they will return for more classes. Their intention is to become nurse-practitioners and be of even more use to the world. Pray for these two and their little boy, Cielo, as they make preparations and then move south on January 11.

CHURCH AT LOUIE'S BAR AND GRILL

Every week is so different. Since Louie's is no longer serving an early breakfast on Sunday mornings David Bruce and I host 'Church At Louie's Bar and Grill' on Tuesdays at 11. Order lunch if you wish or settle for a cup of coffee. The conversation is stimulating and at times intense. Video footage of the meetings can be found on our website: OutSideTheWalls.Com. The website also includes a few dozen free PowerPoint sermons, hundreds of movie clips.

We have received word of people using these materials all over the world in dozens of countries. A family in Arizona writes that they are unable to attend church but they use one of our sermons every Sunday. Others write of using sermons for Bible studies and personal devotions. Sermons are being downloaded in Saudi Arabia, China and other far off places. Thanks to God for new ways to communicate the Word...and to David Bruce for his tireless labors for the Kingdom. Jim Larsen

KLAMATH FALLS 'FRIENDS OF FAITH' GROWING

I really love this group. We meet on Sunday nights twice monthly. Each week participants quote scriptures they have memorized. We receive an offering to be used to share Christ's love with a needy fam-

ily in the Klamath Falls basin. Recently we began devoting 15 minutes per meeting to watching the powerful movie, "The Gospel Of John". Every word in the video is from the Gospel of John (NIV).

Recently one of the families invited the group to start meeting at their home. Meals will be potluck.

I usually stay overnight and conduct a Men's Bible Study on Monday. Pray for this growing group, please.

Jim Larsen

LANDSCAPING...GETTING READY FOR SPRING!

Thanks to a generous love gift, a new irrigation system has been installed in the church lawn. You'll notice new trees on B Street and other shrubbery too. Come Spring we'll better appreciate this generous and beautiful donation.

PIECE CORPS...QUILT ENJOYED BY LORI ROYER

Every week the Piece Corps meets in Fellowship Hall. These good ladies give quilts to newborns and lots of other folk. One means of gathering funds to replenish their supply closet is the annual Quilt Drawing. This year the new owner of a beautiful quilt is Lori Royer. Lori is delighted to have this work of art in her home and is especially appreciative since she has only recently started attending here with her good hubby, Mike. We met the Royers through Old Time Movie Night.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LADIES?

---Sometimes you just need some time with you, your bible and a few others to encourage the valuable discipline of bible study.

January is a good time to join one of our two ongoing ladies bible studies or the Alpha study.

Nyla Fenning's group meets Monday afternoons from 2:00 to 3:00 and will begin a new study on January 9th.

Pat Lyon's group meets Thursday afternoons from 1:30-2:30 at Mountain View Retirement home. They are planning to start a new topic soon, so it is a con-

venient time to arrange to join them.

The Alpha Wednesday evening bible study, while not exclusively for ladies, does give the opportunity to host a friend as you study the basics of Christianity together in a supportive, non-threatening and non-denominational presentation with the video by Nicky Gumbel and the small group discussions afterward. The next Alpha invitation dinner is scheduled for January 3rd. Attend the preview and decide for yourself if the 10 week Alpha bible study meets your and/or your friend's needs. Contact Nyla – 535-3854, Pat - 482-8301, or Janice or Gene - 512-2856 for more information.

ARBOR PLACE MINISTRY BY GENE AND JANICE STRINGER

Don't expect Gene or Janice to brag about their weekly ministry at Arbor Place, an assisted living residence in Medford. Their Sunday afternoon worship service is much appreciated, both by residents and their adult children. The other day Gene told about needing to round up seating for the overflow crowd.

One of the most important aspects of this ministry is consistency. Residents and family can expect a time of worship every Sunday of the year. When the Stringers are away visiting family or on a mission trip they made provision for replacements. Good going!

Jim Larsen

LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, January 9, Helen Calhoun will be our hostess for the Ladies Lunch Bunch. We will be meeting at Wendy's in Ashland. Please contact Helen at 482-2674 to let her know if you plan to attend so she will have a good count for the restaurant.

POTLUCK JANUARY 21, 2006

If your last name begins with **A-K**, **please bring a main dish and a dessert**. If your last name begins with **L-Z**, **please bring a main dish and a salad**. Single folks just bring one item to share. See you there.

ADULT BIBLE SCHOOL CLASSES...A PLACE TO GROW!

You won't find a better teaching staff. Michael Wing has been taking his class through the deep waters of Paul's letter to the Romans. The group meets in the church library.

Gene Stringer walks his class through the Gospel of John, via the video bearing the same name. Every word from this video is from the John's Gospel (NIV). The Visualized Bible is stimulating, as can be seen from the teaching and discussion that follow. Gene's class gathers in Fellowship Hall. Both of these adult classes meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30. All adults invited!

CHURCH LIBRARY

Winter is definitely here! It's cold and wet! Stay warm and dry...

A great way to spend some 'cabin fever' time is to read a book or watch a video. Our church library has plenty of books and a few videos (VHS and DVD).

Please come and check-out something. It's easy : just find the card in the book (on the back for videos) and write down your name, then put the card in the front of the file box in the top drawer under the counter.

If you have borrowed something and forgot to fill out the card; call the church office and leave a message of what you borrowed and your name.

Most of the books and videos were generously donated by members of the church (past and present). So, let's be good stewards and return items in a timely manner.

I'm currently looking for the DVD "The Passion Of The Christ" that was borrowed and the card was not filled out.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Ava

THE PAYOFF

A question that is always in the back of our minds when we attempt to do something for the Lord is does it make a difference. It nags at the mind of the pastor on a Monday morning. The Sunday school class teacher feels the same uncertainty. Go down the list of all who serve and you will find that at least now and then the same question comes up.

When we ask ourselves that question of course we really mean, did it make a difference for the people who we are trying to reach with the gospel. Are they any closer to God now than they were before the sermon, the SS class, the midweek Bible study or prayer we just said for them?

That is why we try to do a questionnaire at the end of each Alpha course. It is a simple thing with places for the respondent to give feedback on their experience. I particularly like questions 9 and 10. After asking the respondent to comment on their relationship with God prior to Alpha question 9 asks, "How would you describe yourself now in terms of the Christian faith?"

Here are some responses from the last Alpha course. "More in touch." "Learning." "...the roles of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit better defined in my mind." "New and improved relationship with God."

Question 10 goes on to ask, "In what ways, if any, did you benefit from the Alpha Course?" Here are some responses to this question. "Meeting people and different ideas." "Enjoyed open discussions and new ideas." "A greater appreciation for the writings in the New Testament, an awareness of the significance of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit..." "Healing and miracles."

Alpha participants filled two tables at the November potluck. Many attended services with us for the first time. The warm welcome was much appreciated.

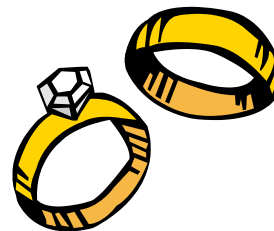
Alpha is one way to help us carry out the Great Commission. It is an easy way to do it. The next course starts with the invitation dinner at **6:00 p.m. on Wednesday January 3, 2007**. Consider inviting a friend to meet our savior at Alpha. It makes a difference.

Gene Stringer



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Helen Calhoun
- 1 - Jason Rudy
- 1 - Bonnie Maulsby
- 2 - Kacey McDonald
- 3 - Terry Hayes
- 8 - Katie Anderson
- 9 - David Lockwood
- 13 - Betty Tine Metcalf
- 15 - Ed Macauley
- 18 - Audrey Morrison
- 18 - Joshua McDaniel
- 24 - Linda Bell
- 25 - Jim Vermillion
- 25 - Shelly Vermillion
- 29 - Harold Russell
- 29 - Teri
- 31 - Kim Kent



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 - Lee and Pat Lyon
- 23 - Karl and Helen Jane Slack

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
	<div>1</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Katie Anderson, B'day</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps Kacey McDonald, B'day</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship ship Hall 6:00 PM Alpha Invitation Dinner Terry Hayes, B'Day</div>	<div>4</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9:00 AM Saints Alive Breakfast - Iron Skillet</div>
<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Katie Anderson, B'day</div>	<div>9</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps 12:00 PM Ladies Lunch Bunch David Lockwood B'day</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Marie Hoffman's Home 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting</div>	<div>11</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View</div>	<div>12</div> <div>Lee & Pat Lyon, Ann</div>	<div>13</div> <div>BettyTime Metcal fB'day</div>
<div>14</div> <div>9:00 AM Ladies Ministry Mtg 12:30 PM Board Meeting</div>	<div>15</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Jill Woodcock, B'day Mario Louder King, Jr.</div>	<div>16</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps</div>	<div>17</div> <div>12:00 PM Rogue Riders Avalon in Talent 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting</div>	<div>18</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View Audrey Morrison, B'day Joshua McDaniel, B'Day</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>6:30 PM Old Time Movie Night</div>
<div>21</div> <div>12:15 PM Potluck</div>	<div>22</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home</div>	<div>23</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps Karl & Helen Jane Slack, Ann</div>	<div>24</div> <div>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship ship Hall 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting Lynda Bell, B'day</div>	<div>25</div> <div>2:00 PM Bible Study-Mt View Jim Vermillion, B'day Shelly Vermillion, B'day</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>
<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>7:45 AM Men Alive- Annie's Cafe 2:00 PM Ladies Bible Study-Ruby's home Harold Russell, B'day Toni, B'day</div>	<div>30</div> <div>9:30 AM Piece Corps</div>	<div>31</div> <div>10:00 AM 39 Plus - Fellowship ship Hall 6:00 PM Alpha Dinner and Meeting Kim Kent, B'day</div>			

February 07						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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25	26	27	28			

December 06						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
						31

JANUARY 2007

CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

318 B Street
PO Box 959
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Jim Larsen, Minister

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Fax: 541-482-1638
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Web: www.cc-ashland.org

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Sunday Service Schedule

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

Faithful to God, Responsive to People

We're on the Web
www.cc-ashland.org



OLD TIME MOVIES

After a brief holiday hiatus, Greg Luce is back at providing our community with old movies classics. On **Saturday night, January 20**, our entertainment be these oldies:

We will be treated to *Sons of the Desert*, 1933 starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy with a running time of 68 minutes. Our second feature will be *It*, 1927 starring Clara Bow and Antonio Moreno with a running time of 72 minutes.



Snack bar opens at 6...first movie starts promptly at 6:30 pm.

It (1927)
Starring
Clara
Bow
and
Antonio
Moreno

