



Is it time for a security check?

In today's society, insecurity is an epidemic. Too many people—including many Christians—walk around timid, afraid, lacking confidence and feeling bad about themselves.

But when Jesus died on the cross for us, something happened that I like to call "the divine exchange." He took away our sins and everything we are not, and then He made us perfect in Him.

God wants you to be confident, bold, fearless and free. He wants you to be healthy and whole — fully able to pursue your destiny. And He desires for you to feel good about yourself and your relationship with Him.

There's no comparison

Insecure people tend to compare themselves with other people and feel a need to "keep up" with them.

For years I tried to be like everybody else. I tried to be steady and easy-going like my husband, Dave. Then I tried to be like my pastor's wife, who was super sweet and sensitive. But the truth is that we are only anointed to be ourselves!

For example, it's amazing how excited you can be about your prayer life until you happen to compare notes with someone else who gets up before daylight each morning and prays for four hours.

Now, if you don't know who you are in Christ, you suddenly feel like your prayer life is nothing. Then, just to keep up, you frustrate yourself trying to do what they are doing.

How do I know? Because this happened to me years ago. As a result, I got myself a clock, locked myself in a room and declared to everyone, "I'm going to pray for four hours a day! I'm not coming out of here, and you can't come in!"

Everything went well until I fell asleep five minutes after I began.

God made you an original... and He has a unique plan just for you. Comparing yourself to others just leads to frustration. But having the confidence and freedom to be yourself leads to peace and joy.

What are you looking at?

Too many times we look at ourselves when we should be looking at God. We focus on all of our own weaknesses, and before we know it, we are

timid, fearful and convinced that everything is too hard to accomplish.

If this is you, then Philippians 3:3 can change your life. It says to "...put no confidence or dependence [on what we are] in the flesh..."

Some people look at their weaknesses and think, I could never do something great for God. Then there are others who look at their own strengths and think, I don't need help... I can do this on my own.

Regardless of what we can or cannot do, God wants all of our confidence to be in Him.

Because the truth is, apart from Him, we can do nothing!

David was one person who knew who he was in Christ. The entire army of Israel was too frightened to fight the giant, Goliath. But David wasn't.

Why?

Because he was looking at God and not himself. He knew that his God could do anything. As a result, he walked straight out to the battlefield and killed Goliath with a stone and a slingshot.

You, too, can have this "David" kind of confidence. You can become a giant-killer

when you learn who you are Christ.

Make a bold move

God wants you to feel good about yourself. He wants you to be bold... to be fearless... to believe Him for big things.

Ephesians 3:20 says that God is able to "...do super-abundantly, far over and above all that we [dare] ask or think [infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, hopes, or dreams]."

I believe God is just waiting for some of you to boldly step out and ask Him for things that go beyond your mind or what you think is possible. Our insecurities will make us feel like we're not worthy to even ask.

But remember, in God's economy, you don't get what you deserve—you get what Jesus deserves!

Wherever you are in your journey with the Lord, He wants you to know that you are right with Him. You may not be perfect, but God sees you as perfect because of His Son.

And because of this, you can go forward with boldness, joy and the divine confidence you need to fulfill your destiny.

Florence PEO awards scholarships to Mattick

Florence PEO Chapter DY has announced that Molly Mattick has been awarded two PEO scholarships to attend nursing school at Linfield College.

Mattick earned both the Oregon Scholarship and the Project for Continuing Education Scholarship.

A native of Gold Beach, Mattick received a bachelor's degree in international relations at Southern Oregon University in Ashland in 2009. She served two years in the Peace Corps in Madagascar teaching English. She also taught health information sessions on topics such as family planning, HIV/AIDS and purifying drinking water.

When she returned to the U.S., she worked for Curry Community Health and started taking prerequisite classes necessary to apply for nursing school. After two years of classes at Lane Community College, she was accepted into Linfield's highly competitive accelerated nursing program where she will earn her B.S./R.N. degree.



COURTESY PHOTO

Molly Mattick

PEO is a philanthropic educational organization that offers scholarships and loans to women to further their educational goals.

There are two PEO chapters in Florence, Chapter FQ and Chapter DY, who sponsored Mattick.

Anyone interested in learning more about PEO scholarships can contact Carol Moore at fishmoore1@gmail.com or Pat McArdle at patmcardle@charter.net.

REIKI MASTER TO SPEAK AT FUUF TOMORROW

Reiki Master Karen Lee will lead a group discussion on the topic of "Healing is the choice we make that raises our conscious awareness" at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Sunday, June 7, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Lee has spent a lifetime focused on recovering from a

difficult childhood filled with abuse, abandonment and neglect.

As a believer in personal growth and explorer of the realm of human potential, she has experienced and acquired a varied tool kit of healing modalities. These include Reiki, hypnotherapy, EFT,

NLP, the Enneagram and the spiritual path of self realization.

"We are never more than one baby step away from an upward spiral of raised personal vibration," said Lee.

The UU Fellowship, located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road, is wheel-

chair accessible. Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during the service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org or call 541-997-2840.

Sonshine Christian offering free preview

If you've ever wondered what school would be like for your child in a multi-grade, one-room school, you can find out on Wednesday, June 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at Sonshine Christian Elementary.

The local private school (grades 1 through 8) is opening its doors to prospective students and their parents for a half-day sample of life in Florence's only private school.

Principle and teacher Karen Nelson will be conducting class as normal, but will also give visitors a taste of the curriculum, which includes the regularly taught academic

courses plus Bible, community services, field trips and music.

Those wishing to attend the in-class preview must reserve a place by calling Nelson at 541-997-5909.

"With a small school and a great student/teacher ratio, we are flexible, adaptable, and can customize a learning plan that advances students who are ready for more challenges, or address specific student needs," said board president Nathan Large. "With crowded classrooms and shrinking budgets in public schools, parents increasingly look to private schools to offer their chil-

dren the tools they need to succeed in this life and for eternity. Sonshine Christian School may be the alternative people are looking for."

Some scholarship funds are available on a needs-basis for the 2015-16 school year, and for first grade students in particular, the funds can cover a significant portion of the year's cost. Those interested in enrollment can also receive a \$100 discount off the annual registration fee with applications submitted before Aug. 1.

Sonshine Christian School is open to all faiths and backgrounds for grades one to eight.

It is a partner with Sonshine Kids Preschool and Childcare, a state certified and DHS approved program open to children ages three to six.

Both schools are accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year.

For more information about Sonshine Christian School, call 541-997-5909. For information on Sonshine Kids Preschool and Childcare, call 541-997-5025.

Both schools are located at 4445 Highway 101 in Florence, inside the Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Soups On to discuss value of having PKR heart

On Monday, June 8, at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from diverse spiritual paths who enjoy discussing a variety of spiritual topics.

This week they will ask, "Do you have a PKR heart?"

The Writing of the Faith says: "O Son of Spirit! My first counsel is this: Possess a pure, kindly and radiant heart, that thing may be a sovereignty ancient, imperishable and everlasting."

The evening will begin with

bowls of tomato soup, fruit, homemade bread and vegetables followed by discussion of the evening's topic until 8:30 p.m.

The gathering will end with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

Everyone is invited to attend.

The Heintz home is at 875 Seventh St.

For more information call Suzanne at 541-590-0779.

Connections drivers needed

Drive your own vehicle to take Florence Senior Citizens who otherwise have no transportation to their medical appointments in Florence, Eugene, Springfield, Coos Bay and North Bend.

Mileage is reimbursed at .40 cents per mile. This reimbursement is not taxable and does not interfere with OHP or Food Stamp determination.

The hours are typically weekdays. Drivers decide which days and hours they are willing to help and accept or decline rides any time.

Drivers will not be asked to transport people during dangerous road conditions.

If interested in volunteering, contact Kristine Sirmans, Florence Senior Connections, at 541-902-9430 ext. 7830.

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Sharing Is Caring

Compartiendo Alimentos (Food Share) de Florence es una despensa de alimentos que sirve a personas necesitadas con cajas de comida de emergencia en el área del Oeste del Condado de Lane. Nosotros distribuimos un suministro de 3 a 5 días de alimentos para nuestros clientes, sin costo alguno, hasta 16 veces al año, y estamos disponibles para todas las personas que califiquen por bajos ingresos. Nuestra misión es aliviar el hambre en el Oeste del Condado de Lane y creemos que nadie debe sentir hambre, sin importar su raza o grupo étnico. Compartiendo Alimentos (Food Share) recientemente recibió dos becas específicamente para ayudar a nuestra comunidad Latina, así que por favor visite nuestra despensa y disfrute de nuestra "Área de Comida Internacional", que ahora provee harina de maíz, o masa, tortillas de maíz, salsa mole, hojas de maíz para tamales, salsa para enchiladas, jalapeños, y mucho más. Nos encontramos en 2190 Spruce Street, Florence, Oregón, en el mismo estacionamiento que la Iglesia New Life Lutheran. ¡Gracias!