

HIGHLIGHTS

Bible study focuses on heaven

UNION — The Union Methodist and Grace Community churches will celebrate God's word together with a worship service beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday. Pastor Carl's sermon, "The Widow's Mite," is taken from Mark 12. Sunday school meets before the service at 9 a.m., and a time of fellowship follows the service.

Every Thursday, men and women meet at Urban Vines in Island City for Bible study at 10 a.m. to discuss Randy Alcorn's book, "Heaven."

Neighbors Together group meets Monday at Zion

LA GRANDE — Zion Lutheran Church in La Grande will worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday. A time of fellowship and coffee will

follow the service.

Neighbors Together will meet at Zion at 5:30 p.m. Monday. Also on Monday, the Evening Bible Study meets at 7 p.m. at Cathy Lease's residence, 67038 Hunter Road, Summerville.

Operation Christmas Child potluck and packing party set

LA GRANDE — "Champions, Champions Everywhere" is the message

Pastor Ray Smith will share at the La Grande First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) at the 10 a.m. service. Drawn from Hebrews 12:1-13, the message will talk about running a marathon race of faith.

Also on Sunday, there will be a Operation Christmas Child potluck and packing party in the fellowship hall at approximately noon, following the Veterans Day parade. For more informa-

tion about filling a shoe box for this mission outreach visit www.samaritanspurse.org/occ.

Presentation on hospice care follows La Grande service

LA GRANDE, ENTERPRISE — The sermon at Faith Lutheran Church this Sunday will consider the trust of the widow who gave "all she had to live on" (Mark 12:38). Her trust

in God was complimented by Jesus. There will be a Matinee Service at 10 a.m. in La Grande and a Divine Service in Enterprise at 2 p.m.

Following the La Grande service, there will be a half-hour presentation of the services of hospice care. There are many facets of hospice care, and it is helpful to be informed as we care for others and desire such care for ourselves.

How important is it for us to know God?

I have thought about why many Christians including myself so often struggle in a lukewarm state of mind much more than we should. There are several reasons, but they are not justifiable excuses. I have regular conversations with my close friends about the spiritual life and one thing we all share in common is how difficult it is to stay motivated with our prayer life while maintaining our enthusiasm to resist temptation.

I realize everyone's schedule is filled with distractions and we are busy just trying to keep up with everything we need to do, but it always comes down to priorities and what we love the most. Of course, we have the obvious enemy called the devil, which we do not hesitate to blame for our failures, but pointing our finger and accusing anyone other than ourselves is not really taking personal responsibility for our actions. The truth is, at the end of the day, we do exactly what we want to do.

I recently wrote a short story called "Living an illusion" that is about an average guy who lives a normal life and then discovers after he passes away that his ideas were not exactly lined up with the way God thinks (read the story on my website: www.billyhollandministries.com). It's a sobering consideration that emphasizes how we have only one existence and one



LIVING ON PURPOSE
DR. BILLY HOLLAND

chance to get it right. Once we cross over into the next life, there are no do-overs and no more opportunities.

One reason we have a hard time walking close to God is we are influenced by a rebellious nature. When we are born, we are blind to spiritual truth and do not have the ability to understand God's word or the desire to seek the knowledge and wisdom that we need. This is why we must be born again so that we can be transformed into a new spirit and be renewed in our mind and conscience. We must have the correct receiver and be dialed to the precise channel in order for us to receive God's signal.

I'm going to be completely honest: the Christian life is hard. With the two powerful forces that I've mentioned already, it's no wonder why we have such a difficult time staying on the straight and narrow. This conflict is commonly referred to as spiritual warfare, and I'm sure many of you will agree these battles are fierce and often. Yes, we can have the victory over sin, but the idea of the Christian fighting in a literal war means we are an active soldier that is always on duty. After we have accepted the gift of salvation, we are called

to pray, study and fast so that we can build courage and discernment. If we are not equipped with our spiritual armor, using our sword and shield, filled with hope, and dedicated to interceding for others, how can we expect to be a successful warrior? Even more important than all the religious things we say or do is having a personal relationship with the one who gave his life for us.

Most people want just enough of God to save them but not to the point where it becomes uncomfortable or requires something from them. It's much easier to wade in water that's only up to our ankles instead of jumping in over our head with total dedication and commitment to his will. We are first in line for his help and blessings but not really excited about words like sacrifice, perseverance and accountability.

So, how much of God do we want and how important is it to seek and follow him? I'm reminded how the discipline of participating in sports is similar to the dedication and determination needed to be a serious and effective Christian. Champions work hard and have a vision of who they want to be and what they want to achieve. A truth seeker is listening, learning and focused on God's voice and is willing to do whatever it takes to accomplish their vision.

Christian missionary media shaped the world

By Jason Bruner

Arizona State University

The Christian Broadcasting Network, founded over 50 years ago by evangelist Pat Robertson, has now launched the first 24-hour Christian television news channel.

Robertson said that the channel will help viewers understand how current events both in the United States and abroad affect them. The Christian Broadcasting Network has considerable influence among evangelicals, and President Trump, at times, has used the outlet to reach this support base.

But this is not the first time Christians have shared and shaped the content of world news and information through a distinctly Christian viewpoint.

Christian missionary publications

For much of the 19th century, Christian missionaries served as informal foreign correspondents for a broadly Christian public in the eastern United States and Western Europe.

They kept churches and missionary societies up to date on the societies in which they lived through regular letters and — by the late 19th century — photographs. Their letters were often reprinted in pamphlets and newsletters, or shared informally through extensive church networks.

One of the most notable examples of the use of missionary networks in bridging the imagined distance between a Western Christian public and distant people comes from the Congo Free State, which was established in 1885 and ruled solely by King Leopold of Belgium.

Leopold's rule was characterized by widespread atrocities. Some estimates of the death toll of Leopold's policies exceed 10 million people. Leopold used his reign to extract natural resources from the region. Following a boom in rubber prices, his agents were quick to use violence against the local population to make them harvest and process rubber.

In 1904, Alice Harris, a Protestant missionary with the Congo Balolo Mission, which was organized and supported by British Baptists, took what would become an iconic image of the horrors. Her image has a Congolese father sitting in a kind of stupor, gazing at his daughter's severed hand and foot, which lie in front of him on the missionary's porch.

Harris' image was reproduced in a host of pamphlets, books and newspapers in both Britain and the United States. Along with other images and reports, it helped foment an international reaction against Leopold's brutal reign.

Armenian genocide

At around the same time, missionaries also highlighted the pogroms and genocidal violence committed against Assyrian and Armenian Christians in the eastern Ottoman Empire.

When Assyrian and Armenian Christians experienced systematic mass violence at the hands of the Ottoman Empire in 1915, evangelical missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions were among the first to report on the atrocities.

Their dispatches motivated the formation of an unprecedented international relief effort for the persecuted Christians. Supported by the Woodrow Wilson-led government, approximately \$116 million in aid was raised.

Global awareness

Missionaries believed that God worked with them through religious conversions, moral reform and material and economic progress, to spread the truth of Christianity. The role of missionary media became foundational in providing information and images of suffering in the world.

This role often pushed them into ever more remote territories. The information that they sent enabled many Christians in the West to more easily imagine the world as a globally connected

<h2 style="text-align: center;">Northeast Oregon Directory of Churches</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Services This Week</p>				
<p>IMBLER CHRISTIAN CHURCH 440 RUCKMAN, IMBLER 534-2201 www.imblerchristianchurch.org</p> <p>Sunday Services 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service</p>	<p>First Christian Church <i>(Disciples of Christ)</i> 901 Penn Avenue 963-2623 lgdisciples@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>~Join us at The Lord's Table~</p>	<p>SUMMERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH <i>A Place for You</i></p> <p>Sunday Services: Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 9:45AM Children's Church & Worship Service 11:00AM Family Worship Service 6:00PM</p> <p>Wednesday: Prayer Mtg. Children's Bible Club, Youth Group 7:00PM</p> <p>A church for your whole family Visit us at summervillebaptistchurch.org</p>	<p>Amazing Grace Fellowship 1316 T St., La Grande, OR 541-568-4567 Sunday 10:30 a.m.</p> <p><i>2 Cor 12:9 My Grace is sufficient for you.</i></p> <p>IS 40:31</p>	<p>GRACE COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH <i>LCMC</i> 667 N. Main in Union <i>"We are called to Serve"</i> Sunday School for all ages - 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Pastor Carl Seelhoff Phone: 541-786-0447 grace.lutherancove@gmail.com</p>
<p>COVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1708 Jasper St., Cove, OR</p> <p>NORTH POWDER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 390 E. St., North Powder, OR</p> <p>JOIN US... <i>Catch the Spirit!</i> Worship: 9:00 a.m. Cove Worship: 10:00 a.m. N. Powder</p>	<p>ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES La Grande - Our Lady of the Valley 1002 L Avenue Saturday 5:30 pm Mass Sunday 10:00 am Mass Weekdays 8:00 am Mass Union - Sacred Heart 340 South 10th Avenue Sunday 8:00 am Mass No Weekdays Elgin - Saint Mary's 12th and Alder Sunday 12:30 pm Mass No Weekdays</p>	<p>VALLEY FELLOWSHIP 963-0340 507 Palmer Ave <i>(just east of city pool)</i> Sunday Worship 10:02 am <i>Come and share in a time of worship, prayer and the study of God's word with us. Worship includes communion on Sunday.</i> www.valleyfellowship.church Email: vfchurch2@gmail.com</p>	<p>La Grande Nazarene CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE 109 18th Street • 963-3402 Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>LA GRANDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH <i>"OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS"</i> 1612 4th Street - 963-2498 Pastor Al Trachsel lgumc@comi.com www.lgumchurch.org Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9am-Noon Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Coffee Hour 11:00 am •Nursery provided •</p>
<p>La Grande Seventh-day Adventist Church <i>A Place where hope is found in Jesus</i> Join us in Fellowship & Worship Every Saturday 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study / Fellowship 10:45 a.m. - Worship Service 2702 Adams Avenue, La Grande • 963-4018 Pastor: Mike Armayor www.lagrande22adventistchurchconnect.org <i>Learning for Today and Eternity</i> Little Friends Christian Preschool/Childcare 963-6390 La Grande Adventist Christian School Christian Education K-8th Grade 963-6203</p>	<p>FIRST LANDMARK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 1812 1st St. La Grande Pastor Dave Tierce • 541-605-0215 <i>We use the King James Version Bible</i> Sunday School - 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am Sunday Evening Bible Study - 3:00 pm (Effective June 10) Wednesday Evening - 6:30 pm <i>"Where you can find TRUTH according to the scriptures"</i> www.flmbclagrande.com</p>	<p>Zion Lutheran Church <i>(an ELCA church)</i> 920 Fourth Street, La Grande, OR (541) 963-5998 9:30 am - Worship 10:30 am - Fellowship & Refreshments 11:00 am - Classes Pastor: Rev. Colleen Nelson www.zionlagrande.org</p>	<p>Union Baptist Church 1531 S. Main St., Union 541-562-5531 www.unionbaptistoregon.org Sunday School 9:45 am Morning Worship 11:00 am Sunday Night 6:30 pm Thursday AWANA 6:30 pm <i>Knowing, Loving and Proclaiming Jesus Christ</i></p>	<p>First Baptist Church SIXTH & SPRING, LA GRANDE 541-963-3911 Sun. 8:45 AM - Bible Classes Sun. 10:00 AM - Worship Wed. 6:15 PM - AWANA</p>