

# Church News and Events

By Mark Brown

## Why is there so much suffering in the world?

(Part 3 and conclusion)

Insight from Pastor Greg Allen

*Pastor Greg Allen, senior pastor at the Bethany Bible Church a small, non-denominational church located just west of beautiful Portland, Oregon. . I believe you will enjoy both the insight and Biblical teaching. I have included a link to visit. <http://bethanybible.org/new/>*

Dear friend,

First of all, thanks for writing. I appreciate that you're a believer with questions. It's probably not surprising to you that you're not the first sincere Christian with questions like these. I deeply respect you for asking them. What's more, I respect the sincerity with which they're asked. It's easy to detect the frustration you feel in the way you ask them; and I suspect that--to some degree--they involve some personal pain. But perhaps it may help if I share the things I have learned to do to keep my bearings in this world of suffering.

(5) DON'T FORGET THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CROSS. People looking at this world of suffering often ask, "Why does God seem so far away and unaffected by it all?" And it's understandable that they would ask that. I even think God Himself understands why they would. But He also understands

far more about our suffering than we sometimes think He does. The fact that God sent His Son into the world to die in our place shows that He ISN'T unaffected by the sin and suffering of this world! He has allowed consequence of our sin in Adam to also hurt Him. As Isaiah 53:4-6 says, "Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Hebrews 4:14-16 says, "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." The cross of Jesus Christ is itself a permanent declaration to us that God isn't so far away after all; but has actually done something at great cost to Himself to reverse the curse Adam brought on us--all so that one day, "God will wipe away every tear"; and there'll be no more death, sorrow, crying or pain (Revelation 21:4).

Now, does that answer all the questions? Of course not. But those five things give me some anchor points in the midst of a world of suffering. God has allowed the enemy of our souls to cause ruin in this

world. But I believe that through the cross of Jesus, our wondrous God has turned the tables on our enemy; and will, through all the suffering, bring about a far greater glory for His people than ever could have been if the suffering had never happened at all. Therefore, by faith, I have learned to cling tightly to the cross of Jesus Christ my Savior; and in humble submission to His love, to look ahead to the glory. I can't do any more than this side of heaven. But for me, it's enough.

I sincerely hope this is helpful.

Blessings,  
Pastor Greg

## Comment Period for LNG Project

*continued from front page*

According to the FERC, those public comments received. "...will allow the FERC staff and staffs of cooperating agencies to focus attention on issues important to the public during our preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the projects."

With the extension of the comment period until December 24, you can file comments electronically using the eComment feature located on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) under the Documents & Filings link. This is an easy method to submit brief text-only comments on the project. Reference "Docket Nos. PF12-18-000 and PF12-20-000."

You can also file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to :

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

If you have questions about electronic filings call 202-502-8258 or email [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov).

For more information about the fight to oppose the LNG project go to [columbiariverkeeper.org/our-work/lng/](http://columbiariverkeeper.org/our-work/lng/).

## Senior Center Activities

**5-Area Luncheon:** There are no luncheons scheduled for November and December.

**Connie's Fabulous Breakfasts:** Fabulous breakfasts are available to the public on Fridays for a cost of only \$3.50. The event happens at the Senior Center (446 Bridge Street) from 7:30 to 9:00 AM each Friday. Meal price includes a beverage, too. Enter through the side, parking lot door. What a deal!

**Week Day Lunches:** The Vernonia Senior Center offers nutritious and tasty lunches each weekday for a \$4 donation for seniors over 60; cost is \$5 for anyone under 60. To-go meals are available for \$5. These are available to the public, not just Senior Citizens. (Meal-time is noon; late arrivals may not be served.) You can reserve your lunch by calling by 11:15 AM, or further in advance if possible, to assist the cooks as they prepare the day's meals. Meals on Wheels are available for a \$4 donations for seniors over 60. Please con-

tact the Senior Center for an application.

**Maple Bars available locally!** Connie King, the cook at the Senior Center, is making maple bars each day. The maple bars are available to the public, too, and only cost \$1 each. Availability is subject to quantity on hand. You can assure yourself of a good supply by pre-ordering them directly from Connie by calling the Senior Center (503-429-3912) any week day, from 7:00 AM-3:00 PM. Please allow one day lead time for larger orders. The Center's front door opens at 9:00, but the side parking lot door opens at 7:00. Ah, sweet treats!

**Thrift Store:** Bargain prices can be found in Vernonia's Senior Center in their Thrift Store. The retail store is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. The Thrift Store provides funds for the Senior Center's facility and its many activities. Donations can also be

dropped off during those same hours, and donated clothes need to be clean and in good condition so they are "sales ready". We are offering half off during the first week of each month. Buy locally and support your local Senior Center.

**For after hours drop-offs please contact Pauline 503-429-5810.**

**Special Days:** On the last Wednesday of the month Wauna Credit Union will be serving ice cream. On the last Friday of the month we will serve birthday cake and ice cream to celebrate that month's birthdays.

**Membership Dues:** Another way to support Vernonia's Senior Center is to pay the \$15 annual membership dues. Checks may be mailed or dropped off at the Senior Center. Anyone 50 and older may join.

**Questions? Call: (503) 429-3912**

## Christmas in the Country Bazaar Wants You!

Looking to sell your handmade items this holiday season? We are looking for vendors. The Christmas Bazaar has a much bigger space to fill up now, and would like to FILL IT UP! The bazaar will be held in the new school commons area  
**December 8th & 9th.**

The hours this year will be 10-5 on Saturday and 11-4 on Sunday (Sunday has new hours)  
Contact Corrie Smith at (503) 429-1052 or [vernoniabazaar@aol.com](mailto:vernoniabazaar@aol.com).

We also have a page on facebook- "Christmas in the Country Bazaar."

## Church Directory (in alphabetical order)

### Assembly of God

Sunday School: 9:45 AM  
Morning Worship: 11:00 AM  
Wayne Marr, Pastor  
662 Jefferson Avenue  
503-429-0373

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Sunday Schedule:  
Sacrament Meeting: 10:00 AM  
Sunday School & Primary: 11:20 AM  
Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women: 12:10 PM  
Marc Farmer, Branch President  
1350 E. Knott Street  
503-429-7151

### Covenant Church Vernonia

Sunday School: 9:45 AM  
Worship Service: 11:00 AM

Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 7:00 PM

John D. Murray, Pastor  
359 "A" Street  
503-860-3860

### Nehalem Valley Bible Church

Sunday School: 9:45 AM  
Worship Service: 10:45 AM  
Wed. Ladies Bible Study: 10:00 AM  
Wednesday Service: 7:00 PM  
Sat. Men's Prayer Meeting: 6:30 AM  
Gary Taylor, Pastor  
Grant & North Streets  
503-429-5378

### Pioneer Baptist Fellowship

Worship Service: 6:00 PM  
[www.pbfalive.com](http://www.pbfalive.com)  
John Cahill, Pastor  
850 Madison Ave.  
503-429-1161

### St. Mary's Catholic Church

Wednesday Religious Education: 3:15-4:30 PM  
Sunday Mass: 12:00 PM  
Rev. Luan Tran, Administrator  
960 Missouri Avenue  
503-429-8841

### Vernonia Christian Church

Sunday School: 9:45 AM  
Worship Service in Youth & Family Center: 11:00 AM  
[www.VernoniaChristianChurch.org](http://www.VernoniaChristianChurch.org)  
Sam Hough, Pastor  
410 North Street  
503-429-6522

### Vernonia Community Church

Sunday School: 9:00 AM  
Worship Service: 10:30 AM  
Wednesday Prayer: 6:30 PM

Ralph Young, Interim Pastor

957 State Avenue  
503-429-6790

### Vernonia Foursquare Church

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 AM  
Children's Sunday School  
Carl Pense, Pastor  
850 Madison Avenue  
503-429-1103

### Vernonia Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sabbath (Saturday) Services  
Sabbath School: 9:30 AM  
Worship Service: 11:00 AM  
[www.VernoniaSDAC.org](http://www.VernoniaSDAC.org)  
Larry Gibson, Pastor  
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.  
503-429-8301