

Things to Ponder: Spiritual Blindness

By Grant Williams

Spiritual blindness is a preventable disease! After Jesus healed a blind man He said, "... I have come to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they can see that they are blind" (John 9:39). Spiritually blind people can only visualize resources that are already in the bank. They often mistakenly use their natural gifts and don't develop their spiritual gifts. They're frequently afraid to walk through an open door because they can't be sure what's on the other side. Following a leader can be a struggle for them because they can only see their own agenda. Many churches lack vision because they don't understand that if they get on their knees and pray God has promised to give them wisdom and direction. Read James 1:5-8.

Good news! Spiritual

blindness is correctable! Many churches struggle due to spiritual blindness, but God heals churches just as surely as He healed the blind man in John 9:1-12. Healing begins with recognizing there is a problem. Jesus healed the blind man to demonstrate the power of God. It is important to remember who makes things happen. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6-7, "My job was to plant the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God, not we, who made it grow. The ones who do the planting or watering aren't important, but God is important because he is the one who makes the seed grow." Have you seen and experienced the growth Paul is talking about in your personal life and in the life of your church or is it some how mysteriously absent?

Physical blindness is easy to diagnose. Spiritual blindness is much more difficult because the blind

person thinks their vision is 20/20. In Revelation 3 Jesus tells the Laodicean church they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked, even though they thought they were rich and everything was wonderful. They truly believed they already possessed everything they wanted or needed. In verse 3, Jesus said, "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends." Jesus wants to be invited into individual hearts. He also wants to be invited into churches so they can become His heartbeat and fulfill His desires. God wants to work through our local churches to bring Himself glory. Read Revelation 3:14-22 and note the promise in verse 21. Allow God's Spirit to convict your heart concerning His will.

Solving the problem of spiritual blindness will be the topic in the March 6th "Things to Ponder." You are invited to join us on Wednesday evenings as we study the book of Luke. The service begins at 7:00 PM at the Grange, 375 North Street. God Bless!

Crafts and Storytime at the Banks Library

Long winter nights are great for crafting. If you would like to meet with other crafters and have some dedicated time to work, join Banks Public Library for our monthly craft night. The second Wednesday of every month, we gather at the library from 6:00 PM to around 8:30 PM

The lively winter weather has meant some unexpected closures for the library. Please note that if road conditions are questionable, it is best to call the library to see if we are open before coming. Also, if you are unable to return items on time because of weather, let us know so arrangements can be made.

The library has Preschool Storytime on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 AM. Our storyteller will both entertain and educate youngsters by reading stories, telling stories, singing songs and using a felt board. Come and enjoy some fun on our darling storytime rug. Preschool Storytime is designed for youth three to six years old, but siblings are welcome. Themes for upcoming storytimes are as follows:

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|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 26 | Books by Eric Carle |
| March 5 | Dr. Seuss |
| March 12 | Spring |
| March 19 | Jack and the Beanstalk |
| March 26 | No storytime- Spring Break |

Diggin' in the Dirt *continued from page 6*

The Extension Service offers its programs and materials equally to all people. <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/columbia/> and click on newsletters.

Free newsletter

The Oregon State University Extension office in Columbia County publishes a monthly newsletter on gardening and farming topics (called County Living) written/edited by yours truly. All you need to do is ask for it and it will be mailed to you. Call 503 397-3462 to be put on the list. Alternatively, you can find it on the web at

Contact information for the Extension office

Oregon State University Extension Service – Columbia County
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St. Helens, OR 97051
503 397-3462
Email: chip.bubl@oregonstate.edu



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Please visit the website for fare schedule
<http://www.columbiacountyrider.com>

Please have exact fare ready. Drivers do not give change.

Columbia County Rider	General Public	Seniors, Disabled, Students & Children
FIXED ROUTES RATES (All fares are one way)		
Per boarding within a Boarding Zone	\$5.00	\$4.00
Per Additional Zone (add) - per boarding	\$1.00	\$1.00
MONTHLY PASS RATES - Scheduled Routes Only		
1 Zone	\$75.00	\$60.00
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All Zones	\$150.00	\$130.00

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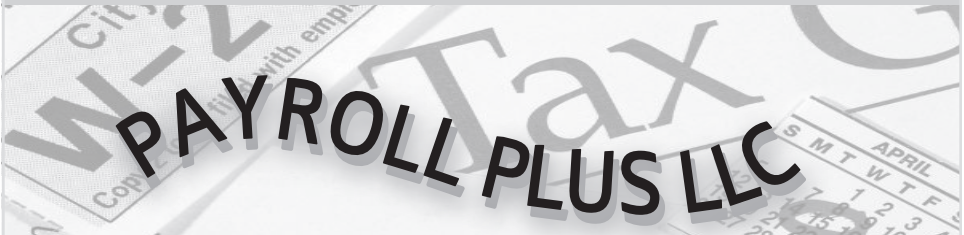
Sunday Brunch

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The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax return preparers, go to www.irs.gov.