

Things To Ponder: What If?

By Grant Williams

There are many things I am thankful for, but few compare to the introduction my college buddies gave me to the vast Southwestern landscapes of Arizona. Jack, Lenny and I were best friends in college and did almost everything together. At one point we even shared a house to help cut back on expenses. We rafted, hiked, and drove hundreds of miles to explore unknown territory.

One spring weekend we invited some friends to join us for a hiking trip to Havasupi Falls, which is in the Grand Canyon. We entered the Canyon descending down a steep one mile series of switchbacks to a sandy stream bed that opened up eleven miles later into a spacious area with trees, beautiful horses and houses. At the end of the stream bed we passed through a village where the Havasupi Indians make their home. It was extremely remote, but overwhelmingly beautiful.

Soon after we had started down the trail, my feet began to hurt and I was overwhelmed by sharp, shooting pains that ran all the way to my knees. There wasn't anywhere to sit comfortably so I thought the one mile down to a flatter spot couldn't do too much damage.

When we finally stopped I took off my boots only to discover a series of small bloody holes in both my socks.

Apparently the person who recently re-soled my boots used nails that were too long and they punctured my feet. Needless to say my feet caused me a great deal of misery for quite a while because of my foolishness.

I'll have to admit as painful as that trip was I would never trade that fantastic weekend for anything. Thank God I had a pair of flip flops to wear, but I will admit they are not very good for hiking. I will never go on a hike again without checking to make sure my

footwear is comfortable. What if I had checked my boots before the hike? I'm certain it would have been an even better trip if I had prepared a little more thoroughly.

Fortunately we don't have to learn everything the hard way. What if there was a guide to life that would help us prepare for what lies ahead? The Bible doesn't get real specific about preparing for a hike but it does tell us what we need to know about life and eternal matters.

Psalm 119:105 says, "Your Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light for my path." And Psalm 23:2-4 says, "He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His names sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

What if we took God's love letter to us more seriously?
What if?



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Bridge Street Bits

By Karen Miller

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR ALL THE VOLUNTEERS who have been helping us get situated in our new building located at the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC) downtown Bridge Street. Many long hours have been donated and we are still in progress.

DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED at the Learning Center. DURING BUSINESS HOURS ONLY. See the proprietor. Thanks

MEALS WILL BE SERVED AT THE LEARNING CENTER BEGINNING MARCH 9 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only. 60 YEARS AND UP will be on a donation basis. UNDER 60 will be \$5.00.

MY FAIR LADY PAGEANT is held during the Columbia County Fair each year to recognize senior women for their outstanding volunteer service in our community. The court includes representatives from St. Helens, Scappoose, Rainier, Clatskanie and Vernonia and surrounding areas. Nominees must be at least 55 years old but do not need to be a member of their local senior center. Come in to the office here for a form to fill out or download an application from the Columbia River PUD website at www.crpud.org or contact the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program at 503-397-3655 to request that one be mailed or emailed to you. Deadline for nominations is

APRIL 3, 2015.

FROM TIME TO TIME I get asked about transportation out of Vernonia. Come in and get one of our CCRider brochures with information on times of travel to and from Vernonia, available in the Learning Center office.

FREE TAX PREPARATION services at the Scappoose Senior Center are offered Thursdays through April 9th. Call the Senior Center Office for info. 503-543-2047

VETERANS SERVICE representative with Community Action Team is here at the Learning Center the FIRST Tuesday of the Month from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. Come in to have your

veteran questions addressed with Russ Clark.

FREE TO GOOD HOME ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR. Call my office for information. 503-366-6581

SENIOR SERVICES:
Karen-Vernonia
503-366-6581
Marge-Rainier-Clatskanie
503-366-6581
Heather-Scappoose/St. Helens
503-366-6542
Nikki-Family Caregiver
503-366-6545

SENIOR SIGN OFF: You can always spot an educated man. His views are the same as yours.

Vernonia Senior Center • 939 Bridge Street • 503-429-3912

Church Directory (in alphabetical order)

Assembly of God

Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 11:00 AM
Sunday Evening Prayer: 6:00 PM
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
Roger Cook, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
503-429-7151

Grace Family Fellowship

Sunday School: 9:00 AM
Worship Service: 10:30 AM
Thursday Prayer: 6:00 PM
Greg "Mac" McCallum, Pastor
957 State Avenue
503-429-6790
www.GraceFamilyFellowship.org

Nehalem Valley Bible Church

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

Open Door Gathering Place

Service: Sunday 6:00 PM
Grant Williams, Pastor
375 North Street
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
Sam Hough, Pastor

410 North Street
503-429-6522

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
Larry Gibson, Pastor
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
503-429-8301