

Things to Ponder: Loving God's Way

By Grant Williams

Have you ever been reading the Bible and come across a verse that seems to contradict what you just read? I had that happen to me recently. While reading in Romans, Paul said we should do good to our enemies and it would be like throwing burning coals upon their heads. Sounds like a poor comparison at first, then I got it!

Romans 12:9-21 (NCV) says, "Your love must be real. Hate what is evil. Hold on to what is good. Love each other like brothers and sisters. Give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourselves. Do not be lazy but work hard. Serve the Lord with all your heart. Be joyful because you have hope. Be patient when trouble comes. Pray at all times. Share with God's people who need help. Bring strangers into your homes. Wish good for those who do bad things to you. Wish them well and do not

curse them. Be happy with those who are happy. Be sad with those who are sad. Live together in peace with each other. Do not be proud, but make friends with those who seem unimportant. Do not think how smart you are. If someone does wrong to you, do not pay him back by doing wrong to him. Try to do what everyone thinks is right. Do your best to live in peace with everyone. My friends, do not try to punish others when they wrong you. Wait for God to punish them with His anger. It is written: 'I am the One who punishes; I will pay people back,' says the Lord. But you should do this: 'If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if your enemy is thirsty, give him a drink. Doing this will be like pouring burning coals on his head.' Do not let evil defeat you. Defeat evil by doing good."

At first reading it seems like Paul is saying something bad will accomplish something good. But we need to keep in mind Paul is using a word picture to

catch our attention. What Paul wants us to see is that pouring burning coals on some one's head is certainly going to make them stop and think. Offering food or drink to an enemy forces them to rethink their opinion of you.

Food and drink are basic needs. They are things we can't live without. What are some other things people can't live without? We all need friends, but many people don't even have one good friend. We all need to feel like we have value, but many people feel worthless. Every one needs to be accepted, but many feel like no one even notices them. The end of the road for many people is the sense of hopelessness.

Christ came to earth to meet these human needs, and He chose the Church to continue to meet those needs until He returns in glory. Do good, love your enemies, and leave the final score in His hands!

Terry's Gym



JOIN THE TEAM!

503-901-1705
16720 Noakes Rd. Vernonia

Bridge Street Bits

VERNONIA SENIOR CITIZENS, INC. is now a beneficiary of the Fred Meyer Community Rewards program. If you shop at Fred Meyer and have a Rewards Card, you can link your card to the Community Rewards program online (www.fredmeyer.com/communityrewards) or by telephone (1-866-518-2686). You can search for us by name online or by our assigned non-profit number, 81674. You still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points and rebates. You don't have to be a senior to help the Senior Center with this program!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN! Volunteers are needed as additional MEALS-ON-WHEELS DRIVERS to help us get lunches to homebound citizens Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The Senior Center has insurance that covers volunteers who deliver meals. Schedules can be set up to match yours. A small stipend helps cover your gas expense, and all meal deliveries are in or close to town. If you have or would like to get some retail store experience, we're seeking more volunteers to help our BRIDGE STREET BARGAINS store team. Please call Pam at 503-429-3912 to request an application. Even one day per month would be a big help. Thanks in advance for your willingness to help!

THE NEXT FOOT CARE will be Wednesday, September 2, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and

1:30 pm through 3:30 pm at the Vernonia Health Center. Please note that this has been rescheduled from the previously announced late August date. Please call Tobie at 503-705-2173 or email tobiefa@aol.com to schedule an appointment. Our provider, Joyce Jossi, RN, is certified in senior and diabetic foot care. Cost is \$25 payable directly to Joyce by check or cash at the time of service. You may bring nail polish if you'd like to have Joyce give your toes a real finishing touch. The regular September foot care will be Wednesday, September 30. Appointments for that date may also be made now.

THE VERNONIA SENIOR CENTER OPERATES IN TWO LOCATIONS. The Senior Center Office and the Thrift Store, "Bargains on Bridge Street," reside in the former VCLC building at 939 Bridge Street. The senior meal program has relocated to the American Legion Hall at 627 Adams Avenue. Meals are served Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. To reserve a meal, please call Wendy by 11:00 am at 503-429-1414. Suggested donation for seniors over 60 is \$4.00; under 60, the cost is \$5.00. Daily home-delivered meals are still available to qualifying persons; contact Community Action Team office on Mondays at 503-366-6584 for more information or to register.

BARGAINS ON BRIDGE STREET at 939 Bridge Street accepts donations during its regular business

hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please bring donations inside. The thrift store welcomes you as a shopper, too. All donations and purchases support senior services in Vernonia. We have several sales and specials coming soon! Watch for the SALE signs in front of the store.

WALKING WEDNESDAY is an opportunity for gentle exercise for seniors and anyone in the community who'd like to join us. Walking Wednesdays continue at Vernonia Lake at 9:30 am each Wednesday, rain or shine. Walk at your own pace with a friend or solo. No fee and no pre-registration – just come and walk one or more circuits around the lake. Carol McIntyre, ND, offers Qi Gong at the Grange most Fridays at 9:30 am by donation.

RUSS CLARK, COLUMBIA COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER, IS AVAILABLE to meet with clients in Vernonia. Russ will be at the Senior Center (former VCLC) in the office at the end of the hallway on the first Tuesday of each month from 1:00 to 7:00 pm

VERNONIA SENIOR CITIZENS, INC.
939 Bridge Street,
Vernonia OR 97064
Phone: 503-429-3912
Non-Profit Tax ID #23-7422295

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

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