Things to Ponder: The Best Gift Ever

By Grant Williams

Every year presents the same problem for most people when it comes to buying Christmas presents. It takes a lot of creativity to stay ahead of the ingenuity game. Keeping everyone happy with their gift takes skill and a great memory. Perfume or new socks get old fast.

When I was a kid my parents had some pretty cool friends, Pat and Eddie. Every year they bought me a plastic model of some sort; usually a battleship, airplane, tank or some kind of cool model held together with really stinky glue. As I got older the models got more difficult. I'll never forget the first model I built with little balsa sticks covered with thin paper.

Toys and models are great for kids, but buying gifts for adults is a whole different deal. What do you buy for someone who already has everything they need? One of my favorite Christmas memories involves white elephant gift exchanges. Most of the time you end up with something you don't really want, but every once in a while you end up with a real winner. I'll never forget the time I went home with a new study Bible. That might not excite everyone, but I sure felt fortunate owning something I couldn't afford at that time.

When it comes to Christmas gifts it seems like many people get hung up on material things. Exchanging presents that don't bring lasting happiness can easily distract us from making a difference with the gifts we give. Kids need time and attention more than they need toys.

Husbands and wives need love and affection more than new jewelry. Have you ever wondered why people need toy and jewelry boxes? It's because they get tired of what they already have.

God foresaw the problem long before man figured out what was wrong. He sent His only Son Jesus to show us what real living was like. Think about the gifts Jesus brought to humanity. Love, joy, peace, forgiveness, and other things money can't buy. This year try giving of yourself instead of spending money you can't afford to spend.

One of my favorite Bible verses was spoken by Peter in Acts 3:6, But Peter said, "I don't have silver or gold, but what I do have I give to you; In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-walk!" Think about how amazing that truly is. More than anything the crippled man needed health. The most devastating thing we face might not be that difficult, but no matter what we are up against God is there with His hand stretched out to help.

This Christmas I would like to encourage you to find your fulfillment in the Lord Jesus. "The Open Door Gathering Place" meets every Sunday night at the Vernonia Grange at 6 pm. Come and meet some new people and make a friend. Everyone is invited to experience the peace and joy found in knowing Jesus as your personal friend.

Heads Up: CRLEs are coming!
Senior Project Presentations are scheduled for January 13th. Following are the details:
Date: January 13, 2016

Event/Location	Time	Participants
Arena Presentations in small gym	8:30 to 11:30 am	(Class of 2016 required/Vernonia Schools Students & Staff/Community Welcome)
Arena Presentations in Commons	5:30 to 6:45 pm	(Judges viewing/Class of 2016 seniors required)
Speech Presentations in individual classrooms	7:00 to 9:00 pm	(Students and Judges)

If you are interested in judging, please contact Rachel Wilcoxen or Dana Hyde at Vernonia Schools.
If you were a judge last year and asked to serve again, we should have your contact information.
Look for emails arriving after Thanksgiving Break.
For general inquires about senior projects or the CRLE please contact Rachel Wilcoxen.

Rachel Wilcoxen
rwilcoxen@vernonia.k12.or.us
503.429.1333 x1383

Dana Hyde
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Bridge Street Bits

OUR NEW SENIOR AND HOME-DELIVERED MEAL PROGRAM IS GOING WELL! In cooperation with three Vernonia restaurants - Black Iron Grill, Mariolino's and Vernonia Subway - the Senior Center is providing daily home-delivered meals and issues donation-based certificates for in-house dining from specially designed senior menus for residents 60 and older. You may obtain the certificates Mondays 10:00 am to 3:00 pm from Wendy at 939 Bridge Street. Questions? Call Wendy on the special telephone number for this program, 503-405-0187.

FOOT CARE appointments may be made with the Vernonia Health Center receptionist during clinic hours, 8 am through 4:30 pm, at 503-429-0622, Monday through Friday. The next foot care dates are Wednesday, December 30, and Wednesday, January 27, 2016; appointments can be made now. Our provider, Joyce Jossi, RN, is certified in diabetic and elder foot care. In case of unexpected snowy or icy road conditions, please verify with the Health Center whether Joyce is able to drive to Vernonia on that day.

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. Certificates for senior meals at participating restaurants are available there on Mondays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm 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. Board meetings and social activities such as the Friday afternoon card games are held in the American Legion Hall at 627 Adams.

BARGAINS ON BRIDGE STREET at 939 Bridge accepts donations during its regular business hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am to 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. Watch for special SALE signs in front of the store. VOLUNTEERS are always needed to keep this vital program going; please let Pam, Thrift Store Manager, know if you are willing to help out occasionally – or regularly!

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 9:00 am (note time change) 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.

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

The Crossing
Southern Baptist Church of Vernonia
Wednesday, 7:00 PM
Troy Pound, Pastor
Cabin in Vernonia
901 Park Drive
503-819-892

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
503-702-3553

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