

LIMEY PASTOR

Little prayers

I know I am writing this for someone right now ... someone in the newspaper audience who needs to hear this message. So this little prayer is for you. I pray this day that you will know that you are beloved of God Almighty and will be with him and his friends forever. Share that news with those you know who are suffering.

There is nothing you can do to cut yourself off from God. Nothing! You are wanted by the Lord of Love to serve in his holy place.

God's love is like the sun's light which shines even behind the clouds of earth. Our sins cloud our own eyes, not God's.

I found out recently that a friend of mine had tried to kill himself twice, found hanging by his own son — but has now stumbled back from that precipice and is finding his way back to knowing that he is loved. He has ultimate worth. I am keeping him close to me. A long lasting illness had drained his hope. Christ has grasped on to him now, thankfully while he is still among us. He finds that Christ's strength is now his. His illness has allowed him to receive the strength of the Lord.

He is a solid Christian, yet he came to a place where he thought he had no value to anyone, even the Lord. He has re-found his foothold thank God. He has ultimate value with God. He belongs to the Father! So do you!

Several years before these painful events, a boy from my former church, grown up, had broken the lock on his grandfather's gun case, taken out a shotgun and blown his brains out. I went to his house, to his despairing grandparents, and visited the boy's bedroom and saw the red stain on the carpet. My last memory of this young man was as a bright 10-year-old full of smiles and joy. Abandoned by parents who had been entrapped by drugs, the boy had been sidelined by authorities as having a learning disability, and had been located in a place inhabited by few people of his own age.

At this time I was not yet an ordained pastor, and Pastor C from the pulpit preached emotionally of this young man for whom we had all hoped for the best. Pastor C wanted us to know that God was LOVE and our lost child would not disappear, punished for having taken his own life by a God who exacted a punishment on those he loved most. Such an idea was absurd. Emphatically he said, our boy had gone to be with the Father and he is loved and not lost!

God rescues us; he sent his son to head us off at the pass, and he rescues us and holds us close. How could it be otherwise? How could the heart of Love behave any other way and send away a child in loneliness and pain?

I too believe this and I believe that somehow God rescues us all. Even beyond the gates of death. Even beyond the gates of death.

As Christians you are made to be vessels of this divine love, and to spill out the water of compassion and love to all you meet, especially those you feel a gulf with, a disconnect with, for this is a sign that the enemy of man is trying to separate these from their flock. Turn on the torrent of love for these little ones. Say little prayers of love for those you know hardly at all. Be blessings to the least and help build your neighbor's cottage in the kingdom of heaven.

Your church's mission, should it be ready to accept this "Mission Impossible," is to glow like a lighthouse in your area, to love anyone of a different religion or none, they are all sons and daughters of a God who is Love, all Love! Catholics, Mormons, Lutherans, Seventh-day Adventists. They are all children of the One God. Call them all to your doorstep!

Amen.

Colin Brown is the former pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Boardman.



COLIN BROWN
Faith

HERMISTON



Diane McClure, Hermiston Cub Scout Pack 645's project leader for collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child, carries boxes during last year's collection effort.

Local Scouts help spread cheer

East Oregonian

A group of local Cub Scouts is gearing up to help ensure needy children across the globe receive toys, school supplies, hygiene items and other gifts during the holiday season.

Hermiston Cub Scout Pack 645 is collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts for Operation Christmas Child. The project is an outreach ministry of the international Christian relief organization Samaritan's Purse. Last year, the Scout pack contributed 50 boxes and is aiming to donate 60 this holiday season.

Many other individuals, groups and local businesses participate in the annual project. In 2016, the total number of boxes collected from Umatilla and Morrow counties was approximately 1,700, said Barb Watten-

burger, who has helped coordinate collecting in the Hermiston area. Anyone can join the effort to help spread Christmas cheer.

In Umatilla County, three sites will serve as drop-off locations for shoebox gift donations the week of Nov. 13-20. They include New Hope Community Church, 1350 S. Highway 395, Hermiston; Calvary Chapel, 1909 S.W. Athens Ave., Pendleton; and Milton Seventh-day Adventist Church, 1244 N. Elizabeth St., Milton-Freewater.

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Since 1993, the project has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 146 million children in more than 160 countries and territories. This year's goal is to send

gifts to 12 million children worldwide.

Due to customs regulations, some items can't be sent. Gift suggestions are available on the organization's website. In addition, people who prefer the convenience of online shopping can browse the site to select gifts to create a virtual gift box. Also, people may add a photo or personal note of encouragement to the recipient.

Also, to help offset shipping costs, participants are asked to donate \$9 per shoebox gift. They will receive a tracking label, enabling them to learn the destination of their shoebox gift.

For more information, including guidelines for shoebox gifts and an option to virtually "Build a Box," visit www.samaritanpurse.org/occ. For questions, call 541-626-3159.

Pope Francis recalls cost of war with WWII site visits



Pope Francis pays a visit to the American military cemetery in Nettuno, Italy, Thursday. Pope Francis is underlining the price of war, visiting an American military cemetery and the site of a Nazi massacre in Rome.

NETTUNO, Italy (AP) — Pope Francis called war "the destruction of ourselves" during visits Thursday to an American military cemetery and the site of a Nazi massacre in Rome as he marked the Catholic All Souls' Day commemorating the dead.

Francis laid flowers on 10 graves among the 7,680 American war dead buried in the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, which also commemorates a further 3,095 who went missing in campaigns to liberate southern and central Italy from Sicily north to Rome during World War II.

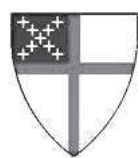
The new U.S. ambassador to

Rome, Lewis M. Eisenberg, was among the 5,000 in attendance.

During Mass, Francis said in his off-the-cuff homily that the sight of the arcs of white headstones should stand as a call for peace, saying "no more war, no more of these useless massacres."

The pope said that humanity hasn't learned, or hasn't wanted to learn, the lessons of war.

"How often in history, when men think of making war, they are convinced of bringing a new world, they are convinced that they are making spring. It ends in winter; ugly, cruel, a reign of terror, of death," the pope said.



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Sunday School: 9:30am
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Colin Brown, Pastor

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10:30 - Worship Service
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