



## 'I believe' is just the beginning

Faith in God is an amazing gift. It starts the moment your heart says: I believe Jesus is God's Son and that He came to rescue me. That alone is an incredible truth. But I wonder how many Christians decide that's where their faith ends, when the truth is, there's so much more to believe for in this life!

One of the reasons I think this happens is because many Christians feel they don't measure up to what they think they should be. They get stuck focusing on their weaknesses and mistakes, rather than focusing on who God is and what

He's doing in and around them. John 3:17 (AMPC) tells us, "God did not send the Son into the world in order to judge (to reject, to condemn, to pass sentence on) the world, but that the world might find salvation and be made safe and sound through Him."

Jesus is not only your Savior; He's your advocate. And He wants you to start believing God for much more than a trip to heaven.

*Faith is the answer to every problem you face*

The Bible says the just shall live by faith (Hebrews 10:38). In other words, faith is an attitude that can become your way of life — and there is no better

way I can think of to live.

Faith replaces fear and worry with peace and joy. It purifies the heart, fills us with the Holy Spirit, brings blessing and hope, receives provision, produces all kinds of positive results, and quenches all the fiery darts of the enemy.

The Bible says that faith is a shield (Ephesians 6:16). So when the enemy starts to fire off darts of fear and insecurity, you can get behind your shield of faith and keep going forward with God.

But here's the thing: A shield won't do you any good unless it's lifted up. You need to raise up your shield by praying, saying, and doing things that line up with God's Word.

Second Peter 1:5 (AMPC) says to "employ every effort in exercising your faith to develop virtue (excellence, resolution, Christian energy)."

If you will exercise your faith to become more like Christ Himself, the way you think will change. The things you say will change. You will

begin to live with greater love and compassion. And it will become very natural for you to encourage others in their faith.

I encourage you to put your faith into action in a practical way. Make a habit of getting up in the morning and thanking God for what He's done in your life. Praise Him for what He's going to do. Release your faith for what you know you need from Him that day.

And ask Him to prepare you for whatever challenges may come your way.

*Faith becomes a part of who you are*

Something I've learned over the years is that you cannot change yourself. It's spending time with God that transforms you.

One of the things the apostle Paul prayed for the Ephesian church was that the Holy Spirit would reveal Himself in their inner being and personality—that they would see who God had created them to be through Christ (Ephesians 3:16-17

AMPC).

God wants us to be firmly rooted in the love of Christ so we can take authority over our enemy. And He wants us to be so stirred up in His love that we can't help but share it with others. I believe if every Christian were doing this today, it wouldn't take a lot of time for the entire world to hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

*Faith leaves a footprint for others to follow*

Ultimately, it's not the things we do but our faith that pleases God. He wants us to have faith for incredible things. And when we look to the heroes of faith in Hebrews 11, we see how God was able to work in their lives because they believed.

Hebrews 11:13 (AMPC) says that they were "controlled and sustained by their faith." And their faith still inspires us today.

Noah prepared an ark to save his family. It took many years to build it, and he was made fun of every single day because

where he lived, there was no rain. The Bible says that by faith, Noah "became heir of the righteousness that is in keeping with faith" (Hebrews 11:7 NIV).

By faith, Abraham prepared to sacrifice his son Isaac, with the hope that God might raise him from the dead (vv. 17-19).

Rahab was a prostitute but she chose to believe that God could use her in a mighty way. And because of her faith, she and her family were saved (v. 31).

What will be your great story of faith?

First John 5:4 (AMPC) says, "For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith."

Decide today that, with God, the impossible is possible. Amazing things can happen when you choose to believe.

So be bold in asking God to reveal what His promises mean for you, and never stop believing for them to be fulfilled.

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## Florence Unitarians to celebrate Day of the Dead

The community is invited to the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (FUUF) from 10 to 11 a.m. on Sunday, Oct. 30, to celebrate the sacred Day of the Dead.

There is a special energy about this time of the year.

According to myth, the veil between the world of the living and that of the dead is thinnest. At this time, many cultures commune with loved ones who have passed beyond the veil.

In Mexico, to honor the dead, people bring food and

instruments to the cemetery for a night of singing and music to celebrate lost lives.

The public is invited to bring pictures and objects to honor those who have passed over.

Sally Wantz and Nin Bebeau will lead this simple celebra-

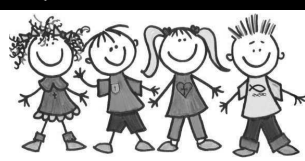
tion, titled "The Thin Veil."

The FUUF, 87738 Highway 101, is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and dialogue circle.

For more information, call 541-997-2840.

### ALICE BRAUER CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL QUILT FUNDRAISER



Purchase a ticket for \$5.00 to enter into a drawing on Friday November 18th at 5:30pm to win this fabulous quilt made by New Life Lutheran Church Quilters Guild!

Stop by at 2100 Spruce Street (right behind Grocery Outlet) to purchase a ticket.

Meggan Haslett, Director

541-999-6026 or email: abchristianprek@gmail.com

## Spirituali-Tea to celebrate birth of The Bab of Persia

On Monday, Oct 31, beginning at 6:30 p.m., everyone is invited to join a group from varied spiritual paths to celebrate the birth of The Bab.

In Shiraz, Persia, during the months of May and June, 1844, a new religion emerged, centered around

The Bab, a humble young

merchant and mystic.

The Bab's revolutionary movement began when 18 spiritual seekers independently sought out and discovered The Bab's new revelation. The Bab taught that the primary mission of his new faith was to announce the imminent advent of another prophet, "Him

whom God shall make manifest," who would fulfill the prophecies of past religions and usher in a new global era of peace and unity.

The main goal of the Baha'i Faith centers around the peaceful unification of the entire human race.

The gathering will end at 8

p.m. with prayers for the requests left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse and those shared by the group.

The Heintz home is located at 875 Seventh St.

For more information call Suzanne Mann-Heintz at 541-590 0779.

## Latter-Day Saints hold Fall Celebration Saturday

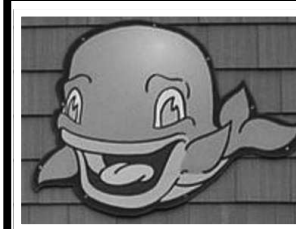
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is hosting a Fall Celebration and Happy Halloween Party on Saturday, Oct. 29. There will be lots of games and treats — no tricks.

This is a fun and safe, not scary, way to celebrate fall.

Costumes are optional but encouraged. Bring your bag to fill with treats. Activities for all ages begin at 6:30 p.m. at 2705 Munsel Lake Road, just north of North Fork Road.

All are invited to attend and join in the fun.

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# Family Owned BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

For 77 years and four generations, Johnston Motor Company has provided Ford vehicles and auto services in Western Lane County. Its history with cars and Oregon goes back further than that, however.

"My grandfather Ed Johnston worked for Ford Motor Company in Portland, in its Model A assembly plant. He worked there until the Great Depression, when they shut it down," said Brian Johnston, current owner of Johnston Motor Company. "He started working as a traveling troubleshooter for Ford... He traveled around to dealerships and solved problems that mechanics couldn't fix."

After eight years, Ed Johnston decided he wanted to own his own dealership and began looking at current dealerships around Oregon. He visited Florence and Gold Beach, and decided to purchase Florence's Ponsler Ford Dealership from Jack Ponsler in 1939.

Ed, his wife, and two junior high-aged kids moved to the area.

"They ran the dealership during certain times of economic changes," Brian said. "There were different things they had to face — like during the war, they had a hard time getting cars, since everything was going toward the war effort."

Stuart, Ed's son and Brian's father, returned from the military in 1945 and started working at the dealership full time.

"He took it over in the late 1940s," Brian said. "My grandfather kind of phased out and my dad phased in. My dad had been involved with it up until he passed away."

In a similar manner, Brian phased into Johnston Motor Company in 1980. By 1990, Stuart had phased out.

Paul, Brian's son, said, "I miss seeing Grandpa around here. When I was working here in the summertime, he would be walking in and out. He'd come in and check the mail and stuff. You'd always see him walking around in his suspenders. The image is burned into my mind."

"This is generation No. 4," Brian said of Paul and his younger brother, who works at Johnston Motor Company in the summer.

Paul said, "I started working here and kind of fell in love with it. I really enjoy working with my dad and being around the cars and the family. It's where I want to be."

Brian works in the business end of the company, and Paul works in much of rest of the business.

"We try to fill in each other's different spots," Brian said. "He teaches me the technical stuff that I don't have a clue how it works. It's amazing what some of these cars can do now, with voice commands, and navigation systems and all these different technical things. ... For these guys, they are teachers. If you are a teacher, you need to know your subject matter really well. The sales people — both Paul and Jim — they are really good."

Paul's more technical nature allows him to work with the service department and the body and repair aspects.

"I'm always trying to teach him more of the too. There's a lot to that," Brian said. "The thing about this business is that it's always changing — the market changes, the product changes. You're always trying to figure out what you need to do to get what people need."

Johnston Motor Company provides parts, repairs, an auto body shop and new and used cars for clients in Western Lane County, basically, "anything that a large store can," according to Brian.

"The car business isn't necessarily about cars. It's about people and how they interface with the business. That's the fun part about it, when people get excited. When you're buying a car and are excited about it and happy, it's a good, positive feeling and energy. It's what we try to promote here, that type of relationship with our customers," he

said.

And the long history in the area helps prove the lasting legacy of the Johnston Motor Company.

The dealership started off in downtown Florence. Stuart built the current building at 2150 Highway 101 in 1957, in what was then the northern reach of town.

"The town has kind of moved its way out here," Brian said.

Twenty-one employees make up the "family" of Johnston Motor Company.

"We're always trying to figure out how we can be the best that we can. What I mean is how we can make it comfortable for the customer and make it easier for them to come in, and give them a reason to come in. You do that with employees that you know and trust. I think we have some great employees. It's a family atmosphere, yet we all work hard and depend on each other," Brian said.

Paul added, "A lot of good employees and a lot of loyal customers."

"That's really the key to this thing: having the loyal employees who take care of the customers in a way that makes them want to come back. The employees are the kind of people who want to have happy customers and want everything to go smooth. It just kind of all works, and works for us," Brian said.

Because of the staff's excellent service and care for the community, Johnston Motor Company consistently ranks in the top 10 percent of Ford customer survey responses.

"The people I sell cars to are my customers," Brian said. "I want to make sure that they are taken care of. I want to protect them. Nobody cares about that customer more than I do, and more than Paul does. They are our neighbors and friends."

With 77 years under their belts, the Johnston family has found the best way to work with the market in the Florence community.

"We're in our niche," Brian said. "I love it; it's fun. It gets in your blood and is exciting. I've been doing it for 36 years, so that's a long time."

For those looking for new or used Ford cars, crossovers, SUVs or trucks, Johnston Motor Company is the best and most consistent resource, and will continue to be in the next generations.

"This excitement and energy, Paul feels that here. I think he likes what kind of business it is. And I think my grandfather and father would be very excited to see him working here. I think he'll do really well," Brian said.



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