

IN MEMORIAM

Dennis Cooper
1944-2015

Dennis "Denny" Cooper, 71, of Cottage Grove died Sept. 22, 2015. He was born in Florence, Ore. on June 17, 1944 to Henry Harold and Nellie (Frasieur) Cooper.

He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. Denny worked as a Clipper Operator at Bald Knob Mill in Creswell.

Denny loved his two dogs, animals, reading, the outdoors, and video games. He was



an exceptional grandfather.

He is survived by his wife, Jean Cooper; son and daughter-in-law, Russell D. and Marsha Cooper of Cloverdale, Ore.; daughter, Brenda D. Cooper of Thurston, Ore.; step-daughter, Janice Louallen; step-daughter, Jennifer Brown; brother and sister-in-law, Harold and Judy Cooper of Ohio; brother, Darryl Cooper of Cottage Grove; sister, Jeanine Morrow of W. Va.; brother and sister-in-law, Alan and Jacquie Cooper of Bandon, Ore.; brother and sister-in-law, Kevin and Glenna Cooper of Cottage Grove; three grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; and three step-great-grandchildren.

A private service will be held. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Open-burning ban ended Monday

South Lane County Fire and Rescue announced this week that, effective Monday, Oct. 26, open burning is now allowed within the boundaries of the Fire District. The District adds, however, that local residents should check with the Lane Regional Air Protection Authority to ensure that open burning is allowed on any particular day. Their open burning line can be reached at 541-726-3976.

Elks Lodge collecting Coats (and blankets) for Kids

From Oct. 1 through Nov. 15, the Cottage Grove Elk's Lodge is in need of used coats in sizes infant to adult. The Lodge is also accepting blankets, sleeping bags, bed rolls, tents and any other warm clothing in good, clean shape that will be distributed to the local Community Sharing and the Adventist Community Center. These items will then be distributed

to needy kids and families who need help keeping warm this winter. Those interested in donating can look for the donation drop barrels at these local businesses: BPOE #1904 Cottage Grove Elks Lodge, Brad's Cottage Grove Chevrolet, Umpqua Bank and KNND 1400 Radio. For more information, call John Silva at 541-942-4415 or 541-914-5099.

BIRTHS

Oct. 16, 2015

To Shayna Dunbar and Philip Makinson of Cottage Grove, a son.

Oct. 17, 2015

To Amanda and Christopher Maher of Cottage Grove, a daughter.

Oct. 17, 2015

To Megan and Craig Seekins of Drain, a daughter.

Oct. 24, 2015

To Elizabeth and Blaine Taylor of Creswell, a son.

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



God is in the business of restoration, and as believers in Christ, He wants to make us whole in every area of our lives. This process transforms us into the new creation that 2 Corinthians 5:17 (AMPC) describes as "(a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away..."

I remember when I desperately needed to recover from the abuse in my past. I had thought that when I was old enough to leave home, I would leave the pain behind, but the problem was in my soul—my thinking and emotions. I needed healing and restoration so I wouldn't continue to be poisoned by things that had happened to me all those years growing up.

I came to this realization after a woman came to speak at our church and shared her testimony of how she had been abused and God had healed her. My husband, Dave, bought her book for me, and when I started to read it, it was so painful that I threw it across the room and refused to pick it up. But then I clearly heard the Holy Spirit speak to my heart, "It's time, Joyce." God had a much better life for me than what I had known up to that point, and He wanted to restore my soul so I could experience it.

Isaiah 61:7 (AMPC) says, "Instead of your [former] shame

you shall have a twofold recompense; instead of dishonor and reproach [your people] shall rejoice in their portion. Therefore in their land they shall possess double [what they had forfeited]; everlasting joy shall be theirs."

This scripture shows us that God can completely restore us—no matter what we've done or been through. And He wants to bring us to a position that's better than we would have been in if we had never gone through the messes in our lives. He wants to give us double for our trouble!

Notice the phrase "instead of your former shame." Do you know what it's like to have shame in your life? I had a shame-based nature for many years because of the abuse I experienced from my father. It made me feel like something must be wrong with me for him to do the things he had done to me.

But the first thing Jesus gives us through our relationship with Him is righteousness, or right standing with God (2 Corinthians 5:21). It's so important for us to get this, because the enemy wants us to think about

Finding total restoration

everything that's wrong with us so we'll focus on our faults. And when we do this, it just gives our problems more strength over us.

We need to learn how to "walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]," because then we "will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God)" (Galatians 5:16 AMPC). This is what it means to be transformed into the image of Christ. And while it's not an easy process, we can do it with God's help.

Think about it like this: When a person restores a used-up, beat-up piece of furniture, the first thing they do is strip off the old layers of paint or varnish. We all have things that need to be stripped away in our lives. Maybe it's old attitudes and mindsets that don't line up with the way God thinks and acts...or unhealthy relationships that are holding you back from God's purpose and plans for you. Whatever it is, you can pray, "Lord, strip me of everything that's not good for me, and everything that's hindering my walk with You. Do what You need to do to get it out of my life."

Sanding is another step in the process. Is there anyone in your life whose personality just grates

on you? They're like sandpaper, and God uses them to get the rough edges off of us so the good things He has put in us can be developed and demonstrated in the way we live. And after the sanding, there is sealing. For us, that means we're sealed with the Holy Spirit, "marked, branded as God's own, secured" (Ephesians 4:30 AMPC).

After all this, the furniture must be dusted and polished from time to time. I feel like God is always polishing my life in some area. Our walk with Christ is a lifelong journey that brings us closer to Him and makes us more like Him. That's why we should be thankful when the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, or the mistakes we make; it's how He's polishing us to help us stay in God's will for our lives.

Wherever you are in the restoration process, I want to encourage you to set your mind today that God is healing you, and stay focused on following the leadership of the Holy Spirit. Trust God to lead you in the way that's right for you, bringing you to wholeness in Christ in every area of your life!

Joyce Meyer is a New York Times bestselling author and founder of Joyce Meyer Ministries, Inc.

Michael D. Lester

Michael D. Lester, age 63, passed away on October 15, 2015 at his home in Cottage Grove. He was born on the 5th of November, in the year 1951. Mike enjoyed the outdoors and companionship of his loyal dogs, but mostly loved spending time with his family and those close to him. He was a generous caring husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend and will be dearly missed. The family will be having a private celebration of life.



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