

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



Let go of the old stuff in your life

Have you ever hired a professional to prune a tree in your yard? Dave and I hire someone to do that for us, and there are times when he cuts the branches back so far that I've said to him, "There is nothing left. You have totally destroyed our tree!" But he says, "You just watch and see." And sure enough, before long the tree is much better looking than it was before.

Just like trees need pruning from time to time to remove dead branches or areas where there is overgrowth, you and I need to be pruned or reshaped at different times in different areas of our lives. We may not enjoy the pruning process, but when it's over, we're much better off than we were before.

You see, God wants us to be at our very best—spiritually, emotionally and physically.

John 15:2 (AMPC) says, "Any branch in Me that does not bear fruit [that stops bearing] He cuts away (trims off, takes away); and He cleanses and repeatedly prunes every branch that continues to bear fruit, to make it bear more and richer and more excellent fruit."

It's good for us to stop and evaluate our lives sometimes and ask God to show us if there are things that need to be cut off because they are hindering our growth in our relationship with Him. Ask yourself: Am I dragging around "dead branches" in my life? Maybe it's a bad relationship, an old wound from your past, or a negative attitude that keeps you from enjoying life to the fullest.

It would be nice if we could see what God sees and say, "Yes, God. Let's get rid of that dead branch." But many times we're too afraid to give up what we know for something new that we just can't see or understand.

The truth is you can be miserable dragging those dead things around or you can go through the pain of letting God "prune" them away. Even though it's uncomfortable, the best thing you can do is let God prune you, because after the hard part is over, you will see some amazing results!

God doesn't want to see you struggle. He loves you so much that He will never give up on you. As we allow Him to speak into our lives, He teaches and trains us to be kind and gentle, peaceful and patient, loving and forgiving like him. But we cannot develop that "fruit" on our own.

John 15:4 (AMPC) says, "Just as no branch can bear fruit of itself without abiding in (being vitally united to) the vine, neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in Me."

In other words, we need to spend time with God.

Our relationship with God is about much more than going to church on Sunday and reading the Word as a religious duty. He wants a personal relationship with each of us.

When we stay connected to God through meaningful Bible study and prayer, we're abiding in Jesus. God wants us to be so

rooted and grounded in His love that nothing can shake us—so we're able to bear good fruit in even the hardest, most difficult seasons of life.

God has a good plan for your life. He wants to take you to the next level in your relationship with Him, but there are some things that He wants you to leave behind—past hurts, insecurities, or anything you look to for a sense of security other than God Himself.

Don't ever be afraid to surrender to God so He can prune the things that are hurting and hindering you from moving forward in your relationship with Him.

The apostle Paul said, "One thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward" (Philippians 3:13-14).

Make a determined decision to let go of the past and press on to experience a fuller, richer, more abundant life in Christ.

Pray today: "God, I'm tired of dragging this heavy load around with me. I'm ready to let it go so I can get on with my life and experience a new level of relationship with You. Help me to know that You love me and that You will work everything out for my good."

If we will totally give ourselves to God, He will give us His best for us. It may not be what we thought we wanted, but it will be exactly what we need. And it will be greater than anything we could have asked for.

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

BENCH HONORS LOCAL ATTORNEY



Russ Kaleese of Cottage Grove Public Works recently supervised a crew that installed a new park bench at Dorena Reservoir's Harms Park on Wednesday, Feb. 10. The installation was part of a community service project of the Cottage Grove Rotary Club. The bench was donated by the city for use as a memorial to attorney Donald K. Armstrong, a long-time Rotarian and resident of Cottage Grove who passed away last June of pancreatic cancer.

IN MEMORIAM

Albert F. Palmer 1923-2016

Albert F. Palmer, 92, died Feb. 15, 2016.

He was born on June 21, 1923 in Inglewood, Calif. to Charles and Mary (Ross) Palmer.



Albert graduated from Yoncalla High School. He served in the U.S. Navy as a gunner on the Destroyer Escort. During WW II he worked in the commission of two ships, the USS Jaccard (DE355) and the USS Koiner (DE331).

On Oct. 9, 1943 in Corpus Christi, Texas, he and Josephine Buxkemper were married. He worked as a head rigger and high climber, logger, and choker setter for over 20 years for Patton and Thompson Logging.

He loved his family and always thought of his wife as special. Albert enjoyed traveling up and down the Coast, Hawaii and England. He was an avid Duck fan, especially for football and

track, until the day he died. He liked being outdoors. He was a kind, thoughtful, generous and humble man. He was a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Cottage Grove and of the Cottage Grove VFW.

Albert is survived by wife, Josie of Lebanon, Ore.; son, Robert (Patricia) Palmer of Houston, Tex.; son, James Palmer of Eugene, Ore.; son, Father William Palmer of Newport, Ore.; daughter, Patricia (Matthew) Rouse of Phoenix, Ariz.; daughter, Jeanne Gibson of Eugene, Ore.; son, Joseph Palmer of Plano, Tex.; brother, Linzy

Palmer of Illinois; sister, Mary Cook of Eugene, Ore.; brother, Richard Palmer of Eugene, Ore.; brother, David (Mary) Palmer of Oregon; brother, Tom (Norma) Palmer of Salem, Ore.; eight grandkids, and several great-grandkids.

Visitation was held on Friday, Feb. 19 at Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel in Cottage Grove. A Funeral Mass was held Saturday, Feb. 20 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church in Cottage Grove. Burial was at Fir Grove Cemetery, Cottage Grove, on Sunday, Feb. 21. Memorial contributions may be made to the Cottage Grove VFW.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON For the Sentinel

Congratulations to Teac J., who placed second in District Wrestling held at Crow Middle/High School. This past weekend, he competed at State.

The Lorane Grange spaghetti dinner and bingo evening is this Saturday, Feb. 27. The dinner begins at 5:30 p.m. and bingo at 6:30 pm. Spread the word; the progressive blackout at the end of the evening has continued to grow. The 50/50 raffle adds to the excitement. Great desserts are also a part of the meal. Those who come only for bingo

pay a nominal fee to enjoy desserts and beverages while playing.

One more reminder to seniors: get your scholarships in soon and try for everything, especially the local ones.

Two Crow-Applegate-Lorane School Board budget members are still needed. There are only a few meetings, and it is a very important voice from the community. Those interested can call 1-541-935-2100 and fill an

important position.

It looks like an exercise group is forming at Lorane Grange. Pam Kersgaard can be contacted for days and times.

Lorane Grange meets next on Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The next school half-day is Friday, March 4. Students can come out and learn drama improvisation games and skits from Marti Byers, former Crow High School Drama Teacher, now with ART, Inc. You and your

students will gain a vast insight into drama. Scholarships are available. Contact Alyssa Shepherd at 541-556-8151 or malysa2@yahoo for more information. Lorane Christian Church will host an inspiring, emotional live "Last Supper" on Sunday, March 6 at the 11 a.m. service. I have seen it for the last two years and it is so wonderful, you won't want to miss it.

It's not like her.

Mom has always been so patient, but now when I ask her questions she gets angry.

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Call us with questions about aging and Alzheimers.

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