

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



Peace with God, yourself and others

We can have a lot of things in life, but if we don't have peace, we're never going to truly enjoy our lives the way God intended.

First Peter 3:11 (AMP) is one of my favorite scriptures. It says, "Let him search for peace... and seek it eagerly. [Do not merely desire peaceful relations with God, with your fellowmen, and with yourself, but pursue, go after them!]"

"Pursue" is a strong word. It requires action and doing whatever it takes to maintain peace in our lives. It means not always getting "our way" or having the last word in an argument. It requires us to trust God even more with the people in our lives. But it's all worth it.

Are you ready to enjoy new levels of peace? If so, here are some ways you can cultivate peace with God, yourself and others...

Receive God's forgiveness. Peace with God is the foundation for peace in every other area of our lives. Jesus is the "Prince of Peace," (Isaiah 9:6) and it's only through a relationship with Him that we will ever experience true contentment.

When we sin, the greatest thing we can do is repent, ask God to forgive us, and then make a decision to not live in guilt. Guilt is useless. Constantly feeling guilty actually weakens us and causes us to fall into more sin.

I encourage you to read and meditate on 1 John 1:9 (AMP): "If we [freely] admit that we have sinned and confess our sins, He is faithful and just... and will forgive our sins [dismiss our lawlessness] and [continuously] cleanse us from all unrighteousness..."

Make a decision to like yourself. This may sound funny to ask, but what kind of relationship do you have with yourself? The truth is you can't get along with anyone else until you get along with you.

For years, I dealt with self-hatred because of the sexual abuse I endured growing up. Because I didn't like myself, it was almost impossible for me to enjoy peace with my husband or other people. However, as I spent time in God's Word and asked Him to change me, I eventually began to see myself the way He sees me; I began to like myself!

I encourage you to find out what God says about you in His Word. Ask Him to help you change your self-image. Because enjoying life and enjoying other people all begins with knowing who God says you are and truly liking yourself.

Don't compare yourself to others. Comparing and competing with other people is one of the fastest ways to lose your peace and joy. There is such freedom in learning to be happy

with who you are without being jealous of someone else's skills or achievements.

For example, I have a friend who likes to memorize parts of the Bible. There was a day when I would have been threatened by that, feeling like I should do the same thing. I know a lot of Scripture, and I have even memorized several verses, but memorization has never been my strength...and that's okay. It doesn't mean I am less spiritual or somehow not as good as my friend. It just means I am being myself!

Accept other people just the way they are. I almost wore myself out trying to change people until I realized they're not all supposed to be like me. We are all born with different God-given personalities and were never meant to be the same.

For example, my husband Dave is easy-going and has the ability to enjoy just about anything he does. I'll never forget our grocery trips as a young married couple. I had my list and was serious about accomplishing our mission. Dave, on the other hand, was pushing the kids around in the cart, laughing and having a great time. It made me so mad!

Dave has always been a very wise and responsible man, but I wanted him to be "serious" like me. When I finally stopped trying to change him, it brought tremendous peace. Now, I truly enjoy and value Dave's personality. In fact, over the years the Lord has helped me to enjoy my life and be even more like him!

Sure, we all have areas where we truly need to change, but only God can change us. The best thing we can do for others is to pray for them...and accept them right where they are.

Let God have control of your life. Proverbs 16:9 (AMP) says, "A man's mind plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps and makes them sure." I used to have a plan for everything—including my husband, my kids and my ministry—and would sometimes get frustrated if things didn't go accordingly. In other words, I wanted the Lord to do things my way! However, God is smarter than we are, and He wants us to place our trust in His great plan for our lives.

I often say that trust requires unanswered questions. In the moment, we may not always understand "why," but like the psalmist David we can say, "My times are in Your hands" (Psalm 31:15). Later on, we'll look back and discover the Lord had our best in mind all along.

I encourage you to continue trusting God even when things don't make sense. It's one sure way to enjoy your life...and experience more peace than ever before.

BIRTHS

Feb. 13, 2016

To Elizabeth Reyes-Romero and Rolando Vasquez-Diaz of Creswell, a daughter.

Feb. 18, 2016

To Lindsey A. Dawson of Cottage Grove, a son.

Feb. 19, 2016

To Lindsey Clark and Lane

Potter of Cottage Grove, a son.

Feb. 23, 2016

To Kyra and Jesse Furrer of Cottage Grove, a daughter.

Feb. 21, 2016

To Bradley and Jessica Es-selburn of Cottage Grove, a daughter.

LORANE COUNTRY NEWS

BY LIL THOMPSON
For the Sentinel

Happy March, everyone! Several events are scheduled for the rest of this week. Those who missed the sign-ups for freestyle wrestling on Tuesday evening can call the High School.

This week is Read Across America, coinciding with Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2. Local students will enjoy reading his works.

Another school half-day happens this Friday, March 4, for progress reports. Art for this day will be lead by Marti Byers of ART, Inc. and former drama teacher at Crow High School. Participants will learn to bring out their inner actor with drama improvisation games and skits. It will be a fun experience!

Lorane Christian Church plans to host a very moving, riveting live "Last Supper" this Sunday, March 6, at 11 a.m.

Just another insight that spring is coming — Spring Break is Monday, March 21 through March 25.

The RAC/Lorane Grange Talent Show takes place April 3 at 3 p.m., and organizers need to know about area talent. Also, those with stationary talent such as paintings, pottery, hooked rugs, etc. can plan on showing it as well. It is FREE for everyone!

Due to Easter weekend, the Lorane Grange spaghetti dinner and bingo has been moved up a week to Saturday, March 19. There was not a winner for the progressive blackout, so it will be bigger.

Lorane Grange meets this Thursday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a guest speaker.

Two churches targeted in break-ins

Two Cottage Grove area churches began their Sunday mornings by discovering evidence of break-ins recently.

Cindy Slaymaker, pastor of the Church of the Nazarene on M Street, said she discovered evidence of a break-in and theft when she showed up at the church prior to Sunday services on Sunday, Feb. 21. She said the assailant(s) trashed her office, stole her computer and "anything that could have possibly had any value."

Downstairs, Slaymaker said the DVR recorder and another computer was taken from the church's preschool facility. The suspect(s) rifled through kids' toys. She reasoned that the break-in must have happened sometime after 5:30 p.m. that Saturday.

"They left a heckuva mess," said CGPD Officer Matt Walker. "They stole electrical equipment, miscellaneous banking records — they went from room to room and checked everything. It was weird. Someone was looking for something particular; they were very busy."

Slaymaker said this wasn't the first time the church has been burglarized; a previous break-in last May also led to stolen items. Police say they don't have any information on a possible suspect, but Slaymaker said she's certain that the perpetrator knew the layout of the church.

Meanwhile, that same Sunday morning, police say a building on the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church property that is used by the Knights of Columbus was also vandalized.

Officer Taylor Smith said the suspects broke into the building through a window, though it was not immediately clear if anything was missing. Smith declined to elaborate on the incident or say if a possible suspect has been discovered, citing an ongoing investigation.

For Slaymaker, who manages many of her church's affairs herself, the theft of her computer represented the loss of every sermon she's ever given in her years at the church. When congregants arrived for that Sunday's service, she said they were left with little to do but watch police survey the crime scene and pray.

Late last week, CGPD said it had not yet compared evidence to see if the two break-ins may be related.

IN MEMORIAM

Dian Missar 1941-2016

Dian Louise Wilson was born July 16, 1941 in Chicago, Illinois to Alexander "Scotty" Wilson and Edith Johanna Aukes Wilson of Riverside, Illinois. She graduated from Northwestern University in 1964 with a BA Degree in English. While there she met Chuck Missar and they married in Portola Valley, California, in 1967. A few years later she earned an elementary school teaching credential from Notre Dame College in Belmont, California.

In 1975 Dian and Chuck moved to Cottage Grove to be a part of the Cerro Gordo project. They restored an historic home in Cottage Grove. During this time Dian became president of the Cottage Grove Historical Society. She cofounded the Friends of Mount David, which saved the Veley house.

Dian and Chuck later moved to acreage on Mosby Creek in 1985. There she led a significant wetlands restoration project on their property.

In 1988, Dian cofounded Parent Partnership, a non-profit actively advocating support for teen parents to stay in school and graduate from Cottage Grove High School. Dian was board president and grant writer for many years.

For over 20 years, Dian hosted a monthly meeting of the local health and human services community, facilitating conversations and information sharing among the myriad health care providers in Cottage Grove.

A few years ago Dian cofounded Partners in History, which successfully encouraged Cottage Grove's multiple historic preservation groups to work together.

Other community services she has been involved with include the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, the "Save the Dr. Pierce Barn" project, the League of Women Voters, the Cottage Grove Library, and Blackberry Pie Society. She also wrote many chapters of Volume 2 of "Golden Was The Past," Cottage Grove's history book.

She believed in the power of partnerships and she always thought that her efforts would make a difference in her community.

On February 16, 2016 Dian died of heart failure.

She leaves behind her husband, Chuck, and a sister, Marjorie Balint. A memorial service for her will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 3rd and Adams, Cottage Grove on Saturday, March 12, 2016 at 2:00 PM.

In lieu of flowers, Dian asked that contributions be made to Parent Partnership, PO Box 1529, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

Lindsey J. Haskell
March 14, 1954 - November 8, 2015

Celebration of Life Sunday, March 13, 2016 11:30 A.M. Elks Lodge, 755 N River Rd., Cottage Grove, OR 97424
Please sign the guest book at www.registerguard.com/legacy

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