

JOHNSONS

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children. Together, they have counseled hundreds of couples in both premarital and post-marital situations.

Renna Hass joined the church in 1968. Reflecting on the impact of FBC's longest serving pastor, she summarized the Johnsons' contributions.

"Pastor Steve has shown the true love of Jesus to the congregation and how to share that same love with others. They have been great in counseling couples; bringing them closer to Christ and enriching their mar-

riage."

To aid many displaced wood products workers struggling to make ends meet in the late 1980s, the church offered a free meal every Saturday to support the families caught in a major economic transition. This laid the foundation for what is now the annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner hosted for decades at FBC.

"During the past several years we've appreciated how additional churches now help prepare and serve the meal - as well as providing their own weekly community meals throughout

the year," Steve said.

Another highlight of their long tenure is the church's strong commitment to missions. Mercy grew up on the mission field in southern India before her father became the pastor of a large Christian church in Calcutta. She began her Early Childhood Master's degree program at California's University of Redlands. A seminary student there captured her heart for a lifetime. These circumstances are the foundation of her strong faith in Christ. Since childhood she's enjoyed being a Sunday school teacher and Bible study

leader. Embracing Mercy's passion for missions, the church now supports several missionaries each year.

"I'm blessed to be a ministry partner with my husband for more than 30 years," Mercy said. "The joy of my life is getting to experience the faithfulness of God and His power and provision for our family and our church."

Tom Mathis has been a church leader for more than a quarter century and has a deep love and respect for the Johnsons. "Steve is all about people. Just like the young Jesus, Steve is always

"about the Father's business", and building up a person's relationship with God," Mathis said.

The Johnsons say they look forward to more family time, more traveling and finding new ministry opportunities. They plan to stay in Cottage Grove until the end of the year before moving to the Eugene/Springfield area to live closer to their children and grandchildren.

"The church and I grew together and we grew to love one another deeply," Steve said. "As a pastor, the most gratifying experience has been seeing many

people's lives transformed by God's power and Jesus' love. Over these 30 years, I have witnessed lives changed as people lived out Godly principles and experienced for themselves the joy, peace, hope and contentment that is available in Jesus Christ."

On Saturday, May 28, the Johnsons will be honored for their 30 years of ministry from 1-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, 301 S. Sixth St. The community is invited to attend.

OFFBEAT

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the inevitable "You have died of dysentery" could never be too many turns away.

But if little Sally had been on Tetherow's wagon train, she would have promptly been offered something called an "Ague and Liver Costive":

"Dry beef gall to thick molasses thickening it with May Apple, equal Colocynth and Bloodroot ¼ of the above," Dr. Dains instructs. "Role it out with flower (flour) into pills. Dose 2 tsp at

bed time as often as the case needs."

If that didn't work, there was a more aggressive recipe that was probably the emigrants' go-to formula for dealing with malaria:

"Dry beef gall to thick (molasses consistency). Thicken it with equal parts May apple, bloodroot, cayenne pepper, culver root, ½ part lobelia seed. Mix, role into pills with flower, common serve doses 2 to 6 a day as the case requires."

Would this have cured little Sally's dysentery? Probably not, but it sure would have beaten bleeding her to "restore her bile balance" or soaking her feet in Epsom salts.

Here's what was offered to any wagon train participant who grew desperate enough to ask for help with a cough or sore throat:

"Cough Surrup: Boil the lick-rish root to thick molasses. Take 1 fluid oz Balm Gilead buds, 1 gil vinigar, 1 gil strong sirrip of

skunk cabbage root, ½ fluid oz tincter libelia. Take a tea spoon full or so as often as the case requires to keep the plegm loos to rais easy."

You will have gathered that spelling and grammar wasn't part of Dr. Dains' medical education. This wasn't uncommon on the American frontier of the mid-1800s. Many medical practitioners were, in fact, self-taught - especially the Thompsonians, who considered themselves to be populist "heal thyself" types, in contrast with the paternalistic "submit to my orders" tradition of mainstream medicine.

Possibly the most intriguing recipe in Dains' book is something he calls "Mother's Relief," which is an elaborate concoction of extracts, including those of partridge berry vine, unicorn root, blue cohusk, spikenard, bayberry bark, birthroot, raspberry leaves, witch hazel leaves and lady slippers, given to wom-

en to ease the labor of childbirth. Reading the ingredients list, one has to wonder if it might have had any real therapeutic value.

Nonetheless, some frontier mothers seem to have had little need for anything of the kind. Here's Mary Richardson Walker's diary entry for the particularly eventful day of March 16, 1842:

"Rose about five. Had early breakfast. Got my housework done about 9. Baked six loaves of breads, made a kettle of mush and have now a suet pudding and beef boiling. My girl has ironed and I have managed to put my clothes away and set my house in order. May the Merciful be with me through the unexpected scene. Nine o'clock p.m. was delivered of another son."

(Sources: Larsell, O. The Doctor in Oregon. Portland: Binforde, 1947; Bromberg, Erik. "Frontier Humor: Plain

and Fancy," Oregon Historical Quarterly, Sept. 1960)

Finn J.D. John teaches at Oregon State University and writes about odd tidbits of Oregon history. For details, see <http://finnjohn.com>. To contact him or suggest a topic: finn2@offbeatoregon.com or 541-357-2222.

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