

MOVING UP HIGHER

with *Joyce Meyer*



Seek is a strong word. It means "to crave, pursue, to make sacrifices to get, to go after with all of your strength and all of your heart."

Romans 14:17 (AMPC) says, "[After all] the kingdom of God is not a matter of [getting the] food and drink [one likes], but instead it is righteousness... and [heart] peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

In other words, the Kingdom of God is not about us simply trying to get what we want. Instead, it's about seeking a relationship with God and experiencing true Kingdom benefits. It's about having a greater understanding of His righteousness (our right standing with Him through Jesus Christ), His peace and His joy in our lives. Only then will we find what we are truly looking for.

I remember coming to a point in my life when I had a lot of "things" but realized I simply wasn't happy. After praying and asking the Lord what was wrong, He spoke to my heart and said, "Joyce, you are too shallow—it's time to go out into the deep."

Wow! That was difficult to hear, but I knew exactly what He meant. It was time for me to start living the "deeper life"—to begin seeking God for who He is and not just what He can do for me.

You see, shallow Christians want the fruit, but they are not concerned about the roots. I love Isaiah 37:31. It says, "...take root downward and bear fruit upward" (AMPC).

Just look at nature. Large trees with thick, full branches have a massive underground root system that spreads both deep and wide. Without this support system, the tree could never weather a storm.

In the same way, we must develop deep spiritual roots before we can truly enjoy the big, full life God

The things we pursue in life have everything to do with our joy and fulfillment. While it's certainly not wrong to desire success, a better paying job, or a higher standard of living, the Bible tells us that seeking after "things" and making them our priority will make us miserable in the end!

has intended for us. This includes cultivating a relationship with the Lord, finding out what He says about us in His Word, and becoming rooted and grounded in His love.

Friends, the Lord is more concerned about your inner life than your outer life. Why? Because He knows that when you are spiritually strong on the inside, then you are able to handle any situation that arises in your life on the outside.

Years ago, while I was praying (probably for something I wanted), the Lord spoke a life-changing truth to my heart. He said, "Joyce, seek My face and not My hand. If you seek My face, My hand will always be open."

Matthew 6:33 says it this way: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (NIV).

Now these are truly words to live by. I can tell you from experience that when you make God your number-one priority, He not only fills your life with His amazing peace, joy, and satisfaction, but He also gives you the desires of your heart.

I encourage you to make a decision today to pursue the One who matters most. Seek God for who He is and make your relationship with Him a priority.

As you do, I believe you'll discover what you've been looking for all along.

**Paula Ann Burleson
1955-2017**

Paula Ann Burleson of Cottage Grove died on March 14, 2017, at the age of 61.

She was born on March 26, 1955 in Perry, OK, to parents Jessie and Florice (Allen) Elliott. Paula graduated from Chaparel High School in Ojai, CA. She married Gregory Burleson on July 21, 1979 in Santa Paula, CA. They were together for 40 years. Paula was a realtor, homemaker, and rancher. She loved being with family, and enjoyed horses, camping, gardening, quilting, and fishing.

She was a Million Dollar Realtor for two years in a row. She is survived by her husband, Gregory, of Cottage Grove; mother, Florice Elliott, of Kiowa, OK; daughter, Angela Burleson-May (Cory May) of Cottage Grove; son, Jesse (Kellie) Burleson of Paducah, KY; son, Scott Burleson of Cottage Grove; son, Travis (Carrie) Burleson of Dayton, OR; sister, Cherrie Elliott Millikan of Cottage Grove; and grandchildren Hunter Moore, Alec and Bailey May; Lillian, Ethan, and Emma Burleson; Isabella Burleson; and Porter and Oliver Burleson. No service is planned. Arrangements in the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Chapel in Cottage Grove.



IN MEMORIAM

Dustin Allen, 24, of Cottage Grove died March 3, 2017 from a vehicle/pedestrian accident. He was born Aug. 26, 1992 in Cottage Grove to Vicki (Robinson) Jacobsen and Shawn Allen. Dustin graduated with the Cottage Grove High School class of 2010. He loved his family, dancing, and playing basketball with his dad and brothers.

He is survived by his parents of Springfield, siblings, Kent Allen of Springfield, Ashlie Cook of Cottage Grove, Sierra Allen of Cottage Grove, Tara Allen of Springfield and Kaiden Allen of Springfield, sister-in-law, Kayla Allen, brother, Curtis Gattinella, step-mom, Tristy Allen, and step-dad, Michael Jacobsen.

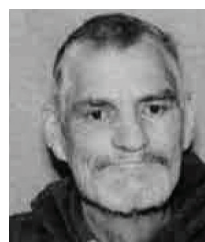
A Celebration of Life was held March 12 at the The Axe and Fiddle Public House in Cottage Grove. Arrangements under the care of Andreason's Cremation & Burial Service, Springfield.



Jeffry Lynn Heath, aka Raven to many of his friends, 60, passed away March 17, 2017.

He was born April 8, 1956 in the Cottage Grove Hospital to Wilbur and Catherine Heath.

He graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1974 and attended Southern Oregon College for one year. He joined U.S. Army and trained as a cook. He served on the West Coast, never going overseas. After an honorable discharge from the Army, he worked in the logging industry for several years. Jeffry met and married Patty Martin and moved to Cave Junction where he worked at many jobs. He loved to gold mine and spent much time digging in the waters of Southern Oregon. He didn't ever hit "the big one". He and Patty divorced after 15 years. Jeffry spent the last few years in the Springfield and Cottage Grove area and was living in Cottage Grove at the time of his passing.



He wanted to be cremated with no service and his ashes be placed at the Walker Church Cemetery in Walker, Oregon. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

**Stuart Thackway
Porter, Jr.
1931-2017**

Stuart Thackway Porter, Jr. passed away Monday, March 13, 2017 with much of his extraordinary family at his side. He was a loving, caring, gentle, generous, compassionate man who will be missed dearly.

Born in Mineola, New York on May 12, 1931 to Dr. Stuart Thackway Porter Sr. and Rosalind Louise Porter, and married Jean Constance Kluge (deceased) in 1954. They had five children: Stuart T. III (deceased), Jeffrey C., Glenn H., Gregory S. (deceased), and Jon C. Stuart attended Adelphi University and attained a B.A. in Zoology in 1960 and a Master in Library Science from C.W. Post School at Long Island University in 1972. Stuart married Kathryn West in 1979 and they had one son, Alexander W.

Stuart served in the Navy from 1952-1956 and then worked in aerospace defense on Long Island, New York. In 1972 he moved to Danbury, Connecticut where he served as Assistant Director at the Danbury Library. In 1978, he became the Director of the Russell Library in Middletown, Connecticut until his retirement in 1997.

Retirement brought almost twenty wonderful years in Cottage Grove where he continued to be highly involved, explored the western US and Europe and enjoyed share outdoor activities, travel, food, and wine with great friends. His kids have been here for him over the last year as he battled cancer as the strength of his family has grown and furthered everyone's wellbeing.

A memorial was held Saturday. In lieu of flowers, donations to either of two scholarship endowments for graduating seniors from the South Lane School District are encouraged. Send checks made payable to CGCF to Cottage Grove Community Foundation Box 1326, Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424 and specify the fund: Porter/Allen Family Scholarship (focused on Career and Technical Education) or the Cottage Grove Rotary Endowment Fund.



*The family of
Cecil "Lefty" Martin
invite you to an open
house celebrating his
life, on Saturday March
25, 2017 at the Cottage
Grove Elks from 3:00 to
6:00 p.m. Come and enjoy refreshments
and visit with the family and friends.*

DEATH NOTICES

Eileen E. Peterson, 78, of Cottage Grove, formerly of Bishop, Calif., passed away March 17, 2017. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

Scott William Harris, 67, of Dorena passed away March 14, 2017. Arrangements under the care of Smith-Lund-Mills Funeral Chapel, Cottage Grove.

BIRTHS

Jessica Shaw of Cottage Grove welcomed a baby boy on March 13 at PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center-RiverBend.

*I would like to thank
all of the following:
Signature Hospice,
Smith-Lund-Mills
Funeral Home,
VFW Post 3473, family & friends
for all the flowers, cards, and food in
remembrance of Bill Huffman. These
kindnesses have meant so much to us. ~
Loreen, Ray, Adam*

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**Eleanor Evonne "Elly" (Northway) Hansen
1937-2017**

Eleanor Evonne "Elly" (Northway) Hansen of Metolius, OR died in her home, surrounded by her family on February 16, 2017, she was 79 years old. Elly grew up in the Cottage Grove area. She attended grade school and graduated from Cottage Grove High School in 1955.

Elly is survived by her husband, Nels Hansen; sons Mark (and wife Cathy) and Dave Hansen (and wife Janie); daughter Julie Nisley (and husband James); grandchildren Tony (and wife Megan) and Derek Hansen (and wife Mary) and Ian Nisley; along with her two great granddaughters Zoey and April Hansen.

Elly was born on October 21, 1937 in Marysville, CA to Adeline (Meyer) and Percy Northway along with her three sisters - Alvina, Violet and Evelyn. She met Nels in 1956 and fell in love. Elly and Nels were married on November 24, 1956 and the pair moved to Portland. During their time in Portland, they welcomed three children into their home. After moves to California, Missouri and Montana, the couple settled in Metolius, OR where they lived together for the past 44 years. Upon their arrival in Metolius, Elly worked for a few years at the Cove Palisades State Park. Her children remember her as a wonderful mother who was patient, caring and kind.

Elly enjoyed camping, knitting, going on walks, gardening, playing cards, her role as Mom and traveler in her daughter's book club, her monthly Bunco club and most especially, helping to raise her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was a fierce love for her family. She was the best cook in Central Oregon and the sweetest lady you could ever know.

Elly was preceded in death by her parents and sister, Violet. Elly did not wish to have a service; instead, she wanted to have her ashes spread in the Ochoco National Forest surrounded by Family and close friends.

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