

## Spiritually Speaking

Father Thankachan Joseph



### WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE TO THE CALL OF CHRIST

This week, the scriptures narrate the call of the Lord to us for something. Jonah (3:1-5,10) is called to Nineveh to proclaim, and we read the call of the first disciples for a purpose – to make them as fishers of men. I think in the present day the Lord is calling all of us who are under the influence of social media to leave the net and “all what you love and follow me.” The call is very clear. In today’s world, the first thing we look for when we reach a destination is net connectivity and access to the Wi-Fi. We then sit back comfortably and get hooked to what is on the net. Do we pay attention to this heed of the Lord to leave everything and follow Him?

The Gospel of Mark, chapter 1:14-20, speaks of the beginning of Jesus’s public ministry. He started His public ministry by preaching about the kingdom of God. He begins His preaching with the topic “repent and believe in the gospel.” The Lord calls all of us to have a change of mind and attitude and turn to Him, from our present status to the status to which He invites. As far as we know, every one of the disciples was chosen and called personally by Jesus. We believe that God calls each one of us. God not only calls us to follow Jesus but also calls us into the fields and careers of our lives. The call of these first four disciples shows us that He looks not externally but inside every one of us. He calls the unqualified and He qualifies them according to the nature of His call and mission.

As He walks on the shores of Galilee, Jesus meets Simon and his brother Andrew casting the nets into the sea. Jesus tells them to just follow Him, and without a second thought, we see these brothers following Him. How did they know Him? Whether they had known Him earlier we have no idea. Jesus enters into the lives of these brothers to heal them. Luke’s narration is that they worked hard the whole night and they could get nothing. Into that sadness, desperation, brokenness, melancholy, wretchedness, Jesus approaches the disciples. In the present-day context, we can see several people who go through exactly the emotions of Peter. These fishermen certainly see Jesus entering into the lives of others, healing them, curing them, giving them peace in their hearts, becoming their Savior – all these and more do they see. But they do not follow Jesus. Why? Because they put their entire trust and hope in their boats and nets of this material world. These boats and nets might be the physical and material security and wealth they enjoy. It might be the position they hold in the community and in the society. It might be the material accumulations they have, the wealth they possess. It can also be the influence they have in the public. It can even be the love and encouragement they receive from others. When all these are there, they won’t feel the need to follow Jesus.

In Mark 1:18, we read, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” The four fishermen are called with no further instructions whatsoever. They are called to a totally uncertain future and would surely have been scared out of their wits had they known what lay in store for them. God’s call is always into an uncertain future. When we enter into our callings, we have no idea how it will all end up. We choose our careers and jobs hoping that we can use the gifts and talents God has given us, but there are no guarantees. We need to organize Christ above all the material possessions. To answer His call, we must remember **how to put Christ first in everything in our lives:** A) Prioritize: (Lk. 10:38-42) Jesus commends Mary because she chose the good, important things. Like Mary, you must make a decision to put Christ before everything. B) Set Your Mind on Heaven: (Col. 3:1-2) Set your cares and affections on heavenly things. Don’t be too absorbed with earthly goals. Instead, make heaven your goal. C) Invest: (Mt. 6:19-21) “Jesus said your heart will be where you put your treasure. If you invest the treasure of your time, money, and effort in the Lord’s work, the Lord will become more important to you.”

## The snow is back



Snowbank from 2024. Photo by Annalynn Black



Snowbank from 2017. Photo by Cindi Doherty

Cindi Dougherty posed in front of two snowbanks, one from 2017 located on the corner by the bank of

EO in Heppner, and one from 2024 right behind Murrays Drug in Heppner, a seven year difference.

## AARP Tax Aide volunteers to provide tax service

Need help getting ready for tax season? AARP (American Association of Retired Persons) is offering its free Tax Aide preparation services in Hermiston and Lexington in 2024.

AARP Tax Aide provides tax assistance free of charge with no upper or lower income or age limits and no requirement to be an AARP member. AARP Tax Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified every year, so taxpayers can rest assured they are receiving expert help in preparing their taxes. AARP Tax Aide volunteers will prepare any federal tax return that falls within the scope of their training which includes most items on Form 1040. Some of the items that are out of scope include rental property income (except land only), farm income, certain income items on Schedule K-1, moving expenses, casualty and theft

losses, the Alternative Minimum Tax and loss from a self-employment business. Locations providing AARP Tax-Aide service this year are New Hope Community Church in Hermiston and Lexington Town Hall in Lexington. Volunteers will be preparing returns from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM in Hermiston on Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning February 6<sup>th</sup> and in Lexington on a few select Fridays beginning February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Appointments are required and can be made by leaving a message at 541-701-9326.

Be sure to bring all 2023 tax documents, including the previous year’s tax return. Photo ID and Social Security card are required for everyone on the return. For additional information leave a message on the appointment line or email Bobbi Gordon at bgordon.aarp.taxaide@gmail.com.

sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee). Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.778 of Oregon Revised Statutes; has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee's and attorney's fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for the sale. In construing this, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other person owing obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed; the words "trustee" and "beneficiary" include their respective successors in interest, if any. Pursuant to Oregon Law, this sale will not be deemed final until the Trustee's deed has been issued by The Mortgage Law Firm, LLC. If any irregularities are discovered within 10 days of the date of this sale, the trustee will rescind the sale, return the buyer's money and take further action as necessary. If the sale is set aside for any reason, including if the trustee is unable to convey title, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the monies paid to the Trustee. This shall be the Purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy. The purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Trustor, the Trustee, the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary's Agent, or the Beneficiary's Attorney. Also, please be advised that pursuant to the terms stated on the Deed of Trust and Note, the beneficiary is allowed to conduct property inspections while there is a default. This shall serve as notice that the beneficiary shall be conducting property inspections on the referenced property. Without limiting the trustee's disclaimer of representations or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee's sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee's sale. NOTICE TO RESIDENTIAL TENANTS The property in which you are living is in foreclosure. A foreclosure sale is scheduled for 04/23/2024 (date). The date of this sale may be postponed. Unless the lender that is foreclosing on this property is paid before the sale date, the foreclosure will go through and someone new will own this property. After the sale, the new owner is required to provide you with contact information and notice that the sale took place. The following information applies to you only

if you are a bona fide tenant occupying and renting this property as a residential dwelling under a legitimate rental agreement. The information does not apply to you if you own this property or if you are not a bona fide residential tenant. If the foreclosure sale goes through, the new owner will have the right to require you to move out. Before the new owner can require you to move, the new owner must provide you with written notice that specifies the date by which you must move out. If you do not leave before the move-out date, the new owner can have the sheriff remove you from the property after a court hearing. You will receive notice of the court hearing. PROTECTION FROM EVICTION IF YOU ARE A BONA FIDE TENANT OCCUPYING AND RENTING THIS PROPERTY AS A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONTINUE LIVING IN THIS PROPERTY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE FOR: • 60 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A FIXED TERM LEASE; OR • AT LEAST 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE YOU ARE GIVEN A WRITTEN TERMINATION NOTICE, IF YOU HAVE A MONTH-TO-MONTH OR WEEK-TO-WEEK RENTAL AGREEMENT. If the new owner wants to move in and use this property as a primary residence, the new owner can give you written notice and require you to move out after 30 days, even though you have a fixed term lease with more than 30 days left. You must be provided with at least 30 days' written notice after the foreclosure sale before you can be required to move. A bona fide tenant is a residential tenant who is not the borrower (property owner) or a child, spouse or parent of the borrower, and whose rental agreement: • Is the result of an arm's-length transaction; • Requires the payment of rent that is not substantially less than fair market rent for the property, unless the rent is reduced or subsidized due to a federal, state or local subsidy; and • Was entered into prior to the date of the foreclosure sale. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY BETWEEN NOW AND THE FORECLOSURE SALE: RENT YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO PAY RENT TO YOUR LANDLORD UNTIL THE PROPERTY IS SOLD OR UNTIL A COURT TELLS YOU OTHERWISE. IF YOU DO NOT PAY RENT, YOU CAN BE EVICTED. BE SURE TO KEEP PROOF OF ANY PAYMENTS YOU MAKE. SECURITY DEPOSIT You may apply your security deposit and any rent you paid in advance against the current rent you owe your landlord as provided in ORS 90.367. To do this, you must notify your landlord in writing that you want to subtract the amount of your security deposit or prepaid rent from your rent payment. You may do this only for the rent you owe your current landlord. If you do

this, you must do so before the foreclosure sale. The business or individual who buys this property at the foreclosure sale is not responsible to you for any deposit or prepaid rent you paid to your landlord. ABOUT YOUR TENANCY AFTER THE FORECLOSURE SALE The new owner that buys this property at the foreclosure sale may be willing to allow you to stay as a tenant instead of requiring you to move out after 30 or 60 days. After the sale, you should receive a written notice informing you that the sale took place and giving you the new owner's name and contact information. You should contact the new owner if you would like to stay. If the new owner accepts rent from you, signs a new residential rental agreement with you or does not notify you in writing within 30 days after the date of the foreclosure sale that you must move out, the new owner becomes your new landlord and must maintain the property. Otherwise: • You do not owe rent; • The new owner is not your landlord and is not responsible for maintaining the property on your behalf; and • You must move out by the date the new owner specifies in a notice to you. The new owner may offer to pay your moving expenses and any other costs or amounts you and the new owner agree on in exchange for your agreement to leave the premises in less than 30 or 60 days. You should speak with a lawyer to fully understand your rights before making any decisions regarding your tenancy. IT IS UNLAWFUL FOR ANY PERSON TO TRY TO FORCE YOU TO LEAVE YOUR DWELLING UNIT WITHOUT FIRST GIVING YOU WRITTEN NOTICE AND GOING TO COURT TO EVICT YOU. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS, YOU SHOULD CONSULT A LAWYER. If you believe you need legal assistance, contact the Oregon State Bar and ask for the lawyer referral service. Contact information for the Oregon State Bar is included with this notice. If you do not have enough money to pay a lawyer and are otherwise eligible, you may be able to receive legal assistance for free. Information about whom to contact for free legal assistance is included with this notice. OREGON STATE BAR, 16037 S.W. Upper

Boones Ferry Road, Tigard Oregon 97224, Phone (503) 620-0222, Toll-free 1-800-452-8260 Website: <http://www.oregon-lawhelp.org> NOTICE TO VETERANS If the recipient of this notice is a veteran of the armed forces, assistance may be available from a county veterans' service officer or community action agency. Contact information for a service officer appointed for the county in which you live and contact information for a community action agency that serves the area where you live may be obtained by calling a 2-1-1 information service. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act requires that we state the following: this is an attempt to collect, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. If a discharge has been obtained by any party through bankruptcy proceedings: This shall not be construed to be an attempt to collect the outstanding indebtedness or hold you personally liable for the debt. This letter is intended to exercise the note holders right's against the real property only. The Successor Trustee, The Mortgage Law Firm, LLC, has authorized the undersigned attorney to execute the document on the Successor Trustee's behalf as allowed under ORS 86.713(8). Dated: 12/28/23 The Mortgage Law Firm, LLC By: Jason L. Cotton, Attorney The Mortgage Law Firm, LLC 650 NE Holiday St., Suite 1600 Portland, OR 97232 Phone number for the Trustee: (971) 270-1230 A-4806185 01/10/2024, 01/17/2024, 01/24/2024, 01/31/2024 Published January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024 Affid 4c

## FENCING

### Fencing

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