




Cross Beams

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Connecting to God

Pastor Daniel Buckley

In this world, we feel alone at times. Whether you've suffered a tragedy, been let go from a job, or experienced a broken relationship, you have felt loneliness at one point or another. Even in times of celebration, the feeling of satisfaction of being on top fades into moments when you are the only one around. In the loneliness it's easy to get discouraged and feel like there isn't a purpose to this life. We try very hard to avoid these times of loneliness because they take away from joy in our lives and they lead us to despair, forcing us to face our mortality and finiteness in this world.

I have to admit that I have felt these times when I am in solitude, but I have never felt alone. I even seek out these times by myself—not for self-reflection or self-promotion. I seek out these times because they are times that I can be alone with the creator of this world. He gives me peace in solitude after a tragedy, losing a job, or losing a relationship because He lets me know that my finiteness is overcome by His infinite love. I don't have to reach into my life and look for joy because God gives me joy in all things in life if I seek Him. I do this as the Psalmist writes,

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Matthew 6:25-34 (NIV)

Do Not Worry

²⁵ "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

²⁸ "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. ²⁹ Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ³⁰ If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

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I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth. (Psalm 121:1-2)

When I look up to the creator I am living this life in peace with a comfort that eases any pain that I have. If you don't connect to God in your life, you are missing what our creator wants for us in this world. He desires a relationship with you because He loves you unconditionally. As the church works on its purpose in this world, it works on connecting people to God and showing the world the enormous amount of love that He has for those who seek Him.

If you aren't sure about how much our God loves us, then go to the Gospels in the Bible (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) and read about the stories of God's son. Jesus, God's son, lived in this world and suffered death on the cross to take away our sins. Then Jesus rose again in this world, conquering death for us, so we could live in eternity with our savior and God Himself. This love connects us to God eternally if you look up to God and seek Him. Enjoy God's love this month as you seek Him and never feel alone.

The Purpose of the Church is . . . **Connecting.**



The Cost of Ministry

By Gene Stringer

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. [2 Corinthians 5:17-20](#)

At Men Alive Bible Study (Mondays 7:45am at the Iron Skillet in Phoenix) a question arose asking us **for the cost of ministry. Several offered quick answers. The word "cost" immediately suggests money** to our minds. Right next to that is time. Then the responses slowed. It took some time before we began to think more deeply about the cost of ministry but the wait was worth it.

We began to realize that any effective ministry to others would require more than our time and money. Our attitudes might need to change. We likely would need to move our thinking from where we reside to where the person resides to whom we would like to minister. Almost surely we would need to deal with our pride. We were reminded of Paul writing in Philippians.

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ([Philippians 2:3-4](#))

We began to examine our own attempts at being ambassadors for Christ. Are we sometimes judgmental in our comments to fellow God-seekers who are at a different starting point? Do our comments engender true friendship and reconciliation or merely tolerance of opposing views? Are we as open to change when proven wrong as we would like others to be toward our ideas? What are we willing to sacrifice in order that together we may find a closer relationship with our God and with each other? At this point we began to realize that our pride is an obstacle to ministry that too often we are unable or unwilling to sacrifice.

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Paul often found himself in opposition to the Jewish leaders as he served as a missionary for Christ. Many times he was imprisoned, beaten, and stoned. He often refused to defend himself in a court of law choosing rather to give up a personal defense in order to present Christ to those hearing his case. How was he able to pay this cost for the sake of those he addressed?

If we are alert to the opportunities and prepared, God will give us a chance to address the deeper needs of a friend, family member or neighbor. What is involved? Are we willing to pay the cost? Let me suggest a possible starting point, a course in Apologetics.

The adult class meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am on Sunday will soon finish the current series and start a course called Apologetics 101. The idea of the course is based on two verses from 1 Peter.

...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. (1 Peter 3:15-16)

Hope to see you there.

A Kind Reminder

We recycle at CCoA. If you are not sure if something is recyclable, please check the list on the top of the big blue tote out the alley door or inside the right cabinet door under the hand washing sink in the kitchen.

Please remember that the big blue tote by the alley door is for recycle only. The trash tote is by the power pole next to the building and alley.

Even items that are not normally recyclable such as hard plastics and plastic bags are collected for a twice a year recycle roundup. Do not put them in the big blue tote out back, but the can be left in the small tote in the kitchen.

Returnable cans and bottles need to be rinsed out and may be placed in the small blue recycle tote under the kitchen hand washing sink. We return them and use the money collected for ice.

Thank you for your devoted cooperation!

The Table

The Church is connected on the internet for prayer and other concerns. If you can't make it to Church on a Sunday, go to the Table for prayer requests and a community bulletin board.

How do I join?

You can sign up for the Table by going to ccoa.tableproject.org or just go to our website at www.cc-ashland.org and click on the Table link under the Connections Tab. When you click on **Join** you will be asked for your email address and a secret code.

The code is: **Jesus++is++Lord**

Contact Brad for any questions in the church office.

Christ empowers me in all things: Part 2

"For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." --- 1 John 5:4

Heir to the blessings of Abraham-Galatians 3:13-14
Observing and doing the Lord's commandments
-Deuteronomy 28:3
An inheritor of eternal life-1 John 5:11-12
Blessed with all spiritual blessings-Ephesians 1:3
Speaking the truth in love--Ephesians 4:15
Growing up into Jesus Christ in all things-Ephesians 4:15 exercise
Healed by his stripes-1 Peter 2:24
Am prosperous and in health--III John 2
Reigning in life through Jesus--Romans 5:17
Receiving power to get wealth--Deuteronomy 8:18
Above principalities and powers--Ephesians 1: 19 and 21
Exercising my authority over the enemy--Luke 10:19
Above only and not beneath--Deuteronomy 28:13
More than a conqueror-Romans 8:37
Establishing God's word here on earth-Matthew 16:19
Possessing by my confessing--Mark 11:23-24
An overcomer by the word of his (Jesus's) testimony.
--Revelation 2:11
Daily overcoming the devil--1 John 4:4
Not moved by what I see--II Corinthians 4:18
Walking by faith, not by sight--II Corinthians 5:7
Bringing my body into subjection-1 Corinthians 9:27
Calling all things into existence by faith-Romans 4:17
Casting down vain imaginations--II Corinthians 10: 4-5
Bringing every thought into captivity--II Corinthians 10:5
Being transformed by a renewed mind--Romans 12:1-2
A laborer together with God---1 Corinthians I Corinthians 3:9
The righteousness of God in Christ Jesus--II Corinthians 5:21
Complete in Christ-Colossians 2:12
In the body of Christ--1 Corinthians 12: 12-14
A branch of the true vine--John 15:1-5
Rooted and grounded in love--Ephesians 3:17
An imitator of Jesus-Ephesians 5:1
The light of the world--Matthew 5:14

Source unknown: Submitted by James A. "Jim" Farmer

Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 6

SAINTS ALIVE BREAKFAST

9am—Iron Skillet (Phoenix)



It's time for another great breakfast gathering at the Iron Skillet in Phoenix. This is open to all (you don't need to be a Saint). Bring a joke or funny story and a friend. Plan on leaving home a little early because of the construction on I-5.

Sunday, September 7

FAMILY SUNDAY

10:45am

Our morning worship service will include family participation. If you aren't involved in the service, come out and worship with your family as we kick off the upcoming school year in community with one another. There won't be any Jr. Worship this Sunday, but Nursery care will still be provided for children under 4. Following the service, we will have a catered lunch and games for kids of all ages.

Friday, September 12

DEACON MEETING

6:30pm —Church

Sunday, September 14

BOARD MEETING

12:30pm —Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 20

OCC Ministry Tools Conference

9am-5pm—Turner, OR

Seminars for those interested in serving in the church in different ministries. Come hear from other church leaders about how we can better reach our communities for God.

Sunday, September 28

MONTHLY POTLUCK

12:15pm—Fellowship Hall



Following the morning worship we will gather together in the Fellowship Hall for a time of fellowship and food. Bring whatever you like to share with your church family. Come on down and get to know someone new.

Wednesday, September 24

NEWSLETTER FOLDING

On the last Wednesday of the month a dedicated group of individuals give of their time to fold and prepare the monthly newsletter for the mail. Come and join them for this worthwhile service to our church. We follow the folding with a potluck lunch.

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:30am Adult Bible Study (Downstairs)

Youth Bible Study (Green Room Down stairs)

Children's Bible Study (Prayer Room Upstairs)

10:45am—Worship Celebration

11:00am— Jr. Worship

Mondays

7:45am Real Men, Iron Skillet, Phoenix

6:00pm Ladies Zumba Exercise , Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays

9:30am Piece Corps, Fellowship Hall



Wednesdays

6:00pm Ladies Zumba Exercise , Fellowship Hall

Celebrations!!



September Birthdays

2 - Felicity Gosswiller

3 - Jocelyn Jarrell

6 - Jean Vermillion

7 - Helen Jane Slack

20 - Arlene Scharich

24 - Vickie Villagomez

25 - Jennifer Doods

27 - Sharley Cox

29 - Steve Cox

29 - Chris Macauley

29 - David Smith



September Anniversaries

7 - John & Trudy Vermillion

10 - Raul & Vickie Villagomez

15 - Steve & Sharley Cox

16 - Jim & Karen Larsen

23 - Earl & Emily Rogers

24 - Brian & Lori Jo Marlia-Larsen

Editor's Note: For any changes or updates, please contact the office.

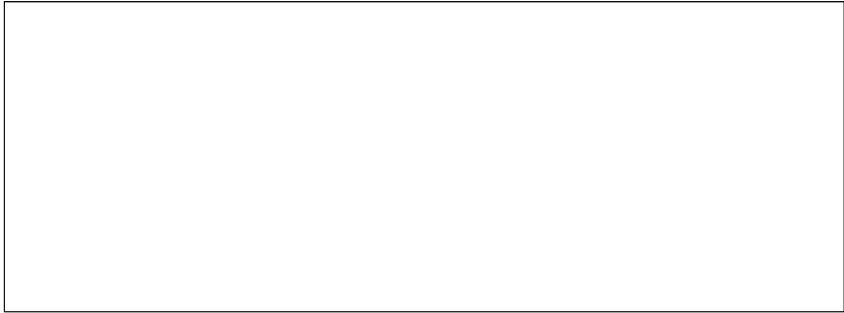
CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

318 B Street
PO Box 959
Ashland, OR 97520



Phone: 541-482-1561
Fax: 541-482-1638
Email: office@cc-ashland.org
Web: www.cc-ashland.org
RSS: www.cc-ashland.org/sermons/rss.xml
iTunes: Christian Church of Ashland
Facebook.com/ChristianChurchofAshland

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday Service Schedule
9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
10:45 AM Worship
11:00 AM Jr. Worship

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.
Matthew 22:37*

Missions

The Missions Committee here at CCoA meets each month that has a 5th Sunday on that 5th Sunday following the morning worship. We share a potluck meal and look at the needs of the missions that we support as a church body.

We support these missions as a church body in response to our commitment to connect to the world and have others connect to God.

[TCM International Institute](#) - Equipping Leaders for Significant Service in Europe, Central Asia, and the Middle East. [www.tcmi.org](#)

[IberoAmerican Ministries](#) - To plant churches and provide humanitarian services resulting in people movements that reveal God's glory among the nations. [www.iamweb.org](#)

[Pioneers](#) - Pioneers mobilizes teams to glorify

God among unreached peoples by initiating church-planting movements in partnership with local churches. [www.pioneers.org](#)

[Share](#) - Share International (SI) is an Evangelical Mission agency established for the purpose of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our very lives by: 1) Reaching and Planting churches among people-groups where Christ is not known. 2) Challenging, training, and equipping new leaders to reach the surrounding communities.

[www.shareint.net](#)

Why not be a part of this important outreach. Plan to join us this Sunday, August 31st in the Fellowship Hall following the morning worship. Bring some food to share and a servant's heart to help the world connect to God.