



THE HORTON'S SPRING

2025 NEWSLETTER

Assisting Youth Leaders in Developing Life-Changing Youth Ministries
Preparing Students for a life of Service

- Training Volunteers
- Partnerships
- **RURAL MISSION TRIPS**
- Mentoring
- **STORYTELLING WORKSHOPS**
- Consulting
- Networking
- **TIMELESS MINISTRY PRINCIPLES & RESOURCES**
- Developing Student Leadership
- **The ABC's of THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

"And Jesus said to them, Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men."
Matt. 4:19

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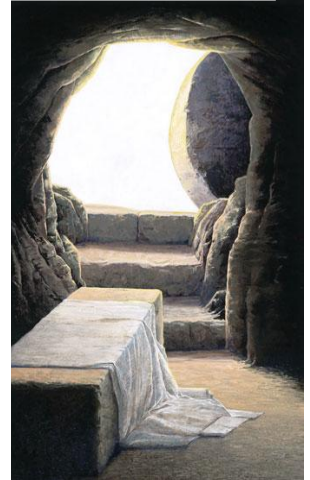
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Dear Family & Friends:

As I think about celebrating Easter this year my thoughts have been on all the amazing one word and short phrases that communicate many of the benefits which are true for every believer. Because of the Resurrection we have, New Life, Forgiveness, No Condemnation, Abundant Life, Peace with God, Eternal life, we have passed out of darkness into the Light, we have the promises of God, a living Hope, children of God, become fellow heirs with Christ. We are Justified, Sanctified, set Free, united with Christ, Citizens of Heaven, seated with Christ in the Heavens and these are just a few of the results for the believer because of the Resurrection. **Christ has risen – He has risen indeed!!** OH, WHAT A GLOUIOUS DAY EASTER IS!!



This past September I felt a pain that I hadn't noticed before. So, after a whole slew of tests, it was determined that I have Prostate cancer which has metastasized to my left hip. My doctor prescribed two sets of pills that he said were new with a great track record. I told him that my prayer was that God would use this medication to extend my life. On my last doctors visit he said my PSA count was down to 3 from 80 – **PRaise THE LORD!!** Consequently, I want to make every moment count. So I decided on having a Mini Rural Missions Summit at "The Beach" that Scott and Kathy Erdahl have 13 miles outside of Belfair, WA.



Pictured are (from left to right), Dr. Brad Butcher of Passion 4 People (P4P). Then the new kid Pastor Daniel Nalley of Gospel Encounter (GE), based in Mt. Veron, located in rural southern Illinois. Then Gretchen and Dr. Dan Jester of Apprentice Ministries (AM), currently based in Sedro Woolley, WA. Then of course you have the hosts Scott & Kathy Erdahl with me in the back.



From that time together we made the formation of a Rural Mission Alliance, that includes these 3 organizations, AM, P4P, GE & RCYM all partnering to reach rural with the Gospel.

It was very interesting and very exciting to find out that Daniel Nelly of GE also runs a mini version of the Way Inn next to the church where he pastors in Mt. Vernon, IL. He plans on bringing some of his interns to join Brad to run a rural mission's trip this summer in southwest Oregon. (more about that in our summer newsletter).

To say the least, it is very gratifying for me to see a number of men and their organizations with a similar vision and strategy for rural missions as I do with RCYM. I am very confident that the Lord will lead them even beyond what we were able to do. My role will change from being a rural mission's leader to mentoring others like Dan, Gretchen, Brad and Daniel to eventually take the lead. I am committed to their success.

A word about the
"The Ministry Tool Box" Book.



I have had some major challenges getting this for publication but first I would like to say: **THANK YOU!!!** To Debbie Davis for completing the editing of volume 1. It was a way bigger project than I had imagined, and she persevered through all the Bible verses, checking each one, pretty amazing. Originally, I thought that since I was giving the book away I would not have any copyright issues but that is not the case. Consequently, I am going through the book making sure that I am in compliance (this is a very slow process). In addition to the copyright issue is the size of the book. I'm going through each chapter trying to reduce the number of pages for the printing but will keep all the materials digital which will be on the RCYM web site (hopefully this will happen sometime this summer.

My brother Lanny went home to be with the Lord this past Jan. 25th. He longed for heaven, he loved Jesus, he memorized many scriptures, he loved people but had few friends because of his birth defects (hearing and speech impediments). He was buried in Port Orchard, WA next to his mother and sister. Lanny was so much looking forward to receiving his new body. He could hardly wait to have lots of friends, talking and hearing normally and seeing his mother and sister who were strong believers. I will miss him: he was a great brother and friend, but I celebrate his total healing and knowing that he is so happy to be with Jesus. His struggles are over, no more crying or pain, no more misunderstandings, no more frustrations, disappointments and longing.



I thank the Lord, knowing that it was my responsibility to share the gospel with him because I was the only one who could communicate with him in order to explain the gospel to him well enough for him to understand it. So the following March after my conversion the previous July he committed his life to the Lord on March 6th shortly before 9pm (I remember it so clearly) he was so eager to receive Jesus as his Lord and Savior. He was so happy to know he was forgiven and going to heaven from the get-go. I am so looking forward to seeing him in his new body free from all the limitations he had experienced here on earth.

The other day Allan Pierce gave me these verses from Psalms 71. They have given me great hope and confidence.

Psalm 71:17-19

¹⁷ O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare Your wondrous deeds.

¹⁸ And even when *I am* old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Your strength to *this* generation, Your power to all who are to come. ¹⁹ For Your righteousness, O God, *reaches* to the heavens, You who have done great things; O God, who is like You?

Please Pray for:

- Our health, safety and spiritual vitality
- The planning and success for evangelism with this summer's rural mission teams
- Mentoring Relationships, that the Lord would lead me through each one
- Dan & Gretchen Jester, Brad Butcher, Daniel Nally Rob Trenckmann and Rob Hildebrand as we partner together for Rural Mission opportunities this summer and beyond
- The completion of the "Ministry Tool Box" book volume 1 and it's distribution and progress of the Tool Box books vol. 2 & 3.
- The new developments brewing with younger ministry leaders.
- The ministry service team preparing to head to France this July.
- The fulfillment of Psalms 71:17-19 in my life.

We hope you have a blessed Easter and thank you for sharing with us as we continue to serve in the ministry of Rural Church Youth Ministries.

Your Ministry Partners,

Tom & Judy