

From the Lead Pastor's Desk for April 14

New This Week

Mission Report April 14

There will be a mission report on Maasai School 121 from the Keipers during the service. An offering to bless this ministry will also be collected. Checks can be written to VCF and designated to Maasai School 121. It will be collected separate from the general fund offering.

Soup and Bread Good Friday Service April 19 @ 6:00pm

Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread as we commemorate the last supper with communion and the supreme sacrifice of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on the Cross. We will start with a simple community meal together, followed by a reflection by Pastor Jim and finish with a time of communion.

Men's Breakfast May 4, at VCF at 8:00am

Make sure to block out Saturday Morning from 8:00-9:15 am for our next Men's breakfast. Come enjoy real "man food", hang out with other great guys, and hear a faith story of how Jesus has made a difference in their lives. Cost is only \$5.00 and Fathers are welcome to bring their sons. If money is tight, let us know and be our guest.

Opportunities to Serve

Please take a look at the list of areas you can volunteer on the back of the tear off in this week's bulletin. If you see an area that interests you or you would like more information please contact the office @ 354-8055 or Nancy Dupre on her cell @319-9326.



A week of driving almost 40 hours with kids in the car was a memory jogger for me. I forgot how important it is to have planned activities for kids to participate in to keep fighting, arguing, and interruptions at bay. There is just so long the Alphabet Game, or I Spy (with my two little eyes) will last. I also naïvely thought that they would sleep or rest quietly (no way!).

But the topic most often repeated (over & over again) was "Are We there yet?" I must have easily replied to this question over 100 times. But a 4-year-old doesn't really have much of a concept that Great Falls, Montana is still 680 miles away, and then we still have over 300 miles to the ranch. Come on, grandpa, can you get there soon? I'm tired! I'm bored! I'm hungry!

I guess I was reminded that we are all on a road trip called life. Often, we don't have much of a perspective of how long, how far, or what experiences we will have along the way. Our impatience with God is often demonstrated with a four-year-old spiritual mentality which cries out: "Are we there, yet? Are we there, yet?"

When we say to God, "Are we there yet? Are we there yet? He still answers us, like he did on Palm Sunday, Hey! Look around! The sun is still rising, the lame are still being healed; the lost are still being saved. Enjoy the journey! When the car stops moving, we will be at our destination.

We forget, as Christians we have power, don't we? As the old gospel song goes, "Power, Power, Wonder working Power!" We have the assurance that we can do our best at whatever it takes that God calls us to do and keep doing our best until He says, "We are there!" We've reached our destination! In the meanwhile, we just trust Him, and God unfolds his reasons and experiences along the way in His time – If we are meant to know them.

Often on our trip, I noticed if the kids focused on the time it was taking, the trip seemed to go slow. But when we focused on the scenery, or the animals, or other sights along the way, our trip seemed to go faster.

I can get through the bumps and potholes on the road to renewal in my spiritual walk with God if I just let go of the stopwatch. When I focus on why is God so slow, or things aren't going the way I planned, I get stuck on the side of the road spiritually with a flat tire.

But if I can ride out the storms, the snow, the wind and trust the timing of God, I can recover from any unexpected event or challenge. God is the master of timing and if God directs our steps and we obey His Word, He will direct the finish and destination.

The Bible tells us that God is the author and the finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:2) God loves to finish what He starts; He doesn't leave loose ends. He doesn't leave us stranded on the side of the road.

We may feel the tyranny of time and wonder what is taking so long, but in the end, God always finishes the work He starts within us, all in His time. Philippians 1:6 is so encouraging when it does seem like we are making progress. *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*

VOLUNTEERS

We are very grateful for our many volunteers that serve faithfully week after week as well as those who step forward to meet periodic needs that come up in our church family. If you would like to volunteer in any area please contact Nancy D or complete the tear off page in Sunday's bulletin and place it in the offering bag.

www.vcflynden.com

Ministries for Serving Your VCF Family

Worship-singing, playing an instrument, operating the soundboard

Children's Ministry, being part of a teaching team or assisting a teacher

Men's Ministry-share your faith story, help cook a breakfast, facilitate a Bible study

Women's Ministry- be part of the planning team, facilitate a Bible study, Partner with another woman in our Heart to Heart Partnering, share your faith story

Youth-be available to provide transportation for meetings and activities, be a mentor or prayer partner, host a youth event, provide snacks

Fellowship-be on a rotational list to prepare snacks for fellowship on Sunday

Greeting-greet and take the offering on a rotational basis for Sunday service

Hospitality-reach out to guests to help them get connected to our VCF family

REACH-be part of a intergenerational team that plans events for our VCF family

A complete calendar of events is located at www.vcflynden.com but here are this week's highlights!

Saturday

Leadership Convocation

Sunday

Palm Sunday!

Family for Prayer- Marriages and Families

Mission report from the Keipers, an offering will be collected

Monday

Design for Discipleship 6:30@ministry center

Tuesday

Women's Bible study and Prayer at Ruth's 9:30-11:30

Wednesday

Day2Pray-County-wide day of prayer.

Men's Bible study on Luke with Garrett Wise at Lynden Starbucks

Community Group Study on Acts at Hilda's

Hebrew Roots 7 pm @Laurel Baptist Church

Thursday

Prayer 1-5pm in Ruth's home

Pray about anything on your heart! If you are willing to be a part of passionate prayer for prodigals, please e-mail Ruth at rrleon50@msn.com.

Men's Group Bible Study on @ 7 pm in Bellingham



Praying for Marriages and Families

Prayer Requests, updates
and praises can be sent to
prayer@vcflynden.com