

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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Do you know what you are passionate about? What drives you?

Have you ever sat down and made a list of everything you can think of, that gets you really fired up? Hopes and dreams that keep you up at night...?

Where is that list of things you are passionate about? Is it on your bulletin board? Perhaps a sticky on your desktop? Maybe it is on your vision board.

Did you forget where you put it? Ok, ok. This is a “no judgement zone”. If you have never created such a list, it is totally fine. *You won't be forced to sit inside during recess!*

Are we passionate about prayer? Do we pray big prayers? If we stop and analyze our prayers, most of the time they center around our needs. What if we flipped that paradigm and put God and His will, at the center of our prayers?

He knows our needs before we even ask for help. He knows our weaknesses. He looks down on us with pity at our lack of faith.

In Romans 8:32, Paul says that *He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?* We pray and tell God; May Your will be done. Do we really know His will? Is there something wrong in our approach to prayer and how does this relate to being passionate?

James 5:16 has the key! He states that *the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.* Let's paraphrase that verse. *The clearly defined and passionate prayer of a good man is powerful.*

We serve a God that is so incredible. We have NO clue of the amazing things that He wants to do in our lives. Our imagination is so minuscule when it comes to His unlimited power and never-ending love. He is the God of the impossible! We limit His ability to work in our lives, plain and simple.

Here is the deal...I am presenting you with a 30-day challenge.

Are you in?

Let's incorporate some power techniques into our prayer life. Let's come boldly to God's throne of Grace. Let's pray fervently, putting God at the center of our prayers.

Here is the challenge. Let's pray the prayer of Isaiah 6:5,8 every day for 30 days. First, Isaiah confesses his sins. Then he says to God; *Here I am! Send me.* Do this for 30 days and see how God works in your life. Just be prepared for some radical changes. He will bring you way out of your comfort zone! But that is what is exciting! That will really fire you up!

The word passionate will take on a whole new meaning in your life.

May you be blessed in your daily walk with Jesus.
(Credits to the NKJV)

~ *Martin*

Ministry Highlight...Health Ministries

Health Ministries is looking to reignite how we view health in the Treasure Valley. We are very blessed to have a resident expert in our congregation. Dr. Janette Cooke, MS, MACP, RDN, LD, with a PhD in Health Psychology, leads this dynamic ministry. Health Ministries is an important part of evangelism. It should be on everyone's radar.

The focus of Health Ministries at Cloverdale is far more extensive than counting calories. Good health involves a biopsychosocial component that requires a spiritual connection to our Heavenly Father. The biopsychosocial element also includes our families, our community, and we as individuals. In Health Ministries, we are deeply committed to life balance. This must embrace our physical, mental, social well-being...along with the spiritual aspect of life to support health, happiness, and healing.

We move in a positive direction, by taking small steps forward. Since each of us is at a different place in our life journey, we need to recognize there is no one-size-fits-all approach to health.

There are some exciting things happening on the horizon. We have scheduled cooking classes, exercise groups, a walking challenge, and a health fair. We hope to integrate classes that deal with depression. Our goal is to help increase resiliency in our community as we all live to be our best for God, our families, and our community.

We plan to hit the ground running in August with an online cooking demonstration class, as well as a walking challenge.

September brings a health fair, that includes fitness/exercise groups.

In September or October, we intend to begin classes that deal with depression.

2023 will be a fantastic year! Our plan is to conduct a health fair in the spring. In-person cooking classes are also in the works, along with plans to foster robust growth within mental health groups.

Cloverdale, stay tuned! For more information about one of the upcoming classes...or to become a part of Health Ministries at Cloverdale, contact us right now.

You can either email the church office >> csda@cloverdale.org or, email Jannette directly >> janette.cooke.rdn@gmail.com.



Looks Yummy!



BVAS Update...

It is that time of the year. August is just around the corner! That means school begins very soon. Get in on early registration. School begins August 17th!

This summer is going by too fast!! Boise Valley Adventist School continues to grow and we are so excited about that. Next years enrollment is expected to be pushing 90 students! Praise God!

For more information about important registration dates at BVAS, be sure to email them >> bvas@bvas.org

Pastor's Corner...

There was an important job to be done, and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

Recently, I read the above story. It gave me pause to stop and think...how often does this happen in life? What about at church? I remember speaking at a church, where I was asked to join the pastoral staff. My wife and I flew in to visit the area and meet with the church members. I was scheduled to preach that Sabbath morning. On Sabbath morning, we drove to the church. I met many members of this large church. After the service, numerous individuals greeted me, expressing their joy at having me join their pastoral team. Eventually everyone left. My wife and I were left...with no plans for lunch. I believe that everyone assumed that someone would surely invite us for lunch. Anybody could have invited us...it was just the two of us, but nobody did. We went back to the hotel room. I had some granola bars from the trip, which we ate as we prayerfully considered if God was calling us to join that church.

I mention this experience because it made me hyper-aware of this type of problem...*assuming someone will do what everybody should and could do*. I see only one solution to this problem. It is making sure that I am doing what I can to help. If only a few individuals get involved, over time they burnout. When we all come together, we lighten the load for everyone. We bless those around us by being involved.

While I was away at Camp Ida-Haven as camp pastor, I heard that one of our church members needed help with moving. I was thrilled to hear that the church family came together and helped these friends of ours. The request came unexpectedly in the middle of the week. It was not easy. It was awkward, but there was a real need. It was an emergency. Our church family came together and helped. Many individuals came to help, so it was not a big burden for any one person. And...It was done in record time!

Pastor's Corner cont...

We have just completed VBS. This was a massive undertaking. It was an amazing success...due to our incredible team of volunteers. Over 100 children were blessed to learn about Jesus, because YOU have chosen to support this ministry. It was not easy. VBS is a very demanding endeavor, but it is so worth it! We are on this earth to serve and reveal Jesus to others...to make disciples.

If you are not involved with any type of ministry that serves a felt need, you are missing out on what the gospel is all about. We are here for the mission...to make disciples, to alleviate the suffering of those around us, and to live as Jesus lived.

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:13 (NLT)

Be blessed



~ Pastor Marlon