

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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Have you ever considered that you need faith to get out of the boat?

You need faith that the dock will not sink. You need faith that your legs will hold you up. You need faith that the mooring ropes will stay connected to the dock. I could keep going...

I used to barefoot ski (many years ago). That took faith along with a bunch of spectacular tumbles across the water (might have made for some entertaining Youtube videos).

I think we all can agree that Peter had to muster up a monster amount of faith to get out of the boat. How cool is that...walking on water! The best part being that he got to do this with Jesus! What an inspiring experience. You can read all about it in Matthew 14:22-33.

Perhaps he was able to do a victory lap around the boat to showcase his water-walking skills to the other eleven. I don't know. What I do know is that when he failed, Jesus was there to lift him up. Jesus did not just save him from drowning. Jesus was there to lift him up! Peter experienced the redeeming power of Jesus through this powerful experience.

I love the way John Ortberg depicts the story in his best-seller, *If You Want To Walk On Water You've Got to Get Out Of The Boat*.

John writes that *it is unforgettable not so much because of where he (Peter) was walking as what he was walking on and who he was walking with. I think that when Peter went treading the waves he was experiencing walking at its finest.* He further states that we should *let Peter's walk stand as an invitation to everyone who, like him, wants to step out in faith, who want to experience something more of the power and presence of God.*

(I highly recommend that you read the book!)

Are you ready for me to cut to the chase?

The weekend of September 16 & 17 is all about discovering your spiritual gifts. Some of you already know your gift and are perfecting your water-walking skills. Perhaps you are one who is not sure what or where your gifts lie. It is a very simple *two-step process*.

Step One. Pray this fervent simple prayer each day. The prayer of Isaiah. *Here I am. Send me!* Isaiah 6:8 (NCV)

Step Two. Attend the *Discover Your Spiritual Gifts* seminar over the weekend of September 16 & 17 at Cloverdale.

We have an upcoming area-wide evangelistic series by *It Is Written* in early 2023. Now is the time to be a part of a new outreach at Cloverdale. We need to be reaching our friends and neighbors in Idaho. We need your help. Jesus is coming very soon!

If you want to walk on water, you've got to get out of the boat!

I am going to leave you with a question that only you can answer...

Are you ready to get out of the boat?

Credits to: John Ortberg
Emphasis mine

~ **Martin**

Ministry Highlight...

Boise Valley Adventist School

Boise Valley Adventist School ended last school year with 82 students. We are beginning this year with 97! This is totally awesome. Praise the Lord!

Here is a list of just a few of the reasons why Boise Valley Adventist School is experiencing this kind of growth...

- We are experiencing incredible student retention!**
- Word of mouth positive reports from existing parents is spreading around the community.**
- Excellent marketing with numerous emails and phone calls going out to prospective students, as well as their parents (keeping them informed and updated on the latest school news, hiring, events, etc.).**
- We are seeing more and more that non-SDA parents want something better than public school.**
- Our students in grades 5-6 started producing a newspaper.**

With EANS Funds (Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools – Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations), we were able to purchase:

- 10 Classroom Sets of LEGOS for grades 3-8.**
- 8 Classroom Sets of LEGOS for grades Pre-K through 2.**
- 5 Robotics Kits.**
- 2 new drinking fountains with water-filling stations.**
- 48 new iPads (allowing each classroom to have enough for their students with grades 5-8 sharing 24 of the iPads).**

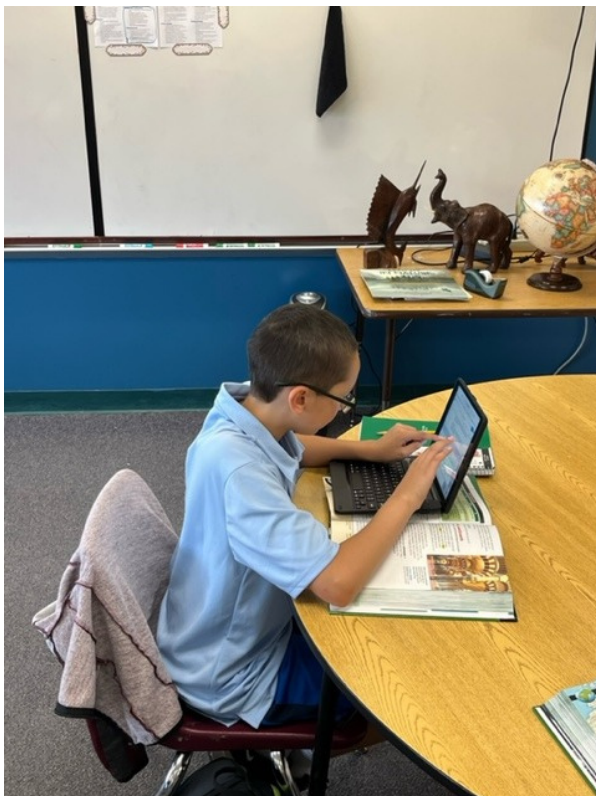
We have a new Grades 3-4 Teacher...Sabrina Seigal. Sabrina is a 2022 graduate of Walla Walla University, who came highly recommend by the University Education Department. The Idaho Conference Superintendent assigned her an experienced 40-year teacher in grade 4, to work as her mentor.

We have been able to relax some of our protocols for COVID. Masks are now optional for each student. If a child is sick without a fever, their healthy siblings can come to school.

We are blessed to have a great staff that works well together, is flexible, and loves kids. Check out some of our awesome photos, below!

Information provided by:

Dr. Kenneth C. Utt, Ed.D, *Principal of Boise Valley Adventist School*



*All Photos Provided by Permission
Boise Valley Adventist School*

Pastor's Corner...

An honest prayer...

As we experience triple digit heat along with smoke, from forest fires, throughout the Treasure Valley...I recall an experience I had while working on my Master of Divinity at Andrews University. It was an unusually late fall. I was walking from the Maplewood Apartments to the seminary building. My wife had taken the car to run some errands. Since we lived on campus, I was able to walk to class. The morning was a cold, rainy day...probably around 37F. Freezing rain was falling from the sky. The wind gusts made my umbrella essentially useless...more of a hazard than a help.

I stepped into the building and proceeded to stuff my wet jacket into my locker. I removed my boots and put on more comfortable walking shoes, that I kept in my locker. My pants were soaking wet...since there was nothing I could do about my wet pants; I begrudgingly made my way to class.

As class began, the professor asked for a volunteer to pray. One of my classmates began to pray. It went something like this...

“Gracious Lord, we thank you for this beautiful day...” At that point, I opened my eyes and stared at him. Really...was he serious!? From my perspective, this was a terrible day. Perhaps my classmate loved cold, wet, slushy mornings. Maybe he was on autopilot, just praying his usual prayer...regardless of how it matched with reality.

Are we guilty of doing that? Do we get caught up in the moment and repeat prayers without giving much thought as to what we are saying? Do we just go through the motions?

The Book of Psalms is a collection of songs and prayers filled with all kinds of emotion. Numerous traditional hymns as well as contemporary praise songs, quote extensively from the Book of Psalms. But I have never heard anyone sing Psalm 109. Psalm 109 was written by David. It is an example of an imprecatory or cursing Psalm...where David is calling upon God to curse his evil and cruel enemies.

It is a difficult Psalm to read unless you have experienced the pain of being backstabbed and falsely accused. I mention this psalm because I believe it is an example of honest prayer. David was sharing with God exactly what he was feeling. By being honest with God and sharing what was on his heart, David was eventually able to praise the Lord with genuine praise.

My takeaway is this...

It is more valuable to share with God what is in our hearts, even if we are feeling angry, resentful, or ugly...than to pray beautiful flowery prayers that are not sincere. I encourage you to spend more time in prayer. Talk to God as you would a friend. Share with Him what is in your heart. You can be real, authentic, raw, angry, or confused. God can handle it and provide you with healing. The key is to come to God and authentically share with Him. Don't rush it. Just spend those thoughtful minutes talking with Him. Immerse yourself in the experience of being in His presence as you pour out your heart. He can handle your emotions. He will hear your prayers and answer them according to His will.

Sincere prayers will deepen your connection with God and strengthen your spiritual health.

Give it a try for a week and let me know how it impacts your spiritual journey.

Have a blessed week!!



~ *Pastor Marlon*