

# Sunrise Christian Church

## April 2018 Family Newsletter

Called as a church to Love God,  
to Learn to be like Jesus, and to  
Lead others to the saving cross  
of Christ.

### *The power of the word of God*



“For as the rain and the snow come  
down from heaven,  
And do not return there without  
watering the earth  
And making it bear and sprout,  
And furnishing seed to the sower and  
bread to the eater;  
So will My word be which goes forth  
from My mouth;  
It will not return to Me empty,  
Without accomplishing what I  
desire” - **Isaiah 55:10-11**



### *Love and Forgiveness*

In Paul Stutzman’s book about his wife’s death and his recovery from grief, he writes this about the power of words: I make no claims to being the Husband of the Year. I was never even in the running. My school report card sometimes came home with the teacher’s note, ‘Does not live up to full potential,’ and that was probably a fair assessment of my husband skills too. Yes, my grief includes regrets, and some of those regrets might have distressed me for a lifetime if I had not listened to a voice inside me.

My conversation with the hiker haunted by his last (angry) words to his father put me back in Mary’s hospital room. She had been admitted to the hospital in an extremely weakened state, and I had spent the evening with her. Leaving, I went dashing through the rain to the parking garage. Before I reached my car, a voice inside of me spoke up firm and clear, “*Paul, go back up to her room and say it.*”

I knew exactly what I needed to do. Back through the rain and up to her room I went, and quietly called her name.

“Paul, what are doing back here?” Her weak voice was almost a whisper.

I took both frail hands in mine and, with tears spilling, asked my wife’s forgiveness for all the times she needed my help, all the times she needed me, but I wasn’t available. My one goal in life was to be wealthy. And in my pursuit of that goal, I had too often ignored what my wife needed from me.

“*Forgive me for all the times I was such a thoughtless husband,*” I said.

Her words to me came like a balm for my pain: “*Yes, I will forgive you. And I also need forgiveness for not always being the wife I could have been. You’ll forgive me?*”

Any burdens we carried were gone. I left for home, and the last words I heard that night were, “*Good night, dear. I love you.*”

Forgiveness and love: words that can soothe and heal a troubled soul. You, my reader, might also have some powerful words that need to be spoken. Don’t put it off; you may have less time than you realize. Take it from someone with experience: words do have meaning.

God calls us to: “*Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you*” - Colossians 3:13.

With that in mind, is there someone you need to talk to?



## 2018- Our Year of Service

As Christians, we are called to service- to serve one another, as well as in the world around us.

The apostle Paul says that our faith is built up through service, thus becoming united as believers (Eph. 4:12-13).

So, here are some areas where you can choose to serve:

- \*Ontario's Community Serve Day- April 28
- \*Cove Christian camp- on the grounds or as a part of a youth camp.
- \*Donations of items for Boise Bible College's scholarship fundraisers (mid-May).
- \*Through SCC's ongoing ministry to the community- our monthly food collection for an area food bank, our worship service at Wellsprings, our booth at the Global Village (June), and at our booth at the Malheur Country Fair (last day of July and first week of August).

Finally, God's word encourages us with this thought: "**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord**"- Colossian 3:23.



### *Have you heard the good news?*

I'm not sure how the tradition started but it's common for couples to exchange rings during their wedding ceremony. These rings symbolize their love and commitment to one another.

Yet, many people have heard that half of all marriages end up in divorce; thus many people think "Why even try?" Therefore many don't even attempt marriage, thinking it's doomed from the start.

**But have you heard the good news?** In her recent book, *The Good News About Marriage*, Shaunti Feldhahn reports that divorce rates are not near 50% - and never have been!

So much for that urban legend!

In fact, most married people are happy with their marriages and would marry the same person again, call their spouse their "best friend."

So, do you have a family member in a serious relationship? Then encourage them to seriously consider marriage since researchers have found these blessings follow from that commitment: Better health, a longer life, more money, more satisfying personal relationships, a better environment in which to raise a family, and the loss of fear of being alone.

God sums it up when He said that those who find a wife find a good thing, and will be blessed!

And how true that is!

## ✓ Events:

- \* Ontario's Community Sunrise Service- 7:30am at TVCC's gym parking lot.
- \*SCC's Resurrection Day brunch- 8:30am at the church.
- \*Faithful Men men's breakfast- Saturday, April 7 at 7:30am, at Rusty's
- \* Cove Christian Camp's Men's retreat- April 20-21
- \* Gideon's here- Sunday, April 22
- \* Ontario's Serve Day- Saturday, April 28

### **You just never know...**



A good ol' country boy decided to skip church one Sunday in order to spend the day hiking in the hills. Rounding a sharp bend in the trail, he collided head on with a bear going the other way, thus was sent tumbling down a very steep slope. He landed on a large rock, breaking both legs.

With the snarling bear charging down the hill towards him, he quickly prayed, "O Lord, I'm sorry for skipping services today. Please forgive me and grant me just one wish- make a Christian out of this bear."

Imagine his surprise when at that very moment the bear skidded to a stop, fell to his knees, clasped his paws together, and in a loud voice began to pray: "Dear God, please bless this food that I am about to receive."