

The Way of Truth – The Answer is in the Action

by Allan Love

What is truth? This is an age old question that has accrued varied and multiple answers over the centuries. As followers of Christ we clearly believe that “truth” is what sets people free from bondage and sin – and that Jesus is the truth. I have recently revisited this question, mainly in part due to reading John’s words in 1 John 3:18 – “*Dear children, let us love not in word or tongue, but in deed and in truth.*” I did not really notice this in previous readings, but in a fresh reading of this verse I notice that a contrast is being made between “word or tongue” and “truth”. What is being communicated in this contrast – particularly as it relates to understanding what truth is? I believe what John is affirming is that “truth” is the embodiment of love, or love in action. To put it another way, the full essence of truth cannot be expressed, experienced, enjoyed through words alone. Permit me an illustration. Suppose a man comes to you in a state of extreme hunger requiring food immediately in order to remain alive. Recognizing his dire condition you say to him, “Food will set you free.” Is this statement true? Do not rush to an answer – think this through thoughtfully. At the risk of being labeled an ardent post-modern, or even getting burned at the stake for heresy, grace me for a moment with an out-of-the-box answer and an explanation for such an answer. In the biblical sense of truth, I believe the statement in of itself is not true. Food will not set the starving man free from his hunger – what will, is his *eating* (and the corresponding swallowing, digestion, etc.) of the food. An *action* is required on the part of the man in order for truth to be experienced, realized and appropriated.

This distinction is an important one - it is not just a play on or with semantics. The Greek word translated, “truth” is *aletheia* which means, “a state of not being hidden, evident, an uncovering/unveiling, and an appearing.” What is critical here is that truth

is made evident, unveiled not through our words, *but through our actions and deeds*. If someone wants to experience or express truth, action is needed. You heard it said that, “*the medium is the message*” – well, actions are the medium of truth. So often as believers we are convinced that simply communicating via propositions and statements is sufficient to reveal truth – it’s not. It’s sufficient to communicate facts, but facts do not set people free. To be people of truth requires us to embody the life and message of Jesus, to showcase the grace and truth of God through our actions. The Apostle Paul reinforces this in by calling the church the, “*pillar and foundation of truth*” (1 Tim. 3:15). What Paul is saying is that as, “pillar and foundation”, the church is to literally “*support, prop up*” the truth by “*showcasing*” the truth through its behaviors and actions to a viewing world.

So, if you are ever asked the question, “What is truth?”, be prepared to answer not in word or tongue, but in action and deed – for in doing so you may just help someone be freed from the anguish of the deepest hunger pains one can ever experience – a life without Christ.

(Why not take the opportunity this summer with your life group to “showcase” the truth and love of God in practical ways. For a list of great service ideas to bless people check out: www.smallgroupexchange.com and www.servantevangelism.com/matrix/matrix).



Life group prayer and praise

- Pray for **Margaret Hastings** she needs an apartment.
- Praise God, I got a ride to and back from Ross Point! Also my heart is healthy, my pain was from my high blood pressure. ~ **Linda Royer**
- **Cam and I** would ask for continued prayers for **Sandy Abood** (my mom) as she is suffering from post operation complications. Also, for our neighbor **Jackie** as the doctors just discovered a mass on her lungs. ~ **Jenn Decker**
- Please pray for the **Stanyo family** as they deal with the trustees of her **Aunt Donna's** estate, they are holding up the burial.
- Continue praying for the **Stewart family**.
- Please pray for **the Erickson family** at the passing of **Jim**.
- Darlene Udman asks that we pray for her family during this very trying time.
- **Heidi McLeod** needs prayer for health.
- **Linda Royer** needs prayer for healing.
- Please pray for my husband **Larry**, he has been having blackouts and the doctors don't know why—pray for healing and wisdom. ~ **Kerri Bauer**
- Please pray for the **McDonald** family, we are in crisis right now with one of us is in a lot of pain and frustration. ~ **Kate**
- **Darlene Hegeberg** asks that we pray for her **sister, Mary**, she has a rare blood disease and needs to be well enough to go to the Mayo Clinic on June 22nd, she has a muscle abscess that needs healing.
- **Robin, friend of Darcy**, has had her Crohn's Disease return. The meds are working and no more surgery is necessary at this time, but still needs prayer for pain and healing. ~**Darcy Stanyo**
- **Alison Nealy** asks prayer for her cousin **Lisa** who has an abscessed hole in her colon. The doctors don't know what has caused the hole but cannot perform the surgery right now because the infection is so severe. Please pray that the infection clears up and the surgeons can find out what the problem is.
- Our students will be taking a mission trip to Mexico this summer from July 10-20. We will be working with **Pastor Gama** at a Children's camp in Merida. Mexico. .
- Pray for a friend of mines **dad, Steve**, was diagnosed with 2 brain tumors. ~**Carol Jodock**

Last weeks, Pastor Brian with other local Everett pastors, officially welcomed the new rabbi of Temple Beth Or, **Rabbi Jessica Kessler Marshall** at a reception held in her honor.

Rabbi Jessica Kessler Marshall is delighted to be joining Temple Beth Or. She comes to Everett from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill where she served as the Hillel rabbi. She has additionally served synagogues in Ohio and Long Island, New York, cared for patients' pastoral needs at the Jewish Home and Hospital in the Bronx, and worked at The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs in Chicago and United Jewish Communities in Washington D.C.



Pray for our military

- *Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.*
- *Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed at Fort Lewis.*
- *Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge—Serving in Iraq.*
- *Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne—Stationed at Fort Bragg.*
- *Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.*
- *Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.*
- *Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.*
- *Elijah Austin —Ashley Naylor's husband—a Marine—Stationed at 29 Palms in California.*
- *David Coyle—son of Karen Mark—residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.*
- *Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military*
- *Brett Love—grandson of Wilma— Army National Guard-Serving second tour in Iraq.*
- *Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.*
- *Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.*
- *Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed at Fort Lewis.*
- *ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.*
- *Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.*
- *Doug Baer—a teacher at Kamiak HS heading to Iraq in the Army Reserves—thru Sept. 09.*
- *Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—Nat. Grd. Afghanistan*
- *Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson*

LIFE GROUP HAPPENINGS

All in the Family

by Florence Miller

Mary Elaine Burgess' brother, **Jim Erickson**, passed away on this past early Monday morning. His illness has been a long, painful journey for Jim and his family and we are grateful for his release. The family now needs our continued prayerful support as they deal with his absence. The memorial service will be here at FBC at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 27th.

Lyle Pickard's family keeps Lois and him updated on their **son-in-law Alan's** condition and progress. Lyle thoughtfully passes this information on to the rest of us who are concerned. On Saturday, June 20th it was reported that Alan was again transferred back to Evergreen Hospital because his food tube was plugged. Just two days before he had made that same trip because of a spike in his blood pressure. However, overall, he is holding his own or slowly improving. It is very hard on his wife Marilee and their kids, Mitch and Laurie and all the family needs our continued prayers.

That extra big smile on **Pastor Brian's** face was because, as he writes: "Last Friday night, June 19th **Andrew Franz**

and **Amanda Harpell** became engaged. They are planning a wedding in the near future when Amanda's brother Scott will be home on leave from the Army." Our Congratulations to all!

Karen Erickson goes back into the hospital on Thursday, June 25th for some reconstructive surgery following earlier cancer surgery. She assures us she may be going home that same day, nevertheless, our prayers should be for a quick healing.

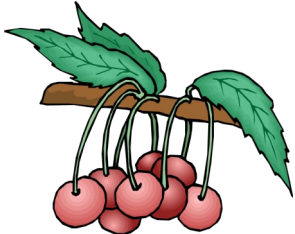
Laura Oversvee is an adventuresome soul and will be starting out next Monday on a lone drive to Winchester, Virginia to visit her son Craig and then on to Greensborough, N.C. for a sorority convention and finally to Charleston, S. Carolina to connect with a good friend. After which each will follow one another in their cars as they head back to Washington State. Laura plans to be back around the 21st of July. We pray for a safe journey! In August she will again drive back to Winchester, Virginia planning to be gone 10 days, to greet a new grandchild.



We need canopies for Fun In the Sun

July 4th
12:30 -3:00

Cherries are coming—call **Ron Newman**. He will be going after them on July 9th. Bings will be \$3.50 and Raniers will be \$5.00 per pound



Women Of Faith

Attention ladies [and thoughtful husbands- this could be a great gift]: We have only 4 tickets remaining for the Women of Faith "Grand New Day" Conference in

Seattle at Key Arena July 24 and 25, 2009. Price is \$85.00 and includes lunch on Saturday. Contact Ruelyn Nelson. if you have any questions or want to reserve your tickets.



S.A.M. PICNIC
JULY 20TH
NOON

LIFE GROUP CONTRIBUTING OPPORTUNITIES



One Great Hour Of Sharing. We care for God's treasure by sharing of our earthly treasure—our money, our time, our energy—aid sent when disaster strikes. Refugees receive help in the long term as they rebuild their lives.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 21st, Howard Eckstrom
June 23rd, Pam Elkins
June 24th, Carolee Davis
June 25th, Bryan Blair
June 27th, Laura Oversvee
June 28th, Bill Deller, Nathan Hall
Marc Owenby
June 29th, Brett Sontra
June 30th, Mary Ann Karber

Congregational Meeting June 28th, 9:00 am in the Worship Center

Also, if you have an old FunInTheSun T-shirt and would like to donate it, we could use it, bring it in to the church office anytime!

Update June 21, 2009

Adult attendance: 278 Children: 9 am || 22/9 10:30 am || 42/19
Youth Small Group: Middle School || 16/5
High School || 5/2

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

July—Pete Sontra
Luckey Elkins

COFFEE HOUR 2009

June 28
John Van Dalen
The Followers
July 5
Tom Warren
SAM
July 12
David Brock
Men's Life Group
July 19
Mel Tessness
Church Elders
July 26
Jeanne Iversen
Outreach

July 4th Fun in the Sun: We need 10 more people to walk the parade route and pass out cards to advertise our festival. Again this year FBC will offer a street fair following the Everett July 4th downtown parade at 12:30 until 3:00 pm. This year's July 4th falls on a Saturday and so we want you to be sure you put it on your calendar. A couple of thousand people show up each year from our community and we get the opportunity to *show them* the love of Christ. Would your Life Groups be willing adopt one of the stations or venues? These include:

- Espresso
- Face painting
- Float in the parade
- Children's inflatable #1, #2, #3
- Miniature golf
- Set-up crew
- Clean-up crew
- Welcome & Registration Desk
- Cotton Candy machine
- Popcorn Machine
- Street Hockey
- Clown Ministry



Our student ministry has already adopted hotdog sales and root beer floats, and our worship ministry has adopted the stage and band. For more information and to volunteer contact bharpell@fbc-everett.net.