

Bearing Burdens and Caring in Times of Crisis

by Matt Graybill

9/11, loss of job, marriage struggle, habitual sin, natural disaster, and a boy that lost his stuffed lion named "roar".

What do these all have in common? Crisis. Some of these crises seem larger than others, but that is dependent on the view of the individual who is experiencing the crisis. The little boy who lost his stuffed animal during the night thought his crisis was a major thing happening in the world at that particular time.

If we're honest, crises are happening all around us: in our relationships, our jobs, our families, through war, and poverty. They exist in cities, in the countryside, and in young and old people. A crisis can be a blind evil that has no bounds and it often happens out of the blue. We might receive a negative report back from the doctor of a condition that we have, and suddenly we're in the middle of crisis. A crisis can be an uncertain, difficult, painful time, where some type of action needs to be taken or the situation could get worse.

Think about the responses to some of the major crises in our country. Many people came together to help those who were hurting. Up until now, how has your group responded to a crisis? Are they open about it or do they camp out on it and never work through it? Do they say everything is "just fine" when it's not?

A crisis is often looked at negatively and we really don't like sharing it or we don't want a weakness exposed, but there is strength in going through a crisis when you're in community. As a community you do life together and that means you are not alone. This could mean sitting and praying with the couple who just lost their child, encouraging a husband to confess his addiction to pornography, or bringing a meal to the family that has continual hospital visits.

Bearing one another's burdens also means exposing and dealing with the sin of another—even sin a person may not be aware of. There may be a person in the group who continually bashes other people at work, or the person who denies his excessive drinking

habit. This isn't a new thing for communities to bear one another's burdens. In fact the apostle Paul encourages the church of Galatia to share one another's burdens. He also challenges them to gently and humbly help the person overcome by sin:

"Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are spiritual should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other's burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ. If you think you are too important to help someone, you are only fooling yourself. You are not that important. Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct." (Galatians 6:1-5)

Paul uses the words gently, humbly, help, be careful, share each others burdens, and pay careful attention. These are words of love, not of a love of necessarily giving, but a love of sharing—to take on the burden as Jesus says he does with us. In order to share each others burdens we need to first realize that there is a burden, and we see them by understanding a person's heart.

In order to know a person's heart, we need to create an environment where it's safe for others to share what's happening in their lives. To share the burden we must be a community of people that gently and humbly help people back to the right path of how God says to do life. To share the burden we must be willing to love others as Christ has loved us—giving our lives for others. We often fail to even see the crisis or burden in someone's life because we're fixated on our own issues and problems.

Paul encourages us to share each other's burdens; not to just take on others. The hope in the middle of a crisis as we share in each others burdens, is that we can bring people to Jesus who says, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

From smallgroupexchange.com

Life group prayer and praise

- Prayer for **Mel Tessness's brother Lester** who is in the hospital very ill and needs prayer for healing and quick recovery he is dealing with bleeding ulcers.
- Pray for **Rusty and Soleille and daughter Jada** that they find a relationship with Christ and that Rusty's **mom Shelly** also finds Christ and that they all become saved.
- Pray for **Darcy Stanyo** as she waits for an extension on unemployment could be three weeks before she has an answer. Also continued prayers for her family and that Darcy and Nina will be able to attend the memorial in CA on June 20th.
- Prayer for **Tony and Lois Tysseling**, In the loss of Tony's dad **Tysse** who passed away in Pella, Iowa just shy of his 101st birthday service will be held on June 2nd on his 101st birthday in Iowa.
- **James** needs prayer for troubles that have happened.
- **Brooklyn** is having problems again with her arthritis, please pray for her ~ **David McCormick**
- Pray for a friend of mine's dad, **Steve**, he was diagnosed with 2 brain tumors. ~**Carol Jodock**
- **aunt Terri** had a stroke, please pray for healing as we don't know the extent of the damage. ~ **Sherra Ellis**
- Pray for my friend's father **Jim Bender** who has stage 3 prostate cancer. Prayer that his treatment will be successful and that throughout all this that he will find the Lord. ~**Judy Warren**
- 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. Please continue to keep our team in your prayers.
- Prayer for **Eryn McCormick** suffering from urinary tract infection and needs healing.
- Prayer for **Rachel** and myself that we find a safe place to live and a job for me. ~**Jennifer Schwark**

Dr. Fred Prinzing will be teaching a new 12 week series on Psalm 119—"Discovering and Using God's Treasures" on Wednesdays beginning July 1st from 12:00 to 1:00 pm in the Pacific Room. Everyone is

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*

Life Group Happenings

All in the Family

by Florence Miller

We set a new record with 170 in attendance on Friday night! Every one of our 23 tables were filled to capacity, some guests balanced their plates on their laps and a few chose to leave without a meal. As we do every last Friday of the month we celebrated birthdays for anyone with a birthday during the month. Many of our guests look forward to their birthday month and get excited about our celebration. What a joy to see their faces light up when we give them a "birthday bag" and card, sing Happy Birthday and share Birthday Cake with them!

With the nicer weather, more people are opting to move out of friends and families homes and tough it out on the streets and alleys of our city.

Once again, sleeping bags and tents are a big request - we do limit them to one per person per year - if you

can help out with this need it would be greatly appreciated.

Prayer Requests for the week are as follows:

VH - I would like prayer for me. I don't feel very well. I hate myself for not leaving.

JS - for my daughter Rachel and I that she will do well in college and that I might be blessed with a job so we can get a place to live.

K - for AJ, my friend in jail - that he stays focused and honest and true to his word and focus on God's word that I share with him.

Be Blessed - Chris

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



VBS
BUMERANG EXPRESS
June 22-26th
8:30-12:00



June 13th
Les Schwab
Evergreen Way
CAR WASH

THIS CAR WASH IS BEING SPONSORED BY THE YOUTH GOING ON THE MEXICO MISSION TRIP AND WILL BE HELD FROM 9:00-2:00 PM IN THE PARKING LOT AT THE EVERGREEN WAY, LES SCHAWB STORE.



Ross Point Family Camp
July 26th thru Aug. 1st
Sign up NOW!

SPRING BOOK SALE
June 5th 10:30
June 7th 8:30

Just drop off your donations at the S.A.M. desk. Proceeds go to fund our mission projects.

EVERYONE WELCOME

