

# Recognizing Interruptions as Divine Appointments

by Andy Lie

The man was smoking outside the café, and watched me place my Bible and notes on the table. I returned to the table with my coffee, awaiting the start of our early morning men's group. The man plopped down on the couch across from me.

"You readin' the Bible?" He asked, rubbing his coffee cup.

"Yes, I'm meeting some guys for a Bible study. We meet every Thursday morning at 5:30," I said.

"I might like to join you sometime."

"You're welcome anytime." I handed him a church card with our contact info and made light conversation with him. With his unshaven, disheveled look I could tell he had been up all night. I excused myself as the rest of the men began to filter in for our study and discussion, while he leaned back and closed his eyes.

As our group began, the man who I will call "Philip," listened to our conversation and asked if he could join us. He then started to interject some rambling political talk completely unrelated to our discussion, and veered into a disjointed dissertation about his life. Two more men arrived and set their Bibles down next to us with a quizzical look before going on to purchase their coffee. I prayed quietly for guidance on how to best regain control of the conversation.

## Touching a Stranger's Life

When Philip paused briefly during his diatribe, I seized the opportunity to ask, "How can we pray for you this morning?"

The question caught him off guard. His countenance changed. "Well...I...believe in God... and the Psalms really give me peace..."

I turned to one of the men and said, "I'll start, and you close us out." Another one opened his Bible, racing to the Psalms.

I asked God for peace in Philip's heart. The other men joined in, each taking a turn. Tim read Psalm 121. I added Jeremiah 29:11-13. As the prayer ended with a collective "Amen," we looked at Philip.

His face turned a shade of red; he was holding back tears. "Th-thank you," he said. "Do you think I could have another one of your church cards? I think I've already lost the other one..." His voice trailed off. "I'm going to go home now and sleep."

He paused, adding, "Could you also call my sister? Tell her I'm okay?" He gave us her information. I wrote it down promising I would call later. He thanked us again and shook our hands.

After he departed we discussed what had just happened. All of us had initially evaluated him by his appearance and behavior. He had inconvenienced us; he had interrupted our discussion, our time to sharpen each other. We

would have preferred not to have been interrupted.

While we battled those thoughts, none of us acted that way. We quickly did the best things we could:

- 1) We listened to Philip.
- 2) We prayed for Philip.

He too is a child of God. In those brief moments, Jesus used our group to touch this man's life. In a few minutes of prayer, he had gone from a confused, rambling man to one touched by the love of Christ shown to him by six strangers.

## Living Out the Great Commission

We learned the importance of accepting these "intrusions" as divine appointments, stepping forward in faith. Had our group met in someone's home and not the café, we wouldn't have had that appointment with Philip, nor would we have been able to pray for him, inviting him into God's Story. In that moment, we knew we were called to more than just a group of men holding each other accountable. We were to be ready to *live* the Great Commission.

### So how can your small group be ready for these kinds of "intrusions"?

1) **Meet in a public location.** We can't fulfill the Great Commission if we only meet with other Christians in other Christian homes or in the church building. From this group's inception, we decided to meet in this café, anticipating that our meeting, discussions and prayers would serve as a witness to others. While it might not always be feasible for you to meet publicly each week, consider meeting at least once a month outside the home or church facility.

2) **Pray for interruptions.** We want people to ask us about Jesus. We want people to see that this motley crew of men who are teachers, accountants, tradesmen, grocery clerks, and insurance salesmen are regular guys who happen to be followers of Jesus. We pray that we are regularly interrupted.

3) **Recognize the interruptions as divine appointments.** We need to see as Jesus sees – that those who interrupt us are just as important to Him as we are to Him. When we see as Jesus sees, we will see that those interruptions are His appointments.

4) **Pray for those who interrupt you.** Prayer is an intimate act between you and God, so when you pray for the one who interrupted you, you are inviting Him into a very personal act. That invitation to prayer breaks down walls, because it shows that you care for that person at that moment. And then watch God respond!

We didn't think we were ready for this appointment, but clearly, Jesus thought we were. Be willing to step forward in faith when you're interrupted, and watch God respond in unexpected ways!

From [smallgrouptrader.com](http://smallgrouptrader.com)

CareNectiOn

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH MAY 12TH, 2010

# Life group prayer and praise

- **Cathy Chapman's** mother-in-laws husband, **Mel Marcoux** needs prayer for healing for his heart, he had two stents put in and needs two more at the end of the month.
- Please pray for **Sara Lynn**, my daughter. ~ **Mouse**
- **John and Linda Royer** need prayer for a ride to and from Ross Point Camp.
- **Ron Newman's mom** has an infection in her blood and her kidneys are barely working, please pray for her.
- Please pray for **Sara Mae Zell**, she has a compression fracture.
- Please continue to pray for the pain in my lower back. My

- son, **Nathan** still needs a fulltime job, please pray that his part-time job can turn into that. ~ **Carolyn Kelly**
- **Rose Toscano** asks that you would please pray for her and her family.
- I still am having trouble with infections. Also we still need a ride to camp this summer. ~ **Linda Royer**
- Please remember to pray for our son-in-law **Al Carter** who had a stroke on 3/29/09 and is totally paralyzed. ~ **Lysle and Lois Pickard**
- Please continue to pray for **my dad's** health he is still not doing well. ~ **Sharon Young**

*This note from the Peterson family "Thank you so much for all of your prayers and hugs that were given to us during this past month and especially at the memorial service for our mother. Eleanor Peterson."*

*Ruth, Ruby, Dave, Dan, Jan, Kaye and Jay*

**Adult attendance: 303**

**Children: 9 am: 40 + 13      10:30 am 58 + 19**

**Youth Small Group: 11 + 4      Middle School: 15 + 5**



A Memorial Bench in remembrance of your loved one, is being placed at First Baptist Church. Cost for each name is \$40.00 and is available on a first come, first served basis. We only have 16 places left, so get your order in now so your loved one won't be missed! Please call Debbie Benedetto, 425.337.7100 or Oma Kiniry, 425.353.9315 for more information. Please make your check out to Debbie/Memorial Bench, you can pick up an application in the Office.

## Pray for our Military

- Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.
- Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband— Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.
- Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne— Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- 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.
- 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 at home.
- Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.
- Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—on US soil, heading to El Paso, TX then CA.
- Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of Mary-Ann Peterson.
- Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.
- Aaron Chmielewski—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie
- Shawn Berland—deploying for 6 months

**Check out our FBC website @ [www.fbc-everett.org](http://www.fbc-everett.org)**

# Life Group Happenings

## All in the Family

by *florence miller*

Natural disasters have been devastating many areas of our nation as well as around the world. One of the latest has been the flooding in and around Nashville. **Matthew Burgess**, son of **Jack and Mary Elaine Burgess** lives in Nashville and has experienced first hand the great hardships the people of that city are facing. Many people in Matthew's church, The Village Chapel, have lost everything and Matthew has a passion to help them financially. He has also been involved physically, with one friend who had 14 feet of water in his basement. Mary Elaine contacted his pastor, **Jim Thomas**, to see what could be done. He said donations could be sent to : **The Village Chapel, P.O. Box 121954, Nashville, TN 37212**. Designate the money for the benevolent fund where 100% will go to the flood victims. He also suggested **Samaritan's Purse**, the Franklin Graham organization. They had 5 semi-trucks there with donations. Their address is: **Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607**. Both of these organizations have web sites telling of their involvement. And as Mary Elaine's also suggested, we can all be praying for them.

We keep bidding our Christian friends good-bye as they go home to the Lord. **Elna Olson's, Lois Olson**, mother passed away this past Thursday evening. Her memorial was this Wednesday here at FBC.

Also, **Dotti Duncan** left this world on Friday evening. No word on any service.

**Alice Fatzinger** called and said that **JoElla Beesinger** doing very well and is scheduled to go home in about three hours. She is still weak and slurring but they have determined that this was a very mild stroke. She can't drive for a week and must stay home and do what her doctors say, but other than that she is doing very well. Please continue to pray for her.

**Sheri Wiederspohn**, our efficient office receptionist, is asking for prayer for her friend, **Wendy**, who has a defective heart valve and will have heart surgery this Friday either to repair or replace the valve.

**Bud and Marguerite Bacon** recently welcomed their tenth great grandchild. What a blessing!

**Sara Mae Zell**. after her fall, hospitalization and recuperating in the home of a Mt. Vernon friend, will now be going back to her apartment this Thursday. Prayers are needed that she will be able to manage by herself now. She is feeling better, but still walking with a cane.

How can people lose their car keys on a chain with other keys and never check the church office's lost and found? How did they get home? Sheri has a collection which she has reduced over time by tossing some of them. Do you have all of yours?

It has been brought to our attention that there are church friends who have, or will have, difficulty getting transportation to church, particularly when Sunday city transportation service is eliminated. Do we have a solution?

It's been awhile since we updated **Karl Durham's mom Leanne's** cancer report. She has been battling a rare form of cancer for the past five years. Here is the prayer request that she has asked for at this time: that the chemo will be effective at taming the cancer cells and keeping it from spreading. Also pray that she can tolerate the side effects. So far she has not been nauseated but she does think the fatigue factor is increased but she just lays down and rests awhile and then gets up and try to does a few more things. Mouth ulcers or sores can come with this chemo and they are no fun so pray that she might be able to keep her mouth free from problems. Thank you so much for your continued prayers, **The Durhams**

**Warm Beach Men's Chorus**, led by John Sinkevitch, will host a concert at Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2727 Lake Ave., Snohomish on Sunday May 16th at 6:00 pm.

The last ABMW for this season will be Thursday, May 20th with a noon lunch and our special guest speaker will be **Chris Frizzell**. You'll want to get the latest news on our Friday Night Ministries straight from her. We need your reservation by the 17th so that **Mary Beth**, who will be catering the luncheon, can prepare. Please call the church office or **Faith**, 425.252.6867. If you can come earlier (anytime after 10:00 am) we will be trimming soup labels for Kodiak. See you there!

Join us for VBS...As they participate in fun-filled activities, children will learn about God's amazing love and His Word, the Bible! We will have a great time with lively songs, hilarious skits, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks— all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children.

**Where: FBC Campus When: June 28<sup>th</sup>-July 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**Time: 9am-12:00 Who: Kindergarten-5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

# Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

## Greeters needed

Greeters needed: Carol Kelly is looking for a few good people! We have a need for more greeters during the services on Sunday morning. If you would like to help out, please call her at 425.353.7810 or email her at carolkelly425@comcast.net

### USHER CAPTAIN 2010:

May— Craig Reisen  
Ron & Kay Olson  
June—Darrell Olson  
Lucky Elkins

### COFFEE HOUR 2010

May 16th  
Deanna Baird  
Life Issues  
May 23rd  
Lars Linder  
Marriage Builders  
May 30th  
Alex Tarin  
20-30 Something  
June 6  
Sherra Ellis  
North Everett Life Group  
June 13  
Barb Menia  
Women of Purpose

- May 12th Craig Reisen
- May 13th Nina Stanyo
- May 14th Robert Knight, Ruth LeMaster, Ted Oare, Helen Strube
- May 15th Stacey Ayers, Karl Durham
- May 16th Ginni Hamilton
- May 17th Jane Johnson

Happy Birthday



## S.A.M. Happenings

Have you signed up for the bus trip to see the Snohomish Vaudeville show? The bus will be leaving our parking lot at 1:30 this coming Saturday, May 8th. There may still be a few seats left. You can call Wilma Love at #425-423-8466 or Shirley Schapler at #425-513-8035. The cost is \$8.00.

The Senior Adult Missions (SAM) is anticipating June's program with a special recognition table for those age 90 or over (The Nifty Nineties); installation of new officers and the semi-annual used book sale. Dave Miller is in charge of the sale and he says there are some current, hardback novels by popular novelists plus plenty of good paper backs, all going for \$1.00 or 6 books for \$5.00. It is suggested that on that day, June 4th, an 11 a.m. arrival time will give everyone a chance to browse before lunch is served.

New officers to be elected at the May meeting and installed at the June luncheon are; Presidents - Lyle and Gloria Gordon

Vice Presidents - Karen and Pete Kaess; Secretary - Shirley Schapler; Treasurer - Sara Naylor; Assistant Treasurers - David Miller and Jeanne Gillman; Members-at-Large - Eva LaStrange, Bernice Dye, Bill Deller, Laura Oversvee

\*\*\*\*Don't forget that dues are now due. Only \$10.00!\*\*\*\*

## V.B.S. Supply List

Here is a list of the supplies that are needed for VBS this year. If you could help in any way, please bring your things into the Office, we will update this list as needed. Thanks! ! !

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| • White Poster board (20 pieces)         | • Construction Paper (Various colors)  | • Size (100)                              |
| • Crepe paper (5) various color          | • Paper Plates (700)                   | • Five Gallon Buckets (3)                 |
| • Bag of white Rice (10 Bags) small ind. | • Paper Cups (700)                     | • Tarps (3) any size                      |
| • Paper towel tubes (100)                | • White T-shirts (Various Kid's sizes) | • Skewers (125) - bamboo                  |
| • Ball of twine (2) thin                 | • Rubber bands (400)                   | • Various gift cards to Winco or Wal-Mart |
| • Elmer's glue—small school size         | • Brown Paper Grocery Bags-Standard    |   |

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