

The Straight Path Is Not Always Straight

By Allan Love

When I plan a trip I always look for the most direct route to my destination. None of this meandering around side scenic roads to culture myself – the joy is in the arriving ... and as quick as you can! Though the Christian journey is described as a “race”, it rarely is a journey this is straight and quick. It is a voyage marked by twists, turns, round-about, bumps, interruptions, and deviations. In Proverbs 3:5-6 we read, *“Trust in the Lord with all of your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your path straight.”* God does want to make our path straight, but his understanding of straight is very different than ours! Perhaps God is more concerned about straightening us out, and that this is what is “straight” about our path; that is, the path is not so much straight as the path is about *making us straight*.

The Apostle Paul in his journey by sea to Rome – in order to bring his appeal to Caesar – finds himself in a hurricane-force storm (see Acts 27). After experiencing three continuous days of violent and raging sea waters, Paul’s shipmates come to the place of giving up all hope of coming through the storm alive. Knowing that God had spoken to him the previous night through an angel ensuring his and his shipmates safe arrival, Paul speaks these words to them in their state of despair: *“Keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island.”* (Acts 27:25-26) God was going to get Paul and his shipmates safely to Rome, but it would include running “aground on some island.”

Maybe you feel like you have been walking in the path that God has for you – it may not have been revealed to you by a visiting angel, yet you believe God has spoken to you in some sense about your path, your future, your ‘Rome’ – but you find yourself run aground somewhere on some ‘island’ feeling like your faith has been or is in the process of being shipwrecked. The island Paul temporarily ended up inhabiting is called, “Malta” (literally meaning, “honey”). Perhaps God has you on a ‘Malta’ – a place/season in life that seems like a derailment from God’s intended path for you. If that is the case, may I encourage you to see it as an opportunity (or should I say ‘sweet’ opportunity) to be shaped and formed by God in a special way, as well as to be used by God to minister powerfully for him (read Acts 28:1-10 to see how God used Paul on Malta). The ‘Romes’ God has for us will come – Paul did get to Rome after all – but the journey there will often be accompanied by ‘Malta’s’. It may not look or feel like a straight path (it rarely does), but it is a path that will straighten us out – it will get us right with God in more profound and deeper ways. It will take our crooked thoughts, attitudes and actions and level them out smooth so that we may in the words of John the Baptist – “making straight the way of the Lord” (John 1:23).

CARRINGTON

firstBaptistchurch October 20th, 2010

Life group prayer and praise

The **Everett Silvertips** announced Monday that **Head Coach Craig Hartsburg** will undergo surgery on his heart after being diagnosed with an ascending aortic aneurysm. Coach Hartsburg will undergo a heart catheterization at Providence Regional Medical Center Everett today, with surgery to follow in the coming weeks. Pray for Craig and his family.

Donna Teachworth called and reported that **Jessica** who just had a stroke because of a degenerative disease, passed away, please pray for her family and especially her mother **Valerie** doesn't turn away from God.

Ruth LeMaster asks that we pray for her **step son, Terry and his family** that they would be accepted by a landlord and would be able to move into their own apartment right away.

Please continue to pray for **Sharon Young's dad Jim**, who is still suffering from medical complications.

Eddy Gonzalez has communicated that the seminary is facing a financial crisis. FBC has supported them since 1991. Please pray for them.

Lester Acosta president of the Youth Department of the Eastern Baptist Convention, has invited Pastor Brian to be the speaker at his Leadership Summit in September, 2011. He wants to get them all together for a

conference next year. Pray for God's direction and provision and Pastor Brian prays about this decision.

FBC has been blessed by 30 plus African, primarily Swahili speaking, new faces attending worship. Pray for these new friends that they would feel our warm welcome and that God would give us many opportunities to extend God's grace to them. The Swahili word for "welcome" is "jambo." If you want to bring a smile to their faces, extend a handshake and say the word "jambo."

Pray for those who have lost jobs or are seeking employment. Please continue to pray for **Dale Smyth**, a friend, was just diagnosed with brain cancer. Pray that it is treatable. ~

Debbie Benedetto

Dave and Pat Slater from Arlington need prayer, he is dying from cancer and is in constant pain. ~ **Sheri**

Earl Stephen's mom Orline is having quadruple-bypass surgery in October, please pray for her.

My **son Nathan** still needs a fulltime job. Pray for **my sister, Sharon** and **her son Johnny**, for strength and wisdom. ~ **Carol Kelly**

Kathy Chapman's mother-in-law **Jeanne & Jeanne's** husband, **Mel Marcoux** still need prayer.

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**

Financial Update October 17th, 2010 \$9,948.56

Pray for our Military

- **John Schwartz**—heading to Afghanistan—**Robin Schwartz** stateside in Everett.
- **Jason Peery**—Oregon National Guard—heading to Iraq for a year, brother of Jennifer.
- **Jonathan Michaels Estrella**— son of Sharon Boswell.
- **Jason Bjazevich**—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- **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.
- **Brett Love**—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard—Serving at home.
- **Robin Schwartz** - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett. **John Schwartz** leaving for Afghanistan in October.
- **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—Army National Guard—is back at his home base in So.CA.
- **Philip Ankney**-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson.
- **Jeffrey Lillard**—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed at Fort Lewis.
- **Aaron Chmielewski**—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie
- **Shawn Berland**—deploying for 6 months
- **Andrew Sustaita**—serving on board the USS Abraham Lincoln



Life Group Happenings

all in the family

by Florence Miller

Congratulations to **Donna Rathbun** who was a **2010 Monte Cristo Award Winner** for her property. Her Rejuvenation award in her Valley View neighborhood was because of all the "sprucing up" of her yard which, as she says, "was a mess" when she moved there. Last Thursday at the Civic Auditorium she was handed a plaque by the Mayor as she stepped onto the stage. Donna was one of 60 award winners throughout Everett. Everett, also, is to be congratulated for awarding those residents who show such pride of ownership by taking such exceptional care of their properties.

News is that **Eloise Lambright** is now in Life Care Center of Bothell, 707 228th St. S.W., Bothell, 98021. Eloise turned 92 on September 29th!

On the 14th of November, there will be another Ladies Breakfast, the special guest speaker will be **Ruelyn Nelson's sister Jill Maag-Tandy**, who works in Rwanda with House of Innocence and just helped finish a basketball court on the ground.



The **office staff** would like to ask the congregation if anyone has a toaster oven (any size) that is just hanging around not being used, could we have it for the small upstairs kitchen? Just call the office if you would like to help us—425.259.9166, thanks, in advance.

S.A.M. Happenings

autumn

Have you signed up for the Panama Hotel Tour? It promises to be a fascinating, historical experience. The date, cost and time are: **October 28th, \$ 12.00** Also, bring money for lunch. **Vans leave our parking lot at 9:10 a.m. but please be there by 8:55 a.m.!!**

Planning ahead --

November 5th — Luncheon meeting with **Chris Frizzell** as our program speaker, telling about our Friday Night Street mission which she heads. You'll learn about how she and her volunteer workers manage to serve as many as 150 meals each week; where they get their funding; about the men and women who attend and about the Christian message which is told. Also, Thanksgiving is coming soon! SAM will be filling Thanksgiving baskets (as well as Christmas ones for next month) and the Board is suggesting that we bring, on this coming Luncheon day, canned foods suitable for a good Turkey Day meal. Need help carrying all these requests in? I'm sure Lyle Gordon will see that you get help. Perhaps an early phone call to him or the church office will alert someone to meet you out front. Our contributing the canned foods portion for the Baskets will leave more budgeted monies for the rest of the ingredients.

The **SAM board** is suggesting that we come to the luncheon with **toiletries** for those at the **Friday Night** diners. Suggested items: bar soap, tooth brush and tooth paste, deodorant, feminine needs, shampoo, etc. The Dollar stores are good places to shop for these items.

Also, Come Early for the **ABW White Cross Sale on November 5th**. There will be homemade goodies and various knit items. The monies collected help fill ABW's quota for our overseas missionaries. There will be **NO** ABMW meeting in October.

Don't forget the **SAM BOOKSALE Sunday, Nov 21st in B110** (downstairs by the large kitchen) there are hundred's of books for sale—the organization that David has done is phenomenal.

***Adult attendance: 9:00am 70 & 10:30am 199 ***Children: 9am 19 + 4 — 10:30am 20 + 10

***Elementary: 9am 30 + 6 — 10:30 am 35 + 5

***Youth Small Group: 17 + 4 — Middle School: 15 + 5

Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities



Ladies Breakfast

Saturday Nov. 13th
9-11:00 am
\$4.00

Operation Christmas Child

We've all got 2 options for participating in the shoe box program this year.

We're running our traditional program where you pick up a wrapped box or two, fill them with toys, school supplies, and goodies for a child somewhere in the world, and bring them back to the church. Instructions are included inside each box. Don't forget to include the \$7 shipping fee for each box. Boxes will be available on Sunday, October 24.

We're also running the children's program again this year. If you'd like to participate this way, you can make a donation to FBC of either money or items to fill shoe boxes with. We will be running a "shoe box store" for our FBC Wednesday night children's program in early November. The kids fill a box for a boy or girl of their age and they can write a letter to the child who will receive their box. It gives them a hands-on experience of learning to give to others in other parts of the world.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are looking for someone to check inventory and shop for the espresso stand each week. If you know someone that is looking for a way to serve and might be available for this please have them contact Pastor Nathan at nathan@fbc-everett.net or 425-259-9166.

We also need more GREETER SUBS, if you would like to get involved in this important ministry, please contact Carol Kelly at 425-210-8595

USHER CAPTAIN 2010:

October—Pete Sontra
 Luckey Elkins
 November—Ron & Kay Olson
 Craig Reisen

October 24th
Ted Oare
 Silver Firs Lifegroup

October 31st
Ruelyn Nelson
 Women of Purpose

November 7th
Alex Tarin
 20-30 Something

November 14th
Ruelyn Nelson
 Women of Purpose

November 21st
Karl Durham

Happy Birthday

October 20th	Timothy Beesinger
October 21st	Scott Rohde
October 23rd	Mark Deiner
	Tami Reisen
October 24th	Paul Abbitt
October 25th	Deanna Baird
	Doug Roullier

