



Newsletter for April 2011

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Finding Contentment in a Holy Life

Philippians 4:11b "...I have to be content with whatever I have..."

Have you ever counted the number of products it takes to get out the door in the morning? Soap, body wash, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream, moisturizer, mousse or gel, hair spray, deodorant, body lotion, powder, after shave or cologne... and we've not even started on make-up! And recently, Madison Avenue has convinced us that none of us have teeth that are white enough.

Take a survey of your bathroom and estimate the cost of the products you use every day. You will be astounded at the dollar figure you

discover that you spend mindlessly on products that we've come to view as necessities.

Small wonder that it is easy for us to be content with what we have. Even if we make the "sacrifice" of using store brands instead of name brands, our shelves are bending under the weight of luxuries that we deem necessities.

One of the important life lessons that is attached to the *Imagine No Malaria* campaign is the stark truth of how little ordinary people of Africa have. They have a totally different understanding of what the Apostle meant about contentment.

Regardless of how difficult our lives might be, if preventing a terrible disease meant covering our beds in netting, there are very few of us who could not make it happen before too many paychecks came and went. Our generosity



Learn more. Act now. Save lives.

in sending mosquito nets will not cause undue hardship for many of us. Perhaps we can use this campaign as a time for re-ordering our perceived needs and the amount of our resources we invest in pampering ourselves.

CAN YOU IMAGINE A WORLD WITH NO MORE MALARIA???

It's not hard to imagine if you consider that people across the country are joining with the Bill Gates Foundation and the United Methodist Church to raise funds to address this very issue in Africa where over 1 million people die each year from this preventable disease. 850,000 of those are children.

How can you help? *Start saving money* to bring to the church during our bread basket offering on Sunday, May 15th. During this season of Lent, think of ways that you can save money to be used for *No More Malaria*; eat out less, skip that latte or milkshake, rent a red box movie instead of going to the theater, pull the change out of your purse/pocket and drop it in a jar, other creative ideas that you and your family have.

Imagine United Methodists all over the world, joining with us, to wipe out malaria. **TOGETHER - WE CAN!**
And thank you for your support at the Missions dinner on April 3rd!

Stretching One's Soul..... R. Lee Sharpe, *Treasury of Inspiration*

One spring day when I was just a kid, my father called me to go with him to Trussell's blacksmith shop. He had left a rake and a hoe to be repaired. And there they were ready, fixed like new. Father handed over a silver dollar for the repairing. But Mr. Trussell refused to take it. 'No,' he said, 'there's no charge for that little job.' But father insisted that he take payment. If I live to be a thousand years, I'll never forget that old blacksmith's reply. 'Sid,' he said to my father, 'can't you let an old man do something now and then—just to stretch his soul?'

It's the old law. The giver receives more than the receiver gets. Bread cast upon the waters comes back a thousand-fold. One who *stretches his soul* into deeds of love and kindness, unfailingly reaps a just reward.

Deming Community Garden

The community garden was started two years ago with the intent of helping those in our community who were in need of a helping hand. Over that time the garden has been expanded to its present size. The project has been a volunteer effort where people have come together to plant, weed and harvest a variety of vegetables that have then been distributed to people in need through the Helping Hand Organization. Last year we were able to help 1,000 or more people per month including families and the elderly.

With two years of successful experience the founders of the community garden are ready to make moves to improve the facility. After discussions with the city and the Deming Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) we have decided to undertake the installation of an underground drip irrigation system. This will allow us to save water while increasing production by delivering the water where it is needed with less waste.

With the help of the Conservation District and New Mexico Irrigation Ltd., we have designed a two acre garden consisting of twelve 100 x 80 foot blocks which can each be independently irrigated. This will allow a separation of crops where crops needing the same amount of water can be grouped together or where one block can be dedicated to a single crop.

To make this plan a reality we need help. NM Irrigation will donate the dripper line and the line will be installed by a local farmer. But more help is needed to purchase the plumbing parts and to have them installed professionally. To make this a reality we are offering sponsorship of individual blocks to organizations in our community in order to share the work and the satisfaction of helping the less fortunate. If your organization is interested in getting involved, this is the plan. Each of the twelve groups will be responsible for:

- 1) An initial donation of \$500 to pay for the materials and equipment to install the irrigation system,
- 2) A team of people who will be dedicated to keeping your block weed free,
- 3) A team to harvest your produce and deliver it to Helping Hand.

The farm work will be provided. You are NOT responsible for plowing, planting or irrigating. That will be done by other volunteers who have experience with the garden.

Contributions to the garden project will be tax deductible since they will be going to the non-profit Helping Hand organization. Helping Hand will also accept donations from those who would like to be a part of the project but cannot be involved in the farm work. Please send your donations to:

Deming Helping Hand, 713 W. Spruce Street, #187, Deming NM 88030.

If your organization is interested in getting involved and is not afraid of a little hard work please call: Pennie at the Deming SWCD 575-546-9291.

Angel Food Ministries.

Angel Food Ministries is a Christian organization that uses nationwide buying power to allow *anyone* to purchase groceries (from pre-set monthly menus) at reduced prices. Calvary Chapel will be the Luna County host site. The Angel Food Ministries coordinator is Beverly Green (aka BG). She may be reached by phone at (575) 544-7399 or by email at angelfood@calvarychapeldeming.com

Beverly will be in the church office about two days a week to take orders and administer the program. While she is a member of Calvary Chapel, the Angel Food Ministries program is available to all individuals and BG will be available and happy to serve you as she serves the needs of your community.

Why not take time to visit the Angel Food Ministries website: www.angelfoodministries.com and click on the menu to see the list of scrumptious food items for April. The website gives information on how to place an order, order deadlines and pick-up information.

More orders placed helps Angel Food Ministries' buying power. Please pass the word to family and friends about this exciting way of saving money when you shop for groceries. Remember, "If you eat, you qualify!"

How to Go Green

There are many good reasons to use non-toxic cleaning products. They are safer for you, much safer for children, and are a good part of hospitality. They are generally less expensive, widely available, and may involve less packaging and advertising. Also, they are quite effective. Though they may lack artificial scents and color, and foaming agents used in commercial products to give you the impression that the product is working, they tend to work as well or better than their more toxic and expensive counterparts.

Some Alternatives are:

- Baking Soda – cleans, deodorizes, softens water, scours.
- Borax – cleans, deodorizes, disinfects, and softens water. Cleans wallpaper, painted walls and floors without damaging their finish.
- Cornstarch – can be used to clean windows, polish furniture, shampoo carpets and rugs.
- Isopropyl Alcohol – an excellent disinfectant.
- Soap – unscented soap in liquid form, flakes, powders or bars is biodegradable and will clean just about anything. Avoid using soaps which contain petroleum distillates or fragrances. Many detergents are labeled "soap" but are made from petroleum products and contain dyes, fragrance, additives, surfactants, foaming agents and alcohols.
- Washing Soda (sodium carbonate) – cuts grease, removes stains, softens water and cleans walls, tiles, sinks and tubs. It's very effective so use with care and do not use on aluminum. This is not the same as baking soda. Arm and Hammer is easy to find with the laundry detergents in many stores.
- White Vinegar – cuts grease, removed mildew, odors, some stains and wax build-up.

Later articles will explore recipes for homemade non-toxic cleaning products.

Easter Week Activities

Holy Week/Easter worship services:

- Palm/Passion Sunday is April 17th.
- Maundy Thursday service, April 21, at 6 pm.
- Good Friday service, April 22nd, at 6 pm.
- Easter services, April 24, 8 am and 10:30 am with special music at both services.

We will also have an Easter Egg hunt. We need a few more packages of plastic eggs and lots of individually wrapped candy (small ones please) to put in the eggs for the kids to find. Donations may be brought to the church office.

Summer Camp for Kids

Did you ever attend summer camp as a kid? Do you remember what it was like? Now, imagine yourself going to a camp up in the mountains with fresh air to breathe, trails to hike, a fish pond for catch and release fishing, a challenge course, disk golf, a full gym (basketball, volleyball, roller skating), horseshoe pits, mountain scooters, a sports field (football, volleyball, basketball), plus a host of other activities, not to mention good food, worship in a log cabin church, friendships being made and most of all, an opportunity to experience God in a life-changing way.

This is what our children experience when they attend the conference church camp, Sacramento Methodist Assembly, in the mountains near Cloudcroft. As with anything, camp is expensive. Sacramento has done a great job in holding down costs. Still, the cost can be prohibitive for some families, especially if they have more than one child who desires to attend.

This is where we can all help. We will have an opportunity to sponsor the children in our church for a summer camp during our April Bread Basket offering. This money will be used to help pay the camp fees for any and all of our children who want to attend. It will also In order to attend camp, kids must be accompanied by a sponsor. Because adults are giving up a week (or weekend) we pay their way. So the bread basket offering will also help pay for that.

Imagine – your gift to the April Camp Scholarship Bread Basket can help change the life of a child. Yes, your offering *can* do that. We have heard time and time again how many children and youth heard and answered God's call to dedicate their lives to Him at a church camp.

Thank you for your gift that will make a difference in the lives of our children and youth.

Little Lambs report:

March came in windy and ended a little windy. We know this because we can't play outside in the wind. We took off a week for Spring Break and had lots of fun.

The 4's studied paper, Spring, ocean, and dinosaurs. It has been a great month for creating with our own hands. After making dinosaurs, they got to name them. One of them named his "Pork-roast-asaurus". Now don't you wonder what his mom cooks for dinner?

The 3's studied bugs, birds, flowers, and reviewed their colors and shapes. It was so fun. We got to eat preschool bugs and bird eggs. Yum! They were good.

Rejoice and be glad Matthew 5:12

Thoughts from Bishop Max

Many years ago I preached a sermon that I entitled, *The Joy of Repentance*. The reason I remember preaching that sermon after more than twenty years was the response it raised from a few members of the congregation. They were outraged. How could anyone even suggest there is joy in recognizing that we have broken our relationship with God? Their outrage revealed that I missed the mark in my sermon. Communication was unsuccessful and the good news of forgiveness failed to reach some of my intended audience. Without true repentance, we continue to live in our isolation, loneliness, brokenness, and separation from God. Joy comes through repentance and the forgiveness that God offers so freely.

Every year I find it amazing how many church members attempt to move through Lent without facing their sinfulness. They are willing to concede they are not perfect, they failed to love God with their entire being, they failed to love their neighbor completely, they made bad decisions, or they failed to fulfill their full potential. They insist they are morally upright, they keep the commandments, they believe Jesus is the Son of God, and they go to worship at least a few times a year. They are not real sinners, are they?

John Wesley focused a majority of his preaching on repentance because he knew it was only when individuals recognized they needed a Savior that Jesus could transform their lives and move them from being religious to being Christian. Being religious, spiritual, moral, or a church member is insufficient. None of these will redeem us. Only Jesus can redeem. Jesus can only transform when we recognize we have fallen short of the honor and glory of God. Wesley made it foundational in his preaching that repentance was possible because of the abundant grace in Jesus Christ. We are welcomed, clothed, and prepared for a heavenly banquet as the prodigal child returning home.



Our cultural setting in the United States makes it extremely difficult to invite persons to become disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus calls for us to die to our present life, adopt a new set of values, and love people we do not even like. Why would anyone do that? The truth is that this death of self enables us to experience life as God intends, a joy that is unspeakable, and the assurance that we are loved and forgiven regardless of what we have done. We are born into eternal life. The restlessness that lies deep within, that can never be achieved, is satisfied as we finally rest in God's love and presence. We are raised from death to life and begin living as Easter people.

Grace & Peace, Max

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

... for our Annual UMW Fundraiser salad luncheon on May 7 - 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the MAC Gym. The theme is "Barnyard Buddies." Casual Wear: Denim, boots, whatever! Tickets at \$8.00 each will be available soon. All proceeds go to Missions.

Our April 16 program on Lent will be held in the Chapel. Business 2:00 p.m.; program 3:00 p.m. Leaders are Phyllis Mudd and Marie Bencomo. Hostesses are Rosalee and Marie. All ladies are welcome.

Thank You Received

March 12, 2011

On behalf of the SammyRides project, we would like to thank you for your church's involvement and support. Our riders enjoyed the events at the church which gave them the chance to speak with so many lovely people and tell them about SammyRides. We want to thank Pastor Ernest Vineyard and staff for providing such an enjoyable evening for the team. Your generosity and hospitality were greatly appreciated and they felt welcomed by everyone they met. The beautiful cards the children made were distributed during their visit at the Children's Hospital in Las Cruces. New Mexico.

We also would like to thank you for the opportunity to bring awareness to this devastating childhood disease. Groups such as yours are helping to make a difference so that a cure for Pediatric Cancer will ultimately be found. Sincerely, The Sammy Rides Team

From the Brugginks

Dear Family and Friends,

Well we have made it through our first two weeks serving the Lord at Sacramento Camp and Conference Center and are loving every minute of it! While we are still adjusting to the higher elevation (nearly 7500 feet here) and having days off during the week rather than weekends, most things are going very well. We love being part of the staff here; all of them have welcomed us with open arms and have adopted us right into their family. Every day is something new at this point. Randy is getting to work on a lot of projects and fixing things up and Karen, when not prepping for guests about to arrive, or turning rooms around after guests leave, is busy too with hosting guests while they are here, organizing, deep cleaning, housekeeping projects, etc. with Dena, the other Operations person on staff. They are getting along well as are Randy and Tracy who both work construction and maintenance. Bill, Cindy, Terry, Vicky, Brenna, Lorraine, and Aaron round out the rest of the staff, and Aaron brings with him his wife, Nicolette, and their two boys, Elisha and Caleb. The boys are delightful to have around; it is almost like having built in grandchildren right here in camp. We are absolutely amazed by the beauty of this place and continue to delight in the wildlife we see here, even right out our windows. We see deer nearly every day and have seen wild turkeys run right through our back yard. We don't think that will ever get old. We are settling into our cabin and are starting to make it our home. When we last wrote, we let you all know that there were some physical needs associated with moving into this place including fixing up the kitchen, building some storage, new flooring for the living and kitchen areas and a storage container to put the rest of our stuff into. We wanted to thank you all for your prayers and generosity in supporting us in that way. We have been blown away by the way that the Lord has provided for many of those needs through you. We can't even express our gratitude in any way that seems adequate. Simple words fail in these situations so all we can do is say THANK YOU and PRAISE to the Lord for blessing us to have such wonderful people in our lives. We certainly don't deserve to be so richly blessed to have all of you in our lives, praying us into this new chapter of life and supporting us in so many ways. We continue to ask for your prayers of support. There is still a lot of adjusting to do, fix up projects on our cabin, and just the changes of being this far out in the wilderness. We also still have our house for sale in

Roswell, so we ask for continued prayers there too. In fact, we still have a few things to finish up on the remodeling projects we were doing so will be heading back there later in the week.

So, with all that said, you are probably wondering just how we fill our days living here in semi-retirement, in the lap of luxury, enjoying the simple life, right? A few things have changed and we do things a little differently now. One of the decisions we made was not to have TV. That has been a bit of a change, but honestly, not missing it much (We'll see how Randy does during March Madness, and especially when the football season starts back up). Also still staying connected with our church, Calvary Chapel in Roswell. Both the Sunday message and the Wednesday night Bible study are available on line so we continue to study under our pastor's teaching and continue to be blessed by that teaching. Randy is also taking a First Responder's course which is actually being held right here at the camp on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. He has not been very willing, especially at the beginning, but we had an unfortunate incident the first week we were here with a camper getting injured in a fall and needing to be medi-vaced out of here on a helicopter. Randy helped the EMT team with the care of the boy and it changed his perspective a little bit, so he is soon to be part of the "Sac-Weed" first responder team. In the evenings Karen continues to unpack all of the boxes she packed up (even got the one box that Randy packed taken care of), plan the remodeling projects, plan the decorating of this little place and stay connected with the girls. Cell phone doesn't work here so she had to send back her new phone, we got a pay-as-you-go phone from Wal-Mart for traveling, and now have a land line with an answering machine. Remember what that was like? We also think often about how exciting it is going to be to have our friends and family come here to visit us. Karen's sister Pam and her husband Shane will be visiting in a couple of weeks and we are so looking forward to that. When you come, remember, our busy season at the camp is mid-May through September and we work a lot during that time, but we are sure you can find a way to stay entertained and relax in this incredible place that God has created. Below is our contact information, we would love to hear from you and we have also attached a link to Sacramento in case you would like to check it out. Soon you may even see pictures and a short bio on us on their website. We pray that this message finds all of you well and growing in your walk with the Lord. May God shower you with blessings and thank you all again for your awesome support of our journey into full time ministry!

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Little Lambs report:

February was a very cold month. We missed two days because of the cold temperatures. The classrooms were very warm and dry but the children couldn't get out in the cold.

We studies cooking, love, music, and teddy bears in the 3's. They even made their own musical instruments to play for their families (maybe drive them crazy). What a joy to hear them make music to the Lord and see the smiles on their faces as they play.

The 4's learned how to make their very own book. We visited the church library and looked at all the books. One of our students goes to church here. He said, "I already know that God wants us to read books...I live here on Sunday."

We will start taking registrations for the 2011-2012 school year on March 1st and continue until the classes are full. Please tell everyone we always have room for one more friend.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength...Deuteronomy 6:5

Some of My Thoughts *by Bishop Max Whitfield*

Individuals came to the center of the chancel area carrying a sign with a message printed on both sides. One after another they told how they came to Jesus and the way life was now. They witnessed to the power of Jesus Christ that had transformed their lives. This witness of faith was part of the 30th anniversary celebration at Lakeridge United Methodist Church a few years ago. The congregation cheered and applauded these witnesses



while tears of joy marked many faces. The witness demonstrated that the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. These persons shared how Jesus Christ had transformed their lives and they had become members of the congregation.

The statistical reports for 2009 are now public and they paint a dismal picture of effectiveness in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. One of the most revealing statistics is that over 42% of our United Methodist congregations in the United States did not receive a single person into church membership on profession of faith (new Christians joining the Church). In fact, most of these congregations did not receive a single person into membership by any means. These congregations are slowly aging and dying each year. More importantly, they failed to experience the joy of seeing Jesus Christ transform and change the lives of persons in their mission field.

Too many of us focus on the wrong goals. We assume that individuals already have a relationship with Jesus. They do not need to be transformed and changed. Their neighbors are following Jesus in their homes, at school, at work, and during their leisure hours. The facts contradict our assumptions, but we continue down the pathway of assuming that if they are Americans they are disciples of Jesus Christ. After all, America is a Christian nation. The mission of the Church is to take these Christians, help them find a church home that fits their individual political preferences, make them more spiritual, and remind them what is expected of "good" church members. The result of our efforts is a pagan nation where a majority of our citizens are biblically illiterate, spiritually hungry, and have very little idea of what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Few people anticipate Jesus Christ will transform and change the lives of those entering our church building or responding to our ministries.

Dr. James B. Palmer was my senior pastor in a congregation where I served first as the Director of Youth Ministries and later as the Associate Pastor. He was a great mentor and friend. One of those valuable lessons was the importance of conducting and participating in the Confirmation Training of youth. The preparation began in September and followed the school year for nearly two years. My initial reaction was to conclude this was far too long a period of time to prepare youth for church membership. I was accurate in my conclusion. It does not take two years to prepare persons for church membership. It takes at least two years to help youth understand what it means to live as Jesus' disciples. It takes at least two years before seeking adults begin understanding what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. This is the reason that John Wesley placed initial responders in small groups and expected them to continue to grow as followers of Jesus.

The mission of the Church is to witness to the transforming power of God in Jesus Christ and guide individuals through this transformation process. Jesus desires and expects every congregation, regardless of the size of the worshipping congregation, to know the joy of persons being transformed and changed as they become disciples of Jesus Christ.

Grace & Peace, Max

Now You Know

This article appeared in the December 23, 1903 issue of The Deming Graphic

BRUTALLY MURDERED Sam Fong Found Dead in His Store Tuesday

Sam Fong joined Deming Methodist Church by vows Dec. 2, 1900 while Rev. J.M. Ray was pastor. Ha Fong, believed to be a son, joined the church Jan. 17, 1902. To find a Chinese in a Methodist Church in New Mexico Territory in the early 1900s is most unusual. Lindauer said Brother A.H. Thompson had probably had a large hand in Fong's conversion but that the *Tong* didn't like it which was probably why he was decapitated.

Many Chinese had been brought to the United States as almost beasts of burden to build the railroads. Most were considered illegal and when not deported, held the most menial jobs. Fong was not one of these.

Deming did have several Chinese who were respected citizens. Many took in washing or owned restaurants, one which served French food. Sam Fong was a respected merchant. He owned a store in the Chinese section of Deming on North Silver Avenue. His brutal murder was never solved.

The newspapers show ads for Sam Fong, "Foreign Curiosities" and for French Restaurant, Fong, Guy & Co, Props.

A Personal Ministry

Many people provide a personal ministry to the church by volunteering their time and talents for a specific task. For example, Jo Kruger fills and trims the altar candles, including the Christ candle, every week. Jo is asking if anyone would care to join her in this task, particularly in cleaning and polishing the brass fittings? Contact her directly or through the church office if you feel so moved.

Lamplighters

We have a new ministry to reach out to our homebound and those in assisted-living and nursing homes. The Lamplighters will be given one person or couple whom they will visit occasionally and deliver communion to once a month. We are looking for Lamplighters of all ages who would like to develop a relationship with one of our members who is unable to join our church family for worship. Individuals, couples, and families can be part of this rewarding ministry. Email Beth Simpson at beth@fumcdeming.com to join this ministry team.

Cancer Support of Luna County Walk

First United Methodist Church will participate in the Cancer Support of Luna County Walk on Saturday, April 30th at Pit Park. This walk honors those who have survived or lost their lives to cancer survivors. All money raised for this event goes to help local cancer warriors with related expenses.

Our church team, *Faith Walkers*, has been a visible participant for many years.

For more information, contact Mary Lou Cameron, Mary Frosch, Barbara Walsh, or Shirley Wheeler.