

Blossom Ministries

Preparing Women To Bear Fruit

Greetings...

Dear Readers,

We always strive to share with you the things we are learning. We like to pass on what we have been wrestling with, especially in the dark of winter. What we are reading, studying, and exploring in our time apart from you and our last correspondence is precious to share. I recently attended a phenomenal women's conference with my daughter-in-love and heard one of my favorite authors and speakers deliver this encouragement:

God isn't done being good to you!
~ Jodi Detrick

I am so very grateful that spring reminds me of this truth, symbolized in this next quote:

Love is like wildflowers; it's often found in the most unlikely places.
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Praying that each of you would find God's presence near, in joy or grief, knowing He is always with us, in our busy or quiet minds, protecting our thoughts with the helmet of the hope of salvation and our hearts covered by His great love.

Blessings on you and your family,

~Melisa Turner and the Blossom Team

2025 Events

[Blossom Bazaar](#)

April 12, 2025

10 AM—2 PM

OHS Commons

Oroville, WA

[Blossom Retreat](#)

October 24-25, 2025

Save the Date
Details to come

Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children.
~ Deuteronomy 4:9

Contact Blossom at :

blossom.ministries@gmail.com

www.blossomministries.com

Quotes

And so heaven is forever, because forever is how long it takes to contain the goodness of God.
~ Jonathan Cahn

Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul.
~ Henry Ward Beecher

Let us not grumble when our purposes are crossed, confident that God's will is always better than ours.
~ Richard Wurmbrand

That's what prayer is. It is listening to the voice that calls us 'my Beloved'.
~ Henri Nouwen

The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. **Psalm 121:8**

My life has a superb cast, but I can't figure out the plot.
~ Ashleigh Brilliant

...no one can give to God anything which is not already His...
~ C.S. Lewis, The 4 Loves

Love at first sight is easy to understand; it's when two people have been looking at each other for a lifetime that it becomes a miracle.
~ Amy Bloom

Grief and Hospitality

This year began for me with hospitality and grief intertwined. I have continued to pursue this path in my reading and studying so that I might be able to comfort and care for those who are facing loss. What I am coming to understand as I pray and learn is that when we live in true community it offers first hospitality and then creates a place of care, one that can be relied on in times of grief.

Our church motto is:

Connecting People to the Fullness of God.

The Love of Christ

¹⁴ So I bow in prayer before the Father ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name. ¹⁶ I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong inwardly through his Spirit. ¹⁷ I pray that Christ will live in your hearts by faith and that your life will be strong in love and be built on love. ¹⁸ And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of Christ's love—how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. ¹⁹ Christ's love is greater than anyone can ever know, but I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God. ~ Ephesians 3:14-19

Connection between people is equal to offering hospitality and caregiving. The passage above in Ephesians equates family with Christ's love.

“Hospitality is not limited to opening one's door or home to others, it includes connecting with others and with God. In fact, that connection is interrelated.” ~ **Amberly Neese**
amberlyneese.com

When we are connected to God, we also need to connect to others and to connect those others to God. This is the family of God in action.

“In the Thai language, the word ‘connector’ also means ‘welding’. That's what we are meant to do with our lives, he said. Connect others to God.

Weld them to him for eternity.”

~ **Suzanne Woods Fisher**, *On a Coastal Breeze*

“Before we can be a good host, we must experience being welcomed as a guest...We are able to love because we were first loved.”

~ **Kristin Schell**, *The Turquoise Table*

Author Kristin Schell is quoting I John 4:19.

We love because he first loved us. We model for one another how to live, love, care, and how to act within a community. We offer Christ's love only after we have first received it. No matter the size of your family, church family, or circle of influence at work and within friendships this creates a community that we are responsible to care for and grieve with. *The Turquoise Table*, written by Kristin Schell is the story of her reaching out and creating community in her front yard. She advises us to “Notice the needs of others. Pray. Show up. Love.”

I want to learn to connect with others in the season they are in, and invite them to know the power of Christ's love and how He comes alongside us in the community of the family of God.

Henri Nouwen writes in *Our Greatest Gift: A Meditation on Dying and Caring*

“Even a life dedicated to prayer and meditation needs to maintain a quality of caring together for others. The mystery of this caring together is that it not only asks for community, but also creates it.”

The point of all this community and caring is to connect others to the fullness of God. Nouwen continues “Not only the death of Jesus, but our death, too, is meant to bear fruit in other people's lives...How can I live so that I can continue to be fruitful when I am no longer here among my family and friends?”

I am encouraged by Nouwen's words regarding the eternity of our connection with God “To write about dying and death without mentioning the resurrection is like writing about sailing and not mentioning the wind...The resurrection is God's way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste.”

~ **With all My Love**, **Melisa Turner**

Where is Your Heart?

I have recently been reading a book called *Jesus Doesn't Care About Your Messy House, He Cares About Your Heart* by Dana K. White. I have enjoyed several of her books, so I automatically picked this up when it came out. Having grown up in the church the title of the book makes me say "Yeah, obviously." I found myself thinking as I read about all the ways I don't live like I know it.

Dana centers most of what she says around examples of her house and learning to keep it under control because that is where she learned many of these lessons. God cares about your heart and wants your heart to be focused on him. He wants you to rest in him.

One area I have struggled with is my health. Over the last decade, I have been sick more than not. My body has taken a beating with one problem after another. I struggle with the fact that I can't do the things I used to as easily. My body has no extra energy and sometimes what feels like not even enough energy to do what needs doing in a day. But instead of letting the changes frustrate me, I need to accept where I am right now. I need to make sure my focus is on God and what he wants me to do and not focus on what I could do 15 or 20 years ago.

There are so many verses addressing our hearts.

You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
Deuteronomy 6:5; Matt 22:37

One I hear often, but it should be our aim to love God with all we have.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

Where is my treasure? What am I putting ahead of God? And connected to that.

For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Matthew 12:34b

If my heart is focused and filled up with the wrong things, what I speak both with words and actions will come out wrong. If my heart is focused and filled up with God, then God and his love will come out. God just wants us.

~ Heidi Tonseth

Book Recommendations

Jesus Doesn't Care About Your Messy House, He Cares About Your Heart
- **Dana K. White**

God's Guest List:
Welcoming Those Who Influence Our Lives
- **Debbie Macomber**

The Four Loves
- **C.S. Lewis**

*The Gospel Comes with a House Key:
Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality
in Our Post-Christian World*
- **Rosaria Butterfield**

*The Christian Atheist:
Believing in God but Living As If
He Doesn't Exist*
- **Craig Groeschel**

*Enjoying the Bible:
Literary Approaches to Loving the Scriptures*
- **Matthew Mullins**

*Our Greatest Gift:
A Meditation on Dying and Caring*
- **Henri J. M. Nouwen**

The Forgotten Way
- **Ted Dekker**

*God in the Dark:
The Assurance of Faith
Beyond a Shadow of Doubt*
- **Os Guinness**

Three Sisters Island Series
On a Summer Tide
On a Coastal Breeze
At Lighthouse Point
~ **Suzanne Woods Fisher**

Creating a Holy Empty Box

Life is hard. Life is overwhelming. But, life is also a gift. I have had the word steward, or stewardship, on my heart a lot this year. Am I stewarding my time, my money, my life the way God wants me to? If I am being honest, with both God and myself, the answer is no. I should not be shocked then if life is becoming too much to handle if I am not taking care of what God has given to me.

Knowing this, I have made some changes, alongside God giving me the strength when I do not always know how to change or want to change. God provided a new job in perfect timing. I have come home from work with joy, even on hard days. I have made a new budget and stuck to it. I no longer rush through my days off; I enjoy each minute of it. All of which has helped life calm down.

But I am still overwhelmed, anxious, and surrounded by noise. Life is not completely slowed down. God has been reminding me that I need to be stewarding my relationship with Him as well. I can read my devotions daily, and still not have spent any true time with God. I believe that social media has trained humans to respond in seconds, to feel pressure to publish everything for approval, and to rush everywhere we go. But what would happen if we slowed life back down to answering someone when you have a moment, rather than right when you feel the notification go off? What would happen if we enjoyed life's adventures for the moment they bring us, not to show them to the world later? What would happen if we allowed our spirit to rest in God's peace 24/7 and allowed our bodies to have a level of Sabbath every day?

The people-pleasing and the little requirements we allow to be placed on us go away. The peace of the Lord has room to enter your space, allowing the Lord's voice to be louder than the voices of this world. Fear, obsessive thoughts, and dwelling in unholy places for momentary pleasure, are no longer places we hang out. Stewarding a set apart space to dwell in God's presence, living on His time schedule, brings comfort, rather than crippling anxiety. We are never going to make every decision perfectly. But when we dwell in God's presence, we can rest in knowing that we answer to Him and Him alone.

I have been told my whole life; that women have many tabs open in their heads and no empty box. It is just the way it is. I have been told that life in the 21st century is fast-paced, and that is what it is. But I know a God bigger than the, "It has always and will always be."

I know a God who did the impossible before and can do it again. I know a God that can enter your most sacred space and create a holy empty box where you can rest in Him, and Him alone. I have no empty box, I live a rushed life, but I know God can change that. When we give God access to everything about us, He can heal, restore, and create anew.

~ Samantha Turner

Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.

² From the ends of the earth I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

³ For you have been my refuge,
a strong tower against the foe.

⁴ I long to dwell in your tent forever
and take refuge in the shelter of your wings.

⁵ For you, God, have heard my vows, you have
given me the heritage of those who fear your name.

~ Psalm 61:1-5

I find rest in God;
only he gives me hope.

⁶ He is my rock and my salvation.

He is my defender; I will not be defeated.

⁷ My honor and salvation come from God.
He is my mighty rock and my protection.

⁸ People, trust God all the time.

Tell him all your problems,
because God is our protection.

~ Psalm 62:5-8

A Devotional Thought

A WARRIOR'S WARDROBE

Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

~ Ephesians 6:14-17 NIV

We have been walking through the books of I and II Thessalonians on Sunday mornings in church and came across the following passage with a mention of the helmet of salvation.

For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. ⁶ So then, we must not sleep, like the rest, but we must stay awake and be serious. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, we must be serious and put the armor of faith and love on our chests, and put on a helmet of the hope of salvation.

~ I Thessalonians 5:5-8 HCSB

I associated the “armor of faith and love on our chest and a helmet of the hope of salvation” with the Armor of God passage from Ephesians 6. I was taken aback as I have never noticed the Armor of God referenced anywhere else in the Bible. To my surprise look what I came across next:

And *do* this, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation *is* nearer than when we *first* believed.

¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ~ Romans 13:11-12 NKJV

Did you notice that both passages not only reference the Armor of God but associate it with being in the light? Both urge us to be awake and covered for battle because the time is short. We are Warriors of Hope who wear the Armor of God to fight against the darkness, injustice, and untruth in our world. We are told to be ready to share the gospel of peace. As we enter each day of our lives we want our minds covered with “the helmet of the hope of salvation” because our environment is full of untruth and evil.

Truth is not spoken in the streets;
what is honest is not allowed to enter the city.

¹⁵ Truth cannot be found anywhere, and people who refuse to do evil are attacked.

The LORD looked and could not find any justice,
and he was displeased.

¹⁶ He could not find anyone to help the people,
and he was surprised that there was no one to help.

So he used his own power to save the people;
his own goodness gave him strength.

¹⁷ He covered himself with goodness like armor.
He put the helmet of salvation on his head.

He put on his clothes for punishing
and wrapped himself in the coat of his strong love.

~ Isaiah 59:14b-17 NCV

Did you notice who wore them first? God himself put on the helmet of salvation! The helmet was first worn by our God who is mighty to save. These items that we have been urged to wear are literally the Armor of God like King Saul taking off his armor to give to David. God has given us the helmet, shield, breastplate, and sword not just as symbols of our position but as borrowed out of his own wardrobe! Holy hand-me-downs make up our Warrior's Wardrobe, go light your world!

Devote some thought to that,
~ Melisa Turner

Until we meet again...