

Blossom Ministries

Preparing Women To Bear Fruit

Greetings...

Dear Readers,

The calendar is beginning to sound like Science Fiction. Just making up numbers that cannot possibly be true! Here we are in the year 2026, and we are getting ready to host our 20th Annual Blossom Spring Bazaar in Oroville. Please plan to join us.

The days keep marching on, and I can't help but agree with the following quote: "Adulging is just saying, 'After this week, things will slow down'...every week, forever."

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
~ John 15:5 (ESV)

Speaking of twenty years...I have begun compiling the *Devote Some Thought to That* Blossom Newsletter articles into a 52-week devotional. Hopefully, it will be available by the end of the year! More on that soon.

What have you been working on? Are you anxious to get outside? Read any good books over the winter? We have some great recommendations for you on page 3. Some of which are quoted here on the title page.

Wishing you a spring full of joy and wonder,

~Melisa Turner and the Blossom Team

2026 Events

Blossom Bazaar

April 18, 2026

10 AM - 2 PM

OHS Commons

Oroville, WA

Admission is free to this event. Potential Vendors may contact us at email listed below

Blossom Retreat

October 23-24, 2026

Save the Date
Details to come

Worship is an *act* that develops feelings for God, not a *feeling* for God that is expressed in an act of worship.

~ Eugene Peterson,
A Long Obedience
in the Same Direction

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Quotes

Advocacy is not a choice. It is a calling to the greater good. ~ **Greg Puckett**

Her past cast long shadows on the present.
~ **Linda Chaikin,**
The Midwife of St. Petersburg

Joy is not a requirement of Christian discipleship, it is a consequence.
~ **Eugene Peterson,**
**A Long Obedience
in the Same Direction**

The more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.
~ **G.K. Chesterton**

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ~ **Hebrews 11:1**

All the way to heaven is heaven.
~ **Catherine of Siena**

The theologian who has no joy in his work is not a theologian at all. Sulky faces, morose thoughts and boring ways of speaking are intolerable in this science.
~**Karl Barth, Church Dogmatics**

If you go against the grain of the universe you get splinters.
~ **H.H. Farmer**

I am the Alpha and the Omega, " says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.
~ **Revelation 1:8**

Speak Kindness

I have the privilege of being a Mentor Mom for a local MomCo group (you might have heard it called MOPS - Mother's of Preschoolers). This is a lesson I facilitated.

When we think of speaking kindly, we automatically direct that kindness to others. What about applying it to when we speak to or about ourselves? It is a both/and situation. We should use words of kindness when we interact with others and when we speak to ourselves.

She opens her mouth in wisdom, And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. (Proverbs 31:26)

My friend Kim once shared with me her family's rules. There are only two of them, and they are as follows:

Rule #1 Be Kind! Rule #2 Don't Be Stupid!

These rules hold both wisdom and truth. What if every time I spoke, I reminded myself to "Be kind and don't be stupid!"? Speaking with kindness means using wise and true words.

"But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam. He turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loves you" (Deut 23:5)

"God would not allow a curse to be spoken over His blessed people. God would not listen to evil intent it says in one translation. Why? It says He would not listen to it because He *loves* Israel!" ~ But God...A Doctrine of Hope (p. 27) God's love for us means that He does not approve of untruth or curses spoken about or to us.

Jesus said, ... Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)

When we speak truth over ourselves and to others, it sets us free from the weight of the curse of shame. Speaking kindness to myself was a real-life struggle for me.

"Daily my mind allowed thoughts of negativity and untruth to run a three-ring circus with my attention and emotions...How we talk to ourselves is so important. My life and my God were both good, but my perception of my world did not reflect that. I felt unloved and unwanted, but that was a lie. I felt useless, like my daily activities held no merit—also a lie. And so, I had to replace those lies with truth. ...When I would catch myself in a narrative of made-up facts and negative thoughts, I would stop and say out loud, "No, that is not the truth. This is truth _____," and I would fill in that blank with whatever was true about my current situation or relationship." ~ But God (p. 15-16)

Is there negative self-talk happening in your mind? Do you need to institute a daily discipline of kind truth?

"I am the LORD. The LORD is a God who shows mercy, who is kind, who doesn't become angry quickly, who has great love and faithfulness. (Exodus 34:6)

There is no God like you.

You forgive those who are guilty of sin; you don't look at the sins of your people who are left alive.

You will not stay angry forever, because you enjoy being kind.

¹⁹You will have mercy on us again; you will conquer our sins.

You will throw away all our sins into the deepest part of the sea. (Micah 7:18-19)

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. (Luke 6:35)

We reflect our Creator's character by being Kind. This kindness should also be directed toward ourselves.

"We must tell ourselves the truth. We can begin with these truths: God loves me. God is good. God never changes, so the first two statements are always true." (But God, p.27) God's Word instructs us to be careful what we think about.

Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life. ~ Proverbs 4:23

...think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. (Philippians 4:8)

That is my challenge to each of us today: to speak the truth to ourselves, because that is a kindness. The truth is that we are loved by a good God, who created us in a wonderful and unique way. We have talents and goodness to offer others; be kind to yourself!

~ With all My Love, Melisa Turner

Favorite Scriptures

Have you ever thought about your favorite verse? Because that is how it is often asked. I usually ignore such questions, not because I don't have favorites, but because the thought of picking a favorite is just too overwhelming for my brain. Recently, something flipped. Instead of thinking about individual verses, I was thinking about favorite passages. I promptly had a list in my mind. I do have many individual verses that I like, and picking just one is still hard.

So, my list of favorite passages.

- Genesis 1
- Psalm 1
- John 1: 1-18
- John 15:1-5
- Hebrews 11
- Revelation 1:9-18

I will try to give some highlights I love about the first three passages. But all of these passages have too much to cover thoroughly here.

Genesis 1: In verse one alone, we see the foundations of our world mentioned. Time (beginning), space (heaven), and matter (earth). Each day begins with rest *evening and morning* (see verses 5, 8, 13, 19, 23, & 31). And the word *day* (same verses as above) – the Hebrew word *yom*, God doesn't leave any doubt as to which meaning of "day" was meant. There are a couple of ways that indicate a 24- hour day is what is meant. One is the use of ordinal numbers like 1st, 2nd, etc. The second is to use "evening and morning." God did **not** leave room for doubt. He used both.

Psalm 1 has been a favorite since I had to memorize it for the Bible Memory program at church. Verse 1 – *Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked. He doesn't try out or test to see if he likes the counsel of the wicked. Nor sits in the seat of scoffers. He doesn't rest, take it easy, or relax in the seat of those who have nothing good to say.* Verse 2 – *but his delight is in the law of the Lord and on his law he meditates day and night.* Instead, he delights on the instruction and teaching of the Lord and thinks about and contemplates God's instruction and teaching while working and resting.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. First, this verse especially reflects Genesis 1:1, but it also ties Jesus, the Word, to creation. He existed before Creation and with God. Verse 3 – all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. Jesus made all things. How often do you think about that fact? He creates the world and then places himself in it (verse 14), just to save us. Verses 4-5 – In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. His life - his living - his being is the true light (verse 9) for us. His light pushes the darkness out of our lives.*

~ Heidi Tonseth

It will always be true that the wisest course for the disciple is always to abide solely by the Word of God in all simplicity. ~ Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Book Recommendations:

The Daniel Prayer: Prayer That Moves Heaven And Changes Nations
Anne Graham Lotz

God Knows the Path I Take
Caroline Bushey

Emmanuel - **Ruth Chou Simons**

The Midwife of St. Petersburg - **Linda Chaikin**

The Way of the Wildflower - **Ruth Chou Simons**

You Bet Your Stretch Marks:
Finding Beauty and Worth in the Ways
Motherhood Marks Our Bodies and Souls
Abbie Halberstadt

J Curve: Dying & Rising
With Jesus In Everyday Life
Paul E. Miller

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction
Eugene H. Peterson

Brave Enough: Getting over our fears, flaws,
and failures to live BOLD and FREE
Nicole Unice

Unashamedly Sharing My Testimony

“Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him.”

~ John 4:28:30

I see two powerful things from this passage.

One, this woman is eager to share about Jesus, and two, the people listened to her! This Bible story is often referred to as The Woman at the Well, The Samaritan Woman, or the Woman of Samaria. It shares about this woman's encounter of meeting Jesus, and how it changed her life. She probably never imagined she would be able to use her life story to share the gospel with others.

Sunday night, March 22nd, 2026, I attended a Young Adult Prayer & Worship Service. While I was praying, a woman came up to me and said she felt God wanted her to tell me about the woman at the well. She said God wanted to remind me, even if I've felt unseen, unchosen, or rejected, that I am seen by God, chosen by God, and like the woman at the well, I can use these hurtful things in my story to spread and share the gospel.

She prayed for me to have joy and to become an evangelist like the woman at the well, sharing my testimony. The most incredible part about this is that, when she came over, I was in the middle of asking God to help me find the good in each of the things that have caused me to feel unseen, unchosen, and rejected. I was asking God to help me choose gratitude in situations that did not go how I wanted and that have left me hurt for years. I was asking Him to help me understand how I could use it for His good.

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. ~ Romans 8:28

Sometimes, our testimony is not what we thought it would be. Honestly, it never is. God allows things to happen that don't make sense. Whether that is choices of our own or choices of others. But God will use it for His good. While praying, I was able to find many good things that have come out of those hurts and choose gratitude!

God sought me out like He did the woman at the well, reminding me that He can use my testimony to share His gospel. I want to be eager to share about Jesus the way this woman was, so much so that she left her water jar.

She wasn't ashamed to share about herself, because that was the part of her story that explained who God was to her. I want to unashamedly share my testimony to show people how God loves us in all seasons and meets us where we are. I want to use the unlikely parts of my testimony to spread the good news and be an evangelist like the woman at the well.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes ~ Romans 1:16

No shame, just, “Hey! There is this man, His name is Jesus, He knows everything about me, and He still chooses me, sees me, and loves me. He will do the same for you!” I want to be able to do that, I want to be like the woman at the well.

~ Samantha Turner

...Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

~ Hebrews 12:2-3

A Devotional Thought

THE UNITY IN COMMUNITY

Behold, how good and pleasant it is
when brothers dwell in unity! ~ Psalm 133:1 ESV

How wonderful, how beautiful, when brothers
and sisters get along! ~ Psalm 133:1 MSG

Community is often defined as a geographical place. We live in a community or a local. But, the community of believers in Christ is better defined as having the same characteristics, beliefs, and goals. Regardless of our location on planet earth we are hopefully in unity of thought, belief, and have all received the gift of the salvation of Jesus Christ. How wonderful it is when we get along or dwell together in unity, at peace with one another.

You may notice that the word unity is a part of the word community. Unified common ground might be an even better definition for the word community. As believers we have the most important things in life in common! If we identify as Christ followers we have been given the gift of salvation. We have been redeemed from our past, restored to a right relationship with God, and set a part for good works. We all have the same job description, to love God and make Him known to others. It should come as no surprise then to find that the Psalmist urged God's people to get along with one another.

The Apostle Paul also implores the believers in Corinth to do the same "I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind..." ~ I Corinthians 1:10 (ESV)
Paul wanted the Corinthians to be united on what is most important, the cross of Christ and that no one can boast about their own redemption, it is a gift of grace.

Jesus himself emphasizes how important our unity as believers is when He prayed for us in John 17:21 (NCV) "Father, I pray that they can be one. As you are in me and I am in you, I pray that they can also be one in us. Then the world will believe that you sent me."

We can assume from reading just these three passages that unity is not only possible, but essential. So how do we achieve unity in community?

We take some clues from God's Word on this as well. Jesus selected twelve different men as disciples and encouraged many women from unique backgrounds to travel with their group. The Apostle Paul wrote more than once on the subject of diversity in gifts and yet all being a part of one body. Author Halee Gray Scott says "...there is both unity and diversity in the Holy Trinity." (*Dare Mighty Things: Mapping the Challenges of Leadership for Christian Women*)

We see that God, himself is unified in purpose, and love, yet works in different ways within the Trinity. So we learn that we can be individuals, with diverse gifts, attend different congregations and yet be in the same body. Unity is not conformity. It is recognizing that we each get to be different members of the same family.

"No Christian is an only child...community is essential.
Scripture knows nothing of the solitary Christian."
~ Eugene Peterson,
A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

David, the Psalmist, urged all of Israel to come to worship together in unity. Jesus collected a diverse group of traveling companions who learned to work as a team to spread the Gospel. The Apostle Paul warned a local congregation of the importance of being like minded. Surely, we can carry on this task to dwell together in unity that others would know God sent His Son to us.

Devote some thought to that,
~ Melisa Turner

God uses imperfect people, in every generation,
at each unique point in history,
to accomplish his purposes.
~ Sarah Arthur,
A Light So Lovely

All God's people are gifted
and called to various tasks by the Spirit...
~ Miroslav Volf,
Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work

Until we meet again...