

The Northwest Connection

Serving the Communities of Oregon

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COMPLIMENTARY ISSUE

JANUARY 2011



New Troutdale Police Officer Receives Award

By Mayor Jim Kight

The worst news any parent can receive is the notification of the death of their child.

It was a hot summer day in July and the Bermudez family sought relief in the cool waters of the Sandy River. Their 14 year old son Andrez lingered in the swift moving current and was soon swept away. The family thought he was with friends but soon discovered that they couldn't find him. Panic set in as they frantically searched the area and asking everyone they met if they had seen their son. Since it was sundown the lifeguards had already left the beach and so they called the Troutdale Police. Eventually the search group included Multnomah County Sheriff's Department, Search and Rescue groups utilizing helicopters and boats to find the missing boy. Troutdale officers called in newly sworn Reserve Police Officer Salvador Fuentes. He has a skill set that makes him essential in communicating with the family. He is fluent in Spanish. The father speaks only in his native tongue and Officer Fuentes became the bridge contact for the family with the search groups. During the search, Fuentes was trying to bring comfort and support to the family. Unfortunately, when their son is found by the searchers he had drowned. It was up to Officer Fuentes to deliver the sad news to the family. But before he did, he sought out counsel from someone older and wiser. He called

continues pg. 3

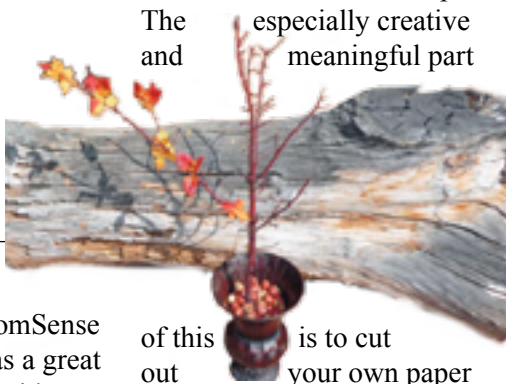
Remind Yourself and Your Kids of Your Blessings



By Paula Olson

In a fall issue of MomSense magazine there was a great idea of a craft to do inside with kids of any age during nasty weather outside. The short written piece described a "Blessings Tree." It suggests picking up a dead tree branch from the yard and placing it securely in a pot. You could use floral foam or wrap fabric around it to keep it upright,

transforming the branch into a small, leafless "tree" in a pot. The especially creative and meaningful part



of this is to cut out your own paper leaves and hang them from the branch.

Before you hang the leaves, ask yourself and your family members what they feel blessed by, what they are thankful for, and write a blessing on each leaf. Hang

continues pg. 15

Remembering Maurice Lucas

Terry Emmert Recalls Friendship with "The Enforcer"

By Mark Ellis

I never saw him not take the time to sign an autograph or graciously say 'Hi' to someone." So remembers Terry Emmert of his friend Maurice Lucas.

The legendary Trailblazer power forward, who earned the nickname "the Enforcer," succumbed to a long battle with bladder cancer on October 31, 2010. In remembering Lucas, Emmert

recalls Portland's 1977 NBA championship team, names like Bill Walton, Larry Steele and Lionel Holland, now enshrined in sports history. Over the years other stars rose, Clyde Drexler, Terry



Terry Emmert, Maurice Lucas and Oscar Robinson enjoy the victory celebration.

continues pg. 2

Happy New Year!

National Puzzle Day

By Helen Maguire

I love puzzles! All kinds of puzzles! Except, maybe, Sudoku, the number puzzle, which seems to be one of the most popular puzzles, these days.



Did you know that January 29th is National Puzzle Day? I don't know when or how this particular day has been thus designated (no act of Congress has made it "official"), so its origins remain

a puzzle (pun intended). Yes, I really enjoy working puzzles—crosswords keep me amused for hours on long plane rides; word searches are always fun; and during the holidays, I almost always had a very large and difficult jigsaw

continues pg. 4

JANUARY'S FLOWER

The Carnation, In The Heart of The Gorge

By Helen Maguire

Carnation flowers (Botanical Names: Dianthus Caryophyllus) are often associated with weddings and love. They are worn on special (and even not-so-special) occasions all over the world.

Carnations symbolize many things, but especially motherly love. According to Christian legend, pink carnations first appeared on Earth when a tear

continues pg. 13

PERILOUS CROSSING

Fee Hike to Help Build New Sellwood Bridge Approved

By Mark Ellis

It is not a bridge to nowhere, but it is a bridge in danger of falling hundreds of feet into the Willamette River. Chunks of concrete are routinely seen dislodging from Portland's 74-year-old Sellwood Bridge



and splashing near salmon fishing boats below. Engineers

continues pg. 6

Emmert International Wins 2010 Specialized Carriers & Rigging Title Contest



pg 7

Aquaponic Experiment!



pg 15



The Gift

pg 17

Church DIRECTORY



Columbia Life Center

27938 SE Stark St.
Troutdale, OR 97060
503-665-7500

Pastor: Jerry Stitzel
Sunday 10am

LIFE Foundations Worship Service
11:15am LIFE Connection
Groups
5pm LIFE Devotional Group
Wednesday
7pm Family Praise & Prayer
Gathering and Youth Group
www.clct.net

Good Shepherd Community Church

28986 SE Haley Road
Boring, OR 97009
503-663-5050

Pastor: Alan Hlavka
3 Identical Services
Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 9am, 10:30am
www.goodshepherdcc.org

Greater Gresham Baptist Church

3848 NE Division
Gresham, OR 97030
503-667-1515

Pastor: Keith Evans

Saturday 6pm,
Sunday 9am & 10:30am
www.greatergresham.org

Iglesia Vida Nueva

3848 NE Division Street
Gresham, OR 97030

Pastor: Johnny Sangoquiza
Sunday school. 12:15pm
Worship: 1:30pm.

Morning Star Church

3333 NE 8th
(Corner of 8th & Kane Rd.)
Gresham, OR 97030
503-669-1525

Sunday Worship 9:15am Family
Worship 11:00am Adult Bible Study
11am Family Worship

Mountainview Christian Church

1890 NE Cleveland Ave.
PO Box 1740
Gresham, OR 97030
503-492-1200
Weekend Worship:
Sunday 9:00 & 11am
www.mvcvlive.org

Troutdale Community

921 Buxton Ave.
Troutdale, OR 97060
503-666-5617

Pastor: Dr. Tom Pousche

Sunday 10am Worship
Youth Group Thursday 6:21pm

Wood Village Baptist Church

23601 West Arata
Wood Village, OR
503-661-7686

Pastor: Bill Ehmann

Sunday Service:
9:30am & 11am
Youth Ministries, Awana Club,
Growth Groups for adults
www.woodvillagebaptist.org
office@woodvillagebaptist.org

*"...praying at the same
time for us as well, that
God will open up to us a
door for the word, so that
we may speak forth the
mystery of Christ...that I
may make it clear in the
way I ought to speak."
—Col. 4:3, 4*

Faith Encouragements

A Biblical Critique of the Concerned Christian Vote— Principled or Pragmatic? Reflective or Reactionary?



Barry Durmaz lives in Corbett with his wife, Kyoko, a native of Japan, and their five home educated children. Barry is the owner of Strategic Cleaning & Access, a private contract cleaning service company and is writing his forthcoming book: "The Right to Contract in America." Comments are welcomed at: barrydurmaz@me.com.

By Barry Durmaz

*"Do not put your trust in
princes, nor in a son of man,
in whom there is no help.
Happy is he who has the God
of Jacob for his help, whose
hope is in the Lord his God,"
Ps. 146: 3,5*

November 2010 elections: Oregon Republicans did not get their representative in the state's highest office—again. And, though many states in the Union did experience a Republican victory for Governor, Oregon remains a divided state between the two major political parties. Yet, that is amidst Republican fervor, energy and resources spent on campaign promotion, banners and signs to brand the conservative candidate for Governor, Chris Dudley.

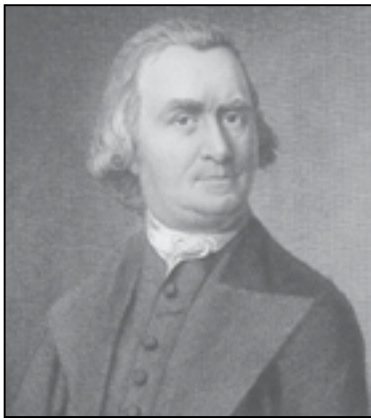
What is the Oregon Republican party to do to win an election? Spend more money and campaign even harder in 2012? No. Money will not get the job done. Neither will the might of human energy. Here's one for you to chew on: "What is your biblical basis for winning an election as your objective?" I see from cover to cover of God's word that an uncompromised faithfulness to truth is our calling.

Leading up to the November elections, many concerned Christian voters expressed their fear over the welfare of the nation by forwarding emails and videos of what is wrong with America, and the failures of its past and current leadership. When I reply to these concerned Christians with the Christian approach to correcting what is wrong, I find they stumble over this truth:

Christianity replaces what is wrong no faster than it's ability to offer superior solutions—the most superior solutions being biblical.

My experience has been that Christians believe quite fervently that those dastardly liberal democrats are to blame for the condition of Oregon and the Nation. To the contrary my dear reader, Christians need to hear and bear the candid reality that modern

Conservative Republicanism is not to be equated with Biblical Christianity's expression in the civil realm. In other words, in order for Christians to be the salt and light element in politics, thereby displacing darkness, both our philosophy and methodology of government must be biblical. Falling in any way short of that, can



we honestly expect God to honor our disobedience? Can you find even one scripture where God rewards partial obedience? Partial obedience is still disobedience. Consider the exhortation of the Father of the American Revolution, Samuel Adams: "These [rights of the colonists as Christians] may be best understood by reading and carefully studying the institutes of the great Law Giver and Head of the Christian Church, which are found clearly written and promulgated in the New Testament."

Preparation is needed in the home and church before one can expect that a man of principle comes forward to serve in the best interest of the people according to fixed law. And yet, how many Republicans did indeed vote for a man who has no regard and respect for the unborn in the womb and who promised an Oregon comeback to ensure the Republican version of socialism, supposedly providing jobs for the jobless.

If the 2010 election was such a vital election, why then did I hear not a single sermon in my congregation or in our local area concerning the Christian approach to correcting political wrongs? Why did I not read a locally published sermon on the biblical principles

of self government, civil government, and the biblical principles for choosing a political candidate? How about Biblical economics?

The state is at war with the Biblical view of economic provision. Every candidate of the two major parties promises more jobs. What is the constitutional basis for such philosophy of governing? Even more indicting for the Christian voter, on what scriptural basis is the role of government to provide your needs for housing, education, and daily sustenance? I thank God the Republican candidate did not win, for the false sense of making progress by winning the election for Governor.

How do we expect God to honor our campaign efforts and voting if we are unwilling to honor His word on the matter of what constitutes good government? Not only are we largely ignorant, then, of the source of all truth, but also of God's mighty works in establishing America as a Federal Constitutional Republic, for advancing the greatest individual liberties, yet under law—a first in the history of nations.

This being a true testimony of how Americans will be governed, how long will pulpits remain silent on what is, without question, not the work of men but the work of God in our founding era?

Do you see corruption in our communities and among holders of civil office? Then as I reason cause to effect from Scripture, corruption is on our own doorstep among church attending Christians. Can you hear that indictment against

yourself? God has served problems to the church and we are ignoring them, indifferent to them, deny them, and refuse to make any connection that what is out of order in our cities and state is the direct result of what is wrong in church congregations—most especially among it's leadership.

We Christians refuse to acknowledge our own wickedness, while railing against the wickedness among those currently in positions of servant rulership, when those folks are the same ones among us in our churches and homes. From where, then, shall the focus on good government come?

America is so unique among nations of the world, because our form of government is biblical. America's form of government is predicated upon the capacity of the individual for self-government. What are you doing today to govern yourself, your family and church body, according to His divine constitution, the Word of God? Do that first, and you will begin to see much clearer who is qualified to govern. ■

Open Door Baptist Church

27710 SE Strebin Rd.
Troutdale, OR 97060
503 661-0606

Pastor Mel Tittle

Sunday Services:

9:30 am - Bible Hour
for adults and children
10:45 am - Morning worship
Children's Church

6:00 pm - Evening Service

Wednesday:

6:45 pm AWANA
7:30 pm Bible Study

Nursery available for all services

Leonard Conkling Photography



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