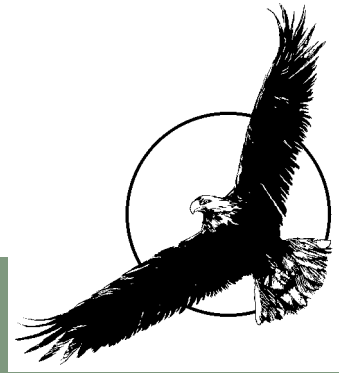


# The Messenger



MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH

Volume 23 Issue 8

August 2011

## So Who's Best At Packing For Travel?

Enjoying your vacation travels can be greatly enhanced with good planning and wise packing. Since the unexpected is by definition, unexpected, it's hard to justify packing for, 'what ifs;' especially if you're committed to the Packing Axiom that 'Less is more.'

Let me illustrate in this manner. In March of 1995 I led a tour group of about fifteen people on a twelve day tour of Israel. Prior to our travels I wanted to prepare our tour group for maximum enjoyment of the tour, so I conducted Sunday evening classes connecting what we were about to see with the Bible stories and events that took place there. In the last class I devoted a good fifteen minutes to what and how to pack for this trip. By the time we left for Israel, WE WERE READY!

As I checked my 25 pound medium size suitcase in at LAX, I noticed that one of our ladies

brought two big and very heavy suitcases. Then I noticed another lady had only one small duffle bag that weighed 8 to 10 pounds. When I asked her how she did it, she simply responded, "I've traveled overseas before and I have learned to bring 'essentials only' with no extras!" She was the smart one! She had packed all she needed!

Jerusalem is approximately the same latitude as Palm Springs so I encouraged our group to pack as though they were spending twelve days in Palm Springs; short sleeve shirts with a light jacket for the evenings should be perfect.

We arrived in Tel Aviv in the evening and the weather was perfect, without a cloud

in the sky. In the morning however, Jerusalem was in the process of being covered with a beautiful white blanket of snow. How could we have pre-

pared for this oddity? Snow is about as rare in Jerusalem as it is in Palm Springs.

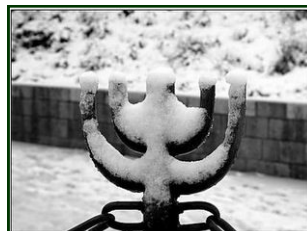
Don't feel too badly for us though, by mid afternoon the sun was shining and once again the Palm Springs weather returned. As a side note, it was wonderful to see many of the residence of Jerusalem enjoy the surprise snow-fall; snow ball fights and snowmen, were already showing up. However, those who had to drive in the snow seemed uniformly unimpressed.

When we left our hotel that morning, it sounded like every available vehicle horn in Jerusalem had been put into action. Horns that had probably been ignored much of the year were now being used to their fullest capacity.

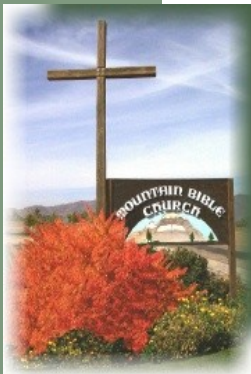
Fifty to a hundred vehicle horns blowing at the same time sound like a chorus of spoiled children, angrily demanding that their concern be given first priority - immediately.

Snow does that to some people!

Unexpected disruptions in our lives; like sickness, disabil-



Menorah covered with snow in Jerusalem. It's revered as a symbol of God's faithfulness



## Pastor's article continued...

ity, loss of job, loosing our house, can so disorient us that we can become like those people who were honking their horns in the snow storm.

A pertinent question is, "How can we 'pack' for life" so that we are prepared for the unexpected?" When the road we are on is unexpectedly closed, how do we find which alternate routes are open that will take us to our desired destination?

Think with me about what essentials should be packed in 'life's suitcase.' We'll need something to show us how to recognize and navigate various 'road conditions' ahead. Keep in mind that 'Less is more' when choosing what to pack. My recommended list includes the following:

1<sup>st</sup> You will want a reliable **'Guide Book'** that covers such things as detours and even break downs. Today's technology allows for the inclusion of an excellent **God Positioning System**. The best ones warn you if you're approaching traffic congestion or road closures and detour routes available.

2<sup>nd</sup> You might do well to pack a **'mirror.'** We need to look at ourselves regularly in order to see how much egg is on our face. This is an essential to pack. A good mirror helps

us see ourselves as God sees us.

3<sup>rd</sup> You will want a **'magnifying glass' and 'binoculars'** to observe a world normally unnoticed. Discovery is the foundation of all learning. Don't even consider traveling through life without these.

4<sup>th</sup> You will always need to pack a **'flashlight.'** The ability to illuminate the dark paths in life is an indispensable essential.

5<sup>th</sup> Always take some **'Good reading material,'** a few good biographies, your favorite authors, a song book or two, some fine poetry, maybe some old letters. Reading opens the door to your soul!

6<sup>th</sup> Pack **emergency numbers** in a safe place for easy access. Memorize as many as possible. Put them with your passport and hang them on a ribbon or string around your neck. We are most apt to panic when we are in an emergency, so the first number we need is that of a trustworthy friend who is both willing and able to help. Someone who is available 24/7 to show us what truly works!

7<sup>th</sup> I need the equivalent of a **'Sword and Shield' for protection.** We must be prepared for attacks from the enemy or we will suffer great loss. Life itself places us right into the middle of a great

spiritual war. We need a sword and shield that is effective for this spiritual warfare.

All of this and more is included when we obtain **OUR SPIRITUAL PASSPORT.** This passport epitomizes the 'Less is more' axiom of wise packing. It is in a single volume book called **THE BIBLE.** Don't forget to pack your Bible! It is the most essential of all items you will take with you on your travels through life.

Enhance your enjoyment of life by following the best and most complete guide book available. As with all great guide books, the more we study the Bible before and as we travel, the more functional and helpful it will be to us.

Incredibly, this guide book's author takes full responsibility for what happens to us if we follow His directions. He guarantees we'll arrive safely on the other side of the unexpected 'storms' in our lives. A **'triage base'** has already been set up for our emergencies in life. He calls this triage base, 'Church.' He has pledged to use these 'storms' and all other elements of our lives to produce something good and beautiful through our lives.

When the inconceivable happens to us, we can either choose to be angry and start randomly

'honking' at anybody and everybody; or we can open up our 'guide book' and discover God arrived at the 'storm' ahead of us and He knows how to guide us through it.

*"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."* Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

We can either stumble in the darkness in despair or we can turn on our flashlight.

*"Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path."* Psalm 119:105 (NLT)

Never refuse a map when lost in a maze! Never refuse mercy when it is offered!

### **THE BIBLE!**

### **DON'T NAVIGATE THROUGH LIFE WITHOUT IT!**

Your Pastor, Marv

*"Go for the happy endings, because life doesn't have any sequels."* Anon

*"You're only here on earth for a brief visit, so don't hurry, don't worry, and be sure to stop and smell the flowers along the way."* Walter Hagen, professional golfer

## Celebration Coming September 11th

### Mountain Bible Church's 40th Anniversary

Plan to be in attendance on this great day!

It's not the same if you're not here!

### PLEASE NOTICE THIS IMPORTANT CHANGE!

One combined worship service - Sept. 11th only starts at 10am to 12 noon

Let's Eat Café lunch - 12 noon

donations requested for lunch: adults \$4, Kids 11 yrs and younger \$2

This day is for worshipping God and celebrating His goodness to us these past 40 years. We planned:

- Excellent Music
- Inspiring Testimonies
- Poignant Scriptures
- Great meal - Let's Eat Café

• Lots of Family Fun  
Our unified service will start at 10am and the lunch

and activities will conclude around 2pm.

This day is also designated as a celebration of God's blessings upon each of us. We're requesting that each person bring non-perishable food items for our 'Deacons Cupboard.' THANK YOU! There are lots of people in Tehachapi area that need our help.



## Happy Anniversary

Cappy and Steve Stephens were married in 1945 which makes it easy for Steve to quickly remember the marriage timespan. Tehachapi has been their home for the past thirty years and although they visited other places of worship, Mountain Bible Church was the one that suited them best. The first meetings they attended were held in the Masonic Lodge on Green Street.

Prior to moving to Tehachapi they lived nearby the ocean and still have a fondness for the turbulent waves of the mighty Pacific Ocean. For years they have returned frequently to the Pacific shores with their wet suits and boards to conquer and ride the

waves. Steve related that they don't spend time lying or sitting on the beach soaking up the sun, but utilize their full time in the water. When they have finished surfing they drive back to Tehachapi. They have done this so often that they know exactly how much time it will take. I was not surprised when Steve told me that they attract the attention of teenagers and young adults who are at the beach at the same time.

A variety of activities vie for their time, and because of their disciplined makeup they find time to socialize, camp out and travel. They have traveled most of the back roads and wagon trails east of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and

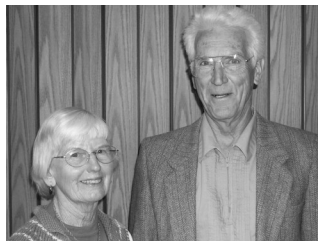
have found favorite places that they return to again and again. They have explored the recesses of Lake Powell, many of the streams of the High Sierras to the barren sands of Death Valley and much more. Steve has documented his travels with quality photographs that are sure to get their share of oohs and aahs when shown on the big screen television in the Stephens living room.

In her early years Cappy espoused to become a concert pianist, and although she eventually realized that she would not become an acclaimed pianist she has continued her interest in music. You will hear her playing the organ before services on most Sunday mornings. She is fond of the song 'Living for Jesus'. When she was young this was the song that was being sung at a church campfire where she gave her

heart to Jesus. Her commitment to Jesus has been lifelong and she continually shares her stories about Jesus at after school Good News Clubs and children services at church.

Steve and Cappy Stephens entertain weekly and are gracious hosts who have an easy charm that makes everyone feel at home. Their house bears frequent reminders of their hospitality with mottos, wall hangings and welcome mats at every available space. On July 30th, and by the time you have read this, they will have celebrated another anniversary date. Congratulations are definitely in order for this remarkable couple.

Written by Dr. Sam Conklin



## Going Through Trials

Sometimes we wonder why bad things happen to us. "Why is this happening to me?" we think. Trials are very tough at the moment they happen, and sometimes it isn't always easy to get through them. Why does God put us through these tough trials? James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."

A few months ago my mom was diagnosed with a

brain tumor. Only a few days after she found out, she was sent straight to the hospital. The doctor had said that if she fell and hit her head she would've died. The doctor also thinks that she has had this tumor for more than a couple of years; she has had it for a long time. After my mom's six hour surgery, she had to stay in the hospital for about a month, so that she could recover. There is still 15% left of the tumor. I know that God has been with her from the beginning, not just when she found out, but since the tumor developed. When my mom was in the hospital, so

many people and churches started praying for her. This greatly affected me. I saw the power of God.

Sometimes it's hard to grasp the idea that God is actually powerful and that he saves peoples lives. It's difficult to imagine how great and merciful he is. After I saw everything that happened with my mom, I know for a fact that God cares about every single person and he puts us through trials to test our faith. Never underestimate his power and never lose faith in him. This helps us to eventually pass through our trials and move on.

Everybody goes through different hardships; it's just a part of life. Without trials, we would never grow stronger; our faith would probably disappear. So, even though the road is bumpy, don't ever lose sight of who is with you all the time. God protects you no matter how much you're dealing with. Keep praying and have faith.

Written by Megan  
Hendrix

## Happenings In August

### August 6th-Coffee House

Attention Coffee People, art-kids, Jesus freaks, etc. It's about time we had a Summer Coffee House, am I right? Come out on Saturday August 6th and support our youth ministry and enjoy a cup-o-joe more heavenly than your Starbucks knows what to do with! All proceeds go directly toward helping a member of our church. Karri Fogle is looking to adopt a second, special needs child from China. This is an extremely expensive process. The

Mountain Bible Youth Group decided that instead of using the proceeds for their own camp slots, this Coffee House they want to help Karri and her growing family.

Performances by (but not limited to!): -David Leistman, -Chris Cherryholms (Brother Shorty), -Leicie Wilcox, -Elizabeth Wyman, -Erin Gollackson, -Al Crisali (Owl), -Daniel Schultz (Troubled By Insects), -Kayla White and Sheila Inglett, -Leah Robson, -Rachel Vespeller, -Dana Pike

If you: -would like to perform at Coffee House, -want to volunteer in the kitchen or at the coffee maker, -can't

make it but would like to make a food or cash donation, -are so awesome and varied in your talent that you just know you could help, but don't even know where to begin...Contact: Michael White 972-2922

### August 7th-Let's Eat Café

Immediately after second service our cooks, Kim & Yvonne Domingo and Susan Smith along with their families will present to you a wonderful, special lunch. You don't have to bring anything. A donation of \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for kids is welcomed but not necessary. Please

join us for great food and fun fellowship.

### August 13th-Highway Cleanup

Our portion of Highway 202 needs to be cleaned up. Meet here at 8am. For more information please call Dae Lantz at 822-6709.

### August 27th-Ice Cream Social

This is a fundraiser for Karri Fogle who is adopting her second child. Please stop by at 2pm and enjoy cold ice cream sundae with your choice of toppings. Call Marilyn Berg 822-5801 to help.

## Grandma's Hands

Grandma, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. She didn't move, just sat with her head down staring at her hands.

When I sat down beside her she didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat I wondered if she was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb her but wanting to check on her at the same time, I asked her if she was okay. She raised her head and looked at me and smiled. 'Yes, I'm fine, thank you for asking,' she said in a clear voice strong.

'I didn't mean to disturb you, grandma, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were okay,' I explained to her.

'Have you ever looked at your hands,' she asked. 'I mean really looked at your hands?'

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down. No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands as I tried to figure out the point she was making.

Grandma smiled and related this story: 'Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled shriveled and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life.

'They braced and caught my fall when as a toddler I crashed upon the floor. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer. They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots. They held my husband and wiped my tears when he went off to war.

'They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent. They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn son. Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special. They wrote my letters to him and trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse.

'They have held my children and grandchildren, consoled neighbors, and shook in fists of anger when I didn't understand. They have covered my face,

combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body. They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw. And to this day when not much of anything else of me works real well these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

'These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of life. But more importantly it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of God.'

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember God reached out and took my grandma's hands and led her home. When my hands are hurt or sore or when I stroke the face of my children and husband I think of grandma. I know she has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God.

Jane Etta Garrett Harper

MIXED SIGNALS  
MY FATHER'S  
HEARING AID  
OCCASIONALLY EMITS  
A BRIEF HIGH-PITCHED  
SQUEAL THAT CAN BE  
HEARD BY ANYONE  
NEAR HIM.  
ONE DAY MY LITTLE  
NIECE WAS SITTING  
ON HIS LAP WHEN  
THE DEVICE STARTED  
TO BEEP. SURPRISED,  
MY NIECE LOOKED UP  
AT HIM. "GRANDPA,"  
SHE SAID, "YOU'VE  
GOT MAIL."

MARSHMALLOWS, ANYONE?

AS THE COALS FROM OUR  
BARBECUE BURNED DOWN, OUR  
HOSTS PASSED OUT  
MARSHMALLOWS AND LONG  
ROASTING FORKS.

JUST THEN, TWO FIRE TRUCKS  
ROARED BY, SIRENS BLARING,  
LIGHTS FLASHING.

THEY STOPPED AT A HOUSE

RIGHT DOWN THE BLOCK.  
ALL TWELVE OF US RACED  
OUT OF THE BACK YARD AND  
DOWN THE STREET, WHERE  
WE FOUND THE OWNERS OF

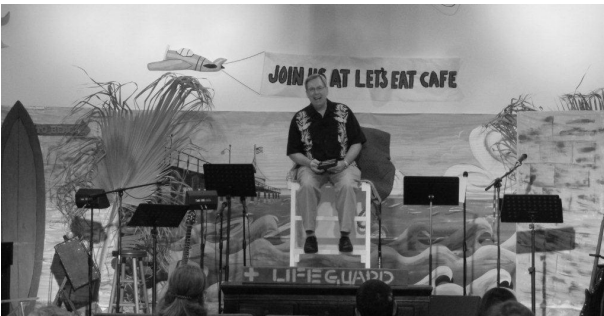
THE BLAZING HOUSE  
STANDING BY HELPLESSLY.  
THEY GLARED AT US WITH

LOOKS OF DISGUST.

SUDDENLY WE REALIZED WHY:  
WE WERE ALL STILL HOLDING  
OUR ROASTING FORKS WITH  
MARSHMALLOWS ON THEM.

# The Messenger

DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE HIKER THAT ENCOUNTERED A LARGE ANGRY GRIZZLY BEAR ALONG THE TRAIL? AS THE GRIZZLY BEGAN TO CHARGE THE HIKER THE HIKER BEGAN TO PRAY, "LORD ... PLEASE CHANGE THIS ANGRY GRIZZLY INTO A CHRISTIAN QUICKLY!" IMMEDIATELY THE BEAR DROPPED TO HIS KNEES AND BEGAN TO PRAY, "LORD...THANK YOU FOR THIS MEAL I AM ABOUT TO RECEIVE."



PASTOR USED THE VBS PROPS TO PREACH HIS SERMON, JULY 10TH.



PONDO CAMPERS 2011

ON THE BENCH: TRISTYN SHORT, LEA MASON, BETHANY GUSBETH, BROOKE BOYD, RUBY GILLIES, ALEXIS MASON, SYDNEY ACHZIGER. RACHEL VESZPELLER STANDING, DAVID VESZPELLER IN FRONT.

## Sonsurf Beach Bash!

One student was heard to say, "Only one week? Sure wish it lasted longer." That was the general consensus after a long week that was tons of fun.

"What is next year's theme? How long before we do it again?" These are the kinds of questions that let the leaders know that it was a huge success. It really is lots of work but oh the rewards. Happy faces, laughter, kids reciting scripture and kids praying and asking Jesus into their hearts.

Thank you so much to all the youth, helpers, leaders, prayer warriors, and supporters that gave hours to make Vacation

Bible School a blast. Thank you to all who donated snacks or money, without you guys we couldn't have stayed within our budget.

Each day we had about 90 children and by the end of the week 20 plus had prayed to ask Jesus into their hearts. That's what it is all about folks! Also, lots of donations came in to help stuff boxes for Operation Christmas Shoebox which was the mission ministry that we chose to support. We sure had a blast!!!

Lori Henry  
Children's Ministry Director





WE RECEIVED A THANK YOU FOR DEACON'S HELP: CARD READS..."THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP. A LITTLE KINDNESS MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE IN A DAY...YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS CERTAINLY MADE A DIFFERENCE IN MINE. THANKS AGAIN." THE HAND WRITTEN NOTE READS; "DEAR MOUNTAIN BIBLE CHURCH AND ALL WHO OUT OF GOODWILL AND FELLOWSHIP HELPED MY FAMILY TO PAY OUR UTILITY BILL, WE THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS. YOUR GENEROUS GIFT HAS BLESSED A MOTHER AND FOUR CHILDREN AND HER GRAND-DAUGHTER WITH ELECTRICITY. YOUR KINDNESS AND GRACE HAS BLESSED US."

**A Vacation Bible School Veteran's View Of This Year's Events**

It was WONDERFUL! Our children's leader, Lori Henry keeps making each year even better. The youth helpers were great. The theme was fun with all the awesome visuals and decorations and posters.

Dennis Collins' ability to turn the backdrop on the stage into waves that move for the skit, Betsy Conklin and Carol Weston painting the set pieces, Carol Pepaj was fabulous as the director of the skit. Therese Pridgen did the best drama of the Bible stories followed up by the kid-friendly tracks for salvation. 22 children chose to receive Jesus!

Although I did not personally view The music team, the craft time, the recreation, and refreshment times I know the kids were enriched.

The ending program was fun and the children performed well for their parents. If you have never been to a Vacation Bible School yourself you can experience it by helping next year with your expertise. Our church has the best in town!

Submitted by Cappy Stephens

**For Help and Answers**

Call the church office-----822-7541  
Crisis Prayer requests-----Call Christine, 822-8849  
Change address or phone-----822-7541  
Doctrinal questions-----822-7541  
Wedding questions-----822-7541

Hospital visits-----822-7541  
Counseling Information-----822-7541  
Child dedication Service-----822-7541  
Student Ministries (Junior High to College)-----822-7541  
Membership/Baptism-----822-7541

*The Messenger of Mountain Bible Church*

*Office Manager and Editor:* Donna Eastham

*Contributing Writers:* Lori Henry, Cappy Stephens, Dr. Sam Conklin, Megan Hendrix, and Pastor Slifer.

*Distribution:* Neya Kuithe

*Sunday Morning Services at Mountain Bible Church:* 8:30 and 10:30

*Children's Programs are available at the same times.*

*Infant care* (0-2 years) is available in the nursery.

*Senior Pastor:* Dr. Marvin D. Slifer

*Children's Ministries Director:* Lori Henry

*Youth Ministries Director:* Christy Boyd

*Human Resource Director:* Christy Boyd

*Trustees for 2011:* Dennis Birks, Robert Garcia, Paul Smith, Michael White, and Ron Williams.

*Elders for 2011:* Dennis Collins, Sam Conklin, Ed Dunlap, Dae Lantz, Dave Lawrence, and Andy Ohmit.

*The Messenger* is published monthly. All submissions to *The Messenger* are due the twentieth (20th) of each month. We would like contributions of news articles, photos and other information from the Youth Group, Men's and Ladies Bible Studies, Missions Team, Let's Eat Cafe, Energizers and Praise Team. Please remember to put your name on the article so we can give proper credit.

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