



Olivia Gets Biggest Buck

Olivia Rhinier got an eight-point buck on opening day, taking the prize of a basket of goodies during the WMMC Chili Cook-off and Hunter's Chili Supper. It was Olivia's first year to hunt.

Fifteen pots of chili were entered. Dan Procknow won first in the challenge category. He had to add strong coffee to his chili. Karen Dunkleberg took first in the creative category with a beef brisket chili. The tradition category was won by Pastor Rob Rhinier.

The money raised by the group will go to support local and overseas mission projects.

Christmas Program

This year's Christmas Program will be held Sunday, December 23 at 6:00 p.m. It will be a combination of Christmas Eve Service, Christmas Program and Music Night, with lots of Christmas music included.



Dan won the challenge category. He had to add strong coffee to his chili.

Karen used beef brisket in her chili to win in the creative category.



Pastor Rob made a hot, chili and won the traditional category.

Last Issue of Newsletter

This is possibly the last issue of the Bliss Missionary Church Newsletter, as I (Dennis Fay) am retiring as editor for the third time.

The Newsletter will continue if someone accepts the editor position and continues to write and publish the Newsletter.

From Pastor Rob

RESET

It is hard for me to believe that this is the last month of 2018. It just seems like yesterday we started this year and looking at ways we could grow deeper in our faith as followers of Christ. My prayer is that each of us has grown, in one way or another this past year.

One of the recurring themes I have heard from many people over the last several years is they are overwhelmed at how busy they are and the busier they get the more demands seem to pile up so that they are adding busy on top of busy to the point that all they do is run, run, run all day and fall into bed at night exhausted! I know life is busy and the red flags of business are showing

very strong here at Bliss Missionary Church as well.

Many are so busy that the only down time they feel they have is Sunday and the only day they can “sleep in” is Sunday morning and because of this, the tension of going to church this week or staying home to rest is a constant fight for many and rightly so. But my question is; “Does this have to be the way we live each and every day?” I believe that the answer can be a resounding No! This is not the life we have been called to, but a paradigm we have established for ourselves by trying to be more and do more than God ever intended for us.

This world is filled with amazing attractions and many interesting adventures and who doesn't want to explore everything that is available. But in reality one knows that without unlimited resources and unlimited time it is

impossible to do and see everything that this world has to offer. Yet, in my observations, I have seen that many are trying to do more and be more than they are able. Now here is what is concerning me. Because we get so busy and start to “overload” we create a “dump list” that consists of things that we prioritize as having less of a demand on us and easier to let go of. Church for the most part is an easy drop because, after all, no one is going to come after you for missing a Sunday or two so you can catch up. Yet, if we are honest we never catch up and then Church becomes easier and easier to miss.

But why is attending church so important you may ask. This is a great question and one that we need to be honestly asking ourselves if we are going to provide an answer that will impact ourselves and others in life. One word that

came to mind for me was the word “Reset”.

Going to church regularly is a way to “Reset” our lives in many ways. It is a way to reconnect to God and allow Him to

remind us of what is truly important in life.

If we think of our lives like our smart phones or computers we can learn something about our lives that tend to mimic these two items. Think back to when you got your phone, when it was new and no apps were added and you just set up phone for use. Now recall how fast things seemed to happen, how there were no glitches or crashes. Why is this? Well, mainly because at the startup of your phone there was very little stored in it, no pictures, no text message strings, no apps that required memory space on the phone so the phone could function at its prime capabilities.

Now fast forward to now. I bet your phone is slower, there are app crashes, and

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there are times you have to restart it to get things to work right. The memory is getting fuller and the available storage space is getting smaller all the time. This is normal and happens to everyone. Is there a fix? Yes and we will look at that in a minute.

Now let's think about our computers. I remember starting my computer for the first time and how fast it started up and ran through programs and processes so easily. Open a Word.doc and boom it was right there. Go to Google to look something up and it was there in no time. But as the days and months turned into a year the speed of my computer started to slow, getting bogged down because it has to wade through all the data that has been added as saved files, videos, links and programs that are necessary and important for me.

Just like our computers and phones get filled with folders, contacts, links and applications and slow down, we fill our lives with busyness, commitments, and time consuming activities. If we are truly honest, we feel overloaded and stressed. We tend to forget more, stress easier and avoid making plans and commitments that we once enjoyed and looked forward to. We want it to slow down yet we cannot find the brake or a way to get out of the vicious cycle we find ourselves in daily. We feel trapped and cannot find the door handle to get out of the runaway vehicle of life.

I am here to tell you there is a way to bring order into the chaos. It is a simple word but hard to apply. It means that we have to change some things, reorder them and actually eliminate a few items as well. It means we have to do what is known as a "reset". Some of us may even have to do a complete "Factory Reset" while others may only need what is known as a "Soft Reset"

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A soft reset, for a computer or phone, is one that makes repairs to corrupted files and links, restoring them to good health and thereby making them work properly again. This kind of reset is for those of us that are in the beginning of an over busy life. This reset makes tweaks to what our priorities are and reexamining what we need to focus on for a healthy Christian life. Rearranging priorities to fit God's plan for our lives will many times give us the reset we need at this level.

Think of it this way. Every so often we take our cars in to get serviced. You get the oil changed, the tire pressure is adjusted, fluid levels are topped off and an inspection of majorly important parts are done to insure that our vehicles are in good

working order. Tire tread and brake pads are examined to make sure we are driving a safe vehicle and suggestions for maintenance are made if there are any

warning signs of excessive wear.

When we do a soft reset we are making adjustments to our lives to put them back into good working order for us to live at a productive yet sustainable pace. This is a very important thing to do so we can stay connected to God and others in our lives without spinning out of control. Every so often one needs to make a soft reset in order to stay healthy in all aspects of life, emotionally, physically and most importantly spiritually.

Now there are times when we push through the soft reset point. We get super busy; we are so distracted and overloaded with work, activities, and commitments that we do not take the proper time to do a soft reset and this is where I believe many are, especially in the American culture. This includes several of us here in Bliss even.

Some of the warning signs I have noticed are these. First, I see a lack of time for socializing with others. In Acts Luke wrote that the believers gathered daily in each other's homes and fellowshiped and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. (See Acts 2:46) When our lives are so busy that we don't have time to fellowship on a regular basis, our spiritual health starts to decline and we are more vulnerable to Satan's attacks on our lives.

The second warning sign I see is a lack of commitment to church activities that require a commitment. There are a couple areas of ministry that no longer are filled because no one has the time to commit to overseeing them. One that has been heavy on my heart is for the Fellowship Committee that organizes activities for the church to have a set time of fellowship at least once or every other month. This is a sign of having too much going on in our lives that fellowshiping has lost its priority in our lives.

Lastly, I see a rising trend in weekly attendance. Not a rising attendance but a trend of allowing our daily lives to dictate that we do not have time to attend church as we once did. I do not keep track of who is here and who is not on a given week. However, I do see that the sanctuary has been looking sparse on any given week. The author of Hebrews wrote to the church words of encouragement when he said; *"And do not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing."* (See Hebrews 10:25) This was a way to help them remember that Church was a vital part of being a follower of Christ. Attending church is not a "requirement" but a reset point for us on a weekly basis so we can be refreshed by God and to encourage each other to continue on in seeking God's will each and every day throughout the rest of the week.

So how can someone put the brakes on a runaway life of busyness? Well I wish

I could say it will be easy for those who have moved into this lifestyle. But for many it will require what I will call a "Hard Reset." A hard reset is what you have to do to a computer and phone when it has been over used and too many applications are running and the memory is filled. Many files get corrupted and links to folders are lost and cannot be accessed anymore. When this happens you have to do what is known as a hard reset, or "Factory Reset". This wipes everything off the phone or computer and takes it back to the factory "default" settings. In a sense it is taking your phone or computer and making it like new. All the apps and files are wiped clear and you are giving a new start to rebuilding things in a manner that make it function properly again.

I cannot tell you if you need a hard reset, but if you are reading this and you feel that I am talking to you, chances are the Holy Spirit is doing a work in you that I suggest you take a moment to think about. This coming year we are going to be talking about a lot of areas in life that we can "Reset" in order to have a healthy spiritual life where we know God is first and we can boldly claim that we are living life the way Jesus taught when he said; *"Seek FIRST the kingdom of God AND all these things WILL be ADDED unto you."* (Emphasis added)

So join with me this year as we journey down a life changing path we call "Reset"

In Christ,
Pastor Rob

December 2018		<i>Bliss Missionary Church</i>				
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31					1
Noah Thomson						
2 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service	3	4	5 7:15 - Youth	6 Noelle Mallory	7	8
9 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service	10	11 Seth Strong	12 7:15 - Youth	13 Craig/Kathleen Spierling	14	15
16 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service Noon Luncheon & Business Meeting Kathleen Spierling	17	18	19 7:15 - Youth	20	21	22
23 10 - Sunday School 11 - Worship Service Christmas Eve/Program/Music 6:00 p.m.	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28 Cheryl Rhinier	29

How To Give Safely

This is the time of year for giving, but unfortunately it's also a time for scammers to operate. So how can you give to worthy causes, and know that your money is not going to enrich a scammer or an organization which wastes your money.

The first step is to be clear in your mind how much you want to give, and to what cause. Then find an organization which deals with the cause you wish to support and get their financial statement to see how they spend their money. An organization should spend no more than 15% on fund raising and administration.

These steps rule out any organization which calls you on the phone. As soon as you get a phone call asking for money, realize that the organization spends a lot of money on fund raising if they can hire someone to make calls. Just say "No."

These steps to good giving take time and require you to do some research. However, there is a short cut. It's called the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). This organization has done all the research for you.

They examine each organization on seven major points.

Doctrine - A commitment to evangelical Christian faith and operate using biblical truths and practices.

Governance - Governed by an independent board.

Financial Oversight - Engage an independent certified public accountant to review financial statements.

Use Of Resources - Management insures that the organization's operations are carried out in a responsible manner in accordance with applicable laws.

Transparency - Financial records open for examination.

Compensation - Leadership compensation demonstrates integrity and propriety.

Stewardship of Gifts - The organization must:

-Be truthful in its communications to prospective donors.

-Handle gifts according to a donor's intent and not create unrealistic expectations of what a gift will actually accomplish.

-Acknowledge gifts in a timely manner.

-Act in the best interest of givers, advising them according to their interests, and not accept gifts which would place a hardship on the giver.

-May not base staff compensation on a percentage of contributions raised.

Once you have determined how you want your gift to be used, you can search ECFA's records to find an organization which will use your gift as you want.

Contact ECFA at www.ecfa.org or call 800-323-9473.

It should be noted that ECFA deals only with Christian organizations. There are other good secular ones, but you must do your own research on them. You should expect them to meet ECFA standards.

My favorite organization is Christian Aid Ministries (CAM). They have more than 40 different programs, such as Crisis Relief, Medicines, Food, Bible Literature, Clothing, School, Spiritual Outreach, and others.

They also support sustainability projects, such as Seed Project, Grow-A-Tree, and Microfinance Solutions.

They don't call me or send literature asking for donations. They just send a receipt for gifts given.

Contact them at christianaidministries.org or call 330-893-2428.

Dennis Fay, Editor