

The Connection

A Word from Pastor Dave

"Where there are no oxen, the manger is empty, but from the strength of an ox come abundant harvests." (Proverbs 14:4 NIV)

The idea here is simple, if you don't own an ox you don't have to pay to feed the ox or clean out its stall. However, plowing a field is not much fun when you don't have an ox to help.

Our newsletter theme for February is, "Love It or List It". We stole that from a reality TV show that you might be familiar with. On the show couples or families that are growing out of their house have a designer come in to renovate based on their growing needs. At the same time a real estate agent comes in to help them find a house in their area that might already be able to meet their needs. After the renovation is done the couple or family has to decide if they love the newly renovated house or if because of their growing needs they still want to list their house and make the move to a new house with typically more space, etc. The reason we wanted to steal the title, Love It or List It, is because there should be times in our life when we make these types of decisions.

Recently at church we've talked about how *words* can go into 2 categories - life or death. Perhaps *things* can go into 2 categories as well. Those *things* which give us energy or those *things* which take away our energy. Really we need our *things* to help us connect and serve with the people around us, to build us up and not to exhaust us without purpose.

Since we are supposed to love people and use things rather than use people and love things it's important every now and then to do a careful inventory about what we own and how our stewardship of those things is benefiting ourselves, the people around us, and God's Kingdom. Nevertheless as you can see in Proverbs 14:4 the inventory and evaluation of those things takes

February Dates

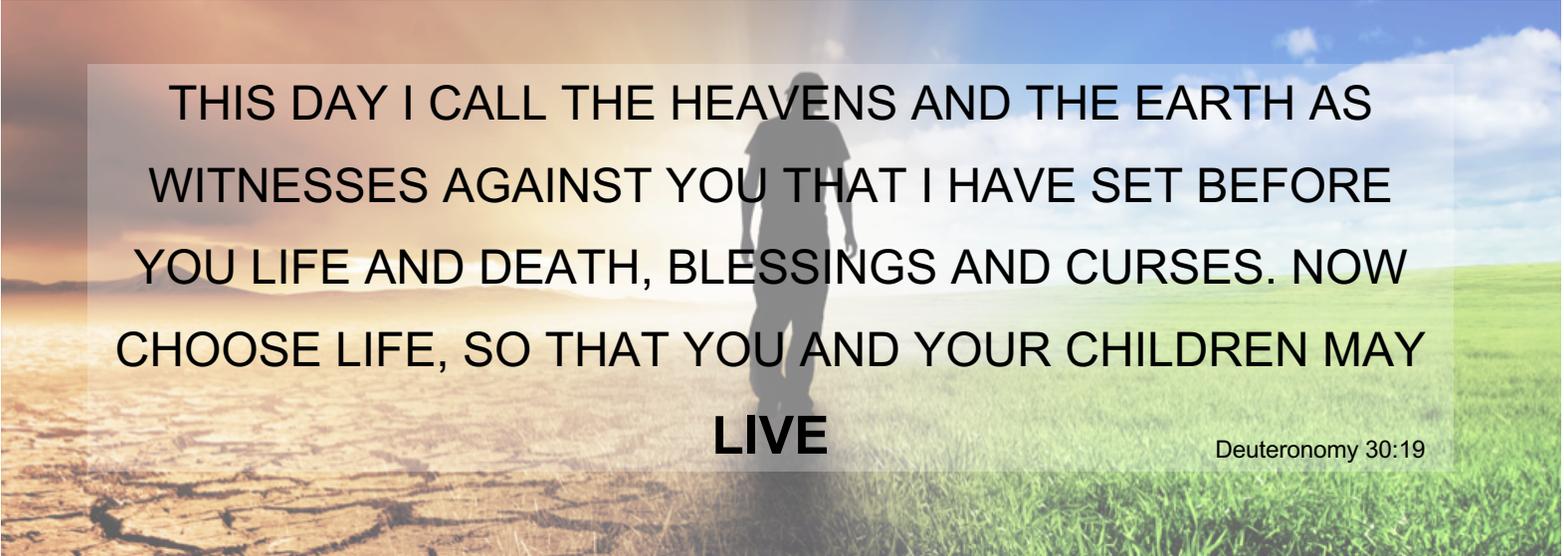
- 2nd - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 6th - Worship Service 9 & 11 am
- 7th - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 9th - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 13th - Coffee Talk Service 9 & 11
- 15th - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 16th - Prayer at Church 10:30 am
- 20th - Worship Service 9 & 11 am
- 21st - Happy Family Day
- 22nd - Women's Bible Study 7 pm
- 27th - Coffee Talk Service 9 & 11 am
- 27th - Annual Meeting
- 28 - Women's Bible Study 7 pm

a little bit of honest consideration. For example: A young father has a motorcycle. A motorcycle that he enjoys very much. Yet he starts noticing that his motorcycle takes him away from his family. One day he happens to think, "Hmmm, if I sold my motorcycle to buy a small fishing boat, I could do that with my family." While holding everything in balance, that might be a better option at that stage in his life and his family's life.

In the Bible God is not against wealth and God is not against things. It is our attitude that matters. Speaking about greed Jesus tells the story of the rich farmer who had such a grand harvest, he built extra barns to store the abundance. Then he thought, now I will eat and drink and be merry because I have so much. But surprisingly God looking down decides that very night the rich farmer's life will be demanded of him. Jesus

observes, "This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:15-21)

The challenge here is to remember, **GOD IS OUR PROVIDER**. Keeping Him in the equation makes all the difference. We honour God by using the things He provides for us to love the people around us well. Sometimes this means enjoying a motorcycle ride so that when we get home we can be refreshed and the best version of ourselves for the people that are there. Sometimes this means selling the motorcycle and buying a little fishing boat so that we can connect with people who don't happen to ride motorcycles. Sometimes God wants us to enjoy both the motorcycle and the boat. And finally, sometimes God wants us to sell all of the above and give the money to the poor. This requires wisdom. Conveniently, God will provide that too (James 1:5).



THIS DAY I CALL THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH AS
WITNESSES AGAINST YOU THAT I HAVE SET BEFORE
YOU LIFE AND DEATH, BLESSINGS AND CURSES. NOW
CHOOSE LIFE, SO THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN MAY
LIVE

Deuteronomy 30:19

Prayer Corner

Lord, I think I received a sign from you the other day. Saw it on a church marquee on the way home from town.

It went something like this ...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.

Looked it up and sure enough it was your very words Jesus. You were talking to me weren't you? You always find ways to speak into my life. To show me how to make improvements in right living! Your words do have some kind of power over me! Power to change, power to grow, power to die to self.

So here, I am Lord. I don't want to come to you empty handed, so here's some valuable treasures you've gifted me with. If I lay them at your feet would you look at it as an act of worship on my part? Would you teach me how to use them to better serve others?

Humbly I come before you Lord, willing to do your will.

I pray and ask that you might see my service to others as a pleasing and acceptable act of worship to you!

In your name I ask... Amen



The first thought that comes to my mind when I hear the phrase “Love It or List It” is the sale of a house. If you don’t really love the house you are living in you call a real estate company and you list your house for sale.

This means a new house or apartment is needed. A change is coming, something different, and something better than what was had before. You know what they say. “The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. By the way, who are “they” anyway? A move is ahead of us, we need to start packing. Cleaning out all of our stuff, and taking along with us all that we have accumulated over the years.

We can continue to go through a cycle of buying, selling, over and over again until one day at last we find the perfect place and are content to settle down.

The Israelites, who had been crying out to God for many years, longed to pack up their belongings and move to a better place. They certainly were not happy with their accommodations, or the state of their being.

God heard their cries and sent Moses to Egypt. And he led them out of their bondage. Out through the Red Sea and into the wilderness. They followed a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. (Exodus 13:21). They followed God through the leadership of Moses, to many places where God had them set up their tents.

For 40 years, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, eating quail and manna. They were led into

the Promised Land by Joshua; the victory at Jericho marked the beginning of possession of the land. As victories were won, the tracts of land were assigned to each tribe, and they lived peacefully with each other.

What did the Israelites learn from their experiences in the wilderness? **He made sure they had what they needed to live and to follow his plan for them.** ... The Israelites realized that God was always with them, and the visible reminder of his presence comforted them.

As I look back at my own journey, leading my family through the years. I see that there have been many changes. Some decisions were good and some not so good. I realize now that the good decisions were the result of God’s leading. When I followed God’s plan for me and my family I was in a more comfortable place and I had peace and a sense of His presence.

How Can We Recognize God's Presence More Often?

Practice Gratitude as Often as You Can. ...

Give God the Credit. ...

Study Scripture for Stories of God Encountering People.

...

Study Scripture and See How It Relates to You. ...

Recognize the Many Ways God Is Speaking to You.



Renaud Family Reviews



I started watching these videos called Malama Life, on YouTube. Malama is a Hawaiian word which means to take care of, to attend to, care for, preserve, protect etc. Essentially the videos are about how to live a slow life, and how to live simply with a minimalist attitude. I love that the videos are so calming and kind of transport you into this other world where it's always warm, and the message is simple; move slowly through your day, appreciate the moments before you, take time to care for your body and the environment you live in. But when I turn the videos off, and look around or start to take inventory of the life that I have before me... something feels lacking. I feel less than content, overwhelmed, and dissatisfied. How can I be a minimalist who appreciates the beauty all around me, when it's gloomy and cold and I have 5 kids? No matter how much decluttering I do, I will always have at least 7 pairs of shoes, and 7 pairs of boots. How does a stay-at-home mom cultivate a Malama life like I see on the internet? Don't get me wrong, I appreciate that we have the boots and shoes we need, and I do appreciate my life. What I'm talking about is this concept that we can look around and fully appreciate every moment. In a sense, that we can cultivate a life in which we can give thanks in all circumstances. Sometimes when I'm watching these beautiful videos, it all feels a little out of reach.

Most days, I wake up feeling pretty optimistic that I can achieve a level of gratitude that would make my skin glow and my hair luxurious and shiny. We homeschool so I admit our mornings are fairly slow. Once the big kids get into the kitchen to make their breakfasts, it's not long before the chaos commences. People have so many opinions and they all want to be heard. I am trying to figure out how to be grateful when everyone is arguing. And I ask myself, "did the generations before me worry that they don't cultivate minimalism and calmness into their day? Did they wonder if they were grateful enough in the mundane or chaotic moments?"

Most days, we do "morning basket" which is a homeschool concept, which encompasses the work that we all do together. Bible time, prayer, a few chapters of our read aloud books or history. Ideally, everyone listens nicely, participates at the right times, and doesn't fidget or interrupt. But in reality, this is a very

crazy time of day, some kids use prayer time to poke others, or make faces, story time is a time when I am constantly interrupted... it's not what I see on the internet.

Once we've recovered, we move on to other school work, and kids grab their math workbooks and language arts workbooks, and everyone talks and has questions, and someone will inevitably start practicing piano. Sometimes people call on the phone, sometimes it's the dentist, sometimes it's my mom, the dogs see a neighbor dog so they go bonkers. Why do these things not happen in lifestyle blogs and YouTube videos? There is no peaceful music playing in the background of everyday life. I don't pause to do some yoga. When I light a candle, the world around doesn't take on the glow of an Instagram filter. In my head, I know that I am grateful, but I don't always feel it or show it.

Today, we went for a walk after some kids practiced reading and others worked on science projects. It did not look or feel like Hawaii, I was frustrated because the oldest brought a dollar to get candy at the corner store. How do they not understand that I'm trying to live a minimalist life, where people don't eat candy? Kids, eh? But being outside did feel nice. It felt calmer in the open air. It wasn't like a lifestyle blog; my kids didn't coordinate in rust-colored jumpsuits and matching Hunter rain boots. I didn't have makeup on, and my hair was all shoved up into a toque, but strangely enough, it didn't matter. When we got home, everyone kicked their boots off and all the boots all still laying there in the laundry room.

I think maybe I actually am living a Malama Life. I am taking care, and attending to, and protecting, I am preserving and caring for the environment I live in. Do I recommend the Malama Life YouTube videos? Well, I do actually, I like them. I like the ideas and the language and the pretty scenery. Just know if you decide to watch them too, my husband once told me, "Hey, just remember, that's not real." Our real life doesn't have to look so beautiful. It doesn't need to be curated and minimalist. I don't have to get rid of all our boots, or ever really feel calm in all this life stuff, but I can take the ideas of gratitude, of loving people to the best of my ability, and trying to remember that even though I don't do it perfectly, living slowly in a fast-paced family is not something anyone can do perfectly, and that's ok.

Touch Down Snack Mix

Ingredients:

- 2 cups football shaped pretzels (or any mini size)
- 1 ½ cups caramel popcorn
- 1 ½ cups Cheezits
- 1 ½ cups honey roasted peanuts or mixed nuts
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 1 cup M&M's or smarties

Directions:

Mix all ingredients together and serve.



Happy
FEBRUARY
Birthdays!

1 st - Diane	14 th - Calia
5 th - Zack	15 th - Gussy
6 th - Chris	17 th - Anna
6 th - Sara	18 th - Jessica
8 th - Remy	19 th - Adrian
9 th - Jenna	21 st - Kellen



Valentine Snack Mix

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups **Corn Chex cereal**
- 1 cup **miniature pretzel twists**
- 2 cups **Rice Chex cereal**
- 2 cups **Honey Nut Cheerios (or plain Cheerios) cereal**
- 1 bag **Valentine's M&M's** (red, white, pinks)
- 3 and 1/4 cups **white chocolate chips** (just under 2 bags)
- 1 and 1/2 teaspoons **vegetable or canola oil**
- **Optional: Valentine sprinkles**

1. **Combine ingredients:** Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl.
2. **Melt chocolate:** Add chocolate to a separate bowl and melt in microwave. Once melted, work quickly because the white chocolate hardens fast.
3. **Pour the chocolate:** Pour it right on top of the snack mix, using a spatula to scrape every bit of melted chocolate onto the mix.
4. **Toss:** Once the chocolate is on the mix, use two large spoons to quickly (but gently) toss the mixture until the chocolate coats everything.
5. **Transfer the mix:** Spread the parchment paper-lined sheet pan.
6. **Drizzle:** If desired, add an additional white chocolate drizzle on top of snack mix. Optional, colour the white chocolate drizzle with red or pink food colouring.



Reflections by J'Aime

The company I work for builds equipment for greenhouses. Sprayers, lifts, tuggers, trolleys, all the fun that goes into greenhouses that help folks do things faster and more efficiently. The vast majority of our equipment is battery powered so, naturally; battery chargers are a part of the standard build of our equipment.

I mean... how else are these things supposed to get power? You can't just run the batteries completely out of charge and then toss them aside. Batteries are expensive. Energy is expensive. The ability to plug in this equipment and charge the batteries extends its life and increases its functionality.

It would be the same for a big truck. You can't run it out of diesel and then expect it to keep working. You have to keep it fueled or it doesn't move. Ships need fuel, too. And there is always a constant fight to redesign the ships and the trucks and the useful equipment to make them more energy efficient and more effective.

People expend energy. A lot of it. We work, we play, we visit, we drive, we do a great many things with our time at the cost of our personal energy being expended. Fueling our bodies to function is simple – coffee works well (not that I drink too much or anything) and food is abundant. But how do you fill up your mind?

Proper rest and refueling of our minds and souls is supremely important. But there never seems to be enough time for it, right? You're so busy doing the things to get the things done that the things consume you and then you realize you're ten cups of coffee into a 19 hour day and you're STILL NOT DONE doing the things.

Hard reset time. Self-care is extremely important. So is taking a hard look at the things in your life that consume energy. Sometimes, you may find that letting go of a thing or six will do you a world of good. It's our responsibility as Christians to use our energy for the glory of God. Sometimes, that means doing less.

The theme for this newsletter is 'Love it or List it.' The concept is that we need to be taking a good look at our lives and finding ways to better expend our limited energy resources in ways that positively affect the people around us while cutting down on energy drains that do our bodies and souls little or no good. That examination can be painful and it can sometimes require a mental redesign.

I want all of you to sit down and honestly make a list. Where does my energy go? Examine that list. Pray on it. I've been lost in Proverbs considering this article – it's full of amazing words that put so much into perspective that I'd recommend everyone dive in. It literally opens up with the fact that it's meant to service as a guidebook for gaining wisdom, for understanding and for learning how to do what is right and fair. If you look at that energy consumption list with an honest eye you'll find places that you're dumping energy that isn't going anywhere. Find ways to conserve your energy and better direct it to the glory of God.

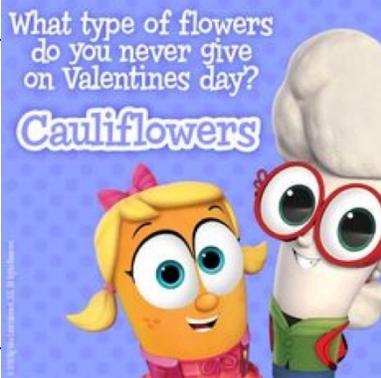
Be still, pray, sit and find your battery charger. Don't be ashamed to run low on energy and don't be afraid to take the time to fill yourself up.

Monthly Newsletter Question

Can you share a time when an innocent miscommunication brought some humour to a situation later on?

Paul:

One day I was on the phone with my wife while at the dispatch window. I was facing the wrong way so the earpiece wasn't seen. The dispatcher coming to the window asked a question at the same time Mary-Louise said she loved me. I said as turning to the window "Yes Princess, I love you too!" As I finished turning, Colton was looking at me...without missing a beat, he said "Thanks, but I wasn't asking that". For the next month, when I walked into the office, they would ask if I was on the phone before talking. Colton became like a second son and called me Dad, when asked why, he said "because, he loves me when you guys don't." This led to some good talks about God and faith.



J'Aime:

I confused my poor recovery nurse after a minor medical procedure. She thought I was asking for pie and patiently kept explaining that I couldn't eat yet. It wasn't until I was a little more coherent that I was able to explain that I was asking for my father-in-law and using the Portuguese word for 'dad' to make that request. The word is 'pai' which is pronounced like 'pie.'



Marilyn:

A humorous miscommunication— John & I were meeting at the dock restaurant after work. After parking my car beside his truck, I decided to back my car up because the waves from the water were too high. John thought the brakes failed on his truck & he was going into the water. He screamed for someone to help him. I didn't hear him. After getting out of our vehicles, he told me this. He thought it was hilarious after he was out of his truck. He still tells that story.

WHAT DO YOU CALL A PIG THAT DOES KARATE?



PORK CHOP



Volunteer Highlight

At South Point, it is really important to us to stay connected. So, this month, I would like to highlight a few of our volunteers that work behind the scenes on our newsletter to help keep us connected. Tom, J'Aime, Jessica and Wendy all contribute by writing

different articles, reviews and prayers. Luella takes all of our individual pieces and puts it together beautifully, ready for Charmaine to print.. There are many others that have shared a recipe, artwork, a picture or answers to our monthly questions and we are so very thankful!!! If you like to write an article, take pictures or you have an idea for our newsletter, we are always looking for people to help contribute.



