

Blossom Ministries

Preparing Women To Bear Fruit

Greetings...

Dear Readers:

Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful... You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised...we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved. ~ Hebrews 10:23,36,39

Let me encourage you to not shrink back from what this season of time is asking of you. By design as a child of God you will produce fruit. You can have a **Gutsy Faith** that will strengthen you to face change. You can be brave to let go of what is now in the past and fulfill the purpose God has planned for you. God's strength and power will give you the ability to learn new skills, face old fears, and be triumphant. We can know for certain that our eternity will be with a God who loves us and has provided all things for us!

...God cannot lie when he makes a promise, and he cannot lie when he makes an oath. These things encourage us who came to God for safety.

They give us strength to hold on to the hope we have been given. We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, sure and strong..." ~ Hebrews 6:18-19

Remain steadfast in your faith,
~Melisa Turner, and the Blossom Team

2020 Events

- 14th Annual Blossom Bazaar
Virtually "Open Forever" on our Facebook page
- Fall Retreat
"Gutsy Faith"

October 23-24, 2020

Peniel Ranch

Okanogan, WA

This is a new location
~ details inside!

Book Club - *Never too late to join in the conversation.*

Like our FB page, and request to join our Book Club Group.

New selection this Fall

Contact Blossom at :

blossom.ministries@gmail.com

www.blossomministries.com

Quotes

"Man is really free only in God, the source of his freedom."
~ Sherwood Eddy

"And the fruits will outdo what the flowers have promised."
~ Francois De Malherbe

"Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4) That doesn't mean He'll fulfill yours, It means He'll plant His."
~ John MacArthur

In the gap of time between dreams and fulfillment, God doesn't forget your prayers; He tests your character.
~ Ann Voskamp

"What does it profit someone to gain the whole world and lose their soul?"
~ Jesus (Mark 8:36)

There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one. ~ Jill Churchill

"...always pray and never lose hope."
~ Luke 18:1

"You find peace not by rearranging the circumstances of your life, but by realizing who you are at the deepest level." ~Thomas Merton

Roses in My Garden...

The older I get the more I have come to expect change and or at least to not fear it the way I once did. I remember distinct moments in my adult life where I desperately tried to not let something change or someone exit. The grasping, the frantic heart rate, the “NO” I don’t want it to look this way. My good God and my own observations have taught me that often that can make things worse. Grieve if you must, I recommend it, but also trust God to help you face a new season and perhaps you will be surprised by what remains.

This year is all wrapped up in the above emotions! If ever there has been disappointment and the silent or not so silent screaming of “NO” it is this season. This year has also afforded me some significant time to observe. The other day sitting on my new back deck (outdoor projects are happening at an alarming rate this year) I was looking at my rose garden and noticed some things that just may help us to not just endure but flourish.

First, I noticed that the roses grow in spite of and in response to their environment. I failed to trim them back sufficiently last fall. So they were too tall this spring. There is a fence on their East side and a large tree now blocks a majority of the Western setting sun. So they grow facing and almost hanging over the fence toward the morning sun. I was disappointed because in other seasons they faced into the yard, toward me, their caregiver. I have had to excessively trim and shape to coax this behavior this year. But, even though their surroundings have made their normal routine difficult it did not once make it impossible. These roses continue to grow, to flourish even. They are blooming at an extraordinarily abundant rate that I don’t recall in past years. They have also remained roses and full of sweet fragrance. Just because things around them have changed, even drastically, they remain faithful to their God given purpose. They continue to seek the source, the sun.

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last... ~ **John 15:16a**

So I challenge us - as we find ourselves planted in the same place but also in a drastically new environment - are you remaining true to your God given purpose? Are you seeking the Son? Are you resilient in being fragrant?

Now wherever we go he uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume! ~ **II Corinthians 2:14b NLT**

There is not much that has been untouched in our Blossom Ministries world in this year of 2020. It was with much prayer and deliberation that we decided to try a new location for our upcoming fall ladies retreat. We are booked to use Peniel Ranch on the Columbia River, outside Omak, WA. This is a Christian facility that we feel will accommodate our purposes more fully. We shall see if that is true and or if we are even allowed to move forward with our current plans. We would greatly appreciate your prayers over this event and your bravery to attend in a new location if you are able.

In April we turned our 14th annual Blossom Spring Bazaar into a *Virtual Bazaar*. It remains “open forever” online on our Blossom Ministries Facebook page. Check it out anytime. These events represent the heart of this ministry. The fall retreat in 2002 gave birth to Blossom Ministries and Blossom in turn produced fruit in developing the first bazaar in Pateros, WA way back in 2004. And yet we had to find new ways to do old things, to pursue our purpose within new environments. This new year has created many opportunities to learn new skills!

The second thing my roses are showing me is that they really don’t belong to me at all. I didn’t plant them. They came with the parsonage, part of a package deal you might say. They are on loan to me and I have been given the responsibility to steward their care for an unknown number of seasons. Someday I may be asked to give them over to another. This is also true for those who serve within our own Blossom Ministries team. We do not always get to “keep” everyone in the same way that we have been used to. Our Jana is moving forward into a new season that no longer includes serving on our staff. She leaves behind a legacy of fragrance and influence that I do not believe can be accurately quantified. I know for certain that had she not been a part of this team and my life we most likely would not be having this conversation right now!!! What she has sown into this ministry will continue to grow and flourish. We will continue to be about our God given purpose just as Jana will continue to do so in her new season.

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy...Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” ~ **Isaiah 35:1-4**

~ My love to you, Melisa Turner

Conquerors

I have recently been reading in Revelation, a picture of the days to come. I don't think any of us will argue that we are rapidly pushing toward the end of times. It is going to get more difficult to stand for Christ the nearer we come.

Revelation starts out with a description of Christ and him speaking to seven of the churches. Those letters can give us the encouragement to stand and press on in him - To be conquerors.

In Revelation 1:13-16 we get a physical description of Christ which should strike us with awe and humble us. But starting in verse 17 we start getting a description of who Christ is from his own mouth.

*Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.
I died, and behold I am alive forevermore,
and I have the keys of Dearth and Hades.*

~ **Revelation 1:17-18**

The first thing he says is "Fear not." He was speaking directly to John who was overcome with seeing Christ glorified. But it applies to us, too. So many times, he tells us to not fear.

- Fear not, for I have redeemed you - Isaiah 43:1-2
- Fear not, for I am with you - Isaiah 41:10.
- ...we will not fear though the earth gives way - Psalm 46:1-3.
- ...for God gave us a spirit not of fear - 2 Timothy 1:7

This just lists a few. We need not fear because Christ is the antidote and deliverer from fear.

*I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.*

~ **Psalms 34:4**

Scattered across Revelation 2 & 3 are further descriptions that were sent to seven churches in what is now Turkey. The words of

- him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lamp stands. - 2:1
- the first and the last, who died and came to life. - 2:8
- him who has the sharp two-edged sword. - 2:12
- the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze. - 2:18
- him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. - 3:1
- the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens. - 3:7
- the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation. - 3:14

What a description of Christ. By keeping the awesome power and might of Christ in the front of our minds, we can continue to banish those fears from our hearts and minds.

For how can we have room for fear when Christ is foremost?

The letters to the churches encourage us to stand firm with Christ and not sway from his teaching. Also, they serve as markers for how we should act. For example:

- your patient endurance - 2:2
- hold fast to my name - 2:13
- did not deny my faith - 2:13
- kept my word - 3:8
- have not denied my name - 3:8

Similarly, they can serve as warnings. For example:

- you have abandoned the love you had at first - 2:4
 - you...hold to the teaching of Balaam - 2:14-15
 - If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief - 3:3
- you are neither cold nor hot...I will spit you out of my mouth - 3:15-16

In addition, if we pay attention to these letters, we have a fairly good roadmap for living. We have a list of good to emulate. Also, we have a list of warnings to stay away from and/or repent from, if we will honestly search our hearts and examine our lives.

Finally, each letter ends with an award for conquering in his name. Each final statement includes "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." as well as "to the one who conquers."

To the one who conquers...

- I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God. - 2:7
- will not be hurt by the second death - 2:11
- I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it. - 2:17
- and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken to pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. And I will give him the morning star. - 2:26-28
- will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. - 3:5
- I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. - 3:12
- I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. - 3:21

Let us be in the list of conquerors,

~ Heidi Tonseth

A Devotional Thought...

FRUIT of REPENTANCE

Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance.

~ Matthew 3:8 NASB

The word “repentance” is often replaced with the phrase “change your heart and lives” in the Bible. Depending on the translation you choose to read you may see the one word of “repentance” or the phrase “change your heart and lives”. The phrase adds so much value in defining the term of repentance.

I know for myself I think of repenting as being sorrowful or having remorse or regret, but God’s Word takes it one step further to acting on that sorrow. If we are truly repenting of an action, or an attitude there will not just be sorrow but also a new way of acting or thinking. So therefore to produce the fruit of repentance means that our lives and hearts are different than they were before. There is visible and or recognizable change.

I love this concept because it allows us to see that all aspects of our lives and walk with Jesus or Lord and Savior have the ability to produce fruit. It is not just evangelism that produces the fruit of additional souls in heaven that counts. It is not just the spiritual fruits of kindness or self-control that show our Christian faith is developing to others that qualifies. It is also the things that we change, that we do differently or perhaps choose to not do at all that reveals our repentance to others.

This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

~ John 15:8 NIV

Does my life’s fruit reveal my citizenship in God’s Kingdom?

Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think... ~ Romans 12:2

Devote some thought to that,

~ Melisa Turner

Until we meet again...

Hello Blossoms!

I have some news for you fabulous readers and I'm not exactly sure how to say this but to just come right out with it.

It is with confidence but also tremendous sadness that I feel that my season as part of the Blossom Ministries leadership team has come to a close. My family has experienced quite a bit of change in the last year and it seems as though God is dismantling and rebuilding all kinds of things in my life right now! I feel that I have entered a season of quiet as God has repeatedly asked me to set down areas of leadership and responsibility in order to prepare me for whatever he has next. When Melisa and I talked through this change I told her I had a picture in my minds eye of me opening the palms of my hands and letting these beautiful blossom petals tumble out into the wind so my hands are open and ready for whatever is next. It feels peaceful and tender.

Please do not take this as a goodbye forever. Not at all. We have shared wonderful things with one another over the years through our newsletter and website, your correspondence back to us, the many Blossom Bazaars and Tea's and most beloved, our yearly Retreat at Sun Mountain Lodge. While I feel my time in leadership has come to a close I very much hope God will open the door for me to attend events in the future someday when we will see one another again.

Until then hugs and kisses from Boise and all God's blessings on each of you!

~ Jana Waddell

“The blossom cannot tell what becomes of its fragrance as it drifts away, just as no person can tell what becomes of their influence as they continue through life.”

The LORD is my shepherd;
I have all that I need.

² He lets me rest in green meadows;
he leads me beside peaceful streams.

³ He renews my strength.

He guides me along right paths,
bringing honor to his name.

~ Psalm 23:1-3 NLT