

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

APRIL 2022 · ISSUE 4 · VOLUME 3



I would like to ask you a question, and it may or may not be uncomfortable. How is your spiritual growth, and what are you doing to keep that growth alive? Ok, sorry...that was two questions.

In his book entitled *The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth*, John C. Maxwell discusses *The Law of Intentionality*. He asserts that *Growth Doesn't Just Happen*. He goes on to talk about *Growth Gap Traps*.

- *The Assumption Gap...I Assume That I will Automatically Grow.*
- *The Mistake Gap...I'm Afraid of Making Mistakes.*

How many of us fall into these growth gap traps in our spiritual life?

The Apostle Paul discusses spiritual growth in his letter to the Ephesians. Paul spends a lot of time exhorting the Ephesians about the importance of spending time in studying the scriptures...spending time in prayer.

Paul has zero tolerance for *The Assumption Gap*.

Paul seems to be hitting them with some tough love in Ephesians 6. Have you noticed what Paul tells them? Hold one second! No, Paul commands them...to stand! Three times, Paul gives the command to stand. I don't know about you, but that does not sound like someone who deals in *The Mistake Gap*.

If you find yourself falling into one of these growth gaps, there is a very simple solution. Spend one hour per day in prayer and bible study. I guarantee success. You will experience incredible spiritual growth that will waterfall over into your personal growth.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)

Ministry Highlight

Boise Valley Adventist School



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Reflecting on the growth of others is just another strategic way to give back. When we reflect on the wins and successes that others experience, we grow on a personal level without realizing it. It is that intentional focus on being positive that rewires our brain. Always learning and never settling for second best builds a platform that leads to success.

Boise Valley Adventist School, under the leadership of Ken Utt (along with each of the teachers and staff), personifies that concept. Their STEM program is a commitment to excellence. I am sharing (by permission) the article Melanie Lawson crafted for Northwest Adventists, as our ministry highlight.



Image above credit to canva.com

As part of the process to become a STEM certified school, Boise Valley Adventist School developed a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) laboratory.

Through a series of grants and donations, Ken Utt, BVAS principal, began updating the school's current STEM lab with the purchase of two portable workstations, six Lego STEM sets and five EV3 robotic kits. His goal was to consolidate the science related materials, catalog the items and provide STEM learning activities for the students.

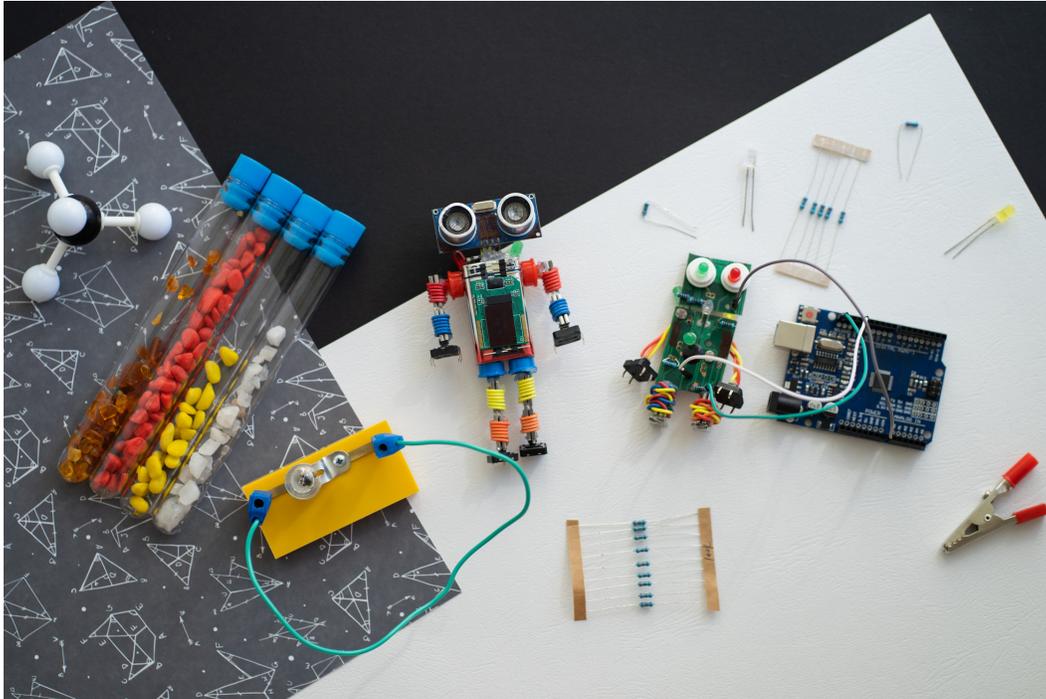
The lab is a dedicated space that provides Project Based Learning, encouraging students to be problem solvers, critical thinkers and innovators. "The lab is a place to foster 21st century job skills such as communication, collaboration and creativity," Utt said. "It leads to the development of other social skills such as empathy, adaptability, confidence, curiosity, perseverance, leadership and self-discipline."

Kindergarten students use the lab to promote creativity and exploration through hands-on discovery while the third and fourth grade students utilize the lab to create Lego structures. Mrs. Roach, 3rd & 4th grade teacher noted, "The lab provides a change in the classroom environment and creates an atmosphere that encourages students to engage in the activity."

The lab was particularly useful while students prepared for the Invention Convention as it provided a space for students to work on their projects. In addition, teachers appreciated having a dedicated workspace with proper equipment.

Future plans for the STEM lab include implementing two new clubs: a Lego Club and a Robotics Club.

Image below credit to canva.com



Pastor's Corner

Where are your gods?

For my personal devotion, I have begun to read Jeremiah (I just recently finished Isaiah). To be completely honest...I find this portion of the Bible a bit more challenging to get through, than the stories of Genesis or 1 Samuel. But even though Isaiah and Jeremiah require more effort to get through (at least in my experience), these books still present great insights into who God is and what we, as humans are like.

When I read Jeremiah 2...a description of God's case against Israel, I could not help but wonder if I have been guilty of similar evils. Jeremiah 2:13 states that God's people have committed two evils.

One is they have forsaken God, the fountain of living waters. But that is not all they have done. God's people have also hewn for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water. In verse 28 God asks His people about the gods they have made, and if their gods can save them in the time of their trouble. Even though Israel seems to have as many gods as they have cities, what good are those gods if they are powerless to save?

As I write this, we are having prophecy seminars here at Cloverdale. Though I have attended many prophecy seminars (and preached a few myself), I always appreciate revisiting prophecy and being reminded of the God we serve. There is a constant temptation in life to turn away from God, from the true God of the Bible...our Creator and Redeemer. But if I ever turn away from God, are there any other options? Can I create a god with my hands? And if I do, is that god that I created mighty to save?

Our life is made up of our choices, small choices, daily choices. It is not the big events that define us as much as the little decisions that make up our day. Our destiny is shaped by our daily choices and habits. I wonder if in my daily choices I seek to bring honor and glory to God, or if I am spending time and effort digging cisterns for myself that ultimately can hold no water? Are we in danger of exchanging our glory for what does not profit? (Jer. 2:11)

I guess what I am trying to say is that how we spend our time and resources, reveals our values and priorities. Here is the big question...when I look back on my life, am I living for God or chasing after other gods?

Be blessed...



~ Pastor Marlon