

THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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Are you in the middle of overwhelming anxiety in your life?

Do you feel like you are looking straight up Half Dome in Yosemite, with only enough rope to get a third of the way to the top? You are not alone. Anxiety is a global pandemic!

According to the Anxiety & Depression Association of America:

- Anxiety disorders are the most common mental health disorders in the U.S.
- Over 40 million adults experience an anxiety disorder each year.
- There are many different types of anxiety disorders, including generalized anxiety, social anxiety, specific phobias, and more.
- Anxiety disorders can develop for a number of reasons, including genetics, brain chemistry, and life events.
- According to the WHO, 1 in 13 people around the world suffer from anxiety.

- About 8% of children and teenagers experience an anxiety disorder.
- Those suffering from anxiety disorders are not alone.

You are NOT alone!

I think it is safe to say that the disciples of Jesus experienced anxiety...perhaps frequently. In Matthew 10, we read how Jesus empowered them to perform life-changing miracles. So what happened in Matthew 17? We discover that the disciples take a major header.

Let's pick up the story...

A father came to the disciples and pleaded with them to cast out the demon from his son. This boy had scarring all over his body. The demon loved to attack him while he stood by the fire to keep warm... knocking him into the fire. He had terrible burn scars all over his body.

They tried to cast out the demon and failed. Anxiety crept in and they imploded. While this was going on, Jesus, Peter, James, & John were coming back from the mountain of transfiguration. Hearing the commotion, Jesus asked what happened. The father was crying as he told Jesus that His disciples were unable to cast out the demon. Jesus did not throw the disciples under the bus. Jesus never threw anyone under the bus. He gently reminded them of their lack of faith and proceeded to heal the young boy. Can you imagine the father's grief turning to joy as his son was not only healed from demonic possession, but all of his burn scars were gone!! His son was in perfect health.

Later, the disciples asked Jesus why they failed? Jesus told them that this kind of demonic mountain requires serious fasting and prayer. He told them that if they have faith the size of a grain of mustard seed...they could face any mountain and tell it to move. It would be gone!

This had been a "Half Dome" moment for the disciples.

Do you want to discover the keys to overcoming the "Half Dome" moments in your life?

Here are four simple, yet powerful steps...

- Patience and praise. James 1:2-4
- Fasting and prayer. Matthew 17:21

Sometimes, the steps of faith feel like a black hole, don't they?

In his book entitled *Love Does*, Bob Goff writes, *It's almost like Jesus came to say, among other things, that a relationship with Him isn't supposed to make complete sense or provide security. Faith isn't an equation or a formula or a business deal that gets you what you want. In short, there's nothing on the other side of the equals sign...just Jesus.*

~ Martin

Ministry Highlight...

Ada County Jail Ministries



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What a powerful ministry this is! This is truly doing God's work.

In Matthew 25:36 we read, *I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.* (NKJV)

Darlene Day, Becky Vermilyea, and Allen Botimer spearhead this vital ministry.

Here is a synopsis of the Holy Spirit at work in the Ada County Jail.

On Sunday and Tuesday evenings, Darlene and Becky minister to women. On Tuesday evenings, Allen ministers to the men.

The inmates love to study the bible and participate in group prayer. Each night, the team hands out prayer request papers. The inmates request that our team pray for family members, as well as upcoming court dates...among other things. They request Bible studies.

These individuals are people just like you and I. They are someone's son or daughter, parent or friend. Darlene reports that *the women we have studied with are so precious. Many are brilliant bible students and have such a longing to have victory over their addictions.*

The team is currently working with the Jail Administration to incorporate music into the ministry.

Amazing Facts has verified that we have 162 inmates taking bible studies...most of these are women from Ada County Jail. Can you say praise the Lord!!

Our mission is to bring hope while leading them to Jesus. Our focus is to share the precious love of Jesus. We want them to see that no matter what anyone has done in their lives, Jesus is just waiting to take you back.

Words cannot express the blessing of serving these precious ladies. Their hearts are so open and longing to hear the message of love and forgiveness.
~ Darlene Day

Let's praise Jesus for the powerful ministry. Please commit to praying daily for these missionaries and the work they are doing.

Oh and by the way...they can use your help.

Prayerfully consider becoming a part of this ministry.

Pastor's Corner...

Many of you are aware that I was away for two weeks of intensive training...

I was blessed to sit at the feet of two scholars who filled my brain with incredible information. Some of which came from a marriage and family class. Among all the information shared, one thought jumped out at me. I learned that human beings need *8 hugs a day, for maintenance and 12 hugs a day for growth.*

That may seem like too much touching, especially for those who hate to be touched. Trust me I get it. However, if you don't mind that kind of human interaction, why not take advantage of it?

I recall a man crying out to Jesus for help, because his body was riddled with leprosy. The man told Jesus, *if you are willing... You can make me clean again*". *The bible tells us that Jesus reached over to touch the man and said, "I am willing, to be clean.* You and I know that Jesus did not have to touch the man to heal him. It was the power of his word that healed the man. However, the touch was to show the man that he was not going to run away from him. It was a powerful moment! The touch clearly demonstrated that he cared for the man. It signified that Jesus was there for the man.

I just love Jesus!

Give someone a hug today (if they don't mind it). Your warm embrace may just be the healing they need.

Many blessings to you.



~ Pastor Jason