

DISCIPLE DIGEST

Highline Christian Church, 14859 1st Avenue South, Burien

Third Saturday Church Work Party



February 15th, 8:30-Noon

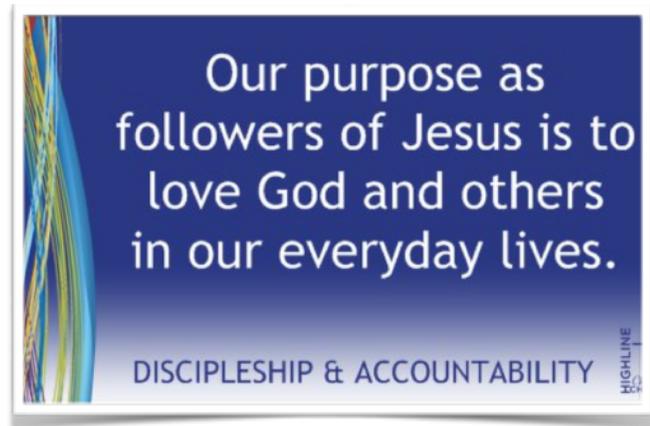
All are invited to join us for the Third Saturday Work Party. We will be doing general grounds maintenance & fix-its and could use your help. Meet us here in the HCC Parking lot. For any questions, contact Gregg at 206-243-4333

Tom Barnes Golf Classic

There is a need for a couple of golfers, non-golfers or a combination of both to plan and organize this year's



Tom Barnes Golf Classic. It is important to start with the planning of this event soon as the golf courses fill up with summer events quickly. If you are interested you can contact Jerry Evans or Bill Olson at 206-243-4333. We will be happy to meet with you and go over the steps we took last year. Thanks for your consideration.



Reformed Reflections

The Most **Mis**used Verses in The Bible

If My People Who Are Called by My Name

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

—2 Chronicles 7:14

Russel Moore, who is president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, pointedly commented, “Often, the way this verse will be preached in many evangelical pulpits is as a rallying cry. In so many sermons, the “people” referred to in the passage are the American people, and the “land” is the American land. The meaning of the text is understood as an invitation to 21st century America to “return to God” and then enjoy God’s blessing once again. It’s no wonder one scholar said that 2 Chronicles 7:14 is “the John 3:16 of the American civil religion.”

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Retirees Breakfast

Thursday, February 13, 8:30AM
Pancake Chef



Seniors, come join us for fellowship and breakfast.

Encore (Seniors) Luncheon

Tuesday, February 4th, 11:30AM
Angelo's in Burien



A time for fellowship, laughter and great food. We look forward to seeing you there.

Every Pop Can Counts!

As a fundraiser in support of missions such as Transform Burien Resource Center and Bread of Life Downtown Seattle Mission, we are collecting aluminum cans for recycling. Collection bins are located in the South Building Community Room and are picked up weekly.

Questions, contact Mary or Alice Webb
206-243-4333



Sunday, February 23rd Transform Burien HCC Outreach Dinner



Serve a meal and provide food and clothing services to those in need in our community.

The 4th Sunday of each month:

2:30 to 3:30 PM - Set Up and Serve

3:30 to 5:00 PM - Serve

4:45 to 5:45 PM - Clean Up

Opportunities:

Set Up

Kitchen-Cook/Prep

Meal Server

Food Bank

Clothing Bank

Hall Monitor

Prayer and Conversation with Attendees

Clean Up

Location:

Burien Annex

144th and 4th Ave

Burien, WA

Contact

Don Berg

206-243-4333

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Reformed Reflections...(continued)

If nothing else, the question must be asked of this kind of sermon: Where should we “take America back” to? Do you mean back to the era of the Founders, or back to the 1950s, or 1980s? When, exactly, in America’s blip of an existence did everything fall apart?

But the fact is 2 Chronicles 7:14 isn’t talking about America or national identity or some generic sense of “revival.” To apply the verse this way is, whatever one’s political ideology, theological liberalism.”

That may shake the foundation of some. Is Moore justified in his critique?

Eric Bargerhuff writing about this verse, notes, “The Bible is a book that contains much ancient history. To be sure, it is much more than that. It is the revelation of God to us, and its primary concern is about revealing God and his plan of salvation to us. But even as revelation, its stories and settings are historical in nature, and biblical archaeology has an amazing record of confirming the veracity and historicity of the biblical accounts.

As I’ve noted before, “To interpret Scripture correctly, it is not only important to consider the literary context of the passage itself, but to consider its historical context. Much of what took place happened in ancient civilizations, where languages, lifestyles, systems of government, and cultural values varied from age to age and geographical location. The stories in the Bible feature real people, who lived ages ago in cultures very different from ours.”

Bargerhuff reminds us, “Knowing this history is a key to interpretation, and fortunately, we have an abundance of resources in historical, literary, cultural, and sociological studies that can aid us in our task. Our knowledge base has increased

dramatically in this information age, and therefore our ability to understand the historical setting of Scripture is at an all-time high.”

So, now we come to our verse under consideration. One passage of Scripture from the Old Testament is chronically misused because little attention is paid to its historical and cultural context. The verse is 2 Chronicles 7:14, which is often used today in prayer meetings (especially during the annual National Day of Prayer). It is a verse that makes a dramatic promise, and many who love the Lord and love their country have placed their hopes on its truths:

“If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Let’s be clear though. The verse is riveted with great spiritual truths—the need for humility, prayer, the pursuit of God, and repentance. Furthermore, it promises God’s listening ear, forgiveness, and healing. On the surface, it seems to be an ideal verse to claim for believers who long to see righteousness, truth, and blessing fall upon their country.

But is it legitimate to use?

Let’s look at the context.

King David’s son Solomon is now the king of Israel. As Solomon stands before the people, he delivers a powerful speech, topped by a prayer of dedication.

- He prays that the Lord would be attentive to his prayers and the prayers of his people that are offered in this place.

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Reformed Reflections... (continued)

- He further asks that the Lord would act as judge, the forgiver of sins, and would relent from divine judgment (such as drought and famine) when the people come before him in repentance of their sin.
- Solomon asks the Lord to listen to the prayers of foreigners who seek his face at this temple, and that the Lord would bless Israel in time of war.
- And then finally, if the Lord should allow Israel to be defeated on account of their sin, he asks God to forgive and maintain their cause when they repent.
- And in a dramatic visual response in affirmation of Solomon's prayer, fire comes down from heaven and consumes the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord fills the temple.

But now, years pass, and Solomon finishes his palace. Then suddenly, in the middle of the night, the Lord appears to Solomon in private (we are not told how he appears). And what follows is the Lord's personal response to Solomon's very public prayer years before at the temple.

Now, let's see the larger context of the Lord's response. Remember, context is very important:

"I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
(2 Chronicles 7:12-14)

So, here's what we should note:

- This response is specifically given to Solomon, the king who represents and leads God's chosen people, the nation of Israel. The "place" that the Lord is referring to is none other than the temple itself, the "house of sacrifice."
- This is significant because the promise that the Lord gives is specifically to *this* king and *these* people in *this* time and *this* place.
- It is not meant to be a general promise that is given to any other nation on the face of the earth. No other nation could ever claim to be "God's people," and no other nation today has a temple where the living God dwells.

Furthermore, notice that the Lord assumes that Israel (God's people) will sin, for he proclaims that there will be times of drought and famine, where he sends locusts to devour the land and plagues or diseases to inflict the people or livestock, all as an act of judgment for their sin. Yet this judgment will be short-lived if God's people ("who are called by his name") would humble themselves, pray, seek God, and repent.

It is then that the Lord will do an amazing thing in response. Not only will he forgive them for their sin, but he will restore the physical land that was decimated by the physical acts of judgment (drought, locusts, and pestilence).

In other words, he will restore the land so that it produces rain again, so that there will be crops and a harvest that will nourish and supply the needs of his people. *Again, this particular healing is*

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not necessarily spiritual in nature, but is physical and pertains to the land itself.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary notes here, “God then encouraged Solomon by the promise that if His judgment (by drought, **locusts**, or a **plague**) should fall on the nation for **their sin**, they need only **turn** to the Lord in earnest humility and repentance and they would find forgiveness and restoration”

Where are we now after this survey and look at the context?

Bargerhuff makes his case that, “My hope is that now you can see how this Scripture verse has been plucked from its context and misused. Though the spiritual principles of humility, repentance, prayer, forgiveness, and healing are still relevant for us today, the binding promise of this passage was for another people in another time and another place. It is not a promise for any other nation besides the nation of Israel, those who could rightly be called “God’s people.”

I am in agreement with Bargerhuff here given the context. We cannot and should not cherry-pick Scripture to suit our needs.

“Furthermore, the healing that is promised is specifically a healing of a physical land, and therefore we can’t hijack the idea of healing, generalize it, and apply it as a promise of spiritual revival for any nation where Christians reside. That would be a misuse of the text.”

But, just to be clear, let’s not throw the proverbial baby-out-with-the-bath-water: In no way am I saying that Christians

should refuse to pray for their country or their leaders. That would be an act of disobedience. We should most definitely heed what Paul told Timothy:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:1–4)

And, one final caution: “But we must not mistake the country we live in now for the kingdom of God, even if it is the greatest country on earth, founded on biblical principles, a country still worth living and dying for.”

Let’s take care and not “Americanize” our theology!

What are we saying in summary?

“It is a true biblical principle that when people repent, times of refreshing and blessing come (Acts 3:19–20). So in this sense, we should pray that repentance and revival will take hold in our land so that God’s forgiveness, grace, and healing would rain down on us. But claiming 2 Chronicles 7:14 as the verse that invokes God’s promise and guarantee for this to happen in the exact same way it did to ancient Israel is not an appropriate application.”

Brad Krantz

Missionary Page

Todd Smith Family Update

Mid November, while cutting down a large tree, Wycliffe missionary Todd Smith was hit by the falling tree and fell several feet to the ground. Todd sustained several injuries — the most complicated being to his right leg. Todd was med-evacuated to Australia where he spent a few weeks in the hospital. Susan joined him for the flight and stayed with him in Australia. Visiting Grandma (Susan's mom) stayed with the boys for a few weeks until they could be reunited in Australia in time for Christmas. Todd and family are now back in Papua New Guinea. Todd will need to return to Australia in February for follow-up surgery.

Click [here](#) to read the “complete saga.”



The Smiths have seen God's grace and provision through this journey. They have appreciated the prayer, messages, and other expressions of love over the last months.

HOUSE OF HOPE
Unchained for Christ Ministry



A lot has happened since Michael and Margie Sgobba moved to Odessa, WA. The Lord has opened up many new opportunities in the jails in Spokane, Grant, Lincoln and Chelan Counties, and He has provided more people to assist in this important ministry.

However, Satan does not like what House of Hope Ministry is doing in the jails in Eastern Washington (as well as Western Washington), and he has unabashedly let Michael and Margie know his displeasure.

In September, Michael was crossing the street in Odessa. Even though he was clearly in the crosswalk, a car came around the corner and ran over his foot. He was also knocked to the ground, injuring his shoulder and knee. Fortunately, there appears to be no head trauma, and he had shoulder surgery in November. The doctors are waiting to see whether he will also need knee surgery.

Margie has had a number of health issues requiring surgeries. Michael has also been subject to several health issues. Because Odessa is such a small town, most of their medical appointments require them to travel 75 miles to Spokane.

Since their move to Odessa, even though the HOH ministry has experienced growth, donations to the ministry have dropped down.

Please take a few moments each day to pray for Michael, Margie, and House of Hope Ministry. If you would like to donate to help this ministry continue, please go to our website to see how you can help! www.houseofhopeministry.net

“Go to that one that is turned out, lest they become so bitter and discouraged that he won't be able to recover. Therefore, I urge you to reaffirm your love for him”. Hebrews 13:2-3

Janita Lagasca



Orin and Oleta Hardenbrook and their son

2020 is a special year for Boise Bible College. Classes started in the Fall of 1945 for the first time! For 75 years we have had the same mission – to equip servant leaders for the church. Starting this week, for 75 weeks, we'll be highlighting our past, especially our graduates!

In the beginning . . .

The vision for BBC started in May 1944 with a conversation between William Jessup, president of San Jose Bible College, and Orin Hardenbrook, who was a student. "You're not going to learn more here; go start churches," President Jessup said. For Orin, that challenge would become a passion to start a Bible college.

Orin had lost a son later in life. It was at his son's funeral that he first heard the Gospel preached, and he was led to Christ. Almost overnight, the reality of God's grace turned Orin into an evangelist. He found himself at San Jose learning more about the Gospel. He studied hard and preached nearly every weekend.

When Orin traveled to Boise to hold evangelistic services, First Church of Christ decided to hire him as their minister before he even graduated. There, he began to talk with a few men about his idea of starting a Bible college in Boise, but kept the idea mostly quiet until he had found funds to get it

started. When they accumulated \$235.58, they made a formal announcement in the February 3, 1945 *Christian Standard*. Because of that announcement, support letters came from all over the country. Students arrived and classes began on September 11, 1945. The school had five instructors and about fifteen students. Orin was at BBC for only a short time. He had cast a vision and started the school. From those humble beginnings the college has grown over the years. Orin's son Don Hardenbrook and grandson Joe (Jody) Hardenbrook are BBC graduates. Both have served in ministry and impacted many with their encouraging words and compassionate lives. The family started the "Hardenbrook Family Scholarship" to honor Orin as the founder of BBC along with his wife Oleta. The scholarship gives priority to a non-traditional student desiring to be in vocational ministry.

Boise Bible College exists because of the vision and tenacity of Orin Hardenbrook! Thank you Orin for investing in a worldwide vision of equipping servant leaders for the Church.

Class of 1946 (some missing). Orin Hardenbrook is at far right.





Operation Christmas Child

FEBRUARY: TOYS FOR GIRLS

Thank you to those who donated socks for Operation Christmas Child during the month of January. You can donate any item on any month, but there will be a focus each month to help guide your giving. During the month of February, we are focusing on collecting **TOYS FOR GIRLS!** Please put your donations of toys for girls in the bin in the Community Room of the South Building. Toys can be for girls ages 2-14. Some suggestions include: playdoh, play jewelry, jump ropes, toy musical instruments that can fit in a shoe box, brain teaser games, balls, sewing kits (scissors must have short blades with blunt tips), craft kits (glue stick is great, NO liquid glue), small puzzles, dolls, mini etch-a-sketch toys, travel games, card games. Use your creativity. Do not donate items that are breakable, liquid, or war related.



Contact Tammie Lindblom ktsralindblom@comcast.net if you have any questions.



Good friends of the camp have given a gift of \$50,000 and will give up to \$50,000 more in a matching gift! Their hope is to inspire others to help as PVCC regroups to continue the legacy of providing a refreshing spot to unplug from the world, and plug into God.

PVCC has been a ministry of the Puget Sound area Christian Churches for over 50 years. Many have worked on projects, given sacrificially, directed programs, helped in camps, and prayed for the 1,000's of youth that have attended over the years.

PLEASE consider a special gift of any size NOW up until the end of February 2020 for the chance to have your gift doubled!

Send your gifts to : PVCC
PO BOX 175
Mineral, WA 98355

or give online at www.pleasantvalleycamp.org

Ladies

Mark Your Calendar Ladies

Mark your calendar for **April 24-26, 2020**



for the Northwest Christian Women's Conference. Registrations will be available in late February.

Any questions, contact Tammie Lindblom
ktsralindblom@comcast.net

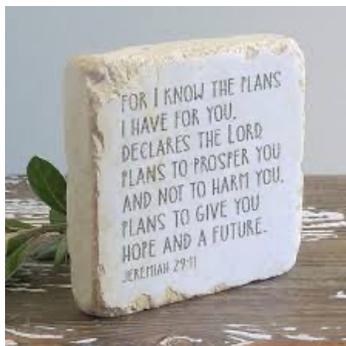
Shoemaker's Circle

**February 19th,
10:30AM
Room S-203**

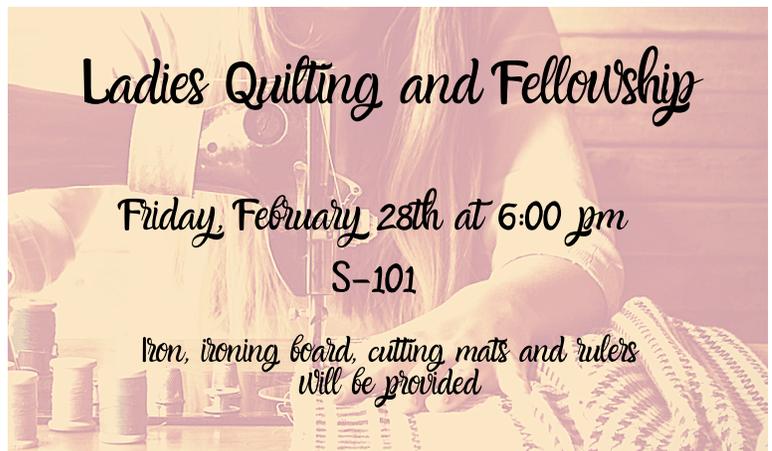


Ladies bring a sandwich and come join us for scripture sharing, fellowship and lunch.

Coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.



Registration Begins February 8th



A Privilege

The past three months I have had the privilege of teaching the 4 year old class. These little ones have shown an interest in learning their memory verses, sharing their understanding you don't pay evil for evil, and believing that God loves them. Separation is sometimes hard when the children are dropped off by their parents. Most of the time they settle in with a hug or one on one time with a helper or the teacher. One little guy struggled at drop off time and when parents came to pick him up he wanted me to go with them to meet his grandmother.

It is a joy to see these children grasp the message, share their experiences and be so happy to have their parents arrive after service. I can share the love of Jesus without being a "real teacher". Jesus loves the little children and so do I. It is such a blessing to be thanked by the parents and know Charlene is able and willing to help with any need I have.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve.

Jody Venable

Pajama Ministry Partners Needed

- Who:** Background checked adults who want to love on children
- What:** Childcare for children up to age four whose parents are serving or attending activities at the church building
- Where:** Early Childhood wing in the North Building
- When:** Wednesdays 6:10-8:15 PM 1-4 times/month, January to March 2020
- Why:** So families can attend classes or serve
- How:** No teaching required. Play with toys, read stories, serve a snack, lead a simple circle time (all materials provided), change diapers, help with putting on pajamas, brushing teeth and washing faces.



For more information or to sign up contact [Charlene Crawford](#) in the EC wing or [fill out this form](#).

Volleyball



Highline Christian's Volleyball Team is in need of a larger substitute list. If you have experience playing volleyball and are typically available on Tuesday nights, please contact Tammie Lindblom at ktsralindblom@comcast.net. Our games this season are primarily at 6:10PM and 8:50PM. We have exactly six roster players for each of the games, SO if any of us gets sick, etc, we need a substitute. Please let me know no later than FEBRUARY 4 because I can't add players to the list after that date.

Love, Tammie Lindblom, Captain

Highline Christian Church



Marie and I wish to express our gratitude to Highline for your kind embraces. It has been our privilege to serve in the Hospitality Ministry for many years. We hope that others will find a place of ministry in hospitality also.

Don & Marie Ross

Welcome New Member



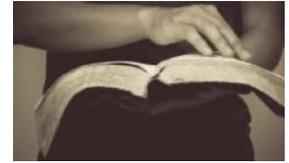
Sharon Havener

HCC Long Time Member



Long time member of 16 years, Carolyn Smith, moved on to be with our Lord Dec 29, 2019

Why Bound Bibles?



Next Gen is launching an initiative for the month of February. We're calling it "Bring Your Bound Bible" to worship services. You are invited to participate! Next Gen is convinced the use of paper (bound) Bibles **allows individuals to engage scripture with few distractions — leading to spiritual formation.** We know from our own personal experience and research that the temptation to check the notifications on our devices is just too great. While engaging with scripture and God's voice while we read and pray is crucial. Yet we allow distractions of devices to grab our attention. (The author notes she has plenty of distractions without devices.)

So, here's the invitation, Highline. Bring a bound Bible to the worship service. Stow your phone during the worship service. Be free. Be free of the distractions that want your attention. Engage in worship with your faith community. And see what happens!

FAQ:

Q: Why have babies and small children bring a Bible? They can't even read!

A: Small children don't read, but they learn from you. Bringing the Bible with you can be a delightful experience. Our Sunday school teachers are prepared to be enthusiastic and celebrate Bible-brining.

Q: Does this mean use of Bible versions on your phone or tablet or computer is bad?

A: Not at all! We rely on our devices for looking up different versions of a passage or searching a phrase. The intent is to not rely on devices, but to set aside distractions to allow for meeting with God and to be changed by him.

Q: Do we have to stop in March?

A: No! Please continue bringing your bound Bible. Tell your faith community what a difference this practice has made in your life!

Q: What if I don't have a Bible?

A: We would love to provide you with a Bible if you don't already have one. See one of our team and we will recommend or provide an age-appropriate Bible to those who desire one.

Charlene Crawford

Sermon Discussion Study

**Wednesday's
9:30AM
Room S-201**



Come fellowship, learn and grow with us Wednesday's, 9:30AM as we discuss the sermon from the previous Sunday.

Worship Service Times

Saturdays - 6:00 PM
Sundays - 9:00 AM & 10:40 AM

Contact Us

Phone:
206.243.4333

Website:
highlinechristian.org

Email:
office@highlinechristian.org

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30-2:30
Friday 8:30-Noon

Next eNewsletter Deadline

February 23, 2020

February Memory Verse

Matthew 7: 24-27

24 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. 26 And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. 27 And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

2019-2020 Elders



**Paul Smith,
Elder Chair**



Tim Knight



Bret Thorson



David Cowan



Bruce Ernst



Les Fader



Konrad Lindblom



Gregg Louvier



Dave Rogge

HCC Staff



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Liesl Behm

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Kim Allen

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Marsha Louvier

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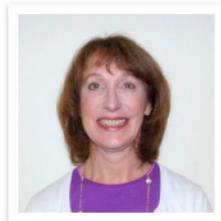


Gregg Louvier

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Charlene Crawford

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Katie Taylor

Early Childhood Director
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Tyler Mosier

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Josh Ambrose

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Josh@highlinechristian.org