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MORE TOUGH QUESTIONS



Here is a “quickie” on some of the questions that are important to think through when we are talking to friends about the trust we have in Jesus as the Bible presents Him. These are not offered as an arsenal of “end the conversation” answers, nor as the ultimate “take that” or as the THE way for someone to make a decision to trust Jesus. Rather they are answers we need to think through for ourselves and then be ready to build into real conversations with people we really care about and with whom we have the time to work.

HOW DID I GET HERE?

There are only two possible answers:

1. Someone [God] wanted me here or
2. I am a cosmic accident.

This is literally the answer of Darwinian evolution. The “Anthropic Principle” as it is called, is the belief (faith jump) that even though the probability of evolution producing humankind as we now exist is by all accounts impossible (in the billions to one; in other words, no one would underwrite your scientific experiment to prove this theory if you had to give the probability of success) it is insisted that it must have happened since we are here. This is called “circular reasoning,” which means I have no way to explain it (i.e. give the reason). But since it happened and I am assuming the reality of Darwinian evolution, then it must be true. R. Dawkins, the best-selling atheist author actually just calls it “luck!” [Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion*, (Boston: Mariner Books, 2008) 165-69.] Which seems to take more faith to you?

WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN BEING HERE?

This one has a couple more answers, but we find the answers based on the answer to the question of “How did I get here?”

1. To fulfill the purposes of the one who put me here.

This is the theocentric answer that comes out of God’s revealed word. It hits people wrong because they assume God has some self-serving purpose for which He has created us and we are stuck in his little “sandbox” and pushed around for his kicks. All that is needed is a careful understanding of how God has revealed Himself in nature (general revelation) and Scripture (special revelation), where for millennia, readers have found and affirmed a God who is sovereign and the source of all that is good.

2. To consume all the pleasure I can in the time I have. This is the materialist, hedonist answer.
3. To keep the process of evolution moving ahead. I am subject to the laws of natural selection like everything else and must defend my right to propagate my kind at any expense. This is one of a couple of scientific answers.
4. Also in this category is the answer that I have no purpose, how can an accident have a purpose?



GOOD FRIDAY
The MPC office and facilities
will close at 12 noon
on Good Friday, April 10



Mountain Park Church
 40 McNary Parkway, Lake Oswego OR
 503.635.3443 www.mtnparkchurch.org

Palm Sunday
 April 5, 9:30 & 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday
 April 9, 6:30 PM

Good Friday
 April 10, 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday
 April 12, 9:30 & 11:00 AM
 10:45 AM
 Community Easter Egg Hunt

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VERY IMPORTANT VOLUNTEERS: Ken & Jan Lewis



Location, location, location! In 1979, Jan had purchased a condo at Oswego Summit and ventured out to look for a church. She didn't have to go far – just across the street was Mountain Park Church. So on Palm Sunday thirty years ago, Jan visited...and decided to stay! She got involved with the College and Career group while she was working at Hoffman Construction as their first woman in management. There, she began dating Ken, a fellow OSU alumnus. They had first met in a graduate class at OSU when Ken was pursuing his Masters in Construction Management and Jan was an undergraduate. Four years into their time at Hoffman, they started dating. Ken joined Jan at MPC, and in August of 1982, Tom Kramer, their singles pastor, married them at the chapel at Lewis & Clark College. (They did not want MPC's orange plastic chairs to be a part of their wedding!)

Raised in Florence, South Carolina, Ken is one of five siblings in a family who did not attend church. He was invited to church by a neighbor when he was 10 years old. (He became a born again believer much later—at 31 years old.) Meanwhile, after high school graduation, Ken went to technical school for two years, where he earned a degree in drafting and design, and worked for DuPont. In 1968, at 20 years old, he enlisted in the Navy, where he served as an aviation electrician. He did boot camp in Orlando, "A" school in Jacksonville, Florida, and spent the last three years of his four-year stint on Whidbey Island, Washington. After his time in the service was up, he returned to work at DuPont. A year later, he enrolled at Clemson University on the GI bill and graduated in 1976 with a BS in Civil Engineering. While at Clemson, he looked for a graduate school that had a construction program through the engineering department...which is how he ended up in Corvallis. His first job landed him in Portland at Hoffman Construction, one day after Jan.

Jan was born in Portland and raised in a Christian home in Salem, where she attended a liturgical Presbyterian church. She gave her life to the Lord in high school when she joined another church's youth group, which later became Young Life. She graduated in 1973 and headed to OSU, where she earned her BS in Business Administration in 1977. She is currently in her 20th year as a custom home builder/remodeler with her own company, Tryon Creek Construction. Ken is in his 13th year as a Project Manager for Andersen Construction, a commercial contractor. They have one son, Eric, who was adopted after much prayer from many people in the church. They brought him home when he was two days old. He is now 19 and attending PCC.

Over the many years they have been members at MPC, they have served in a variety of capacities. Ken served two three-year terms on the Elder Board, including one and a half years as chairman, taught Sunday School for 19 years, served on many committees (Elder search, Pastor search, Finance, Personnel, Building & Grounds), did stage construction for Righteous Rhythms musicals, and acted as the Construction Manager for the conversion of the covered parking garage into the Family Center. Jan has sung tenor in the choir for 24 years, sang for 2 years on the Worship Team, worked in the Nursery, Toddler & Kindergarten level Sunday School classes, served on the business executive committee and as a parent helper for the high school group, and currently volunteers in the church library. Together, they participated in preparation and delivery of Thanksgiving food baskets, and have been part of three different agape (or home) groups over the last 28 years. They have made tons of friends here and have enjoyed many different eras of MPC's history. What steadfast, loyal, Christian brothers and sisters! We appreciate the part they have played in our church family.

April Events Calendar

April 2, Thursday

Awana, Sports Night, 6:30 PM

April 4, Saturday

Ketchup Clinic #3,
11 AM to 3 PM, FCFS Room

April 9, Thursday

Awana, 6:30 PM

April 12, Easter Sunday

Sunday School classes,
9:30 & 11 AM

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:45 AM

April 16, Thursday

Awana, Cookie Monster Night
2nd graders will visit T&T

April 18, Saturday

Awana T&T Bowling, 2 PM

April 23, Thursday

Awana, Store Night #3

April 30, Thursday

Awana, Pie in the Face Night,
Sparks and T&T only

HOSANNA! PALM SUNDAY PARADE

Please join with our teachers, helpers, and children as we celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem with our annual Palm Frond Parade at the start of both services on Palm Sunday, April 5th. Please arrive at church fifteen minutes early to check your children in to their classrooms. Our homage will be embellished with a song of praise to our Savior this year, so if you would like to add your voice to our worship and join in the processional we would love to add your "**Hosanna**" to our enthusiastic three year old through sixth grade chorus!

HE HAS RISEN!

Invite your friends and plan to join us during one or both of our regular services to participate in a variety of activities as we celebrate the joy of His resurrection and being together as a church family. Our annual and much anticipated Easter egg hunt will take place between services at 10:45, SHINE or rain, prayerfully outside on the grassy knoll, so bring your small baskets or bags for hunting and gathering ease. A basket to accept individually wrapped chocolates for the egg stuffing party will be available in the Children's wing in addition to those strategically placed in the church lobby.

FAMILY MOVIE EVENT

Watch your mail for details on an upcoming movie and popcorn event open to all ages. Due to a snafu on the production end of development and release, the exact shipment date and title of our feature is one of three options and therefore a mystery as this goes to print! Regardless, it will be a family friendly option open to friends and neighbors alike.

PICTURE THIS!

Sincerity is doing what is right with transparent motives. A transparent glass lets you see what is inside, and transparent individuals let you know who they really are. They do not put on fake attitudes or give false impressions. Sincerity is doing what is right for the right reasons. Help your teacher without expecting extra credit. Give real compliments and praise in order to encourage others, not to get something in return. Respect your parents, teachers, Sunday school teachers, and helpers whether they are watching or not. Do what is **right** because it is the **right** thing to do! (Taken from the *Character First Sincerity Guide – A Set of Nine Qualities.*)

A shower of blessings this hopeful Easter season!

Mary Adams

Interim Director of Children's Ministries



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

WOMEN'S RETREAT: Reflections of Grace

Cannon Beach, Oregon
April 24-26, 2009

The Women's Ministry Team is so excited to see what God has in store for every woman attending the retreat this year. From our outstanding speaker to the dynamic worship leader, it's going to be a great time of praise, growing deeper in our faith and having fun with some of the neatest women on the planet! During the weekend you'll have opportunities to rest, play, chat, shop, explore the beach, enjoy delicious food made, served and cleaned up by someone else, and much more!



Our speaker will be Valerie Clemen. Her personal testimony, combined with her knowledge and ability to communicate God's word beautifully and with humor, is sure to inspire. Valerie Clemen is a faculty member in Pastoral Ministries at Multnomah Biblical Seminary. She was born in Miami, FL. A graduate of Phoenix College School of Nursing, Valerie spent nearly ten years as a critical care registered nurse, specializing in trauma and surgical intensive care. She met her husband, Jim, during his surgical residency. Together they became increasingly involved in the local church, as their family grew to seven children. Valerie has served in a variety of ministry opportunities, including Women's Ministry Director and retreat speaker. After completing her Master of

Divinity degree, she sensed God's call for further education. Valerie is currently pursuing a Ph.D. from Talbot School of Theology in Educational Studies, with an emphasis on Spiritual Formation. She desires to invest in the lives of Christian leaders, encouraging them to grow in their walk with Christ. She enjoys camping, hiking, water sports, and snow skiing with her family.

Olivia Pothoff is a singer and songwriter whose passion for music and teaching unite in leading worship. Her love for singing and playing the piano began at the age of 3 and has since been her most intimate way to worship the Lord. A former high school teacher, she now spends her days investing in her two young daughters, Tenley, age 3, and Kaselyn, age 1. Olivia leads worship at her home church, Northside Community Church, as well as at other churches, retreats, and conferences. Olivia lives in Dundee, Oregon, with her husband, Mark.



JUMP START YOUR CAREER SEARCH

Are you looking for a job? Are you wondering why companies don't get back to you when you send your resume? Do you want to know how to have the most effective resume, how to get prepared for an interview (including some trick interview questions you should be ready for)? Are you networking on the internet?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, come to a meeting on Thursday, April 23 at 9:30 AM in the Mountain Perk Café and learn valuable tips on how you can make yourself and your resume stand out. We will also provide resume writing coaching, internet networking resources, and discuss industries that are growing in today's economy. Please bring your resume, if you have one. This will be an hour of your time well spent!

Michelle Best, manager at Apple One Employment Services, will lead this seminar

LIBRARY NEWS

NEW BOOKS

DragonSpell by Donita K. Paul

Once a slave, Kale is given the unexpected opportunity to become a servant to Paladin. A small band of Paladin's servants rescue Kale from danger but turn her from her destination: The Hall, where she was to be trained. Feeling afraid and unprepared, Kale embarks on a perilous quest to find the dragon egg stolen by the foul Wizard Risto.

Through the Shadowlands by Brian Sibley

They were married only a few years, but Joy and Jack knew that their God-given love was eternal. In this beautiful tribute, Sibley sensitively explores the private life of C.S. Lewis and Joy Davidman, revealing their tender moments, times of laughter, and the shining faith they shared during their darkest hours.

Saint Ben by John Fischer

The new pastor's family made an almost perfect picture standing on the church platform that splendid first Sunday morning in early 1958. The "almost" of that picture was the youngest son, Ben. At first glance he might have looked like a normal nine-year-old boy dressed up against his will for church. But there was something else about Ben that made him stand out from the rest of his family and the church; something that kept him from *pretending* that he wanted to be there.

NEW SERIES

Lights of Lowell by Judith Mille and Tracie Peterson

Courage, faith and love are the heart of this moving saga of a young woman's battle for what she knows is right. Whether resisting a loveless arranged marriage or fighting for emancipation, Jasmine Wainwright's fiery passion and devotion to her cause transform the lives around her as well as her own. Jasmine's constrained Southern life takes many turns as she travels between her family plantation and the bustling textile town of Lowell, Massachusetts. Her commitment to her beliefs is put to the test as she faces sacrificing all she holds dear. There are three books in this series: *A Tapestry of Hope*, *A Love Woven True*, and *The Pattern of Her Heart*.

Heart of India by Linda Chaikin

Linda is a Christian fiction author with a focus on historical fiction. She was the youngest of 10 children and her father died shortly after she was born. She wrote her first full-length novel with pen and paper at the age of 14. She met her husband, Steve, in a Bible study, and they were married 6 months later. They both went to Multnomah Bible College and Biblical Seminary in Portland, Oregon. The *Heart of India* series contains *Silk*, *Under Eastern Stars* and *Kingscote*.

THANK YOU

Barbara Schlauch

Thank you for the bouquet of carnations. It was a delight to receive. The cards, messages and prayers have been a blessing and the various foods were a great help. Thank you for your caring and your generosity.

Jeanne Hartman

I can't tell you how much I appreciated your prayers during my recent illness. They helped me get through it and I am getting past it thanks to those prayers.

Allen & Lois Wheeler

Thank you for your prayer support, cards, flowers, phone calls and Meals on Wheels following Allen's knee surgery. Thank you all so much.

IN MEMORIAM



Alejandra Hall's grandmother, Tita

March 2009

AWANA

AWANA BIBLE QUIZ

There were six participants from Mountain Park Church in the annual Awana Bible Quiz held at Lake Bible Church on Saturday, March 14. Four of our children received a blue ribbon in the multiple choice section for their error free answers: Gwon Goo Yeo, Joshua Bell, Sam Miller, and Nick Gadinias. One of our 3rd year T n' T teams, the duo of Joshua Bell and Nick Gadinias, brought back a 2nd place award for the overall highest score. Carolyn Miller and Kyle Marshall rounded out the participant roster. Way to go kids! There were approximately fifteen churches represented, with some of them contributing as many as 5 teams. We are proud of our kids' extra effort to put God's word in their hearts! Thank you to the volunteer leading and coaching of Ken Smucker, Holly Gibson, Myrna Soule, and Zack Miska, who spent many extra hours practicing and preparing the teams for the big event.

RIVERGATE CHURCH FOOD DRIVE

Passing along a huge thanks and praise from Pastor Carren Woods, the mobilization of large numbers of the Mountain Park faithful produced a quantity of food for the recent Awana-sponsored "Have a Heart" collection that far exceeded expectations and generated much needed hope and optimism for our North Portland sister church. Thank you to everyone who gave so freely of their own sometimes limited resources, those who called for a home pick up, (which allowed for extra fellowship opportunities), for the stellar group of 5th and 6th graders who tirelessly sorted and packed the boxes, for those in Awana leadership who orchestrated the delivery, especially Myrna Soule, Michelle Bedritis, and Ken Smucker, and for those parents and leaders who filled the gaps and spontaneously stepped forward to form the delivery team. Many frame – worthy and inspiring God moments impacted members of both churches!

SONSHINE EXPRESS



SONSHINE EXPRESS PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you, or someone you know, is looking for a safe environment where a child can learn about God in addition to the skills needed for entering grade school, Sonshine Express still has openings available for enrollment. For more information, please call school director, Patty Hottmann, at 503-635-3761.

EASTER PREPARATIONS

It's that time of year to begin preparations for Easter at Mountain Park Church. There are several ways you can help make this a wonderful experience for all children in attendance on April 12.

DONATIONS

We need around 250 dozen medium empty plastic eggs. Please help us by purchasing several dozen plastic eggs and enough wrapped candy to go in them. This will guarantee our needs will be met for this project. There will be drop boxes and baskets in the lobby and the Children's Wing for the plastic eggs and candy.

PLASTIC EGG STUFFING PARTY

On Tuesday, April 7, volunteers will gather from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM to stuff the plastic eggs with candy. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP to the church office: 503-635-3443.

SUNDAY SCHOOL & NURSERY

Due to an increased number of children in attendance on Easter Sunday, we need extra assistance in Sunday School and the nursery. Please see Mary Adams, Interim Children's Ministry Director for more information.

FROM PASTOR STEVE

ATTENTION ALL MEN OF MOUNTAIN PARK CHURCH!



Our March 9 men's meeting and brat fest seemed to accomplish some important goals... namely, it established that the men of Mountain Park are serious about getting involved, and interested in establishing new relationships and strengthening those already created. Also, the meeting revealed a strong need for men to be involved in work projects and/or other outreach ministries, both within and outside of the church. We just need the right vehicle to get the ministry headed in that direction.

In response to this, I've established Saturday, May 2 as an official in-house "work day" to kick things off; a "spring cleaning," if you will. Ralph Lohman has a to-do list that should keep everyone busy for several hours. The plan is to meet at the church around 8:00 AM, at which time Pastor Gregg will supply us with one of his famous breakfasts. Following breakfast, we'll work until approximately 12:30 PM. There will be further communication about this as the date gets closer. In the meantime, please reserve this date on your calendars. It will be a great time of ministry and fellowship!

Another date to reserve on your calendars is October 9 through 11. This is when we've reserved the Cannon Beach Conference Center for our annual Men's Retreat. It's a little bit earlier in the year than usual, which will hopefully accommodate more peoples' schedules. We'll have some great activities planned in advance. Our speaker will be Gerry Breshears, Ph.D., Professor of Theology at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon. Gerry is truly a world-class theologian. You won't want to miss this. He will be part of this great weekend we'll have planned for you!

Thank you all in advance for your participation. I will keep you apprised of other upcoming events, and am looking forward to a Men's Ministry that will flourish under the banner of Jesus!

Steve West

Pastor of Adult Ministries & Worship

FELLOWSHIP FUND

Our Fellowship Fund is money we set aside apart from our regular giving to assist others in need, and during these tough economic times, the Fund has been used with regularity. For instance, from last July through the beginning of March, we have been able to assist 17 families in areas like utilities that were about to be shut off, rent to some who had received eviction notices, and others with gasoline and auto repair problems. This assistance amounted to over \$7,000, and we continue to receive calls almost every day from at least one person, usually more. As funds ebb and flow from the Fellowship Fund, we attempt to help as much as we can, but sometimes we do have to turn people away.

Many, many thanks to those who help keep the Fund going, and encouragement to all of us to consider this manner of assisting others in the name of Jesus. While the Fund is not at zero, we are below \$350. Please know that any monies directed toward the Fellowship Fund will be greatly appreciated and used with concern and love. Thank you!

Ralph Lohman

Business Administrator

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5. To serve the good of my kind by making life better for as many as I can. This one sounds great and it is the basis of atheist humanism. The problem here is that almost no one really does this one!

So which one makes you want to get out of bed tomorrow?

Finally, what constitutes community, or the “common good?” That is, what allows us to exist with others? To be specific- What should I/we agree to value?

The answers come down to how we all determine what constitutes “good.”

1. We should value that which reflects the character of the Creator. Hence the biblical virtues of: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (just to name one list from the Bible- Gal. 5:22)
2. That which brings the most pleasure or power, based on 2 and 3 above.
3. That which brings the most safety, health and happiness to the greatest number of people. Which, as you can see, is not inconsistent with point 1 above, but is really hard to find in the real world and is most forcefully espoused by morally constructed lives (i.e. faith communities).

That is one full nutshell and there is more to be said about all of these; a lifetime worth of conversation could not bring conclusion, but we have the chance to interact with those around us and ask them to search for the truth that most satisfactorily answers the hardest questions in life and be brave enough to commit to it (or Him!)

Gregg Borrer

Senior Pastor



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



www.mtnparkchurch.org