

The Carpenter's Tool Box

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“A Tremendous Trickle” by Rev. Duane L. Sich

“Whoever is thirsty should come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, streams of life-giving water will pour out from their heart.” John 7:37 & 38

Ezekiel, Chapter 47 tells of the prophet’s vision where a tiny trickle of water coming out from under the temple wall, rather than dissipating and disappearing in the dry land, instead the trickle becomes a flowing river. (I urge you to read this story.) At first the water was only ankle deep, a little further it was waist deep; still further it became a raging river too deep to cross. As the prophet returned along the river bank, trees and bushes were flourishing, animals were drinking from the flowing water

and there was life everywhere. The story ends saying that whatever the water touched, it brought new life!

That’s not the way we normally understand how water works. As a kid, I grew up on my parent’s farm in Nebraska. Our crops were all irrigated by gravity flow, not from irrigation pumps or pivots. The water was channeled from a nearby river through irrigation canals. My father would order water by the cubic foot per minute and always hoped for a “big head” of water, adequate to irrigate several crop rows at a time. The more water at the start, the further it would flow – a trickle would have been worthless.

So what’s the message in

Ezekiel’s vision? Why did this vision make sense to Ezekiel? Perhaps, here’s why. Ezekiel knew that under the temple in Jerusalem, there was a huge reservoir for holding water. It held thousands of gallons of water. Thus, the temple always had water – water for purification ceremonies, water for drinking and personal use, and probably water for whatever – there was plenty. However, when the water was used, obviously it was only a small portion of the amount that was in the reservoir; whether for purification of priests or people’s lives, for cleaning sacrifices, or just a drink of water, only a tiny amount of water was used. But the power it had was tremendous:

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THIS MONTH’S STARS! THANK YOU’S TO...

- ★ Those who attended and hosted the “Church Tours” after noon worship on 4-23. Churches visited were Vancouver Heights Methodist, Eastwoods Presbyterian and St. Andrew Lutheran.
- ★ Marc Hartquist and employees at HP who have contributed time




and financial resources for updating our computer and printing equipment!

- ★ Contributors for the up-

coming auction who have returned their donation procurement forms!

- ★ Our new group of Homeless Court advocates who will “be” there for many of our friends at Homeless Court.
- ★ Our Rummage Sale Cleaners & Sorters!

FRIENDS
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CARPENTER



A Ministry Of Relationships

The Carpenter’s Tool Box is a monthly publication of FRIENDS of the CARPENTER
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Again, We Thank our volunteers! We had a wonderful Appreciation on May 15th ! If you missed the occasion, we have a certificate waiting for you!

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commitments made, servant-hood rededicated.

So it is in the church today. Truly, there is an enormous reservoir of God's grace available. Grace upon grace for God's people, forgiveness for our sins, faith by which to be refreshed and personal renewal and commitments ready to be realized. It's available in every church í God is there, waiting, watching, wanting every one to come ötake a drinkö of the living water. After you and I worship and are revived in faith, the öliving waterö actually goes with us. We are sent out to serve and share God's love with others; to touch them with the love of God. Think of it, when we partake of the sacraments of grace, it's only a simple sprinkle of water, or a little more if immersed; what about the

en Bread and the öimmöre-fullö or intinction of the Cup of Salvation? Compared to Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, it's piddling. But in faith, it's a banquet that bolsters our discipleship and continues to build long after we leave the building. God gives öLiving Waterö which leaves with us; wherever it goes, whatever it touches, it brings life. Whatever we touch, wherever we let it flow and grow!

The message of Ezekiel's vision is to move us and mold us to be channels of God's Living Water. Our ministry can convey and convert that tiny trickle into a tremendous testimony. We at Friends of the Carpenter invite you to come join our fellowship activities and gatherings where we worship and work together. It is amazing to see how each touch

of grace, each gift of God's love blesses and builds up the Body of Christ. Lives are being transformed as we share simple acts of friendship, words of kindness and encouragement in faith. Often it seems so small what is shared ó a praise song with a catchy melody, a scripture passage that öhits the spot,ö holding hands with a new friend or just inviting someone to sit with you and share a conversation, í but then, WOW; God does something wonderful! It happens day after day, time after time í a tiny gift of grace grows and brings önew lifeö to all it touches! You are invited not only to be a blessing, but to be blessed as well as the Whole Body is Built Up In Love! (Really, it's fun!)

Volunteers are needed. Each day more persons are finding their way to the Friendship Center. That's great, however, many are fatigued and frustrated, hoping they will find help and their hope renewed. The reservoir of God's love is ready but volunteers are needed to help channel it (even just a trickle) to touch their lives. Pray and please call to see where you can fit in and let God's öLiving Waterö flow through you.

Monday through Friday,

1) Friends of the Carpenter prepares and serves break-

fast at Share House ó 5:30 to 7:00 am.

2) Morning Devotions @ the Friendship Center, followed by woodwork activities in the warehouse.

Every Wednesday ó Noon Prayers @ St. Paul's Lutheran Church followed by an activity.

First Saturday of each month: Woodworker Show & Tell ó 9:30 to 11:00 am

Third Saturday of each month ó Brunch Preparation & Serving @ Share House, followed by a woodwork activity in their dining room. 7:30 to 11:00 am

Fourth Monday of each month: Dinner Preparation and Service @ Share House, followed by evening devotions.

Friday Mornings: Monitoring clothing distribution & Showers @ Share House; 8:30 to 11:00 am

Call 750-4752

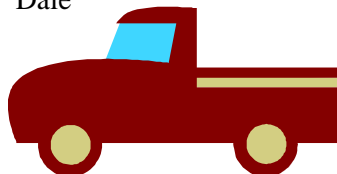
PS ó Thank you for all who support this ministry with your prayers and finances. That is a necessary part of the reservoir of God's love. If you are not able to come in person, your prayers and financial gifts are greatly appreciated and will help make the öliving waterö flow! Thank You

Dear Friends of the Carpenter.....

Thank you! I really don't know how to tell you how grateful I am to God for all of you and your efforts to help those like me that need it. The trust you've shown in me to receive the beautiful ölittle red truckö means as much to me as the truck itself, which literally allows me to live where I do, and having the truck has opened up many more work opportunities. To say the truck is a blessing in my life at a time

when it was and is truly needed is a total understatement. Just as to say I am grateful to all of you is as well. Your trust and confidence is well placed. Thank you, thank you and thank you again.

Much love & appreciation & many prayers, Dale



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Dear Friends, Let us love one another because love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God 1 John 4:7

9th Annual Rummage Sale June 26, 27, 28

Thurs. & Fri. Hours: 9am—6pm

Sat. "Bag Sale": 9am—12 noon



**@ The Friendship Center
1600 W. 20th St.**



Collectibles, Electronics,
Appliances, Tools, Furniture,
Seasonal items, Household goods,
Books, Sporting goods, Artwork and

Music from MANY Donors. IT'S HUGE!

Proceeds to Benefit Friends of the Carpenter—A
ministry of relationships & hope for the homeless

Additional volunteers are needed for sorting and pricing. Days are flexible, and training is available. Please call the office at 750-4752 to join in! If you've had previous experience at other sales... we'd love your help!!



The Annual Friends of
the Carpenter Auction
"In Celebration of the

10th Anniversary of the Ministry!"

Sat. Sept. 27, 2008

at the Red Lion Inn at the Quay

- ~ RESERVE YOUR DINNER TICKET FOR \$50 !
- ~ SPONSOR A TABLE !
- ~ DONATE AN ITEM FOR THE AUCTION !
- ~ VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH PLANNING !

Help is Needed in Seeking Donations for
the Live and Silent Auctions;
Baskets; Decorations; Data Entry,
Hospitality; Registration, Cashiering,
Check-out; Set-Up & Clean-Up!

Give us a call to add your name to the committees.....
750-4752 or come to the next meeting on
Thurs. May 22nd.