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For more information check out our website www.bethelnazarene.org

FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long. Psalm 25:4-5

As I was going to McCall driving through the canyons and mountains, I recalled my adventures in Alaska and a devotional book that I had dealing with mountains by Lisa Ham entitled Devotions from the Mountains. Back home, I dug out the book and I want to share some of its thoughts as well as mine.

There are many ways for roads to get past a mountain range. Some highways go up and over a pass, winding back and forth to gain elevation until cresting the top, and then winding back down the other side. In a few places, a tunnel has been bored straight through the mountain, taking drivers on a shorter—though darker—route. Sometimes, the road doesn't even cross the mountains at all; it may swing far out of the way to avoid them altogether.

Who knows how those routes were planned? There were probably many factors: time, money, accessible technology, the land available, and the preferences of an engineer or government official. When obstacles and trials loom on our horizons, God may bring us through them in many different ways. His creativity isn't limited to our lovely physical world. He also holds infinite possibilities in how our journeys unfold and how He leads us through them. Of course, we always hope He'll take us by way of the road that curves far out of the way to avoid the trials. Who wants to go looking for trouble?

If we think of a trial as a mountain, the tunnel sounds like a quick and safe route—unless you're claustrophobic. In that case, you may breathe easier on the road over the pass, even though it takes longer. On the other hand, travelers who are afraid of heights would probably prefer the shelter of the tunnel. Someone who's impatient might loathe taking the long way around, but one who's dreading arriving at the destination would welcome it.

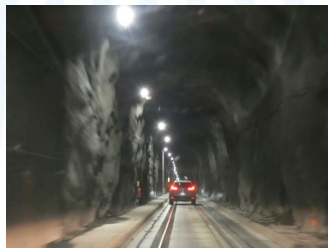
Driving from Anchorage to Whittier to play in Prince William Sound? You'll go through Anton Anderson Memorial Tunnel—the longest (2.5 miles) highway tunnel in North America, and the first designed for -40 Fahrenheit temperatures and 150 mph winds! Built in 1941, the U.S. Army began construction of the railroad spur from Whittier to Portage. This line became Alaska's main supply link for the war effort. Anton Anderson, an Army engineer, headed up the construction. In 1998 it was reconstructed to allow both railroad and vehicle traffic.

The one-lane tunnel must be shared by cars and trains traveling in both directions, and it usually needs to be aired out in between trips (with jet turbine ventilation, another first!). It also has built-in safety coves in case of emergencies. This unique design that enables a single lane of traffic to travel directly over the railroad track saved tens of millions of dollars over the cost of constructing a new tunnel.

Not that we always get what we wish for, right? God may allow His claustrophobic child to avoid the tunnel, or He might take the child right into it and guide them safely through. God knows our fears, our wounds, our weaknesses. No matter what route He leads us on, He is God of the mountain.

So, why not let God lead us on our journeys?

-- Weldon Shuman



Church Events

- Feb. 2 - House of Prayer
- Feb. 4 - Ladies' Bible Study starts
- Feb. 5 - Lunch Bunch
- Feb. 7-9 - Man Camp
- Feb. 17 - Presidents' Day; Office Closed
- Feb. 18 - 50-UP
- Feb. 19 - Board Meeting
- Feb. 20 - Book Club
- Feb. 21 - Grandparent Summit
- Feb. 22 - Church Nite @ NNU
- Feb. 23 - Church Leadership Elections
- Feb. 25 - Upward Award Night
- Feb. 26 - 50-UP Field Trip

Look what's happening...

Lunch Bunch Feb. 5th @ 11:45am - All women (young, old, single, married) are invited for this fun time of fellowship. Bring a sack lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall. Call Bertie @ 208-800-7541 if you have any questions.

50-UP Fellowship Feb. 18th @ 5:45pm - Entertainment this month will be Dave & Pam Mangum with Cathy Durfey. The meal will be catered! Please sign-up at the Event Table if you plan to attend and select BEEF or CHICKEN for your meal. Also signup if you need a ride.

Ladies' Bible Study - Tuesdays @ 9:30-11:00am starting February 4th in the Fellowship Hall. "Luke in the Land" by Kristi McLelland. Books are \$25 on Amazon or through the office. Jodi Severson will be hosting this study.

Novel Ideas & Slice of Life Book Club - Thursday, Feb. 20 @ 6:30pm. Join us for lively discussion and friendly fellowship. We are reading the book "Out of the Silent Planet" by C.S. Lewis. Text Mimi Eshelman @ 208-250-7496 if you would like to attend. They meet in Room 106.

Church Elections - Sunday morning, February 23rd from 8am to Noon in the Foyer. Plan now to help us elect our church leaders for the next church year. All members age 15 and older are encouraged to vote. A sample ballot will be available Sunday, February 16th. If you see your name on the Sample Ballot and you would like it not to be, please let Amy in the office know. Please be in prayer for ALL leadership at Bethel and some new things coming in the days ahead.

Membership - If you would like to transfer your membership to Bethel before the upcoming Church Elections, please call or email the church office at 208-466-6344 or amys@bethelnazarene.org.

50-UP Field Trip - Wednesday, February 26 @ 10:15am. They will be heading to the Caldwell Model Railroad Club. There is no fee to attend, but they do accept donations. No-Host lunch will be at the Golden Coral after the tour. Please signup at the Event Table if you would like to attend.

Ladies' One-Day Retreat - Save the date for March 29, 2025 (9am-2:30pm)! The event will be here at Bethel! This event is FREE, but we need you to sign up. Breakfast and lunch are included. Our special speaker is Jennifer Greene. Watch for the sign-up sheet at the Event Table and we'll share more information as we get closer! Mark your calendar and invite a friend!

Legacy Grandparenting Summit 25 - Friday, February 21st here at Bethel from 9:00am - 4:30pm. Register online at bethelnazarene.org/heritage-builders/ or use the QR code. It's \$39 up until the day of the event. Contact Pastor Kym if you have any questions.



Prayer Ministry - let us know if you would like to be a part of the email Prayer Chain. Also, share your prayer requests with us any time using the QR code to the left.



Man Camp 2025

Please pray for all the men heading to Trinity Pines Camp for the weekend retreat! They will be there February 7-9. If you know someone that would still like to go, call Pastor Derek or Scott Slater ASAP. We can squeeze in a few more.

Upward Basketball

Upward Basketball Games are still going through the month of February. The Young Adult Guatemala Work & Witness crew is hosting concessions on Saturdays between 9am and 1pm to raise money for their trip. Come buy a breakfast burrito, a donut, some coffee & snacks and enjoy a basketball game brought to you by adorable elementary age kids!

NNU Basketball Church Night

We're invited back for Church Night!

Saturday, February 22 @ 5:15pm & 7:30pm
Free admission for Nazarene Churches; Free Pizza for Youth Groups (talk with Pastor Des or Pastor Josh); and Pastor Appreciation Night!

Celebrate Recovery

We are heading into Lesson 4 in February
Sanity ~ "We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity". And Principle 2 "Earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me recover." Come find help for your hurts, habits and hang-ups every Thursday night at 6:30pm. Light dinner is served at 6pm. Contact Pastor Josh if you have any questions.