



Salt

a pastoral retreat

The Vision

Man is such a small creation, with such short vision and even less patience. When will we understand that God really doesn't need us to complete His work? He simply wants to include us in it. He wants to work by our side, walking with us through the gardens and valleys. He has yearned for our companionship since time began. He longs to be the captain of our boat, the cabin that we step inside to find both protection from the storm, and passage to the other side.

As I write this short message, I have a first hand recollection of how awesomely God can work His master plan to become involved in our lives. I have become completely aware of how clear God can make His presence known, and how absent He can seem. In the mere time it took us to settle down enough to become aware of His intentions, He could have completed this project, open its doors and started another. Never-the-less, He still chose to give us inspiration, walk with us through the trials, pick us up when we fell...all in the name of "faith". He used those lessons to draw us closer to Him and when the tide was right, He dropped the anchor and landed the boat.

It is through this manner of teaching, this form of relationship, that He shows all of us how truly wonderful, loving and mighty He is. In His word He tells us, but in His works through us—He shows us.

What started for some as a whisper, soon gave sight to His vision of a ministry. Through His incredible workings property

was secured, strangers were brought together, plans were made and voila'—the ministry of "Salt" was born.

The body brought together, the church working as one in love, support and edification of the bride. That is the quest of the "vision", that is the charge of Salt. God has provided an awe inspiring place, for some awe inspiring servants. A place of constant invitation, an evidence of His love and proof of His glory.

Our Lord and king has hand selected each pastor, whispered their names, and called their hearts to do His will. He never so much as implied to them a path of ease, in fact He warned of struggle and strife, great torments of despair and promised His provision. In His timing He always provides whatever is needed to press on and overcome. We give praise for His promises, His provisions, His strength and His encouragements;

*"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."*

DEUT 31:8 AND HEB 13:5 NIV

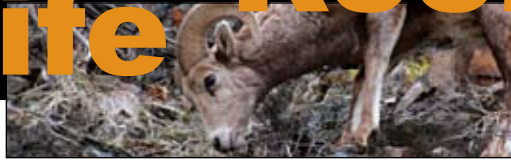
Salt is part of that provision. Salt is a place where pastors can retreat from the enemy and be restored. Salt is a part of our Master's plan. I pray that He will burden your hearts and make it part of yours.

Your servant in Christ,
Don



Be a part of the vision . . . coming to light

Wildlife Recreation



Spring, a Time of Growth

Isn't spring a great time of year? Everything fresh and anew. Crisp morning walks bring about a new awakening. Like manna at dawn, dew glistens on all of God's creation; spring rains, spring chickens and spring flowers. All reminders of God's everlasting promises, nourishment and faithfulness. Each year He brings what is required to replenish His fields. Each year He plants new crops, waters them, feeds them, prunes them, inspires new growth and then...He waits. I had someone describe to me once, what it means to wait. "Waiting is not just time passing, but a longing for a time to come." For God, that would be the great harvest, a season when all His time and tending of the planting takes a new form, our entrance into God's masterfully prepared heavenly kingdom.

New Growth

Salt is experiencing its own season of spring. This past year we added two new board members, one of which is our new Chairman, Mr. Jim Bakke. He and his wife Teresa, have two children and reside in Puyallup, Washington. Besides being a pastor's son, dedicated father and attorney, Jim is the National Director of Planned Giving for World Vision. World Vision is a non-profit christian charity which supports people groups and families in crisis all over the world through child sponsorship programming. He leads the gift planning staff and oversees all planned giving functions for World Vision.



Admitted to the Illinois State Bar, and a long-time member of the National Committee on Planned Giving, Jim has a B.A. in Biblical Studies from Trinity Bible College and a J.D. from Regent University School of Law. Jim has over 20 years of leadership, fund-raising and technical expertise.

Most recently, he served as Director of Planned Giving Services for Barnabas Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides estate planning and planned giving expertise to supporters of over 190 Christian organizations across the U.S. We are thankful and blessed that Jim has decided to add Salt's ministry to his lengthy resume' of servanthood. He brings to our table experience which is so critical to the foundational development of Salt. There is an incredible story to be told about how Jim came to become a part of this ministry. A good testimonial subject for a future issue. Anyone who was there to witness it, knows that certainly it was God alone that crossed the paths.

Paul Vaughn has also joined our team of leadership. Paul has been a born again child of God for 47 years, he resides in Beaverton, Oregon and is proud to be married to his first and only wife, Mary. During their past 38 years together they have raised two wonderful daughters to their present and ongoing maturity in Christ. Paul is a Christian businessman who has owned and operated his family business since 1989. When the IRS asked Paul what he thought qualified him to serve on our board of directors, his response was "...being led by the Holy Spirit is qualification beyond enough." We think that about sums Paul up! We praise God that Paul blesses this ministry with his service. His sense of humor, humility and real life attitude keep the rest of us grounded.



Planting

God has used these two new members of the core team to help us "till" the ground and plant new ideas into the ministry of Salt. Our Lord's plan for each us is all about servanthood, it always was, always has been and always will be. The heart of Salt is to wash the feet of those in His service who are parched and need a good, long drink. To fortify them, encourage them, and strengthen them. To give them rest so they can actively continue in their calling.

Each new project within this ministry is its own field and variety of crop which will add to the overall harvest of souls in the kingdom. The most recent garden is that of a media based ministry for pastors. This new program will minister to pastors, even now, before the building project is completed and the actual physical doors open. Not wanting to be limited by walls and structures,

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is then forth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." Matt 5:13





Focus

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Purpose

Salt is moving forward with a plan to recruit seasoned pastors who have served in full-time ministry. These pastors, will serve in the capacity of mentors for other shepherds who are in need. By way of many mediums, e:mail, blogs, personal one-on-one telecommunications and letters based on personal witness and prayer, these men of wisdom and experience will seek God's counsel on how to offer support and respond to those He brings to Salt. They will reach out to those struggling, and minister to them as only a wise one with experience and a close personal relationship with Christ can. A counselor to the counselor, if you will.

We are excited about this new project and pray that God will bring men to Salt, who are being called to this type of ministry. If you know of, or are a pastor with a burden to be involved in a mentoring ministry such as this, please get in contact with us.

Another new garden we are praying into bloom, is the formation of a group of prayer partners. No special requirements here, just your intimate relationship with Christ and a heart for praying the needs of others to resolve. Salt has been bathed in prayer since its beginning, and we would like to see that territory enlarged. If you would like to be actively involved somehow with Salt, besides financially, and are looking for a way you can serve, we invite you to prayerfully consider if this is what God would have you do.

Pruning

You can look at the grooming of a crop as a way of encouraging it to branch out, or a way of promoting deeper root growth. We think God's intended labor has been to accomplish a little of both. This past year the roof of Salt's Great House was fortified and prepared for landscape and plantings. The septic system and drain field were completed and masonry work has begun on the gated entry to the 600 acre property. Salt has been blessed with some generous patrons who have made these projects possible. Salt is that much closer to actually opening the doors and offering a physical place for rest and counsel to those shepherds who are experiencing a season of winter in their ministry. Through God's steady hand and careful pace, each pruning presents an opportunity to continue laying a strong foundation for this ministry.



Nourishment

Like any garden, water and fertilizer, are two necessary components for a bountiful harvest. As in most volunteer ministries, finances are the fertilizer required for growth so that the seeds planted can be watered into bloom. We have three budding projects for 2009:

Now that a septic system is in place, rest room facilities are in planning so that mission teams can be hosted for hands-on work parties. Three considerable donations have been received to help this project be realized, however windows and appropriate furniture (for such a throne room) are needed. This project is still about \$3,500.00 short of what is needed to complete the first room.

A magnificent view surrounds the Great House, but we still can't see it when standing inside. A wide array of windows are needed to fill the voids where they are ready to be installed. A donation for one of the windows has been received, we still need \$6,200.00 for this part of the project to be completed.

A natural spring is located near the Great House which we would like to see become the primary source of water for the facility. We are in need of a developer for this project and the funding to contract such expertise. It is estimated that the cost for the spring's development and plumbing to the Great House to be in the neighborhood of \$10,000.00. Pray that God would put us in contact with the right servant, and the finances to complete this project.

Finally, the newest of seed projects and one of the most costly, is the construction of a bridge in order to access one of the most quaint and fishable parts of the property. This project is currently in the bidding process with estimates ranging from \$10,000.00 to \$15,000.00 for permitting and construction. Time is of the essence for this project as laws are always changing for this type of construction. We are prayerful that God will supply the means to complete this project before the onset of winter weather.

Although still just a sprout, with each new shoot of its ministry, Salt demonstrates God's handiwork. His never ending tending to the garden of our lives, and His unrelenting provision for those called. We are excited as we watch the God inspired growth, and witness a work that will soon begin to produce fruit.



Salt Had Its First Visiting Pastor!

Hello,

I hope this finds you well and ready to allow God to work in and through you. This March I was on a trip, in Salmon Idaho, to preach at a Community Bible Church. This is where I was invited to visit "Salt". The vision of a Pastor's Retreat, where pastors can wind down and recuperate from the business of ministry. My hosts were very excited, believed God would have them do this, and had already acquired the land.



My family and I accepted the invitation, and went to see the property. We drove up a narrow road between two hills that kept climbing higher and higher. There were deer visible on the side hills and no traffic or people in sight. Eventually we turned and entered the land on which the Pastor's Retreat is being built. Still out of sight, we continued to climb on the switchback road up the side of a mountain. As we went higher, the view became awe-inspiring. We looked out over many mountaintops and low valleys. It seemed as though you were away from everything except God and His nature.

The building, which is located near the peak, is built into the mountainside. As if designed specifically for this purpose, I had to wonder if God's hands were on the unknowing architect. There are many possibilities on a 600 acre piece of ground, the opportunities are endless. I thank the Lord for people with vision and motivation. I pray that God will use Salt according to His glory.

Thank you for sharing your vision with myself and my family.

You are the salt of the earth:
but if the salt have lost his savour, Love in Christ,

wherewith shall it be salted?
Pastor George Lawson
Pastor of Brownington Center Church
Northeastern Vermont



*it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out
and to be trodden under foot of men." Matt 5:13*



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Salt