



Owosso Church of the Nazarene

*Our mission is to attract and lead people to Christ,
develop them toward maturity in Christ,
equip them for ministry, and empower them through
the Holy Spirit for a life mission in the world.*

May 26, 2008

Dear Family & Friends,

It seems like only yesterday my bride and I stood before a church altar and made some promises. We committed ourselves to “love and honor” one another in “sickness and in health.” We also pledged to “forsake all others” as long as we live. The ring on my left hand is a visible reminder of that commitment.

It isn't easy to make commitments—and it's even more difficult to stand by them. Yet, God calls us to a deeper life of commitment as Christians if we are to move *Forward in Faith*.

In Luke 14, Jesus delivers a bold challenge. In verse 26, Jesus makes a particularly difficult statement to His followers as He says, “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple.” Wow! That sounds like I've got to forsake everyone—even my own interests—and live like a hermit. Is that what God means?

This Sunday, I'm going to dig into this passage and discuss what Jesus was saying to those people 2,000 years ago—and to us today. I pray you'll make plans to join us.

Blessings,

Pastor Rodger D. De Vore

Hearing From God Question:

What are the barriers in my life that keep me from hearing from heaven?

Rodger D. De Vore, Lead Pastor
Marlene Webster, Community & Family Formation Pastor
Murphy Gill, Worship Arts Pastor
Craig Moore, Student Life Pastor
Deidre Marks, Office Manager
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“His Grace, Our Reality”

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“Tell Your Story”

I was born in a small New Mexico town that no longer exists. I was raised in El Paso, Texas but spent the summers with my grandmother in New Mexico. During those years, I spent my Sunday mornings in the Christian Science Reading Room. My mother had a strong belief in God but she did not attend church. She didn't care if I went to church or not so my sister and I went to church with our neighbors. We were in a different church every week. Most of the preaching in those days was fire and brimstone. I never received any clear Bible teaching and find I have very little knowledge of what the Bible has to say.

Pat, Janet, Kelsi, Hayley and Sydney Nichols gave me my first Bible this past Christmas. I have been reading it ever since. I started on page one and have made it as far as Psalm 56. They are very difficult to get through but they are all so powerful.

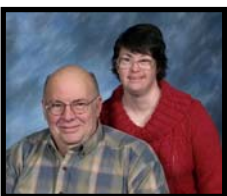
After spending time in the Navy during the Vietnam War, I married and opened a commercial art studio in San Diego that provided a large staff of artists to the local advertising agencies on an as needed basis. In those days, we used Exacto knives, glue, photo retouching, litho film manipulation, and sometimes the kitchen sink to create advertising art. Those were the days when the first 8x10 full color ad off the printing press cost \$3000 in preproduction work...before the press even got to put ink on paper. Today, you send an image from your computer to the printer and get a full color print for an average cost of 34 cents.

Although I loved my work as a graphic artist, the hours prevented me from spending much time with my family. At my wife's urging, I closed the art studio and went to work as a hospital maintenance man. Some years later, my wife developed a cerebral hemorrhage. We cared for her for eleven years. When she passed away, I could no longer stay in San Diego. My son was living in St. Johns Michigan, so I moved there to be close to him.

A few years later, I met Linda Limbaugh. Together we attended several functions in the Owosso Church of the Nazarene Community Center. Pastor Matt and Pastor Marlene both came across with some wonderful messages. I enjoyed a wonderful meal with Mike Olds at a youth dinner play. He gave me quiet thoughts that worked on me deeply. Over and over, I find myself marveling at how the youth of this congregation are so willing to share their love of Jesus.

One day Pastor Rodger performed a wedding for Linda's son. His words spoke to me. During that ceremony, my eyes were opened. That evening at the reception, we spoke further. I found my teacher. Some months later, he taught me that I was worthy enough to ask Jesus to forgive my sins. Then just a few weeks ago, Pastor Rodger spoke of doing something outside the box...stop being comfortable. This will help toward the new sanctuary. I was very comfortable just applying a little paint to canvas...painting pretty pictures that I liked. The Lord talked to me and said, "Use your abilities. You own the programs and hardware...you know how to use them. Deidre can use your help." So here I am, helping. I don't have an Exacto knife in my hands or an air brush, but I find that my computer and I are able to help.

Rick Plumbley



Rick Plumbley is a retired graphic arts designer and has recently being using his talents & gifts to create new publications, brochures, posters, etc. for our church. Rick has a beautiful daughter, Diana, and his son, Stephen & family live in Elsie.

Campaign Calendar Dates

24-Hour Prayer Vigil ~ May 23rd & 24th
Begins Friday at 5 PM and ends Saturday at 5 PM
Sign up in the foyer for a time to pray!

All-Church Vision Banquet ~ May 30th
7:00 PM Community Center (catered meal)
Please make reservations at the campaign table in the foyer.
If you need a ride to the banquet, please sign up for transportation.

Children's Party ~ May 30th from 7-9 PM

*Infant-Preschool in Early Childhood Wing
Kindergarten to 5th Grade in Moss Hall*

Celebration Sunday ~ June 8th

Firstfruits Sundays

1st Sunday of the Month for 3 years