

# THE GRAPEVINE

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth. Psalm 96:1



## ABOUT EAGLE'S NEST MINISTRIES

Karen and I named the ministry that we are involved in with special needs children, "Eagle's Nest Ministries." There are many characteristics of an eagle's nest in nature that apply to what we're trying to do in this special ministry that we believe the Lord has given us.

Moses, when he had had some difficulty with the children of Israel was walking through the wilderness and God used an eagle and its nest to teach him some valuable lessons.

An eagle's nest is built very high, sometimes on a cliff, as in Moses' case, or in a very tall tree. One of the reasons it is built so high is perception. The eagle wants to get high enough to be able to see things from a different perspective.

When we come to Jesus Christ and receive Him as Savior, we see life from a different perspective, God's perspective. That's what we want for our children in the Eagle's Nest. We want to perceive them and their lives as God perceives them. We want to view their lives from His perspective. We want our Eagle's Nest to enable them to perceive life from a higher level and provide a perspective that will help them to enjoy giving and receiving God's love in their lives, no matter what society's perspective or perception has been.

In fact, we want society to see our children from God's perspective and at the same time enhance their perception of God's people as a people who love and care the way God loves and cares. The way you and I love must shock our society if we are going to bring them the Eagle's Nest; if they are going to see life from God's perspective.

Another reason for building an eagle's nest at a great height on a cliff, or in a tree is the protection that height offers. The eagles want their young to be secure in their home. After the eagles have added a new supply of pointed branches and sticks, they will take the fur from animals that they have killed and line the nest with that soft fur. Then they will add a few feathers from their own body, and finally, many eagles will even decorate their nest with a sprig of green pine.

Much care is taken to make the nest as comfortable and protected as possible. The eggs are laid and the parent eagles take turns making sure that the eggs are maintained in a warm caring

environment. Those baby eaglets are finally hatched into a home that has been lovingly prepared just for them.

All of their needs are taken care of by their loving, doting parents. Food is flown in and specially prepared for each eaglet. When the storms of life come, as they always do, the parents are there to protect their home, not only with their presence, but with their own bodies, if necessary.

What a great place to live! What tremendous security! What marvelous peace and tranquility the eagle's nest affords!

Of course, it isn't all peace and tranquility. As in any home where they are children or adolescents, there is noise and sometimes quarrelsome confrontations, but those problems are surmounted and dealt with as they come along.

An eagle is created to fly, not spend its time cooped up in an eagle's nest, no matter how protected and secure it is. On the day that the parents decide it's time for Jr to fly, they do a house cleaning which disturbs the security of that home.

They remove all the soft fur and allow the sticks to do a job on Jr. to encourage him to leave the nest. Through the whole process of learning to fly, Mom and Pop stay close by to protect Jr., not only from their natural enemies, but also from the process of learning how to fly. They encourage him, and when he falters, they fly just above him, in just the right position, so he can actually rest his new flying muscles in the updraft of their wings. He glides along and pretty soon he's ready to try this flying business, using his own wings, again. At every step in the process his parents are there providing the protection needed from his enemies, from the elements, and even from himself. We have wanted our children and the children of our community that God gives us to know that there is a place of protection, a place of refuge, a place of sanctuary. It is not a place of harshness, but a place of love. Loving, caring protection provided by God and the people He has touched with His love. The children can see that love, and feel that love, and know that love, and possess that love for themselves in God's Eagle's Nest.

Finally, the eagle builds its nest so high because of its potential for flight out in the world. The air currents and updrafts from that height are such that the eagle can swoop off that nest and be carried along by those currents for long distances without much effort. Just stretch its wings and go.

Because of the way that an eagle is created, it is able to stretch its wings and fly, not only off of it's roost, taking advantage of the air currents, but even in the midst of terrible storms, it is able to soar higher and higher, many times flying above the storm. We have wanted our Eagle's Nest to provide the potential for flight in our real world. Most of our kids will never be able to be out on their own but we want our nest to provide them with the potential to fly in our world to the extent that they are able; to reach their full potential in Jesus Christ, to live life as He intended.

Our kids have come through some terrible storms of life and they are scarred from their experiences. Many times those scars have come from the people they have trusted and loved the most. It's important that we touch the full potential of love that God has placed within them to enable them to love and trust again. Then, when the next storms come, they will have the wings of an eagle that will enable them to soar higher and higher even through those hard times. At that time, they will have known the protection of a loving heavenly Father who will cover them with His wings.

Protection, preparation, presence, process, provision, and potential...giving the hurting children of our community protection that has been lovingly prepared by the presence of a caring community encouraging them in the process of being all that they can be in their world by providing them with the protection they need from their enemies, the elements and even themselves while they are going through the process. At the Eagle's Nest we have wanted to be

able to touch the lives of children and young people in our community in such a way that they will be able to reach their full potential in Jesus Christ in the real world.



# Stop and say “Hi!”

Come meet Don Porter, he has been a member of Columbus West since 2016.

## Bible Trivia

Who am I?

I was able to understand other  
People’s dreams, but many people  
Did not like this gift. It was not  
Until I met Pharaoh and told him  
His dream that I was rewarded.

Who am I?

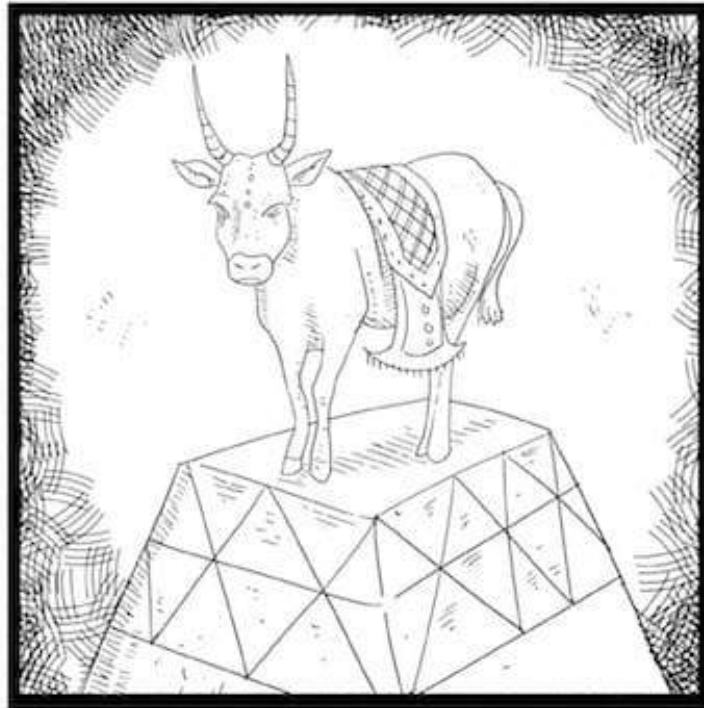




## **WANTED:** Bible Detectives

### **Solve & Color #9**

Below is a Bible mystery. See if you can solve it by unscrambling the letters. Then check it with the Bible lookup that identifies the person in question. And finally-color in the picture!



**Bible Mystery #9:** He has overseen the making of a golden calf. The people are worshipping it. He thinks Moses is dead. But here comes a very alive Moses, who beholds this sight and smashes the Ten Commandments in disgust. Who is this man?

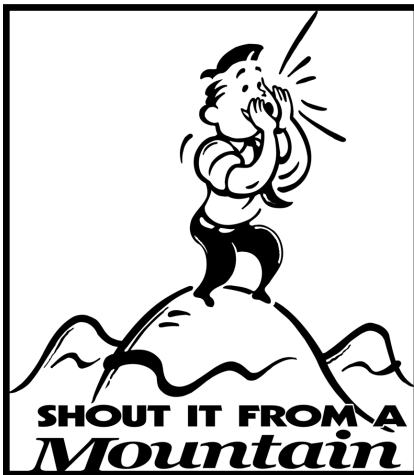
**ANORA, HET THROBRE FO SOMSE**

Bible Lookups: Exodus 4:14 & 32:19-21

Trivia answer: I am Joseph



CW Sports Practice starts January 7. The first game is Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Come out and cheer on the kids! Have a hotdog and a drink!



**James 1:2**

***My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;***

*How many times have you been in the midst of a trial and wanted to shout? I know that many have wanted to shout out of anger or frustration, but what about shouting for joy? I want us to take some time over the next several months to look at the first chapter of James. I love the book of James, because it is a practical, how-to book. I need that simplicity in my life.*

*The path of life is not an easy path to walk. It is filled with all kinds of trials and temptations, such as sickness, disease, accidents, disappointments, sorrows, suffering, and death. There is a great deal of*

*temptation in our world as well, such as all the seductions to sin and evil. What we need is a sure-fire way to conquer all the trials and temptations of life. That is why we are looking at this passage. There is a way to conquer and triumph in this life, no matter how severe the trial or temptation. What is that way? I'm glad you asked!! It is possessing a spirit of joy and perseverance as we face the trials and temptations.*

*The Greek word used for temptations or trials throughout James is **peirasmos**. It means to tempt; to try; to test; to prove. Through the Bible the word **peirasmos** and its various forms are used to refer to both the temptations and trials of life. But note that the word means far more than just to tempt; it means...to test, to try, to prove.*

*That is, the temptations and trials of life are to prove us: they are for a beneficial purpose; they are permitted by God for a good purpose. What is that purpose? To make us stronger and more pure.*

*In the next issue of "The Grapevine" we will look at how our trials and temptations make us more pure. Let me encourage you to "count it all joy" this month and watch God increase your joy. Love all of you and see you around the church.*

**Pastor Rob**

## **Determination**

Determined to fulfill the dream of his father, a wise young man undertook a project. His father would have liked to accomplish this task personally, but because he was a man of war he was unfit for the job. He was allowed to gather the materials necessary for the construction and did this until the end of his reign.

After his death, his son assumed leadership and resolved to fulfill the dream of his father building the temple in Jerusalem to house the ark. This phenomenal feat would require all of his energies and organizational abilities in coordinating vast quantities of material and thousands of men of diverse nationalities and skills.

He began organizing the project, maintaining order in every aspect. First, he secured stone and lumber from different countries. He made an alliance with a neighboring king to employ men skilled in woodworking. He established a rotational working program with thirty thousand men to help cut giant cedar trees of Lebanon. He sent an additional eighty thousand masons to cut and finish stones from the hills.

After four and a half years of collecting materials, actual construction began in the spring. Seventy thousand laborers at the construction site directed by over three thousand foremen began building the temple—ninety feet long, thirty feet wide and forty-five feet high. Constructed on an expensive stone foundation, the cedar-paneled walls were beautifully decorated with hand carvings and overlaid with gold.

The quantity of materials and the scope of coordinated effort were staggering, but even more remarkable is the fact that because the leader followed the plan so precisely, neither hammer nor chisel could be heard at the site. The prefinished stones and beams were so exactly cut that they fit perfectly together. After seven years of hard work, this sacred building was completed—hundreds of years after the nation left the slavery of Egypt.

Why was it so important for Solomon to complete his father's dream? His motivation to complete the project with such precision and order is revealed in his prayer during the dedication ceremonies, "But will God indeed dwell in the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant...that thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there." The Lord had given his father the promise that upon completion of the temple His glory would fill it. The temple would be the scene of His presence in Israel. From 1 Kings 6:1-14

Are you constructing the temple of God, your body, the way that He has instructed? The only way to find out is through the Word. Get into it and let it get into you. When you put the truths together you will find that you don't need a hammer or chisel, they fit together perfectly.



## A Couple Words From Elizabeth Eno

*Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.*

*Colossians 2:7*

### Gratefully Bloom

Have you ever chosen a "word of the year?"

I have picked a *word for the year* the past 2 years, but to be honest I have never put more than 5 minutes of thought into it. This year I decided to reflect a little bit more and even took two quizzes to see what word a computer might pick for me!

(Here's [one quiz](#) I took)

One quiz result was "**GRATEFUL**" which is exactly the word I was already thinking about for this year!

When I was a little girl, my mom gave me a notebook and my task was to write one thing I was thankful for each day. While I often fail to live in this mindset, my mother helped establish an important practice that I draw on periodically.

Whenever I spend any amount of time thanking God for His faithfulness, I always come away feeling more content, more at peace and more ready to handle what is in front of me.

I am hoping that by choosing GRATEFUL as one of my words for 2020, I can more intentionally thank the Lord (instead of complain), and can walk through the day in awe Him.

The other quiz result was **BLOOM**.

This is what [Dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com) says for "bloom:"

**Noun: the flower of a plant.**

**Verb: to produce or yield blossoms, to flourish or thrive.**

To be honest, I wasn't quite as connected to this one. Many times I tend to see the glass half-empty, to predict how things may not work, to anticipate problems. This is a great skill for some situations, but it leads to high anxiety and a generally frustrated and nervous spirit.

To think of myself as "blooming" is just a bit uncharacteristic!  
And yet, "*flourishing*" sounds like something wonderful, doesn't it?

How does a flower produce blooms, or yield blossoms, or flourish, or thrive? By being planted in the right soil, given sufficient water and allowed sunlight. A flower cannot muster up its own energy to create a bloom. It is dependent on certain elements that literally make it into something beautiful.

Similarly, I cannot possibly "produce blossoms" on my own. Trust me, I've tried.  
The result is far from flourishing!

But, I wonder what could happen if I let *gratefulness* be the soil I rest in.  
If His Word was the water my soul drinks from, and prayer functioned as the sunlight. What could blossom under those conditions?

**Will you ask the Lord to help me *gratefully bloom*  
both at work and at home, in the year 2020?**

*"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. – Colossians 2:7"*



