

# THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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## Happy New Year!

We don't need to beat around the bush...2021 was tough!

Despite all the challenges of 2021, God has blessed our Cloverdale church family in so many ways. I believe that if we meditate further on God's blessings, each of us will discover specific ways that God has blessed us individually. If you don't believe this is true, then take out a piece of paper and write out every positive thing that has happened to you over the last year (the list will surprise you).

I think that the apostle James makes it quite clear. *"Every good action and every perfect gift is from God. These good gifts come down from the Creator of the sun, moon and stars, who does not change like their shifting shadows".* (emph mine)  
James 1:17 (NCV)

Note how James states that God *“does not change like their (sun, moon and stars) shifting shadows”* (emph mine). These are inspired words that should give us pause. We serve a God who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. His blessings are continuous and without fail.

With those blessings come opportunities...opportunities to serve.

Do you fancy yourself as a leader? Perhaps not, but one of the greatest traits of leadership is being a servant to others.

Leadership is all about intentionally focusing on the needs of others...putting their needs ahead of our own.

*If you want to lead on the highest level, be willing to serve on the lowest.* (emph mine) John C. Maxwell, Leadership Expert.  
“The 21 Indispensable Qualities Of A Leader”

Let’s focus on allowing ourselves to be stretched in 2022.

Best-selling author, John Ortberg states that *it is time to stop being couch potatoes and become water walkers* (para & emph mine). “If You Want To Walk On Water You’ve Got To Get Out Of The Boat”.

Find a ministry that involves prayer, bible study and relationships. Make it happen...get out of the boat! Cloverdale has numerous opportunities for involvement.

~ *Martin Casper*



# **Ministry Highlight - Food Pantry Update**

Most of you know that Cloverdale has a very robust food pantry. Do you know how robust it is? I have learned a lot more about it from Linda Easley. It is impressive! It is exciting!

## **What a ministry to the local community...**

This is a ministry that has a VERY BIG need! Currently, there are two volunteers that operate the food pantry. We need MORE VOLUNTEERS! Linda Easley and Lorraine Murray have made this their ministry wheelhouse. Linda told me that if they had only six more volunteers, they could be open every Sabbath. (six more volunteers could amount to a commitment of one weekend per month)

Currently they are open two Sabbaths out of the month from 2:00 - 4:30 PM.

Food is provided by the Idaho Food Bank. A solid commitment is super important to this ministry, as the volunteers must go down to the Idaho Food Bank to pick up the food by 3:00 PM on Friday. The food is transported back to Cloverdale where the pantry shares space with the thrift store. The volunteers may have to create some space, by mildly rearranging the thrift store to accommodate the food display.

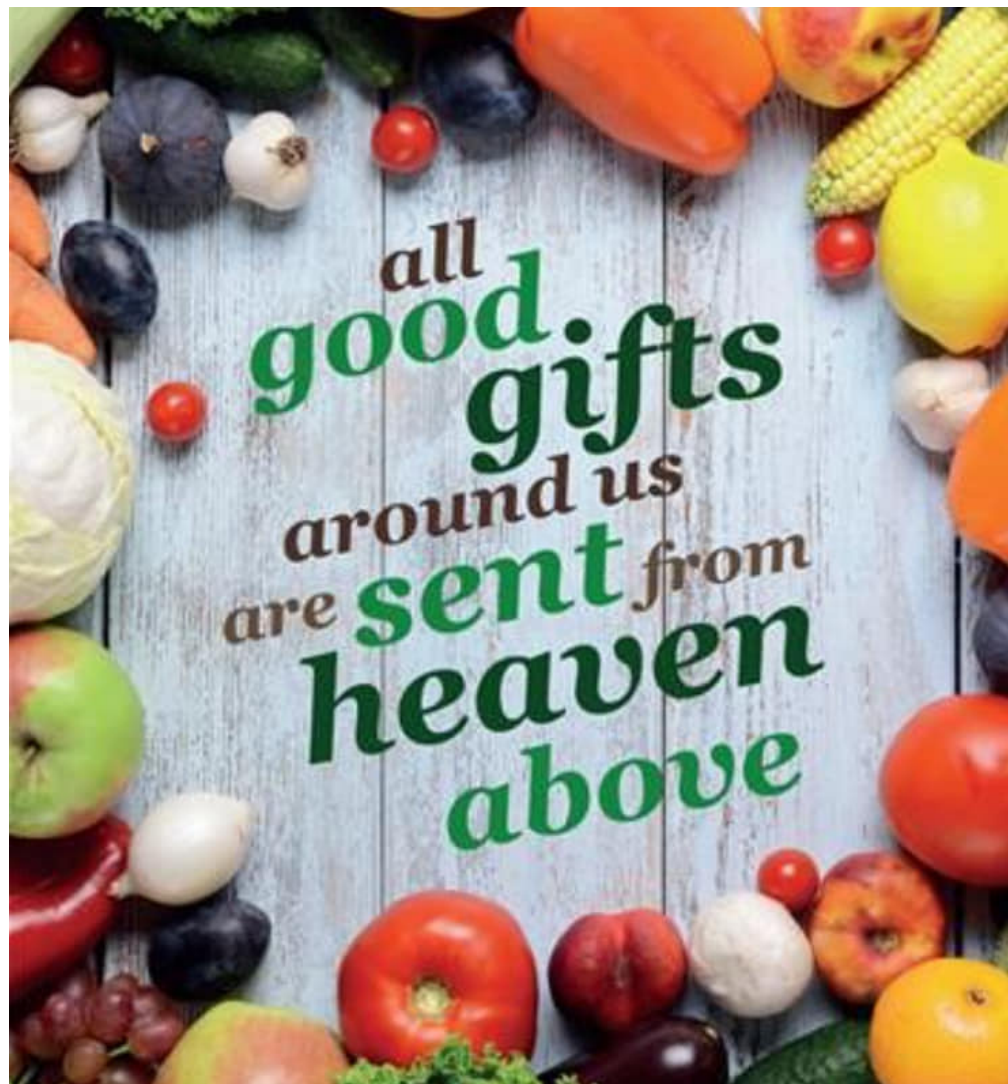
I am so impressed with the job that Linda & Lorraine are doing! Since March of 2021, over 7200 pounds of food has been distributed to over 80 families. I can say with confidence that this number has significantly risen to date.

**Just think how Cloverdale could make an impact on hunger, within the Treasure Valley, if the food pantry were open every Sabbath!**

**Let's make it happen!**

**Thank you Linda & Lorraine!**









## **Pastor's Corner**

**As I was growing up, sometimes I would experiment with what it would be like to be unable to see. I remember walking around the house with my eyes closed (probably not the best idea).**

**I would do things like stub my toe, knock my knee into the corner of a chair or bang my head against the edge of a heavy door.**

**These uncomfortable experiences taught me that I did not want to lose my eyesight!**

**Today, we are seeing many people stumble around...they have no clear vision. The wisest man who ever lived wrote the following, "Where there is no vision, the people perish". Proverbs 29:18 (KJV)**

**Many are perishing today because there is a mask over their eyes. Either they do not want to see the truth, or some have been pressured into following another blind person. This will only end up in pain and suffering.**

**But I have good news for you. Jesus is inviting you to look through the lens of God's eyes. The promise to you and I is found in Jeremiah 29:11 (KJV). "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."**

**When we see through His eyes, we see light in the darkness. We see good in the bad. We see hope in a future that seems hopeless. So go ahead...remove the mask, so you may see through His eyes.**



**Be blessed ~ Pastor Jason**