

# THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS

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## ***Be a River, Not a Reservoir* - John C. Maxwell**

Have you ever noticed that a river just flows? Whatever it receives, it gives away. The fascinating thing about a river is that more keeps flowing! It does not end.

A similar thing happens in our own lives. Think of the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. Those who gave away or invested, got more in return. Giving is right at the highest level of living. When you give of your time, your abilities, your knowledge...without any expectations, the world becomes a better place. You become a better person.

Jesus made a simple and clear definition of giving. Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me. (Matthew 25:40 NKJV)

**The act of giving is all part of discipleship. Sharing the love of Jesus, by opening another mind to the great truths of the Bible. Loving someone who is hurting. Praying with them. Leading them to the Cross of Christ. Jesus said, greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. (John 15:13 NKJV)**

**The greatest example of discipleship is the giving of ourselves.**

**Let's make our lives all about giving!**

***~ Martin Casper***



## **Ministry Highlight - Welcome Desk**

**Imagine a place where people are filled with the love of Jesus. A place where you can be yourself. A place where you can discover your church family.**

**The Welcome Desk at Cloverdale is just that...your place.**

**The individuals who make up this vital ministry, demonstrate the persona of Jesus. Jesus said, go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. (Matthew 28:19-20 NKJV)**

**The Welcome Desk does just that. Along with the greeters, they make the first impression on each person who enters our Cloverdale church. They take ownership of setting the stage for members and visitors alike. There is nothing like a warm, friendly smile to cheer a soul who could be coming off a challenging week.**

Visitors are offered a Welcome Bag filled with very cool stuff; a book from Pacific Press and brochures that highlight the Treasure Valley...Discovery Center, the Boise Zoo, as well as the Birds of Prey, etc.

Tricia Mace, Betty King and Tracy Spainhower, along with others...have been mainstays at the Welcome Desk for many years. We are so grateful for their dedication to this important ministry.

They need help! They would like to add more to the team. If you or someone you know is looking for a great way to share the persona of Jesus, now is the time! Stop by the Welcome Desk next Sabbath, and let Tricia know that you are ready to become a part of this dynamic ministry!





# **Pastor's Corner...**

**A Call to Adventure!**

**I like to keep things simple, but...don't confuse that with easy.**

**In my personal life, I focus on prayer...studying the Bible, and building relationships.**

**I like to pray with others. I take time to pray by myself.**

**I take time for personal Bible study to grow in my love for Jesus. I also love to study with others...sharing what I learn with them to enrich their lives.**

**Everything I do involving others, falls into the relationship category. In every relationship, I ask myself if I am influencing the other person for good? Am I being a positive influence whenever I interact with another human being? These are just some of the ways I challenge myself.**

**Jesus calls His followers to make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). This means if we love Jesus, we are to engage in making disciples. This does not mean we are all called to be lecturers or public speakers.**

**I see this as a call to adventure!**

**Discipleship happens as we live life in a simple, intentional, and meaningful way. This means spending time in prayer, studying the Bible...making this a daily practice, in every area of life. Living a life of discipleship is especially important, as you connect with others.**

**Whatever you do in life, you are influencing others...either for good or for evil. There are no days off. This can seem overwhelming, but it can also be viewed as an adventure! If I was to tell your story to my children, how would the story go? You are in control of that story. You can allow Jesus to shine through you, to bless those around you.**

**Every moment of every day, it is your choice...**

**What kind of adventure is God calling you to? If you are not sure, spend more time in prayer. He will reveal His plan for your life. But one thing I know, it will involve making disciples. It will involve your gifts, abilities, and life experiences. Your adventure is custom-made just for you. It requires your personality. It will fit into where your life is right now. There is no waiting period. You can begin today!**

**As you embark on this journey, you will grow and develop. You will receive blessings and bless those around you. It will be difficult. It will challenge you. It will scare you. You can only accomplish it with God's help. It is a good thing that Jesus said, "... and lo, I am with you always, even to the end to the age. Amen". (Matthew 28:20 NKJV)**

**Be blessed...**



**~ Pastor Marlon**