

Newsletter

Christmas Greetings

DEM
DALE EBEL MINISTRIES

Reclaiming Organic Discipleship

We send our love to you, our friends and family, and hope this past year has been good for each of you and that you are well. This time of year we commemorate Christ's birth, remembering also that He lived on earth, died, resurrected, and is coming again for those who love and follow Him.

Our family was all together in early January and then again in the summer. We saw the individual families also at different times. Lots of action in each home, which we love!

Our ten grandchildren are now age sixteen down to two. In this photo, taken in the summer, Jeff & Heather McNown's five children are on the left: in back from left to right, J.J. (16) & Brock (12), and in front, Max (10), Rowen (8) & Selah (5). We are holding Seth & Vanessa Ebel's two, Jude (4) & Isla (2). On the right are Brandon and Corrie Ebel's three, Evangeline (5), Petra (3) and Josiah (7).



Christ's Kingdom

The Spiritual Kingdom of God is the Rule of Christ in Us, and the Authority to Extend His Reign Through Us.

The message of the Kingdom of God shows up in the most intriguing places. Jesus began His public ministry being compelled to proclaim the Kingdom of God (Luke 4:43 NIV). In the Book of Acts, Dr. Luke records that Jesus spoke of things concerning the Kingdom for the forty day period between the resurrection and the corporate coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 1:3; 2:4).

In this period he continues to make the Good News of the Kingdom of God the framework and the center of all He said and did. Everything revolved around that center—He was the embodiment and illustration of that Kingdom. The Apostle Paul taught in Ephesus for three months about the Kingdom (Acts 19:8). The book of Acts concludes with the Apostle Paul continuing the message of the Kingdom (Acts 28:31).

What did the Apostle Paul teach about salvation? Here are some of his insightful summaries:



What the Good News Message is: "Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time. . ."

1 Corinthians 15:1-6 ESV

Our Response: Repentance and Faith in Christ: ²¹ "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. . . ." **The Gospel of God's Grace:** ²⁴ "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the Gospel of God's grace." **The Kingdom:** ²⁵ "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again." Acts 20:21,24,25 NIV

As followers of our King it is motivational to keep these powerful truths integrated as we have opportunity to introduce others to Christ.

Our Fall Ministry

Consulting Sisters, Oregon

God has been good to use my years of pastoral experience in the local church to advise church leaders. This fall I gave input to a pastor and lead elder of a new church in Sisters, Oregon. How a church is organized and who is leading that body of believers is crucial for healthy longevity. The format of services, maintaining doctrinal purity, the form of government, and the character and skill of the pastoral team and elders are crucial to a church that stays true to the Word. The church is meant to be causal and caring at the same time.

Discipling Men and Women

I have five groups of men this fall (newest one pictured above) and Linda has two groups of women. I am taking each group through varying studies and Linda is teaching the Book of Esther.

Many men and women are writing and sharing their Redemptive Stories with each other and with friends and family. All are attempting to take steps of faith in being trained to verbalize their faith and to follow Jesus more closely.

Teaching Good Shepherd Community Church

I have been teaching on the Kingdom of God to the men's group, *Higher Ground*. I will continue to be part of the teaching rotation in the winter.

I am writing articles on various subjects for our website. www.daleebel.org

Our Fall LIFE TOGETHER Gathering is mentioned on Page 2.

Services Ron Hergert and Harold Wacker

I officiated the memorial services for good friends, Ron Hergert & Harold Wacker. We will miss them both very much. I grew up with Ron. He was the first praise leader at Rolling Hills and had such a positive outlook on life. Harold attended RHCC for years and grew up in my grandparents' church. Both were faithful followers of Christ. Please pray for LeAnn Hergert and Helen Wacker and their families.

Making Disciples

Many of those we lead in disciple groups are leading others as well, which is the Biblical pattern for discipleship. Rick Hennessy's group is pictured at left. Rick is pictured second from the right. In the photo below are Jodi Martin, left, and Kathy Chambers. Jodi is leader of a group at BSF. Another gal in one of Linda's groups founded and leads a Bible study with parents of children at her kids' school.

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." - Psalm 145:4 ESV

Photos of two of our groups are also at left. Most of my groups consist of a mixture of younger and older men. The Lord has also opened up an additional group of about fifteen young men between the ages of 22-32 for me to disciple and mentor. They are pictured on page 1. It has been a huge reward for me to participate with all the men in my groups, as they clearly are spiritual influencers in their business endeavors and in being leaders in their churches and with youth.



Life Together Gathering

"And all who believed were together . . ." Acts 2:44 ESV

This fall we had a wonderful group of men and women meeting the first and third Sunday evenings with the format being interaction and specific training. Each person has written out his or her spiritual journey story and has practiced telling it to various people. Here are some of the comments:

- ★ "We are recently married and my wife had never heard me share my redemptive story!"
- ★ "This was the first time my husband and I prayed aloud together."
- ★ "I have never understood the Kingdom of God. I have authority from Christ to advance God's purposes into every life situation."
- ★ "This has been very stretching for me because I have never written out my testimony."

Our grandson, **J.J. McNown**, pictured below, addressed the gathering one evening on integrating his faith at high school. Several students attended to hear him. Many thanks to Alan and Torree O'Kain for hosting these gatherings at their lovely home!



Fathers Teaching Their Kids

"You shall teach them (God's words) diligently to your sons ..." Deuteronomy 6:7 NASB

When I meet with men, I emphasize that we should be "doing" as well as "learning." I challenged some of the men to start meeting with their young sons and daughters individually and go through the Scriptures together, one to one. A young father who took up the challenge has been meeting with his son for the last four months. He said he has been amazed at how they have connected, and been thrilled by their times of learning together! One time while they were meeting, his wife was nearby listening to the interchange and said, "Does this ever feel good!" Sometimes it is the little things that can make all the difference.

We are so grateful for your prayer and financial contributions to our ministry! We now have online giving at our website:

www.daleebel.org Happy New Year! **DALE**



The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem ..." Acts 6:7 NASB

Most of us have heard the definition of insanity: *Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.* With Christianity declining in America and in the world, perhaps *it is time to get back to the forgotten ways* of the schools of the rabbis who selected people that would learn from them and follow them. Jesus, The Rabbi, started with the 12 and the multiplication and exponential growth speaks for itself. Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to disciple? Pray and ask, "Lord, which three people, (preferably new or very young in Christ) would you like me to mentor and disciple? Lord, I'm looking for those who are willing to disciple others."

Jesus spent most of His time with only twelve men. He had a large enough vision to think and act small!

Photo below: Meeting with our son, **Seth Ebel**, center, and his good buddy, **Jadon Lavik**. Both are pastors on staff of **The Shoreline Church of San Clemente, California**. I spoke at Sunday services there recently. Seth is Community Life Pastor, and Jadon is Worship Pastor. Jadon is also a recording artist on one of Brandon's labels.

Check out **Jadon's Christmas album** at: <http://www.becrecordings.com/releases/836/Christmas>. Seth writes articles for our ministry's website and also helps us with the technical aspects of Facebook, Twitter, and maintaining the website. **Welcome, Seth, to our ministry!**

