

# Going from presents to living in His presence

The last several weeks have been quite an experience for me. You see, I had the opportunity to ride around in a brown truck and help deliver packages.

I always told my wife I wanted to dress in brown. Well, I had my opportunity, and it was fun. By my observations it looked like some people had quite the Christmas, if you know what I mean!

I trust your December 25th was special this year, and it went so much beyond the presents you received. I know there will be stories that surface in messages and articles from my UPS experience.

One of the funny rumors was Calvary was looking for a new pastor. The old one gave up handling people, for handling boxes, because the boxes aren't as fragile.

Well, we are three days post



**steve rains**

• moments from calvary

Christmas. The gifts have been played with, tried on, and some already stuffed in closets. The landfills of our nation are reaping the mounds of wrapping paper and boxes that got pitched Tuesday. The New Year is upon us, and you are starting to lay out some goals and resolutions for yourself as you are days away from 2008.

Here is one I want to encourage you to pursue, learn, and live. Move from desiring God's presents to desiring His presence. What do I mean? All of ask things of God

don't we? "God, touch my mother who is ill with cancer." "Lord, I need a miracle in my finances. I just bought a bunch of Christmas presents!" "Jesus, help me with this relationship issue." All those requests may be legitimate, and God loves to answer our prayers. I believe that with all my heart.

But here is the deal. God is the answer for your every need. Having a daily renewed, fresh relationship with Him is the Holy Grail from which He wants us to drink. We must desire His presence more than His presents. Let's be honest it is to easy to ask for things, but not so much desire to live in His presence. Perhaps part of that is we know how

we live, and we think we can hide it from Him. Like you and I can cover God's eyes so He can't see what you're doing. Or even worse, we want His help, but aren't concerned that our lifestyle breaks His heart.

So how do you live in His presence? I like what Gary Moon says, "Discerning the sound of God's voice requires and overall approach to life in which we organize our days around staying close to Him. I you want to hear the flute, you'd better sit in the front row.

Author Max Lucado beautifully illustrates this in a story he wrote entitled Tell Me the Secrets: Treasures for Eternity. In the fable, three knights face the task of navigating a dark forest populated by clever, yellow-eyed creatures that stand in their way. The reward for the first knight to find his way back home

— to the castle — is the hand of the king's daughter. Each is allowed one traveling companion.

To help the knights in their journey through the dark forest, the king will play a song on his flute from the castle wall. There are only two flutes. The king has one, and his son, the prince, has the other.

Each knight is known for a particular skill. One is strong. Another swift. The third is wise. At the end of the story we learn that strength and speed was no match for the wiles of the dark forest and the yellow-eyed creatures who opposed their journey. Only the wise knight survived to claim the hand of the princess. But even he was almost undone by the creatures in the forest who imitated the song of the king.

How did the wise knight find his way home? He chose the right

companion for the journey. He selected the prince to go with him, and as they traveled, the prince played the same song as the king. The wise knight learned it so well that though a thousand false flutes tried to hide the king's music, he could still hear it.

The knight made it and was rewarded. It is my prayer for you that as you navigate the dark forests of 2008 that you will listen and know the voice of the

One who is speaking your name and saying, "Come to me." It was Teresa of Avila who said, "Settle yourself in solitude and you will come upon Him in yourself." Blessed in His presence.

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and College. Go to the church's web site at [calvarygospel.net](http://calvarygospel.net) or e-mail Rains at [calvarycolumn@st-tel.net](mailto:calvarycolumn@st-tel.net).

## New titles available to read at city library

The Goodland Public Library has received these new books and titles in December.

New nonfiction titles are "Christ, the Light of the World" by Thomas Kinkade, "If You Can't Lose It, Decorate It and Other Hip Alternatives to Dealing with Reality" by Anita Renfroe, "Alexander and the Wonderful, Marvelous, Excellent, Terrific Ninety Days" by Judith Viorst, "Dr. Neal Barnard's Program for Reversing Diabetes" by Neal D. Barnard, "Christmas with Paula Deen: Recipes and Stories from my Favorite Holiday" by Paula H. Deen, "Deceptively Delicious: Simple Secrets to get your Kids Eating Good Food by Jessica Seinfeld," "Decision in Normandy: by Carlo E'Este," "Enigma: The Battle for the Code" by Hugh Sebag-Montefiore, "The Heroin Diaries: A Year in the Life of a Shattered Rock Star" by Nikki Sixx and "The Kansas Journey" by Jennie A. Chinn.

New on compact disc is "Identical Strangers: A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited" by Elyse Schein, "The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World" by Alan Greenspan, "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen, "Stone Cold," "Mister B. Gone" by Clive Barker, "The Chase" by Clive Cussler, "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe" by Fannie Flag, "World Without End" by Ken Follett, "Pandora's Daughter" by Iris Johansen, "The Parting" by Beverly Lewis, "The Race" by Richard North Patterson, "Where My Heart Belongs" by Tracie Peterson, "Amazing Grace" by Danielle Steel, "Book of the Dead" by Patricia Daniels Comwell, "Now & Then" by Robert B. Parker, "Gallopway" by Louis L'Amour and "Son of a Wanted Man" by Louis L'Amour.

Fiction titles added are "Stone Cold" by David Baldacci, "Mister B. Gone" by Clive Barker, "Dearest Dorothy, Merry Everything!" by Charlene Ann Baumbich, "Dearest Dorothy, If not now, When?" by Charlene Ann Baumbich, "An Irish Christmas" by Melody Carlson, "The New Year's Quilt: An Elm Quilts Novel" by Jennifer Chia-

verini, "Unwrapping Christmas" by Lori Copeland, "The Chase" by Clive Cussler, "Walking Across Egypt: A Novel" by Clyde Edgerton, "Finding Father Christmas" by Robin Jones Gunn, "Third Degree: A Novel" by Greg Iles, "Home to Holly Springs" by Jan Karon, "Between Sundays" by Karen Kingsbury, "A Christmas Visitor" by Thomas Kinkade, "Julia's Chocolates" by Cathy Lamb, "The Danger of Deceiving a Viscount" by Julia London, "Where Angels Go" by Debbie Macomber, "Love in the Time of Cholera: A Novel" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "Double Cross" by James Patterson, "We shall not Sleep: A Novel" by Anne Perry, "Prairie Brides: Four New Inspirational Love Stories from the North American Prairie" by Debra White Smith, "Love over Scotland" by Alexander McCall Smith, "Everlasting" by Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, "Christmas Jars: A Novel" by Jason F. Wright, "Kissing Christmas Goodbye: an Agatha Raisin Mystery" by M. C. Beaton, "Candy Cane Murder" by Joanne Fluke, "Means to an End" by Michael Hachey, "Creation in Death" by J. D. Robb, "Superior Deception" by Matthew Williams, "Confessor" by Terry Goodkind, "Lone Survivor" by V.S. Meszaros and "The Flying Wagon" by I. J. Parnham.

New large print books are "White Heat" by Cherry Adair, "Coming Undone" by Susan Andersen, "Keeping the House: A Novel" by Ellen Baker, "River's Edge" by Marie Bostwick, "The Gift" by Richard Paul Evans, "Blaze" by Richard Bachman, "Where Angels Go" by Debbie Macomber, "74 Seaside Avenue" by Debbie Macomber, "The Unquiet Sleeper" by Norman Russell, "Family Acts" by Louise Shaffer, "Mrs. Jeffries and the Best Laid Plans" by Emily Brightwell, "Decaffeinated Corpse" by Cleo Coyle, "Slipnot" by Linda Greenlaw, "The False-Hearted Teddy" by John J. Lamb, "In Milady's Chamber" by Sheri Cobb South, "Showdown at Yellow Butte" by Louis L'Amour and "The Horse Creek Incident" by Dusty Richards.

## Worship warms the heart



**Calvary Gospel Church**  
**Pastor:** Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor  
 Fourth & College • 890-3605  
**Sunday:** Kid's Church: 10:30 am  
 Morning Service: 10:30 am  
 Evening Service: 5:00 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m.  
 Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m.  
 Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m.  
 Small Group Ministries meets through out the week.  
[www.calvarygospel.net](http://www.calvarygospel.net)

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**  
**Pastor:** Father Norbert Dlabal  
 307 W. 13th • 890-7205  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**  
 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment  
**Mass Schedule:**  
 Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am  
**Spanish Mass:**  
 Sunday: 12:30 pm

**Word of Life**  
**A Foursquare Church**  
 10th & Clark • 899-5250  
**Pastor:** John Coumerilh  
**Associate Pastor:** Ben Coumerilh  
**Sunday:** Worship Celebration  
 and Kids' Church: 10:30 am  
**Life Groups - call for times and locations**  
[www.wordoflifegoodland.org](http://www.wordoflifegoodland.org)

**Pleasant Home Church**  
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 for over 100 years  
 Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70  
**Pastor:** Charlie Busch  
 694-2242  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
 Evening Service: 6 p.m.

**Bible Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Clifford Middlebrooks  
 Fifth & Broadway  
 890-7368  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
 Morning Service: 10 a.m.  
 Evening Service: 6:30 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**  
 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO  
 (719) 346-7984  
**Sacrament Meeting:** 10 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 11:15 a.m.  
**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 12 a.m.

**Iglesia Del Dios Vivo**  
 La Luz Del Mundo  
 Spanish Speaking Church  
**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.  
 1601 Texas • 899-5275  
**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 a.m.

**United Methodist Church**  
**Brewster:**  
**Pastor:** Dorine Chambers  
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST  
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST  
**Winon:**  
**Minister:** Sheryl Johnson  
 Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST  
 Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

**First Christian Church**  
 (Disciples of Christ)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Ted Amos  
 Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233  
**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
**Sunday School:** 9:15 a.m.  
**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship  
**Special Notice:** Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available

**Kanorado United Methodist Church**  
**Pastor:** Leonard Cox  
 399-2468  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

**Church of the Nazarene**  
**Pastor:** Bob Willis  
 Third & Caldwell  
 899-2080 or 899-3797  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 10:50 a.m.  
 Evening Service: 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 p.m.

**First United Methodist Church**  
 1116 Sherman 899-3631  
**Pastor:** Rev. Kasey Crosby  
**Saturday:** Worship: 5:30 p.m.  
**Sunday:** Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m.  
 Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Wednesday Nite Live  
 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering  
 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages

**Goodland Bible Church**  
 109 Willow Road • 899-6400  
**Pastor:** Chad DeJong  
**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
 Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m.  
 Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
**Wednesday:** AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.

### Russell Terrier Pups Available!

Go to [www.flushingpheasantrussells.com](http://www.flushingpheasantrussells.com) for more information on these dogs & our current and upcoming arrivals. Litters registered with UKC and/or AKC fcs. 1st round of pups will be ready for new homes January 26!



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**First Baptist Church**  
**Pastor:** Travis Blake  
 Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th  
 890-3450  
**Sunday:** Sunday School for all ages:  
 9:30 a.m. (Child care provided)  
 Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
**Thursday:** Bible study 9:30 a.m.  
 Wheatridge Center

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
 13th & Center  
 Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969  
**Priest:** Father Hal Lycett  
**Holy Eucharist:** 10:00 a.m. Sunday  
 10:00 a.m. Thursday  
**Morning Prayer:** Daily, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday  
 For emergencies 890-6969

**Harvest Evangelical Free Church**  
 104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918  
**Pastor:** Brian Fugleberg  
**Sunday:** Worship: 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Youth group meets at 7 p.m.  
 at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.

**Seventh Day Adventist Church**  
 1160 Cattletrail  
**Pastor:** Mike Larson  
**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 11 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**  
 13th & Sherman • 890-6161  
**Sunday:** Christian education/fellowship:  
 10:15 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 9 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 p.m.

**Church of Christ**  
 401 Caldwell  
 890-6185  
**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.  
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m.  
**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 p.m.

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

**Short & Son Trucking**  
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**Good Samaritan Center**  
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