

MM email Blue Sheet from Moment Ministries

Art Morgan and Paul Pritchard Colleagues and Collaborators — Our 33rd Year

PROOF OF CHRISTMAS COMING

When I hear the helicopters across the fields loading fresh cut Christmas trees on trucks I know another Christmas season has begun. The first date I noticed them was October 19. Wonder who gets them so soon.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF OUR ANNUAL PRE-CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

When Barbara and Joe left Corvallis for Portland, we lost a great downtown venue for our pre-Christmas Sunday brunch. However, we have an invitation to return to a place we enjoyed in previous years – the home of Greg Peterson and Nancy Hathaway on Witham Hill. The date is Sunday, December 4 at 10 a.m.

SIEBLER COLLECTION GIFT TO LBCC

The Corvallis community received a beautiful display of ceramic art work from Bill and Jane Siebler's personal collection. It is in the central gathering area at the Corvallis Linn-Benton Community College Benton Center. Some will remember Ed Draper, Jane's dad, who was one of the founders of the community college. He was no doubt responsible for expansion of the college to the Benton Center. He would be proud.

PAUL PRITCHARD IN ACTION

Paul and Mary have moved to a new home in Mennonite Village. They love it. We last saw Paul singing with the Corvallis Repertory Singers with a select orchestra and extra musicians. The pieces were from folk masses, one Catholic, the other Celtic. He did another great job with a baritone solo. He is also involved with a funeral service in which he not only sings, but leads the congregation in a couple of "good old Baptist" songs. He can do it all.

ART MORGAN IN ACTION

Most of my action is being present these days. But I was in full speed motion the other day while riding the lawn mower. I managed to offend the kingdom of some ground hornets. They rose to defend the queen, I suppose, attacking my head from all directions. I could feel them doing their work as I abandoned the mower and ran toward the house, leaving a trail of my ear-protectors, eye-protectors and jacket in my path. A run to town for antidotes got me on meds to negate the effect of a dozen or more direct hits on my face, neck and head. The meds put me down for about 12 hours. Sorry we can't send a video of my speed and agility.

REPORT FROM MOMENT

It was not a big crowd that heard my scripture lesson for Thursday night, from Luke 6. It was the Scholars Version translation from the Jesus Seminar. Similar phrases appear in the Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount. These particular lines are considered as questionable authentic Jesus words. But the translation is more accurate and blunt than most are used to. This is what I read:

"Damn you rich! You already have your consolation.

Damn you who are well-fed now! You will know hunger.

Damn you who laugh now! You will learn to weep and grieve." (Luke 6:20 – 26)

This got attention enough to allow me to remind folks which side Jesus is on. Like the prophets before him and those like Martin Luther King (whose statue was dedicated in Washington DC last week), he stood with all those who were marginalized and oppressed. I asked what Jesus would think about the occupation of Wall Street and where he might be. We know where Martin Luther King would be. That the purpose of Jesus is to make everyone wealthy is a scam perpetuated by people who have never read the New Testament.

MEETING BY THE POST OFFICE

I stopped to chat with three guys in front of the Post Office. They wanted spare change. I asked where they slept last night. A question I often ask. I asked where they were getting food. They know the circuit. One fellow said, "We never go hungry. There's always food in dumpsters behind the restaurants." A young lady came down the Post Office steps. She stopped to give each of the guys a dollar. She gave me a Catholic information card, but no dollar. She said that she believed in God, that she was a Catholic and that's why she gave. Nice, I thought. I happened to give my money to build one of the kitchens and to help build some housing, and to supply food to the meals programs. They appreciated those programs. I think they wanted cash for other purposes. Did they know their presence in the entrance ways and around the Christian Church was steering members away? Yes, but they weren't the guilty ones. An interesting talk with guys I've seen before and will see again. Amazing that Jesus loved guys like that. Are we supposed to do what Jesus did?

— Art Morgan, October 24, 2011 (Granddaughter Grace's Birthday)