



The mission of Riviera Baptist Church is to bring God glory through loving Him, loving one another, and sharing God's love with our world both locally and globally.

Another holiday season is upon us!

As I see the leaves turning on the trees, I'm reminded that Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving, and Christmas celebrations are just around the corner.

When people ask me, I always say this is my favorite time of the year. Yes, I know it means rain and darkness have arrived for the next 6 or so months, but it also means time with family around the fireplace, dinner table, and yes, the Christmas tree. Though I love the other seasons of the year, there is something about the holiday season, even with the out-of-town visits to extended family and last-minute Christmas gifts, which allows me to sit back and reflect on all that God has done this past year. It's during this time of reflection that I'm thankful I know Jesus, I'm part of His family, and in spite of the craziness of our world, everything is moving according to plan.

As I celebrate the holidays with my family and watch my kids get older, I'm also reminded that time flies by (and boy, does it fly!). I know I only have a finite amount of time with all my kids at home, so I want to make sure that I enjoy every moment of it.

So, to you and your family, I hope you take time to reflect this year on God's goodness. Take time to be thankful for all that God has done for you, and make sure that you set aside time for those you love the most.

In His grace,

Pastor Toby Gallego

WHAT'S INSIDE

Photo Flashback
Project Hope
Block Party
AND MORE!

LEADERSHIP

Senior Pastor
Toby Gallego

**Worship & Media
Director**
Annie Pasquinelli

Office Assistant
Tina Averill

Youth Intern
Anna Buettner

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ROCK THE BLOCK!



RBC's second annual Block Party was sweeter than a polished hot rod.

With over 235 visitors in attendance, we more than doubled in size from last year, and there were fun activities for everyone. We handed out free food, drinks, and goodies. An enormous bouncy obstacle course was busy the whole afternoon, with kids racing up and down. Local Christian band Sojourner gave us an awesome performance, including original music and covers of upbeat popular songs. Games like corn toss and volleyball were ongoing.

It was clear that the Car Show portion of the event was a huge hit. With over 25 trophy and classic vehicles in attendance, there were hot rods from almost every era. Partygoers voted on their favorites in several categories, and we handed out prizes to the winners.

All the volunteers from Riviera deserve highest praise, too, for putting together the best outreach event of the summer season. Thanks for your hard work! Only one question remains: How will we top this next year?

RIVIERA AT THE PARK

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Photos
by Jim
Dopkus



Above: Riviera's annual trip to Armitage Park was a hit, and included an open-air sermon!

Below: The RBC Women's Bunco Night had a bit of Civil War rivalry going on... with the Duck-themed bear sitting with OSU grad Annie Pasquinelli for a round. Photo by Jackie Mace.

LESOTHO MISSION NOTES

Elizabeth Mosobase

LXP Lesotho, the mission group that Elizabeth Mosobase and her family help lead, takes a three-fold approach to ministry.

1. Discipling Youth

- Saturday Youth Program: We meet weekly with children and youth from the community gather to play games, do activities that develop character and godly values, and facilitate bible studies.
- Camps: Bi-annually we take the youth from the Saturday Program to camp. Each camp has a unique theme that allows us to look deeply into the biblical truths and life applications we explore on Saturdays.
- Develop local leaders: We recruit youth and young adults for the LXP program in South Africa. We develop local volunteers as they serve with us in ministry to equip them for the plans God has for them.
- Skill development: We encourage sports, music, drama, dance and arts in order to help youth realize their God-given potential and use it for His glory. We meet weekly with a Worship Team. We have ongoing computer skills training classes and Bible study.

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NOTES FROM THE LIBRARY

Sylvia McDowell and Sue Young

We have many new books in the library that all RBC members are free to check out! If you're looking for something new, the following is a series of three called *Montana Rescue*, written by Susan May Warren.

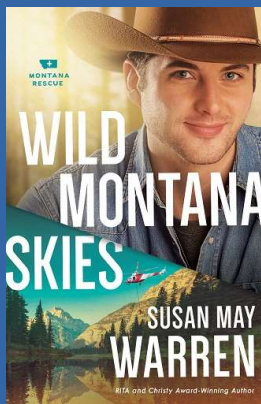
Book 1: WILD MONTANA SKIES.

The last thing search and rescue pilot Kacey Fairing needed upon returning home to Mercy Falls, Montana is to run into her mistakes. But now that Mercy Falls is in a state of emergency due to a flash flood, she'll face her past head-on.

Book 2: RESCUE ME. When Deputy Sam Brooks commits to something, nothing can sway him – not just on the job, but in his private life, as well. He's the one who stuck around to take care of his mother after his father's accidental death.

Book 3: A MATTER OF TRUST. Champion back-country snowboarder Gage Watson has left the limelight behind after the death of one of his fans. After being sued for negligence and stripped of his sponsorships, he's remade his life as a ski patrolman in Montana's rugged mountains, as well as serving on the PEAK Rescue Team. But he can't seem to find his footing – or forget the women who betrayed him.

In Warren's true-to-form brand of mixed romance, danger, and adventure, the *Montana Rescue* series will hold you hostage till the very end! You can check these and other books out in the church library.



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- **Abstinence Clubs:** We meet with groups of students at local high schools who have made a commitment to abstinence until marriage and a lifestyle of purity and following Jesus.

2. Serving the Community

- **Door to door ministry and discipleship:** We make house visits to introduce Jesus to the community members and pray for their needs. We continue to regularly visit those who give their lives to Jesus to encourage them, study the Bible with them, and encourage them as they follow Jesus and share their faith with others. We also seek practical ways to help them at home, especially orphans, widows, the very poor and those living with HIV/AIDS.
- **Community Events:** Each December we invite the community to enjoy an end-of-the-year party put on by the youth from our Saturday program where we share and celebrate all God has done that year. We also host a variety of events, like talent shows, where our kids get to share their passions and talents as an opportunity to connect with and impact others from the community. To promote community development we invite guests to share their skills and knowledge.

3. Reaching Out

- **Local Outreaches:** We regularly take our youth on local outreaches to neighboring villages to reach others with the Gospel and to develop their skills and experiences in evangelism and ministering through prayer. One of our favorite places to go is a local school for disabled children, Thuso e tla Tsoa Kae, where we play with the students, help them learn life skills, and share the love of Jesus.
- **Mountain Village Outreaches:** December 2013 we took our first group of youth leaders to Ha Makopela village in the mountains of Lesotho. We will return annually for follow-up and continued evangelism, simple church planting, discipleship of the believers and youth ministry in Ha Makopela and other communities.
- **Beat the Drum:** Beat the Drum is an initiative to promote abstinence and share the truth about HIV among secondary and high school students in southern Africa. Using a curriculum based on the Hollywood film of the same name, volunteers facilitate classroom discussions that lead to transformation in the lives of the students as they realign their values to God's.

We are currently together in Arkansas awaiting the arrival of our new son! Please pray for us during this time as we make this adjustment and prepare to return to Lesotho in January 2018. Thank you for your prayers and support in our mission to the people of Lesotho!

24-HOUR VIGILS AND THE CONCERT OF PRAYER

Karen Glenn

RBC has been partnering with the One Hope organization and many other local churches in the Eugene area for a few years now. Why? Because we're on a mission to pray for and through our churches and communities.

The concept is simple: Saturate Eugene and Lane County with prayer 24/7!

The idea is to share the load with more than 30 churches in the area, which commit to pray for one 24-hour period monthly. Each church schedules members to pray for an increment of time. In essence, we band together to "pray without ceasing" throughout the assigned day.

RBC has chosen to petition heaven on the third Friday of each month. We chose to set up one-hour blocks of time for our membership to sign up to pray. Two Sundays before our day, you will find the display in the church foyer.

We supply a prayer guide to help get you started. The first part is supplied by One Hope and concerns city and county matters. This covers 10 areas of prayer that are tailored by teams that have expertise in those area. All of the churches use this guide for the whole month.

The second part is RBC's own guide, compiled by the prayer coordinator and staff, to include current church events, ministries and concerns. We also include greater issues in our state and world. We pray for staff and RBC related-issues, as well as praises for answered prayer. The guides are available at the display table the Sunday before our Prayer day.

You can sign up for an hour and pray for our church and community at home, so that "our voices rise like a fountain night and day." We hope and pray the Holy Spirit will empower your prayers, and take them wherever He wants to take them.

The Concert of Prayer is another element of this ministry. This event takes place quarterly on our third Friday, so that instead of praying individually, we pray corporately and in unity with each other and Christ.

1 John 5:14 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." Let's join to pray for His purposes and plans on the earth!

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE: MARK HENDERSON



There isn't a brighter, warmer smile in our congregation than Mark Henderson's. He shows his love of God and the church through his deep, genuine, and lifelong spirit of service.

Born in 1957 in Lebanon, Mark is a true Oregon native - and an avid sportsman. He was a three-sport athlete in high school who played football, basketball, and baseball. During his time there, he participated in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, where he noticed a lot of the good athletes he looked up to were also in attendance. This is where he made his first jump into the Christian faith. Although Mark describes his journey of faith as being "like a piece of driftwood in the ocean," with high spots and low spots, ever since then he has always tried to continue moving upward and forward.

Mark attended the Oregon College of Education in Monmouth, Oregon, where he continued to play sports despite suffering a lot of injuries. It was then that he decided to continue in athletics by becoming a teacher and starting his coaching career. After doing his graduate work through the University of Oregon, he got his first job in Glendale, Oregon in 1980.

It was there that he started coaching a wide variety of sports and met his future wife Ranielle. After 8 years in Glendale . . .

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... which was a 3-hour drive away from his family, they decided to make a move back to the Willamette Valley. Mark got a job at Junction City High School and spent 25 years teaching and coaching there. In his down time, Mark loves hunting and fishing, and he's always had hunting dogs. His 3-year-old black lab, Ellie, has energy to spare!

Mark started attending the Eugene Christian Fellowship, where he became friends with Pastor Gary Clark and others who helped him in his walk with Christ. He first spotted Riviera Baptist Church from afar, while driving by, and thought, "Why don't I try there?" Eventually he made his way inside, and that's when he met Chuck and Denise Cole. They were warm and friendly and welcomed him right into the fold at RBC. The Coles and other spiritual "parents" kept him growing in his faith, and three years ago, he was baptised.

Mark's involvement in ministries mirrors his passions in life. He's helped with sports camps, Vacation Bible School, committees, events, and many Bible studies. He also attends a bi-weekly

men's Bible study in Franklin, Oregon, where men from different churches come together. He says that it's refreshing to meet with men outside of the RBC circle.

In the future, Mark would like to see church attendance grow, not just in quantity but in quality. He'd like to see more men's ministry involvement. He hopes someday we'll build another facility on our campus with a gymnasium-auditorium for concerts, indoor sporting events, and other big activities. He's also on the Associate Pastor hiring committee, and asks for prayer!

Mark says he's so lucky and blessed to be a part of Riviera - but really, we're the blessed ones. Thanks for all you do, Mark!

