



Dove of the Desert

Dove Tales

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June 2021

"Increasing Love for God and Neighbor by Going Deeper, Reaching Farther, Transforming Lives"

It's June!



"I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me. 2 Samuel 7:14



I have owned both the best clock and the worst clock in the world.

The best was an electronic digital alarm clock; short and thin with a thick, black plastic casing and bright red digital numbers. It was a clock with an alarm that sat on my nightstand next to where I slept. No radio, no iPhone adapter - just a simple clock that I bought in the fall of 1997. It was my external stimulus to wake up on time for classes in college, and work in the mornings. I had it for almost eighteen years. It was reliable, easy to read, and functioned as it was intended to. It was the best clock ever in the history of the universe.

But one day, it finally gave up. In one final grand act, it buzzed and burped, and became a box of plastic bits. On that fateful evening, I went to set the alarm for the next morning. As I pressed the alarm timing mechanism, the red numbers on its face flashed all eights and then, it went black.

It passed on to wherever good clocks go when they die.

The other clock I had was a battery-operated analog wall clock. It was the classic one with a big hand and little hand and the numbers one through twelve evenly placed around the edges of the circle in a non-offensive sans-serif font. This clock had a different job than my alarm clock. It was to be my non-distraction clock, to deter me from looking at my phone every fifteen minutes in the office, and to apprise me of upcoming meetings, so that I could attend them promptly, as any good professional would do.

My relationship with it was much more tenuous. For the longest time, I thought the clock was terrific, until I started realizing that I was showing up late to meetings in the building. At first, it was only a few minutes late. But it was confusing to me, as I trusted the time on my office clock as I did with my alarm clock at home.

And then, one afternoon, someone swung by my office to check on me, because I was a half hour late to a meeting. I looked at my clock, which told me I still had fifteen minutes. I then looked on my cell phone, which told me I was twenty-seven minutes behind my schedule. It was then that I realized that the batteries in my wall clock had been drained, and the clock hanging on my wall was telling time slower and slower each day. It was dying a slow, painful death, and I sat in its sickly ticking until I was the recipient of its poor time-telling.

So, while the breakdown of the digital clock may have been dramatic, it occurred all at once and I was aware of it. It was impossible to miss. The radial clock, however, with its slow corrosion, was easy to miss, and I was blind to it until I paid a penalty for its degradation.

So, when we look at different programs that we are in the midst of, whether they are for work, school, organizations, churches or the like, I think its easier to miss the slow corrosion of quality of a system that is “working” - versus one that completely breaks down and quits functioning all together. But, which one usually gets the most attention, and energy?

The one that flashes all eights and then goes dark does.

That’s not to say if it breaks all at once that it isn’t important. But when it does, the action taken to remedy it, is all front and center. There is no hand wringing or procrastinating about what the next step might be. And thus, the slowly corroding element can slip beneath detection, and slowly hurt itself and other systems in place around it.

This is the same truth for relationships as well, or customer service, or guest relations, or communication, or a multitude of other facets of our lives in which metrics rarely tell the whole story.

Jesus often challenged his disciples to notice the small things as well as the big picture. He knew that most of his disciples (like us) get caught up in one or the other. He encouraged his followers to be in a balance of work and rest, of feasting and fasting, and of celebration and mourning. This balance allows for seeing different aspects of our lives through a broader frame, and keeps us able to see those places in our life where the batteries may be wearing down, and the clock telling us that something needs attention before it gets worse.

What we do with these components of our life are a testimony to our faith. I encourage you in this Summer season to consider your faith in this framework. Are there areas that you have left unattended in your relationships, your journey of discipleship? Have you allowed a conflict to rust away at a critical piece of your faith? Has your prayer life stagnated because of one reason or another? Have you missed opportunities to act in compassion because your schedule has become too hectic? If so, perhaps this is the perfect time to care for that clock, before it corrodes.



Pastor Louie



Two years ago, June 1st, I was blessed to begin serving as Dove's new Pastoral Care Pastor. As I think back to that day, I also think back to what brought me to that day. I will never forget how back in 1981 feeling the call to go into ministry I began a process called "Candidacy." I first went to my Pastor, the Rev. Dr. Donald Sapp and told him my interest in looking into becoming a pastor. He introduced me to the Staff Parish Relations Committee who quizzed and questioned me about my call. Once they approved bringing me before the Administrative Board of the Church for the church's approval, word got out that Louie Lyon was to become a Candidate for Ministry. Why do I tell you all this, well, it is because now that folks knew I wanted to go into ministry I was the one that was "ALWAYS" asked to say a prayer when it was time to pray. To say that I felt uncomfortable would have been an understatement. I was afraid of what folks would think of what I was to ask in prayer. Well, I think I have come a long way in my ability to pray in the 40 years since.

Did I know I had a gift for ministry or prayer at that time? No, after all I knew who I was, I had been a school teacher for almost 14 years and a former Jewish boy at that. Yet, I felt God calling me even though I wasn't certain I had the gifts and skills to be a minister. In the Gospel of Luke, we read "When the master comes and finds the servant doing his work, the servant will be blessed." (Luke 12:43)

Dear Ones, today I want you to begin to think of how you use or do not use the abilities God has given you. Many of you know that I regularly start out my day reading several devotions and scriptures. One of the daily devotions I read is from Rev. Rick Warren, entitled "Daily Hope." The Devotion that caught my eye and led me to write what I am today was entitled, "How to Make the Most of Your Abilities." Did I know or believe that God had given me the ability to serve Him as a minister? Not really, yes, I felt a call, but I wasn't sure. You see, all of us have unused abilities and we haven't all figured out what our God-given abilities are. Well, maybe you knew but abandoned or ignored them because of life's circumstances. What I want you to hear is that God Gave YOU the abilities you have for a reason. God wants you to use them to serve Him and others!

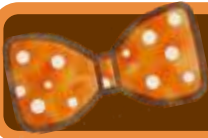
Rick Warren tells us that there are three ways you can start engaging your abilities, so they are being used for good and for God's glory: (1) Estimate Your Abilities – What are you good at, your honest strengths and weaknesses. Ask others if you are not sure. (2) Dedicate Your Abilities – "Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicating yourself to God's Service. (Romans 12:1). Paul tells us to present ourselves to God. Dear Ones, I can tell you that giving yourselves to God is NOT a sacrifice as you are the one that truly receives the blessing when you serve our Lord. (3) Cultivate Your Abilities – this means to practice, improve, sharpen and develop whatever ability God has given you. What is it that YOU have wanted to do for our Lord but felt it really wasn't in you to do or accomplish? I can tell you that if you open yourself up to God, God will help you to Cultivate your abilities. I always remember the words of the Apostle Paul, who said, "I can do all things through Him that strengthens me."

I began this article by telling you my story of how uncomfortable I was at praying in front of folks. My life has been Blessed by having the opportunity to pray for others and be there for others. The first time I was called out as a new pastor to a nursing home where someone was dying, I was scared to death. I prayed all the way over in the car to God to give me the words to say to the family. God did and I learned to trust Him for words that I might need in any situation.

God wants to bless your life. When God looks at you, He wants to see you using your abilities in the way God intended. When the Master Comes, will He find you doing His work? God has Blessed me Over and Over in allowing me to be in Ministry, may YOU TOO receive that same Blessing...

Shalom, Louie





Mingus Mountain Camp



Mingus Mountain Camp Needs You!

Help us provide the summer camp experience our children and youth deserve by partnering with us to recruit volunteers!



SPEND A WEEK WITH US AT CAMP!

Any church providing, at least, one summer camp volunteer will receive one full summer camp scholarship OR a one-night, 4 meal staff retreat - pastor's choice!

visit <https://mingusmountaincamp.org> to register or for more information.

Questions? Contact Cat Holbert, Executive Director, at cholbert@dscumc.org.



Fellowship Opportunities



We will let you know when Fellowship Opportunities Resume



The **LUNCH BUNCH** meets the 1st Thursday of each month for good food and fellowship. Please call: 623.931.4283 for reservations or information.

(Currently not meeting.)



DOVE MEN'S BREAKFAST

Usually meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month for a time of devotion, prayer, and fellowship at 8:00 am at the Black Bear Diner, 6039 W. Bell

Rd. Please contact Louie Lyon, at 623.238.8455 or e-mail address: CarePastor@doveofthedesert.com. Dove Men, including Fathers & Grandfathers, Sons & Grandsons, age 13 and up, are invited to come and bring a friend. A great way to make some new friends! *(Will begin meeting again in fall.)*



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

meets the 2nd and 4th of each month from 9:00 - 10:00 am in Room 7. The group knits or crochets shawls, baby blankets, lap blankets, prayer squares, and other items to be given to Dove members and others in need of comfort. For information, please call *Mimi Griffiths* at 602.762.6709 or at mimig7852@gmail.com.

(Currently working on projects from home.)

OTHER FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Many other opportunities exist for fellowship at Dove, including Adult Sunday School classes, Women's Bible Studies, and Dove's musical groups including Celebration Singers, Dove Notes, Folk Group, and the Bell Choirs, Prime Time Live! plus many more. Please check the calendar found on the Dove website.



PRIME TIME LIVE!

is the Dove of the Desert adult fellowship group and includes all Dove adults: married, single, young and young at heart. We meet the 3rd Friday of each

month at a member's home and enjoy the evening together with food, fun and Christian fellowship. The host supplies a main course, attendees bring sides and dessert. *(Currently not meeting.)*



Special Prayers



Condolences to:

The Dishon family on the death of Velvet's Uncle Dave

Ruth Cacicia on the death of her sister, Barbara Mardis

Marshall & Leah Hughes on the death of Leah's grandmother, Marcyann Strumpf

For these churches:

Fort Yuma UMC

Gila Mountain UMC, Yuma

Haven UMC, Jerome

Shepherds



Shepherd program revived...In the past Dove had a Shepherd program where we paired established church members with new members joining the church to help them navigate through what we have available and get them acquainted with other church members.

The Shepherd program is being revived and you can be part of the rebirth. Mike Przybylka is working on bringing the program back to life. Be on the lookout here in the Dove Tales, and in the weekly Friday e-News for more updates.

Within the next month we will have a planning/documentation phase completed. We will be looking for volunteers to serve as shepherds so please consider this opportunity to serve. More details will become available as we finalize the particulars.





Prayer Line



Missions



For a daily prayer and devotion with Rev. Louie please dial **602-375-PRAY (602-375-7729)**

Please send all prayer requests to Rev. Louie at carePastor@doveofthedesert.com

Fifth Sunday
Fill the Shelves Food Drive for AZ Hope for Hunger and Pet Food & Supply Drive

On-Going
Justa Center Donations
UMOM Donations



Father's Day



LET'S ALL CHEER FOR FATHERS! By Aurelia C. Scott (<https://www.almanac.com/forgotten-history-fathers-day>)

Father's Day was not immediately accepted when it was proposed, and it did not become a national holiday in the U.S. until 1972 during President Richard Nixon's administration. Why was it a hotly contested debate? Read the forgotten history behind Father's Day.

With America's history, you might think that a holiday first recognizing men would be perfectly acceptable. After all, men dominated American society in the early 20th century. In addition, a "Father's Day" or day that recognizes the role of fathers in the family is an ancient tradition. In history books, there is mention of a Southern European tradition dating back to 1508.

Certainly, in modern days, we do not give Father's Day a second thought. It's been almost 50 years since President Richard Nixon's administration declared the third Sunday in June a dedicated day to recognize and honor the role of fathers in society (that occurred in 1972).

FATHER'S DAY CONTROVERSY

However, Father's Day was not immediately accepted when it was proposed. Why not? Mother's Day came first (it was officially recognized in 1914), so men in the early 1900s associated such a tribute to women and found the idea too effeminate to their liking. To be fair, Mother's Day was couched in terms of femininity. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson called Mother's Day a way to recognize "that tender, gentle army - the mothers of America."

Men viewed the idea of Father's Day as similar to Mother's Day, which was popular with florists; for fathers it didn't have the same sentimental appeal. As one historian writes, they "scoffed at the holiday's sentimental attempts to domesticate manliness with flowers and gift-giving, or they derided the proliferation of such holidays as a commercial gimmick to sell more products—often paid for by the father himself."

(Please go to the website above to read the rest of this story, I thought it was very interesting. CC - Editor)



Board of Church and Society



Injustice in Our Justice System--The Stories of Mass Incarceration

Last month we covered some of the facts about Mass Incarceration. This month we'd like to make it more personal by sharing some stories of Mass Incarceration. One story is about someone who was wrongly convicted, but served over 14 years in prison. One story is about someone who served an inordinately long sentence for a relatively minor case of shoplifting. One story is about how incredibly young we start the School-to-Prison Pipeline. These are all Arizona stories.

As Christians we are called to right these injustices. UMC declares "Retributive systems of justice form barriers to the realization of the vision of restorative justice because they are tainted with explicit and implicit racial and ethnic bias, they punish children as harshly as adults and they accommodate a two-tiered system that serves those with wealth and subjugates those without. (2016 Book of Resolutions, #5031, "Criminal Justice") When all the prisoners of the land are crushed under foot, when human rights are perverted in the present of the Most High, when one's case is subverted—does the Lord not see it? (Lamentations 3:34-36)"

Please join Dove's Board of Church and Society for these stories and ideas on what we can do to decrease the Injustice In Our Justice System. A Zoom presentation on Tuesday, June 15 from 8:30 to 9:30 am. To register,

Zoom Groups



Dear Women of Dove, We are a women's group who used to meet in the park just to socialize and chat, but the temperatures are rising. So, we will meet on Zoom. We call ourselves the "Steel Magnolias," named after the movie, where the women stayed together through thick and thin. We would like to invite any women who would like to meet just to keep in touch over the summer, to join us on Zoom on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10:00-11:00 am through August. If you are interested, please call Nannette Carr at (602) 621-1665, for instructions on how to join the group and be added to the Zoom link.

Care Ministry



CareNotes/PrayerNotes

These booklets are available on the rack in the Narthex with titles relevant to issues many of us face in our lives.

CareNotes include short booklets relating to adults, teens or children with titles on stress, grief, illness, caregiving, friendship, loss of a pet, peer pressure, bullying, addiction, hospice care, divorce, and much more.

PrayerNotes provide some ideas for praying for others, praying with the scriptures, increasing family prayer time, etc.

Please feel free to browse through the titles and pick up one or more for yourself or share them with a friend who might be facing grief, disappointment or any other life changing event. The Care Ministry Team wants the CareNotes and PrayerNotes to go out beyond the walls of Dove and reach those in our community.

We are introducing ourselves as new coordinators for the CareNotes and PrayerNotes.

George Mooney and Dianne McDaniel,
Coordinators – 864.356.6886



Finance



Dove continues to be blessed by a faithful and generous community of givers. Thanks to the continued contributions of our Dove family, our year-to-date income through April remains higher than expenses by more than \$14,000. April income of \$55,530 was higher than our monthly average this year and higher than planned from a budget perspective. April expenses of \$47,009 were also lower than both monthly averages and less than planned due to the reduced operational expenses. We are grateful for each gift which sustains Dove's ministries that are critical to sharing God's love and grace. You truly are a blessing through all that you give. Thank you!!

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Fri.: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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Dove of the Desert

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Return Service Requested

Sending June Blessings to:



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