

# **THE CLOVERDALE CONNECTION**

## **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS**

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2020 was the year of chaos and instability. Pandemics, contested elections, people losing their jobs, as well as horrendous violence in the streets. It seemed that everywhere we looked, there was confusion, strife, chaos and anger.

2021 rolled in and we all began to wonder...will life ever be normal again? When Jesus was on earth, He clearly addressed this problem.

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33 ~ NKJV

Wow...that is some serious encouragement!

So, in spite of everything, take courage...God's got this!!



## **VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH**

**Richard & Susan Seal are a tremendous blessing to our Cloverdale Church family. They have put in countless hours of their time in various ways.**

**Too many to count!**

**Richard has done an amazing job as our church treasurer. He has set the bar high, with his tireless determination for detail. Unfortunately, all good things have an endpoint. Richard has chosen to retire from his full time job. They will be leaving us in a few months.**

**Please take time to wish them well and pray for their transition that God will lead them on their new journey. A HUGE thank you to Richard and Susan!!**

## **PASTOR'S CORNER**

Edith Edger is a Holocaust survivor. She shares her story of kindness. At the young age of 16, she and her family's world imploded. They found themselves homeless...without a country.

They were forced into a train...jammed up like a can of sardines. The train left the station, destination unknown. She asked her mom where they were going. Her mom did not know. No one knew. After some time, the train jolted to a stop.

Soon, a soldier separated Edith from her mother. Edith pleaded with the soldier to tell her where her mother had gone. He told Edith not to worry, that her mother went to take a shower.

The soldiers told Edith and the others to keep walking. She was surrounded by thousands of other Jewish girls, all walking in the same direction. They were told that if they stopped walking, they would be shot! Edith was getting tired and began to slow down. Two young girls who were complete strangers, walked up to Edith. They grabbed her by each arm to keep her from stopping and getting shot.

This is a story filled with tragedy and intense pain. But the kindness of two strangers calmed Edith, bringing a glimmer of hope to her heart when all appeared to be lost.

As I look over my life, I cannot remember a time when all was perfect. Trouble and heartache are a part of life in this world. Sometimes the pain never goes away.

Overwhelmed by life's challenges, there was always a glimmer of hope. Always something to be grateful for. Even if it is just one kind gesture by a stranger.

I leave you with my favorite bible promise. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9 NKJV)



**~ Pastor Jason ~**