

# Kootenai Communicator

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

## Important Dates <<<

8, 12 Ladies' Bible Studies Begin  
10 Ladies' Fall Fellowship Brunch  
11 Promotion Sunday in Sunday School  
12 Men's Bible Study Begins

*Expounding the Scriptures,  
Equipping the Saints,  
Exalting the Savior*



## GOD DOESN'T TRY By Jim Osman and Dave Rich

This article is not “by Jim Osman and Dave Rich,” but the book by the above title is. It is no secret to many that Dave and I are cooperating on a book together. We have been working in earnest since October 2021, but the genesis of the project goes back much further than that. The idea for the book is mine but I would not have come up with the idea apart from Dave.

It was while we were back in the Kootenai Elementary School. I had already published *Truth or Territory* and *Selling the Stairway to Heaven*. I wasn't really sure what my next writing project would be at that point, though I was hoping to write *God Doesn't Whisper* soon. As it turns out, it would be another four years before that was published.

Sometime around 2016, Dave started preaching through 1 Peter. He was filling the pulpit for me one Sunday and I was sitting in the front row listening to him preach. I don't remember which message it was, but during one of his messages on the opening verses of that book, Dave was preaching on the subject of God's sovereignty in salvation, and he said something to the effect of, “God doesn't try to save sinners. He just saves them.”

At that moment, the contents for an entire book popped into my head. I thought to myself, “That's brilliant! That is exactly true! God doesn't try

to do anything!” I leaned over to Diedre and whispered (because Dave was preaching), “I'm going to write a book on that subject. *God Doesn't Try*. That will be the title of it.” After the service I bounced the idea off of Dave, gave him a brief description of what I was thinking about, and for the next five years we did nothing. But now, here we are, almost done with it!

Well, I guess it wouldn't be fair to say “we did nothing.” We did a lot of thinking and planning. We talked about it. But I knew I would not tackle this book until I had finished writing my book on “hearing the voice of God.” Back then I did not know that it would be titled, *God Doesn't Whisper*. For the record, we don't have any designs on a “God Doesn't...” series at this time, though it is not out of the question for either of us.

### The Process

I have never co-authored a book before. Neither has Dave. This is a first for both of us. The process has been very delightful. Late last year we decided to have periodic lunches together to plan the book. I'm buying these lunches out of *future* book royalties. We are hoping that the book at least sells enough to pay off lunches we have had. I go out and fetch food and bring it to my office, Dave comes over on his lunch break, and we eat and discuss

*Continued on page 2*

### Inside >>>

- 3 Sunday School
- 3 Missionary Moment
- 4 Young Adult/Married Fellowships
- 4 Women's Ministry
- 5 Student Ministry
- 5 Kootenai Thunder
- 5 Kootenai Classifieds
- 6 Adventure Club
- 6 Church News

the topics, structure, themes, etc. For me, these have been very exciting times. I love sitting down and talking theology, especially with someone with the mind as theologically sharp as Dave's.

After outlining the book and planning the overlap between chapters and sections, we worked together to assign the various chapters to each of us individually. I began writing the chapters assigned to me, and Dave began writing chapters assigned to him. We know the order in which they will be placed in the book, and we have each read the other's writings as part of this process to ensure that we don't repeat one another or (as Dave has a habit of doing) steal the other's thunder.

As we near the end of writing our first draft and start with the revisions, there are a lot of things we haven't quite figured out yet. Will we identify the author of each chapter and allow our individual styles free expression? Or will we try to blend our voices in the revision and editing so as to create a more univocal product? We don't know.

### The Gist of the Book

*God Doesn't Try* is a robust defense of the sovereignty of God applied to many of the issues currently plaguing modern evangelicalism. The book is intended as a corrective to a low view of God and the sloppy verbiage that litters so much of evangelicalism. We have all heard people say things like, "God is trying to teach me..." or, "God is trying to tell me..." or, "God is trying to get your attention." In fact, the word "try" is never applied to God in Scripture. God is said to "try" in the sense of "test," but never in the normal sense of "attempting" something. Never. Scripture never says that God is attempting to do anything. We apply this doctrine to three realms in which God is working: individuals, His church, and the world.

Concerning God's work with individuals, we have four chapters.

Chapter 3: "God Doesn't Try to Save People." This is a brief treatment of John 6, 10, & 17. God is not desperately trying His best to save people. He has chosen those whom He will save. He has given them to the Son. The Son will perfectly save every last one of them and lose none of those whom the Father has given to Him.

Chapter 4: "God Doesn't Try to Sanctify His People." Christ sanctifies His church. This chapter answers those who deny what is commonly referred to as "Lordship Salvation." We argue that there is no such thing as someone who savingly believes on Christ and then never gives any visible outward evidence of saving faith. All those whom the Father

saves, the Spirit sanctifies.

Chapter 5: "God Doesn't Try to Speak to His People." This is basically *God Doesn't Whisper* boiled down into one chapter. God is not trying to get a message to you. He is not trying to lead you in proper decision-making through signs, nudgings, or still small voices. God doesn't have any trouble communicating when He wills to do so.

Chapter 6: "God Doesn't Try to Provide for His People." God is not trying to bless His people with physical prosperity but sovereignly meets our needs according to His good pleasure. Therefore, we can be content with what He provides, thank Him for it and trust Him to meet future needs.

Concerning God's work in His church, we have three chapters.

Chapter 7: "God Doesn't Try to Establish His Church." This is a presentation of Christ's headship over His Body. He is free to determine the qualifications for elders, gender roles within the church structure, and the leadership structure of the church itself. God is not trying to discover the best methodology for church leadership. He has appointed elders and revealed His will for His church.

Chapter 8: "God Doesn't Try to Build His Church." This chapter applies the sovereignty of God to the preaching of the Word, church discipline, and the ordinances. A high view of Scripture and a high view of God require that we have a biblical philosophy of ministry that does not cater to the felt needs of goats but rather is geared to meet the spiritual needs of sheep.

Chapter 9: "God Doesn't Try to Prosper His Church." God is not trying to save His church from persecution or suffering but rather uses those things to grow His Church. God is sovereign over unbelievers who seek to destroy His work.

Concerning God's work in the world, we have three chapters.

Chapter 10: "God Doesn't Try to Control Evil." This chapter deals with the sovereignty of God over sin and the effects of sin. This may be the theological high-water mark of the entire book as Dave unpacks what the unfettered and absolute sovereignty of God means for evil in this world, natural disasters, and His control over Satan.

Chapter 11: "God Doesn't Try to Execute Justice." This chapter defines the biblical concept of justice and shows that ultimately, God's justice in this world will prevail. Every sin will be punished either on Christ at the cross (for the believer) or in eternal damnation (for the unregenerate). The judge of all the Earth will do what is right. This has application to the modern Social Justice Movement since it is built upon the

## Sunday School <<<

### PROMOTION SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 11!

We are very grateful to have such quality Sunday school classes available for all ages. Below is a list of the classes offered and names of those dedicated to strong Scripture-based instruction. Be sure to thank your Sunday school teacher this month!

**Sunday  
school  
begins at  
9:30 a.m.**

#### Adults

Jim Osman  
Cornel Razor  
Jeff Miller  
David Henke

#### 5th-6th

Diane Rich - Teacher  
Kathy Conger - Teacher/helper  
Gina Hall - Helper  
Erica Van Alstine - Helper

#### Pre-K

Katie Moon - Teacher  
Angie Cates - Teacher  
Monica Gish - Helper  
Brenda Currie - Helper

#### Young Adults

Dave Rich - Teacher  
Ed Barba - Helper

#### 3rd-4th

Melody Lynch - Teacher  
Sara Joy Razor - Teacher  
Jenna Hardman - Helper  
Lynn Finegan - Helper

#### SS Nursery rotation

Rachel Gordon  
Connie Smith  
Lori Thomson  
Elizabeth Gerszewski

#### 9th-12th (High School)

Jay Cates - Teacher  
Jana Cates - Helper

#### 1st-2nd

Mark Haymond - Teacher  
Holly Haymond - Teacher/  
helper  
Brad Stevens - Teacher  
Jenny Stevens - Teacher/helper

#### SS Nursery Substitutes

Becky Feezor  
Jessica Pranaitis

#### 7th-8th (Jr. High)

Taryn Adams - Teacher  
Jennifer Barba - Teacher/  
helper



## >>> Missionary Moment-- Bonner Gospel Mission



The primary purpose of Bonner Gospel Mission is to see God move and save the souls of those coming in. We believe and uphold the "Good News" (gospel), that JESUS CHRIST died to free all who will receive His gracious pardon and have eternal life with God!

Also, our purpose is to help meet the natural needs of those coming into the Bonner Gospel Mission with food, shelter, and clothing.

Your support is important to our work at Bonner Gospel Mission. There are a couple of ways you can contribute towards our causes, and every little bit that you commit goes a long way in helping us fulfill our mission.

**There is a bin in the foyer of the church if you would like to donate non-perishable foods. You can also donate at [www.bonnergospelmission.org/donate](http://www.bonnergospelmission.org/donate).**

# >>> Young Adult/Young Married Fellowship

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP  
September 10 at 5:30 p.m.

Join us for ice cream at  
Panhandle Cone and Coffee

Questions? Contact Olga Curiel @ 909-996-5770 or Carol Young @ 559-997-3897



YOUNG MARRIED FELLOWSHIP  
September 10, 5:30 p.m.

What: Charcuterie Board Potluck (Adults Only)  
Where: Hall's Home (626 Selkirk Rd., Sandpoint)

YMF is having a charcuterie board potluck at the Halls' home. Come join us for lots of amazing food & fellowship. Please bring a charcuterie board of your favorite appetizer snacks and a drink to pair (creativity is encouraged!). Festivities start at 5:30 p.m. This event is for ADULTS ONLY. We hope to see you there!



## Women's Ministry <<<

### Women's Bible Studies

Resume at the church in September

9:30 a.m.  
Monday Mornings  
Beginning Sept. 12  
led by Lori Wood  
Studying 1 & 2 Peter



6:30 p.m.  
Thursday Evenings  
Beginning Sept. 8  
led by Lisa Slippy and  
Tammie Shields  
Studying ROMANS:  
The Gospel of Grace

**SIGN UP NOW AT THE WELCOME TABLE.**

### Ladies' Fall Fellowship Brunch



**SATURDAY | SEPT 10 | 9:30 a.m.**

All women are invited to come for an encouraging morning with plenty of time for fellowship, an inspiring devotional, and to find information on ways to serve in our church body.

*Childcare by reservation only.  
Please sign up at the Welcome Table.*



## >>>Cocolalla Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at [clbcamp.org](http://clbcamp.org) for more details.

### FALL STAMP CAMP

**September 9-10, 2022**

Stamp, stamp, stamp till you cramp!  
Bring your supplies, your enthusiasm, and your friends! We will have workshops to teach us new techniques, a great speaker, and lots of time for stamping!  
Door prizes! Fun! Fellowship! **SEE YOU THERE!**

Time: Register at 4:00 p.m. Friday, Ends 7:00 p.m. Saturday  
For: Ladies age 13 and up  
Cost: Contact the office



### Harvest Dinner Potluck November 6

Details in next month's newsletter.

# Student Ministries <<<

## STUDENT MINISTRIES IS STARTING UP AGAIN!

MEET AT THE CHURCH ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FOR FELLOWSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP! ALL STUDENTS IN 7TH-12TH GRADES ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND! CONTACT STEVE OR EMILY HILL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

### September

7 Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.

14 Youth Group, 7-9 p.m.

21 Bible Studies, 7:30-9 p.m.

28 Youth Group, 7-9 p.m.



## >>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.



### VOLLEYBALL IS UNDERWAY!

It's not too late to sign up!

GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: 10 years-12th grade (Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity)



### SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

We have a scholarship fund for families that are unable to afford the player fee. If you would like to donate specifically to that, contact Diedre Osman.

## Kootenai Classi-

## fieds >>>

### FARM FRESH ANGUS-HEREFORD BEEF



Hamburger for sale. 100% grass pasture-raised. No hormones. \$8 per 1.5 pound packages. No amount too large or small. Call/Text Tim Shields 208-946-1256

To have your items listed in this section, please get the information to Lisa Slippy by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Email her at [lisaslippy@gmail.com](mailto:lisaslippy@gmail.com).

### GARDEN FRESH VEGGIES AND HERBS

Great for Canning and/or Freezing! Cilantro, Basil, Dill, Potatoes, Onions, and Apples. Green Beans, Cucumbers, Squash, and Tomatoes. Please call Andrea Kinne for availability and prices. 208-265-0102



### CHICKEN Non-GMO, Pasture Raised Chickens

Fryers for sale, 3-5 lbs. each, \$4 per pound Call/Text Andrea Lundgren 360-900-9121

# >>>Adventure Club News



## September Calendar

- 9 Club Night: *God Is Perfect*
- 16 Club Night: *God Is All Knowing*
- 23 No Adventure Club
- 30 Club Night: *God Is All Powerful*

### HOW MANY LEADERS?

God has blessed our children's weekly Bible club with 59 leaders this year! Wow! Twenty-two of these are Leaders in Training, who are ages 13 - 17. We are thrilled to have such a large number of leaders who are excited to serve the Lord in Adventure Club and share the gospel with children each Friday night.

**Questions? Contact Dave & Diane Rich  
at (208) 265-2997 or  
ac@kootenaichurch.org**

## Color Night! Friday, September 16



### UPDATE

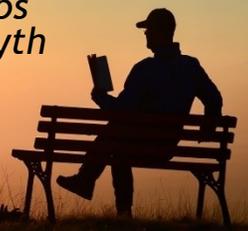
Week of Adventure was August 22-26! Five nights of Adventure Club in a row! How did it go? Well, since this newsletter goes to print the last full week of each month, we can't report any results to you! Find an AC Leader - there are 59 of them this year so this should be easy - and ask them how it went! Or check back with this newsletter in October!

## Church News <<<

### Men's Bible Study

Starting September 12  
Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

*Studying Proverbs  
With David Forsyth*



We will be returning to our study of Proverbs starting with a review to refresh our memories and bring any newcomers up to speed. This fall we will be looking at a number of selected topics such as pride, correction, marriage, parenting, integrity, work, and wealth. All are welcome! Please contact the church office if you are planning to attend so we can be sure to have enough copies of the study notes available the first night.

## REFORMATION/ PURITAN CONFERENCE OCTOBER 28-29

Join us for our special Reformation Conference this October featuring Don Kistler, founder of Northampton Press. This fall conference will highlight the theological issues at the heart of the Protestant Reformation. We are pleased to be able to offer this conference free of charge. We will take up an offering to cover food expenses and any money raised over the food costs will be given to our guest speaker. We will provide light snacks on Friday and Saturday, and lunch on Saturday.

Register here:



premise that God is trying to make a more just world in this age.

Chapter 12: “God Doesn’t Try to Establish His Kingdom.” This chapter deals with the way in which God will establish His kingdom, the one promised to David, a Millennial Kingdom described in Revelation 20. God doesn’t need our help in “Christianizing” the world in order to usher in His Kingdom. His purpose is to establish a Kingdom in this world as revealed in the Old Testament, a purpose that has not been thwarted or sidelined by the disobedience of the Jews.

Our concluding chapters will answer various questions: What do I do if I’m in a bad church that teaches some of these erroneous doctrines critiqued in this book? When is it okay to leave a church? How should I leave a church?

Each chapter has a threefold focus: theological, polemical, and devotional. The theological sections explain the doctrines in view. The polemical sections answer some of the misuses of these doctrines or theological errors rampant in the church. The devotional sections apply the sovereignty of God to the heart of the reader, hopefully encouraging a restful trust in God’s goodness. Each chapter concludes with a “Word to Shepherds” where we address, specifically, our fellow pastors, offering encouragement and guidance based on the truths just discussed.

**Where Are We At?**

As of right now, I have one more chapter to write - the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter: “God Doesn’t Try to Establish His Kingdom.” Then, together Dave and I will write the final and concluding chapter after we get some feedback from other pastors and friends.

Dave has been doing some revisions to chapters he wrote as he is waiting for me to finish up my part of the writing. Hopefully within the next few weeks, I will be done.

It will take me a number of weeks to do my revisions for my chapters, then we will combine all the chapters into one manuscript, and we will begin reading through to identifying weaknesses, things in need of clarification, or needed additions and subtractions. Once we are content with what we have done in terms of writing and revising, it will move on to our proof-readers: Jamie Rich and Diedre Osman.

Dave and I will have to find someone to write the foreword. We will have Josh Comstock make us a cover. I will start the formatting process.

I hope we can have a finished product in our hands by April 2023. That is ambitious but doable. Both Dave and I have a number of ministry commitments over the next several months, some of which you will be hearing about shortly. I am hoping we will be able to continue working on the book even as we meet

those other commitments.

I know I speak for both of us when I say that this project has been a lot of fun to work on together. We are very excited to see it come to completion! We are both able to sleep well at night knowing that God isn’t *trying* to get this book published.

Without Wax –



**HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO BE IN THE ONLINE CHURCH DIRECTORY?**

If not...

Please give your information to Kathy Conger or email her at [secretary@kootenaichurch.org](mailto:secretary@kootenaichurch.org). Also email her a photo!

Only those in the directory will be able to access the online directory.

**Thursday Playgroup**

Moms with children 5 and under are invited to a playgroup on **Thursday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m.** to visit and let the kids play! Through the summer they will be meeting at a park if the weather permits. Please contact Emily Hill at 208-596-6904 with any questions.



**FELLOWSHIP DINNERS**

New groups forming NOW!  
Runs September-December  
Email Angie at [angiepcates@gmail.com](mailto:angiepcates@gmail.com), or go to [kootenaichurch.org/fellowship](http://kootenaichurch.org/fellowship) to sign up.



## *Kootenai Community Church*

P.O. Box 593  
Kootenai, ID 83840

208-255-5668  
kcc@nctv.com  
www.kootenaichurch.org



### 3rd Annual KCC Youth Craft Fair Saturday, October 8 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Brainstorm, plan, and create now! Official vendor sign-up will be the end of September. Open to any KCC youth (preschool-12th grade).

Sign up on or before October 1.

Contact Katie Moon at 208-627-3871 for more details or to ask questions.

