

NEWSLETTER

“Obstacles”

By Pastor Steve Gibson

It has been my privilege to attend camp meeting most summers for most of my life. Some years ago I would attend at Lamoni, IA and take my bicycle along for early morning exercise. It was a challenge to keep up with the Amish buggies on the rural roads if I was facing a headwind.

One morning I was on a lonely road when something ahead caught my eye. Squarely in the middle of the road was a large dog challenging my idea of going past. He was doing his best to appear as large and scary as possible; he was barking as if he was a force to be reckoned with. Who would dare try to pass?

I paused and considered my options. I could turn around and go another direction. But I was curious to see where this particular road went. I could ignore him and go ahead, but I wasn't eager to find out if he would actually bite. Then I noticed that he was operating on three legs. That was a significant detail. I figured if I got up some speed I could likely get past him without sustaining damage. He was limited in how fast he could run after me.

Maybe you have faced an adversary on a regular basis. Isn't it just about every morning that we face the same old adversary? He attempts to intimidate us and keep us from pursuing forward motion. He does his best to appear scary and invincible. 1 Peter 5:8 pictures our adversary, the devil, strutting around roaring like a lion.

What does Peter suggest we should do in response? Take it seriously (v. 8), but resist in faith (v. 9), recognizing how much God cares for us (v. 7).

The greatest evidence we have of the depth of God's care for us is the sacrifice of Jesus, both in coming to be born on this earth and in dying for our sins. And the great news of the gospel is that Jesus was not intimidated by the adversary. He has overcome the devil, our adversary.

Jesus overcame in the wilderness of temptation; He overcame in the Garden of Gethsemane; and He overcame at the cross. Jesus was resurrected and ascended to Heaven. Because of Jesus' victory, we too can have hope in dealing with the adversary.

There is a beautiful, familiar promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13. For each temptation we face, God will make a way of escape. That sounds like God has a plan for us to get past our adversary, the devil. As we move forward in faith, God can open our eyes to see His deliverance. And for victory, our confidence in His ability to see us through can increase.

Sadly, we will not be having a camp meeting at Camp Yavapines this summer. However, at some point you might like to take a day or two to have your own time of refreshment there, or even in the warmth of your own home.

Let's not allow the obstacles before us to turn us around. As we daily grow in our confidence in God's power, we can learn to trust Him more fully.

That's one battle that's worth winning.



April 2020 Highlights

Women's Ministry Meeting
Cancelled

Prayer Vigil
Pray from Home from 5-6 p.m.

Elder's Meeting
Cancelled

Church Board Meeting
Cancelled

Vacation Bible School Meeting
Cancelled

Men's Ministry Breakfast/Mtg.
Cancelled

Community Service Meeting
Cancelled

Health Ministry Meeting
Cancelled

Church Work Bee
Cancelled

Exercise Class
Cancelled

Prayer Group & Bible Study
Call at 7:30 p.m. For prayer

Email: pastorstevegibson@hotmail.com **Address:** 12400 W Desert Cove Road, El Mirage, AZ 85335

Mailing Address: 13954 W. Waddell Road, Suite 103 #616, Surprise, AZ 85379

MINISTRY NEWS!

Upcoming Events & Announcements

No Health Nugget This Month

Sabbath School & Church

Sabbath school, church and prayer are available for those who have internet or phones/smart phones. Check your email for the information on how to get hooked up for Sabbath school and the link for live stream for church. If you do not have email, you can call 623-466-7202, leave a message and someone will get back to you.

Tithes & Offerings

Cathy will be at the church Wednesday's from 4-8 p.m. until we re-open to collect your tithes and offerings if you cannot mail or use the online giving. If you want to mail, send to Cathy Fields P.O. Box 15332, Scottsdale, AZ 85267.

Check In

During this time that we cannot meet together, let's consider some things we CAN do for our church family.

- ◇ Call a friend from church and check in
- ◇ Spend time in prayer
- ◇ Spend time in Bible Study
- ◇ See if someone needs food or supplies



Ultra Creamy Vegan Stroganoff

1 cup slivered onion
1-2 T Vegan margarine
2 T cornstarch
3 T yeast flakes
1 cup coconut cream

2 cups sliced button mushrooms
1/2 cup raw cashews (pieces are fine)
2 T Braggs Liquid Aminos
1 T Vegan Worcester sauce
salt and pepper to taste

4 cloves minced garlic
2 cups vegetable broth divided
1 T onion powder
1 tsp Dijon mustard

1. In a heavy bottomed or non-stick stock pot sauté onions and mushrooms and meat substitute (if using) together in vegan margarine until soft over low to medium heat to avoid burning. Add minced garlic and sauté another minute or two.
2. While veggies are sautéing, blend together cashews and 1 cup of veggie broth until completely smooth. Add the rest of the broth and other ingredients, re-blend and pour over mushroom mixture in the pot.
3. Heat until thickened and creamy.
4. Taste test for saltiness, adding a bit more Bragg's or salt as needed, and a shake of cayenne or other pepper.
5. (If using cubed tofu as meat substitute, fold in 1 package of firm or extra firm water packed tofu cubed into 1/2 inch pieces and continue heating over low heat for a few more minutes.)
6. Serve over traditional eggless pasta, gluten free pasta, quinoa, or rice as desired.
7. Garnish with green onions and chopped red pepper for an addition of lovely bright colors.

Recipe from www.veganblueberry.com by Rebecca Eller