



# Pinehurst Post

*We exist to love Jesus and live for Him.*

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## An Interview With Muriel Allen by Brian Watson

*We envision a congregation whose love for Jesus and one another leaves a clear and compelling witness for Christ.*

**Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord.**

**Psalms 117**

### Bible Trivia

Which New Testament gospel has the most Old Testament quotes and references?

Answer from last month: the second most prolific writer of the New Testament was The Apostle John, with five writings (Gospel of John; I, II, III John; Revelation).



I sat down with Muriel Allen in her home and business, Allenhouse Tailoring (near the intersection of E. Casino Rd. and Beverly Blvd.), to ask her some questions about her life. Unfortunately, the space here does not allow enough room to print the whole of our discussion. Muriel is a woman of great faith who has many interesting stories about how God has worked in her life. I would encourage you to get to know her better.

**Brian:** Where were you born?

**Muriel:** In Des Moines, Iowa.

**BW:** And where were you raised?

**MA:** I was raised in Japan. My father was in the Army and he was stationed in Japan for six years.

**BW:** And after Japan...?

**MA:** We moved back to Iowa. After that... chaos. My parents divorced and I moved with my mother and her new husband to Ogden, Utah.

**BW:** How did you get to Washington?

**MA:** Things weren't going well at home in Utah, so I decided to move in with my father, who was living in Seattle. This was when I was 16.

**BW:** Did you go to college?

**MA:** Yes. I went to the University of Washington and

majoring in home economics. I didn't finish the degree, but later I went to a technical school to study engineering drafting.

**BW:** What did you do before starting your own business?

**MA:** I worked for Boeing in Renton. After that I worked for a private engineering firm. When the economy was bad in the late '70s and early '80s, the firm wasn't doing well. I was laid off and I started my own business.

**BW:** When did you start your business?

**MA:** In 1984.

**BW:** And what types of things do you do?

**MA:** I don't do any hard things any more, but I can alter suits and dresses, as well as pants and jackets. I don't do any more weddings and I don't make dresses.

**BW:** How did you start this business?

**MA:** God gave me this business. Everything that I have, God has given it to me. I've been sewing since I was five years old. My mother taught me to sew and gave me some scraps of fabric and I immediately began to make dolls' clothes. Being a tailor is like being an engineer of fabric.



**BW:** How did you become a Christian?

**MA:** My life had been nothing but a failure until December 26, 1988. I had searched for God before then. I looked for something that would make me good, because though I appeared to be a good person on the outside, I wasn't on the inside. I had been baptized in Lake Washington when I was 26 and I felt something happen then. I felt good for a month, but it didn't last. In December 1988 I had a Christmas that was a failure. The next day I woke up and couldn't use my legs. They felt weak and I slid to the floor. I cried out, "What's wrong with me?" And that was the first time I heard God's voice. He said, "Go to my word." When I knew what to do, the strength returned to my legs. I got a Bible that someone had given me - that person was going to throw it away - and took it to my bed and started to read it. I haven't stopped reading. I don't start my day without reading God's word. God called me to two things: His word and to journal His word.

**BW:** When did you start attending PBC?

**MA:** September 2003.

**BW:** Do you have a favorite Bible verse?

**MA:** Philippians 4:13: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

## And They Devoted Themselves to... by Ryan Reese

I am haunted by the testimony of the Jerusalem church in the book of Acts. The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit, preaching the Gospel boldly, seeing people transformed, and getting into all kinds of trouble. Here's my favorite window into their daily lives:

*"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved."*

(Acts 2:42-49 ESV)

Now I do realize that not *everything* in the book of Acts is meant to be replicated or experienced in our lives. This marks a special time in the church, as God was doing amazing things to lend authority to this nascent movement and message. Pentecost was a one-time event—don't look for tongues of fire above your head (Acts 2:3). I seriously doubt anyone is going to receive

physical healing by stepping into my shadow (Acts 5:15). However, we do have much to learn from the example of the early church. And several of their practices can and *should* be replicated by our church today.

The passage above is a snap-shot of what we are trying to capture in our new *Devotion Groups*. The name comes from the first verb in Acts 2:42 shown above. The word translated there as "devoted" means a continual diligence, earnest adherence to something. And what did the members of the early church continually devote themselves to? They studied God's Word. They spent time together praying, eating meals, building one another up in Christ. This "fellowship" was a deep communion, an intimate partnership together in life. This is not the kind of relationship and spiritual interaction that can happen in corporate worship. True biblical fellowship will not likely occur before a service on Sunday, in Sunday school, or even at a monthly meal after church—though it can *begin* in those places. But early Christians got into one another's homes. They shared real life together. And the results were nothing short of breathtaking. God was working in ways we have only dreamt of.

Our Devotion Groups will begin the week of Monday, April 12. We will

partake of a ten-week study of Francis Chan's book entitled *Crazy Love*. The book is a powerful study of the radical love God has for us, and the radical lives He has called us to live in response. The book is easy to read but very challenging. And we'll be taking on the challenge together, in homes of church members, with prayer and Spirit-led discussion. There are different options, different nights to choose from, so we pray that you will find a way to be a part of this. I anticipate it will be a great beginning to a deeper culture of fellowship and discipleship in our church. Don't miss this great opportunity to go deeper with your brothers and sisters in Christ.



*Sign up in the foyer to be a part of one of our upcoming Devotion Groups.*

## Mark Your Calendar!



### March 14 Business Meeting

### March 14 Daylight Savings Time

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour as daylight savings time begins March 14.

### March 21 Potluck

Join us after our morning worship service on Sunday the 21st, for our

monthly potluck. This month's theme is 'hors d'oeuvres,' so bring your favorite appetizers to share!

### March 27 Spring Cleaning

Set aside some time on Saturday, March 27th, and come help with some spring cleaning here at Pinehurst. Watch your bulletin for more details!