



Reading Scripture/Scripture Reading

With the fast-paced life-style that most of us embrace today, it can become more and more difficult to read Scripture on a regular basis. Polling Christians has brought to my attention that there are a few reasons for this: 1) There is no time to sit down and read Scripture 2) Scripture does not really address the concerns I am facing 3) Scripture is boring (tried reading Leviticus lately?). The problem with the above statements is that the person who made them has not tried reading Scripture in the right way!

Scripture is not simply a book that fell out of heaven. It is a life-giving message conveyed to us through numerous persons and personalities over an extended period of time; and this message was addressed to people who were dealing with every issue ranging from fear of oppression to forgetting God and pursuing that which was spiritually destructive. If one reads Scripture correctly, it is impossible for it to not address the concerns he is presently facing. If a person reads Scripture correctly, then one will always find the time to engage in reading it; will never be boring. In fact, it will be the most adventuresome thing a person can do!

But how should one read Scripture? There are many answers that could be listed here (i.e. read in historical and social context, etc.), but there is one that is of the utmost importance. A person should Read Scripture/Scripture Read . . . what that means is that the best way to get the most out of the Bible is to read Scripture and then *let Scripture read you*. It is wonderful to immerse yourself in the story, the poetry, or the maxims contained within Scripture. But your job does not end there. Then make Scripture come alive by allowing it to read you! Believe me it can! The author of Hebrews says that Scripture is "living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart (Hebrews 4:12)." The only way to ever progress in the discipline of reading Scripture is to allow it to do its job . . . which is reading you. I promise by doing that reading Scripture will never get boring and it will always be something you will make time for!

-Dan

***Our vision:
Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known***

THANK YOU! \$\$\$\$\$

You may recall, in 1997-98, we financed our latest building renovation program by issuing \$ 319,000 in bonds in conjunction with \$190,000 in bank financing. We initially set aside \$1,500 (later reduced to \$ 1,200) out of each weekly contribution to pay off this debt.

The bank loan was paid off in 2004. The last of the bonds were redeemed in January of this year. The elders plan to continue to set aside \$1,200 in a fund to be used for future building renovation, maintenance or new construction needs.

Many people have been involved in this effort from conception, design, planning and financial support through actual construction and ongoing maintenance. The elders wish to again thank everyone that has participated in this effort in any way. Your support has resulted in what is now a very attractive and functional facility that we may all be proud of.

Praise God for his blessings on Elmwood. You can each be proud of what you have accomplished in His name.
-Joe Mathews

"Why I Believe"

On Sunday nights, February 25 and March 4, at the 6:00 worship hour, **Joe Ruhl** will present his reflections on "Why I Believe." In past years Joe has treated us to series like "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" and "Evolution through the Eyes of Faith." Joe is a former teacher of the year for the state of Indiana and teaches science and genetics at Jefferson High School in Lafayette. You'll not want to miss this series! Invite family and friends.

Thank You!

Thank you all for your continuous support in Christ. Yesterday I was promoted to 3rd phase in Trinity Mission. Thank you for those who could make it out and to those who keep each other lifted in prayer. It is my hope that I'm with you all for many years to come, to give back what has so freely been given to me. I love you all and pray for you continually. Thank you again and again for a new home.

Love always, John Pippins

Going Away Party...

Women, please mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 3, 5:30 PM**, for a carry-in dinner for **Lisa Crowe** at the building in A2. Come enjoy the fellowship and share memories with Lisa.

Prayer Concerns...

Ruth Marks was released from St. Elizabeth Hospital on Tuesday after a short stay with pneumonia and other problems. She went back to Rosewalk Village.... **Julie Lichty**, friend of Lynae Stafford who became a diabetic at age 8, is not doing well.... Continue praying for **Dick Waterstraat, Henrietta Frampton, Seth Mullen, Willard Farmer, Annie Crowder, Paul & Argie Verett, Zoe Graham, Jaunita Bird, Beth Holt, Kaden Koebecke, Marcia Swails, Lynn Robinson, Delpha Allen, Anna Dale, Minnie Scott, Carrie High, Irene Fox, & Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Jeremy Crable & Michael Bryenton** (*Afghanistan*); **Brian Guthrie** (*Qatar, Persian Gulf*), **Robbie Mullinax**, stateside training; **Joshua Thompson** (*grandson of Mary Lou Baugh in Iraq*), **Jon Kiefner** (*Amanda Guthrie's brother in Iraq*); and **Amanda Martin** (*South Korea*). **Philip Devine** will be home February 26. His last Sunday with us before going to Iraq, will be March 4.

A Women's Tea Is Being Planned!

Let's have tea on Saturday, March 17 from 1:30-3:30 PM. The Women's Tea will be held in the homes of various hostesses. Smaller groups will make it easier to become better acquainted. Hostesses will provide hot drinks, and guests bring goodies to share. **Please indicate on your yellow card this coming Sunday morning (1) how many from your family will attend, (2) if you can serve as a hostess, and (3) if so, how many guests can you accommodate?**



Jim Moore's grandmother, **Mildred James, 95**, died Thursday, February 15, in McAllister, Oklahoma. Her funeral was Monday. Our sincere sympathies to Jim's family.

Sue Durham, 94, Dan Cooke's grandmother, died Monday, February 19, in Nashville, Tennessee. She had been ill for some time. Dan left Tuesday for Nashville to speak at her funeral on Wednesday. Our sympathies to Dan and his mother and the rest of their family.

Good \$ense Budget Class Wednesday, 6 PM



The **Good \$ense Budget Class**, taught by Janet Boston, will meet at 6:00 PM (*please note time is one hour before Wednesday night Bible classes*) for the next 6 Wednesday evenings. It's not too late to join the class. Questions may be directed to Janet at 477-7668.

February 18, 2007
Class: 195 Worship: 266
Contribution: \$6,885
Budget: \$8,550



"The Prize" – Winterfest 2007 –Wow!

Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God's heavenly call in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12-14).

Have I mentioned lately how proud I am of our group and how honored I am to be the youth minister? Our teens are awesome...no they aren't perfect, but they are very special – thank you parents for making every effort to place their lives carefully in the Father's hands. I was reminded of our group's reputation as we were getting ready to leave the motel on Sunday morning. I was confronted by one of the workers because we cleaned up after ourselves! Honestly, I thought he was upset when he caught me in the hall. He said, "Hey – the meeting room, you guys picked up after yourselves. Groups don't usually do that; I appreciate it!" I love getting in trouble for doing what is right – thanks eCy and Elmwood!

As usual, Winterfest was a true blessing. This year's theme was very timely and well developed. During the weekend, we were blessed by messages from Jeff Walling and Mitch Wilburn, a drama with the theme as the focus, entertained by 321 Improv, led in worship by Watershed, had some great fellowship, enjoyed some good food and even got in a little shopping. Two special guests were Mike Marsh and Roger Crouch. Mike was a double Gold Medalist at the Barcelona Olympics in sprinting. After a rough start in life, Mike found his gift in running and was on the way up when his coach said he wouldn't make it big unless he took steroids. Mike refused and moved to Houston and began training with Carl Lewis...it paid off with two gold medals and a silver, too. Roger Crouch was a scientist and wanted to be an astronaut. He applied to NASA for over 15 years before he was finally accepted...you can't be color blind and be an astronaut...but Roger is and was; he was a member of the Shuttle Columbia crew on July 1, 1997. The message from both of these men was to persevere and to enjoy the prizes of this life but more importantly to keep our eyes on the Ultimate Prize.

You may remember Josh Boyd encouraging the teens to use Winterfest to reach out to their friends. They listened, friends came (we had 8 non-Elmwood guests) and God blessed the efforts. After Saturday night's session, Krista Howe (guest of Melissa Willison) and Blier Williams (guest of Dan Cable) confessed their faith in Jesus and were baptized. Baptisms are always special, but we won't soon forget these...the two decided they wanted to be baptized in the outdoor (unheated) pool at the motel – it was snowing and about 30 degrees. God provided His warmth for us all! You will get to see pictures of your new brother and sister's baptisms Sunday morning. Be sure to welcome them to the family!

– Lee



Austin Borie, son of Elaine Borie and grandson of Burnell Gulden, was baptized Friday evening by Sam Postlethwait. He is a junior at Jefferson High School. He has many awards and trophies for his swimming and track events. We are so happy Austin has made this commitment to follow Jesus and be a part of the family at Elmwood! His address is 1304 Southport, Lafayette, 47909. Phone: 474-1085.

On the teen Winterfest trip last weekend, two other youth, who are friends of Elmwood's youth group, were baptized also.

Krista Howe, a friend of Melissa Willison, was baptized Saturday night. Krista is a junior at Harrison High School. She loves to read, write poetry, listen to music and is an avid photographer. She lives at 54 Fairfield Ct., Lafayette. Phone: 448-9611. Congratulations, Krista. Welcome to Elmwood's family! May God bless you richly.

Blier Williams, a friend of Dan Cable who has attended Elmwood frequently, was also baptized Saturday night in Gatlinburg. Blier is a sophomore at Delphi High School. He loves cars and is in FFA. Blier's address: P.O. Box 124, Camden. Phone: 574-686-3839. God bless you for your decision to make Jesus Lord of your life.

**THE SNOW SERVANTS FOR THIS WEEK
(FEB. 18-24) ARE
Scott, Lori, Brighton & Braxton Baker
THEY ARE ON CALL TO
REMOVE SNOW**



- February 21, 6 PM...**Good \$ense budget class
- February 21, 7 PM...**Bible Classes for all
- Feb. 25 & March 4, 6 PM...**At Elmwood Joe Ruhl shares "**Why I Believe.**"
- March 3, 5:30 PM...**Women's Carry-in dinner for Lisa Crowe at Elmwood, A2
- March 17, 7:43 AM...**Men's Breakfast in A2
- March 17, 1:30-3:30 PM...**Women's Tea

Read:
Numbers 1-15
Acts 9:1-13:23

2007 Spiritual Adventure

Week 10: March 5-11

I am always trying to be a Christian who makes an impact for God. So in prayer I ask the Lord to give me spiritual insight and the ability to do His will. Then it happens, God follows through and grants my request. Granted there usually are no lights or booming voices, but I know God is showing me his will. Unfortunately, often times instead of listening to God, I begin questioning Him to make sure it is *really* what He wants me to do. Broken down it means: I think I'll do what *I* want to do.

When Saul was confronted by The Lord on the road to Damascus, he asked two questions. The first was, "Who are You, Lord?" Realizing he was in the presence of the living God, only one other question mattered: "Lord, what do You want me to do?" (Acts 9:5-6). He recognized that obedience to God's will for him was to be the central focus for the rest of his life.

Have you made the request: "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

—Chad Pitt