



The Word of God

As our L.I.F.E. Groups continue to travel through our Spiritual Reading journey I hope you discover a similar truth to the one discovered by the author of Hebrews. As he digs into the words of God he is struck by a profound truth. He informs his readers, *“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow (4:12).”* Have you found this to be true?

It is sometimes easy to miss the *“alive and powerful”* nature of scripture when we quickly read through a passage, and then quickly move on to another. I’m not suggesting that there is anything wrong with reading lots of scripture in a short period of time. In fact, I encourage you to do that. But the goal of our Spiritual Reading is not quantity. It is quality. And I believe that it is when we take the time to read, read, and re-read a particular message from God’s word slowly and carefully that is when the *“alive and powerful”* nature of scripture is fully experienced.

Many of you are already experiencing this truth. You have expressed how amazing it is to read the passage once and notice a theme, or a word, to meditate on, but as soon as you re-read the passage another theme, or word, jumps out. And sometimes after a third reading another theme, or word, stands out. You may not realize it, but you are experiencing the *“alive and powerful”* nature of God’s word. You are taking the time to not only read God’s word, but to also listen to God’s word.

God’s word truly is alive and powerful!

-Gilbert

Please note: the Spiritual Reading Journal is posted on our website.

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

Salty Christian

“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person” (Col. 4:5-6 NASB).

This is an interesting passage, and one that I think merits some contemplation. Paul, in his letter to the Colossians discusses how a Christian acts in relationship to others. At the end of this section, Paul gives some advice to believers for when they are interacting with unbelievers.

Paul says that our speech should *“always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.”* The image of words seasoned with salt adds to the idea of grace-filled speech by encouraging us to be prepared. Salt, whether used as a preservative or a seasoning, is part of the preparation of food. We should be prepared to interact with people that are not like us, so that we might know how to respond to each person.

I don’t think we should have rote answers for common questions that people might ask, but as Christians, we should be able to present ourselves and our faith in such a grace-filled way that the people that we come in contact with will not be turned away by the way we present ourselves or our Christ. May they be drawn to him as we are drawn to him. Our harsh speech should not be an obstacle that a person has to overcome in order to meet Jesus! Let’s try to be prepared for the opportunities that may present themselves!

-Phil

Good Sense Budgeting

Do you ever wonder where the money goes? Most people do. We cannot ignore the reality of the importance of money. Some view it as the root of all evil, because it has led to crime, suicide, divorce, worry, scheming and many other nightmares. This crucial matter has no shortage of information in the Bible. Some two thousand Scripture passages touch on the theme of money.

A six week DVD series will be facilitated by Janet Boston beginning this **Wednesday, January 30, 2008** in the Conference Room. The program will begin at 5:50 PM each Wednesday evening until 6:50 PM. You will discover tools and develop skills to help you to manage and control your finances. **THIS CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE!**



Our gratitude and appreciation to the church for your prayers, cards, notes, and gifts for the birth of our son. Irwynn was born December 23, and after a bout with jaundice is doing really well now. Our thanks also to the ladies who are blessing us with meals. We are truly blessed to have a church family halfway across the globe who has opened your hearts to us.

-Joshua & Linnet Chia

Treat your family with Dream Dinners!

Looking for a way to feed your family delicious, nutritious meals at home? Looking for easy, tasty entrees to take to families with new babies? Come and join us for a Sneak Peek at one of Lafayette's new businesses, Dream Dinners. At 7:00 this Wednesday night, January 30, the upstairs ladies' class will be going on a field trip to learn about Dream Dinners and prepare one FREE meal to take home. Want to join us? Contact Gina Boyd at 471-1258.

Men Wanted

Currently, Trinity Mission Life Transformation Ministries are seeking volunteer instructors. Minimal time required. Class materials provided. Time requirements vary. Current opportunities include:

- Money Management/1 hr a week for 12 weeks
- Time Management/1 hr a week for 8 weeks
- Tuesday evening Bible study 6:30-8:00 PM/Adjustable studies
- Bible Resources/1 hr, 1 time only
- Work Ethic/1 hr a week for 12 weeks
- Health & Fitness/1-1.5 hr per week

If interested please contact Brian Holt, Director of Men's Services, Trinity Mission, 447-0271, 2525 Kossuth Street, Lafayette 47904. E-mail: bholt@trinitymission.org



The food pantry is in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, & toilet paper.**

Also, a few volunteers are needed. If you have some free time through the week and could volunteer 2 hours of your time on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday (1:00-3:00), contact John Stafford at 474-8478.

LUM Meal Providers

Serving dinner at Lafayette Urban Ministry Monday night, January 28, were **Jimmy & Susan Huff** and **Vicky & Dan Martin.**

Many thanks to those at Elmwood who participate in this ministry to provide food for Lafayette's homeless. If you haven't participated before and would like to, see Mandy Anderson.

January 27, 2008

Class: 196 Worship: 292

Contribution: \$6,256

Budget: \$10,000/week

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Winterfest – Gatlinburg, TN – February 15-17, 2008

THE MISSION

Winterfest is a weekend retreat going on for 20 years now. This retreat is geared toward middle and high school teens. This particular Winterfest is attended primarily by teens from churches of Christ, although we have groups from several different fellowships that come back each year. We use teachers from our fellowship to teach and encourage teens in their walk with God. This weekend is geared toward discipleship. The teachers and guests that come use real life stories, drama, music and scripture to make the Christian life come alive to the teens involved. Our a cappella praise and worship times are uplifting and engaging. We have contemporary Christian concerts at our events that are supplemental to the weekend (this year is "Kutless"). Believing that the Christian life can be very joyful, we bring in the best Christian entertainers we can find to challenge teens with their lifestyle and their attitudes (this year we have Bob Stromberg and Bean & Bailey). Winterfest is always the third weekend in January in Arlington, Texas, with the same program again the third weekend in February in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The theme for 2008 is **The Mission** from Matthew 28:19-20.

Here is the basic information for our group: We plan to meet at the Elmwood building at 5:30 AM Friday the 15th. We will be staying at **Riverside Motor Lodge**, 715 Parkway, www.riversidehotels.com; we will probably have breakfast supplies for Sat. and Sun. and lunch (PBJ sandwiches) on Saturday...this will help keep costs down. Cost of the room and travel is \$85 per person. Checks need to be made to Elmwood. Please eat breakfast before you come or bring it with you on Friday...also bring a sack lunch – this also helps hold down costs. We will have ice chests with us for your drinks. You will be responsible for dinner on Friday, dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday. The only other money you should need is for CD's (singing groups), miniature golf, attractions (Ripley's Believe It Or Not, etc.), and souvenirs, if you want them – this is where we have had fun photos made in the past. We will return some time Sunday afternoon/evening. Teen LIFE Groups will not meet on the 17th.

Some of you have never taken advantage of this incredible experience. Winterfest is one of the four major events the Elders and Youth Ministry encourage all teens to participate in each year – it can be and has been life changing for many in our group. I am not aware of anyone who has attended with us and did not want to return the next year. We continue to have college students and adults who want to go as well. By the time most of you are reading this, you may have missed the "super saver" fares on registration, but the regular registration fee for the weekend is just \$30 (plus travel and lodging mentioned above). If you have any questions or still want to go, please let me know.

– Lee

Potluck/Carry-in Meal this Sunday



This Sunday at approximately noon (following the 2nd service), we will share a potluck dinner in the A2 fellowship room. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share and enjoy the food and fellowship. A brief devotional will follow. NO EVENING SERVICE AT 6:00.

Prayer Concerns....

Jim Moore had sinus surgery on Monday. All went well and he is at home recuperating....**David Henke** is having some post-surgery problems and remains at White County Memorial Hospital....**Max Houlton** will have his last chemotherapy treatment on Thursday....**David Riley**, Lori Kuchta's nephew, had lense replacement surgery on Monday....**Carolyn and Charles Moore**, Jim's parents, are struggling with serious health problems....Continue praying for **Mandy Anderson, Peter Tavana, Paul Thomas, Herb King, Scott Baker, Henrietta Frampton, Eileen Richardson, Marie DeWoody, Hattie Coffel, Kaden Koebecke, Irene Sims, Mary Tavana, Paul & Argie Verett, Delpha Allen, Ivan Ellis, Valley Stockton, Eagle Bailey, Minnie Scott, Anna Dale, Irene Fox, and Burnell Gulden.**

Serving in our military: **Michael Farris** in Afghanistan; **Steve Brady, Ti Draughon** in Iraq; and **Chris Martin**, in South Korea.

A Baby Shower!



On February 10 from 4:30 until 6:30 PM the Boyds will be hosting a combination shower and Singaporean Makan celebration for new baby Irwynn Chia. Come by before LIFE Group to honor the Chias' new arrival!



January 30, 7 PM....Bible classes for everyone
January 30, 7 PM....Good \$ense Budget Class, taught by Janet Boston in conference room
February 3, noon....Potluck carry-in meal at Elmwood following the morning worship services; devo to follow
February 3, 6 PM....No evening service

