



## How Do You Read the Bible?

I am currently reading a wonderful book by Scot McKnight called *The Blue Parakeet*. McKnight is a Biblical scholar and professor at North Park College in Chicago. *The Blue Parakeet* is a book about reading the Bible.

McKnight's main point throughout the book is that the Bible is a story. It is God's story. It is God's story that, unlike blue parakeets, we cannot cage and tame. His assertion is that throughout history conservatives and liberals alike have tried to do that very thing – cage and tame the Bible. According to McKnight, the only thing we can do with this story is enter into it and become part of the story.

He suggests several ways in which we have tried to cage and tame the Bible. Many today, like the Pharisees, turn the story into nothing more than a collection of laws. It is easy to see how that can happen because the story does contain many laws, but is that the point of the story? Turning the story of the Bible into a book of laws turns its readers into pompous, self-righteous, accusatory Christians who measure others according to their own adherence to the laws. Just look at the Pharisees.

Others turn the story into nothing more than morsels of blessings. Rather than seeing the blessings throughout the Bible as part of the larger story, including the realistic truths of trials and curses, these type of readers cut out snippets of blessings to guide them through their day. When the blessings don't come, these readers are left with no answers.

Some read the Bible much like they are taking an inkblot test. You know the test. A psychiatrist shows someone a paper with a big inkblot on it; that person then tells the psychiatrist what they see in the inkblot: a butterfly, a sunset, a wolf, etc... There are no wrong answers because it is all about what *you* see. This happens with the Bible. It is read in a group, everyone gets to share what they see, and there are no wrong answers. It is all about *you*.

Hopefully that is enough of a teaser to get you to read the book. I am not finished with it, but I highly recommend it. You may not agree with everything, but it will definitely make you think. Remember, the Bible cannot be caged and tamed. It is God's story, and it is powerful.

*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. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires. ~ Hebrews 4:12*

*-Gilbert*

## Living in the Now

Jean-Pierre de Caussade, a Christian in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, wrote "*The Sacrament of the Present Moment.*" In this text, he addresses several issues. One issue that he talks about is by understanding that the way we follow God's will is by understanding what God calls us to do, at this precise moment.

I think this is an important concept. Often we may wonder, "What is God's plan for my life?" We try to understand now what God has in store for us months or years from now. Furthermore, Caussade states that if we only ponder or argue facts about God's will or theology in general, then we "are like sick doctors trying to cure patients." In other words, we are ill equipped to do even nothing worthwhile!

Caussade continues saying, "Whether contemplation, meditation, prayer, inward silence, intuition, quietude, or activity are what we wish for ourselves, the best is God's purpose for us at the present moment." Caussade reminds us that spiritual disciplines are worthwhile and beneficial only if that is what God wants you to do!

A good example of someone who did what God wanted him to do was Abraham. He knew that God's long term plan for him was to prosper, but when God told him to sacrifice his son, Abraham knew that what God wanted him to do now was what needed to be done. That turned out better for Abraham (and Isaac) because he did what the LORD told him to do!

*-Phil*

**Janet Achor**, Perry's wife, is having gall bladder surgery on Thursday, January 29....**Pete Swank** will have surgery February 2....**Rose Hunt** will have surgery on February 2....**Chris Martin** (*Phyllis Simmerman's nephew stationed in Washington*) and his wife, **Jesse**, have a baby boy, **Landyn Douglas**, born at 32 weeks. He is in NICU and on assisted ventilation....Continue praying for **Hannah Vaught** (*Ann Vaught's granddaughter*), **Annie Crowder**, **Cheri Vaughn**, **Vicki Henke**, **Delores Hill**, **Elizabeth Tinkle**, **Ethel Cable** (*Heritage Healthcare*), **Ted Flynn** (*Katy Travis's grandfather*), **Agnes Schubert** (*Hedi Devine's mother*), **Cherie Hanson** (*Kay Tavana's sister*), **Diane West** (*Andrea Browell's sister*), **Beth Holt**, **Phyllis Gray**, **Dick Stout**, **Eric Waltz** (*Bob's brother is greatly improved!*), **Dorothy Walters**, **Eileen Richardson**, **Hattie Coffel** (*Rosewalk Village*), **Irene Fox** (*George Davis Manor*), **Wanita White**, **Willie Batts**, **Edith McCoy** (*Digby House*), **Jean Stockberger**, **Lance & Lane Pepper**, **Eugene Zinn**, **Kaden Koebcke**, **Marge Campbell**, **Valley Stockton** (*Regency Place*), **Irene Sims**, **Henrietta Frampton**, **Marie DeWoody**, **Paul & Argie Verett**, **Delpha Allen**, and **Minnie Scott**.

Serving in our military: **Shawn Wilson**.



## Men Wanted!

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

- Wednesday evening study 6:30-8:00 PM/adjustable studies
- Bible Resources/ 1 hour, 1 time only
- Health & Fitness/ Monday 1-1.5 hr. per week

If interested please contact Doug Patty, Director of Men's Services, Trinity Mission, 447-0271, dpatty@trinitymission.org.

## Focus on the Family Programs

Upcoming *Focus on the Family* programs are heard on local radio, WHPL-FM 89.9 at **2:00 PM Monday-Friday**.

- January 30*      **An Incredible Football Journey**—NFL quarterback Kurt Warner and his wife, Brenda, talk about their faith, their family and what they have learned in the world of professional football.
- February 2*      **Marriage with Grace and Honor**—Author Gary Smalley describes four common problems that lead couples to divorce and offers practical advice for restoring troubled marriages.
- February 3-4*    **Raising Men of Honor**—Author Robert Lewis explains how parents can raise boys according to the biblical model for manhood. (Parts 1 & 2)
- February 5-6*    **Overcoming the Father Wound**—Bestselling author Josh McDowell explains how becoming a Christian helped him find emotional healing from his troubled family background. (Parts 1 & 2)



## Snow Servants



The snow servant this week (1/25-31) for light snow removal is **Brian Guthrie, 409-0829**.

The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste & toothbrushes, and toilet paper**. All food items are also welcomed.



## Senior Servant's Schedule

The **Senior Servants** meet for lunch (*bring your own*) at 11:30 every first and third Wednesday. They have a wonderful card ministry (*maybe you have received one*) that blesses all those who receive them. If you haven't attended before, give it a try and enjoy the fellowship.



**January 25, 2009**  
**Class: 190    Worship: 268**  
**Contribution: \$7,570**

ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST newsletter (USPS 758-630) is published weekly, except the week of Christmas, by the Elmwood Church of Christ, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette 47904. Periodical postage paid at Lafayette, IN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to ELMWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST, 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904.



**Youth Group  
has some  
fun  
Ice Skating**



**Andy  
gets  
some  
help!**



**Making  
Valentines**



# Women's Retreat February 27-28 Lisa Crowe, speaking!

We are excited to be hosting a Women's Retreat on Friday and Saturday, February 27-28. We are also excited that **Lisa Crowe** will be our speaker and look forward to her messages. Her theme: *Lessons from Luke*. The retreat will be at Elmwood. We will probably begin at 6:30/7:00 on Friday night. No meal, but snacks served.

This Sunday, February 1, at 9:30 (the beginning of regular class time) we invite **all women** interested in exchanging ideas concerning meals (*what to have e.g. bring our own food, have it catered, have the men cook for us!*), childcare (*will it be furnished or not*), and other items of interest, to come to the women's class, room 18. We look forward to your participation.



*Dear Elmwood family,  
As we settle in to our new house, far away from Indiana, we would like to thank everyone for making us feel at home and cared about in the time we were able to spend at Elmwood. Our lives have been truly blessed by being a part of this family. We will miss spending time in such great fellowship! Please feel free to keep in touch. Our new address is: 7 W. Keklico Court, Goose Creek, SC 27445.*

*Love,  
The Fours:  
Andrew, Michelle, Matthew, & Nicolas*

*Lee Porter & the Elders:  
Thank you so much for the Bible that was given to me today. It is very beautiful and it is exactly my style. Thank you.*  
*-Mandy Doty*



**January 28, 7 PM....Bible classes for all**  
**February 1, 6 PM....Singing at Elmwood** 🎵  
**February 20-22....Youth Winterfest in Gatlinburg**  
**February 27-28....Women's Retreat, Lisa Crowe, speaker**

Read:  
*Leviticus 14-27;*  
*Luke 22-24*

# 2009 Spiritual Adventure






Week 7: February 9-15

## Simple Task

This semester at Harding I was given several different opportunities to serve others, on campus and in the community. One such opportunity exposed me to a need that I had never really acknowledged before. In late October, I stumbled upon a group of students who spent their Saturdays in Little Rock feeding the homeless. I decided to tag along, and my eyes were opened to basic needs, things most of us take for granted—food, shelter, clothing, etc. What I saw in my companions was a passion for the homeless and poor, and a desire to serve them. I was amazed at how often when driving down the street they would point to some person (often homeless), and know their name and their story. We would drive around the city, looking for a need. When we found one, we would stop; offer a sandwich, water, and clothes. But that was just on the surface, the real ministry came through building relationships. After giving what we could, we would just talk with people, try to learn their story, and really get to know them. Not surprisingly, God came up in almost every conversation, giving us so many open doors to share our faith and to hear the stories of others. Time and time again we were asked why we take time out of our weekends to help these people. One girl in our group always had the same response. She simply told them that we were trying to be like Jesus through serving and loving others.

In Luke 22:27, Jesus reminded His disciples of one of His purposes. He said, "...I am among you as one who serves." It is a simple thing to stop and give someone a sandwich or a bottle of water. It is a simple thing to talk to a stranger. If Jesus is our example, then it seems like our task is relatively simple, as simple as serving others.

-Mark Moore

 Weekly Schedule	 Elders	 World Missions
<b>Sunday</b> Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m.  <b>Wednesday</b> Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653  <b> Staff</b> <b>Ministers</b> Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 <b>Office</b> Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536  Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com  Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774
 Our Vision: Knowing Christ, Making Christ Known.		

 **Elmwood**  
 CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 2501 Elmwood Ave., Lafayette, IN 47904  
 (765) 447-2874 (765) 447-0878 FAX  
 E-mail: office@elmwood-church.org  
 www.elmwood-church.org

Christian Student Center  
 PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
 115 Waldron Street  
 W. Lafayette, IN 47906

Periodical  
 Postage  
**PAID**  
 at  
 Lafayette, IN