

The FAITH BUILDER

THIS ISSUE:
God's Kingdom: From
Romania to the Philippines

Sept/Oct
2007

2007
2006
2005
2004



"Dear friends, BUILD yourselves up in your most holy FAITH..." -Jude 1:20

A Police Officer Meets God

Romeo Pascua

The author of this testimony, Romeo Pascua, is the father of Girlie Pascua. He attends our Livonia congregation and a Hope Group that meets in Plymouth. As Romeo will explain in his testimony, he did not know his daughter, Girlie, for most of her life. He lived in the Philippines, while she lived in the U.S.

Then, a year ago, he was able to come and stay with Girlie for several months. It was a chance for them to finally get to know one another. During that time, Romeo also was introduced to Jesus through God's Word. Romeo will share in this testimony the impact this has made on his life.

For those who don't know me, I am Romeo M. Pascua, a retired Major of "Manila's Finest", otherwise known, then, as the Manila Police Department and known today as the Manila Police District. I joined the police force as a rookie or patrolman on July 12, 1972, and retired as a major on

May 4, 2002.

Being a police officer, especially in the city of Manila, is a very tough task. It is tough in the sense that Manila is the melting pot and the nucleus of the government. Besides being the capital of the Philippines, this is where Malacanang Palace or the Office of the President of the Philippines and the seat of the government is located. Therefore, it is the commercial center and the place where the demonstrators held their rallies and grievances against the government.

Maintaining peace and order is not an easy task, especially if you are very strict in enforcing the law. Chances are, the violators or offenders will do everything to get even with you. Hence, police officers strictly doing their job were often victims of harassment cases. As police officer, yours truly had been a victim of these things on many occasions.

DARK DAYS

Our life here on earth has plenty of ups and downs as well as trials and tribulations. It was the year 1983 when the great challenge and horrible experience happened in my life. I was harassed and wrongly accused of a crime or felony which I had never committed – a "set up", so to speak.

I was suspended from the service, and to add insult to injury, something went wrong in my marriage life. It was like a nightmare. It was as if the world turned upside down on me. Perhaps, at that time, if only given the chance I would have had killed the person who wronged me.

My wife and I parted ways and the two kids, my son Rory Glenn Pascua (who is now an active member of the U.S. Air Force) and Ruth Girlie, went with my wife. Not long after that, my wife emigrated to the United States of America, and after several years she took with her my two children.

Hence, my communication and personal relationship with my children were totally cut off. And I pretty much knew then that the once lovely relationship, the once happy, the once precious moments and the once beautiful relationships such as ours were had all turned to ashes.

GLORIOUS DAYS

With God's blessings, I was finally acquitted by the court after two long years of tedious hearings. I was returned back to duty and got promoted several times after that. I eventually retired as a Major.

It was April, 2004, when Girlie went for a short time to the Philippines for a missionary trip with Youth With a Mission (YWAM). It was only then that I found out that my daughter was totally committed to a Christian life and was truly a worshiper of God. Girlie gave me a token, a very precious gift which I have never had before, and that's the Bible – the Word of God.

Sad to say, I never read it because I was so engrossed with my personal and private life and with my business. Needless to say, I even failed to go to church during Sundays and drank a lot of alcohol daily so as to escape from reality.

BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN

It was August 27, 2006 when something great happened that affected my whole life. Through the great efforts of my daughter, I was able to come to the United States of America – “the land of milk and honey”. A red letter day in my life because after more than two decades my dream came true.

It was a great miracle that God had given me a chance and an opportunity to be with my daughter Girlie. It was a chance to

be able to know each other, a chance to build a stronger relationship and to bond with each other.

Right after my arrival here, my daughter brought me to Harvest Christian Church, a church which is about four blocks away from Girlie's house. The purpose was for me to meet fellow Filipinos and have fellowship with them. Nonetheless, in the evening we attended the worship service at Hope Church, and right away the Lord began to work in my life.

I began to read the Bible. I started reading, reading and reading the Bible and I was inspired by the Word of God. I religiously went to church with my daughter and regularly read the Bible. During our breakfast we read the Bible and we discussed the Bible Reading Guide in the Faith Builder magazines.

Believe it or not, Girlie was the one leading the Bible study and asking me the questions from the Faith Builder. I was the one learning and answering the questions. Well, I don't blame her, for she was more learned in the Bible and likewise more spiritually mature than I am.

Last January 18, 2007, I went back home to the Philippines. The following Sunday, I attended a service at Palmera Springs Christian Church, a stone's throw away from my residence. My neighbors, relatives and friends were all amazed, for the once Major Pascua (“Major”, that's

how my friends and neighbors address me in the Philippines) who was once a Catholic worshiper is now transformed into a born again Christian. It's a great change. I religiously attended the service and I attended the Bible study, too. Shortly after that, on May 26, 2007, during the family day celebration at church, I was baptized.

FORGIVEN

I strongly believe that God has a plan and a purpose in bringing me here to the United States of America. He used my daughter in transforming me into a born again Christian and likewise to know more about Him. Perhaps, if my daughter had not been a Christian and a true worshiper of God, I would not have been here in America.

I remember what Girlie once told me, and I quote what she says: the Bible speaks in EXODUS 20:12 “Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you”. In light of this verse, it is crystal clear that my daughter has forgiven my shortcomings.

The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 2:10, 11: “If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven – if there was anything to forgive – I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.” Amen. ✠



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"Dear friends, **BUILD** yourselves up in your most holy **FAITH**" (Jude 1:20)

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“There Must Be a Better Way”

Wayde Hoppe

“There Must Be a Better Way.” That was the theme of our first-ever Family Life Seminar, held for five evenings from August 20-24.

On Monday evening, John and Beryl Howkins shared their experience based on forty-eight years of successful marriage. They spoke very strongly about the importance of daily forgiveness of one another, never letting the sun go down on their anger.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, David Smith taught about the godly home. The emphasis was on our own relationship with God the Father. He will allow as much pressure to come upon us to reveal our weakness and need for Him. This pressure will expose what is in our hearts.

Thursday night, Dr. Gary Elfner spoke about education in the home. He answered questions about the Biblical basis for training children, about methods and materials, about strategies for children in younger and older years, and much more.

On Friday, Tim Bennett was our speaker. Using a baseball diagram, he spoke about a plan for bringing our families all the way home.

In addition to the main speakers, several other people gave testimonies describing what God is doing in their families. Nora Manwiller, William and Debbie Boyer, Annie Orwin and Wayde Hoppe gave testimonies on different evenings.

During the seminar, the children of the church were attending a Vacation Bible

School which was conducted at the same location. They learned Bible stories based on the lives of Daniel, Esther and Ruth. About 70 children were involved, ranging from nursery to upper grade school. About twenty adults and teens served as teachers, song leaders, nursery workers and helpers.

The VBS Bible stories were videotaped and DVDs were distributed to the parents of each child. The teaching from the Family Life Seminar was also recorded and is available on the sermons page of the church website: www.hopechurch.info.

In the article below, we have printed the outline of Wayde Hoppe’s personal testimony, delivered on Friday evening.

A word of encouragement to parents of small children from a parent who has seen some of his children grow into early adulthood:

I. The attitude of our hearts

- A. Appreciate the present. We have no promise of tomorrow with our wife or children.**
- B. Look forward to the future. If the Lord allows, you will share many years with your wife and your children will grow to be adults.**

II. Developing a vision for parenting

- A. God wants godly offspring—that’s your children.**
- B. If all goes well, your children will grow to adulthood. You need to have a plan FOR your children FROM God.**
- C. Ask yourself, “What kind of person SHOULD my child grow up to be?”**
- D. Consider God’s plan and purpose for your child’s ministry, occupation, marriage, family, place of dwelling.**
- E. Don’t leave this up to someone else, or up to your child alone.**
- F. If you don’t involve yourself in developing a plan for your child, someone else will do it instead of you.**
- G. Ask God where you are going with this child and create a plan to get there.**
- H. The plan will involve directing your child’s education, training, friends, ministry involvement and more.**

III. How to implement a plan with your child

- A. Be active. You cannot effectively lead or train children from the chair or the couch.**
- B. Expect it to be hard work. Many times you will need to repeat the lessons. Anything learned comes from “Years of experience and hours of practice.”**
- C. As your child matures, you will increasingly come alongside him rather than dictating his choices as when he was younger.**
- D. Guide your children into good relationships with one another. Your children will know each other longer than they will know you.**

- E. Lead your children into knowing how to pray, plan, take responsibility, manage finances, and be aware of the people around them.**
- F. Remember, these are HAPPY DAYS if we are doing the job in Jesus’ way. Enjoy these happy days. Little ones grow up way too fast.**

IV. Common mistakes in the home

- A. The Husband becomes a tyrant. This will crush your wife and children.**
- B. The Husband becomes a “suitable helper” for his wife. He is no longer leading the family, but simply doing the things that his wife requires.**
- C. Becoming distracted by minutia. These days with your family are too precious to get distressed by the stain in the carpet. The carpet can be replaced when the kids are grown.**
- D. Trying to do everything is a mistake. There are so many good things that can be done, but stick with the few you are sure God has given to you.**
- E. Remember, You are responsible for your own spiritual growth. Don’t blame other people for the quality of your relationship with God. Make your own relationship with Him a personal priority, then minister what God has given you to your family.**
- F. Another mistake is to choose the good instead of the best. Our kids often ask, “What’s wrong with doing...?” But the question for them, and for us, should be, “What is the very best we can be doing?”**
- G. A final mistake is avoided when we remember IT IS NOT YOUR JOB TO ENTERTAIN YOUR CHILDREN. According to Deuteronomy chapter 6, it is our job to train our children to be godly. It is not our job to teach them that life is a series of entertainments and pleasures that are served up by their parents. ☩**

"Now what I am commanding you or beyond your reach."

By Alice

JUMPING OFF THE CLIFF

"Tomorrow, you, Peter and Tariho will be walking down to the end of the road by Lake Taut, and jumping off the cliff, okay?"

That is how the news regarding our next adventure in Romania hit me. Of course, the Networks leaders were not asking us to jump off a literal cliff, but what they were asking us to do resulted in that much fear in my heart. But I'm getting ahead of my story, so let me back up to last winter.

TRAVELING TO ROMANIA

Pastor Paul announced in church that there would be two mission trips for the summer of '07: the youth camp in Alaska and a Romanian trip with our missionary, Leah Ransom of Networks. The overseas trip appealed to me right away because I enjoy traveling, but of course I began seeking the Lord's will. In my Bible, next to Proverbs 16:3 ("Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed"), I wrote, "Romania '07?" When I returned, I was able to joyfully write, "Yes!"

I think it's interesting to note that the little group that finally headed off to Romania on July 28th was probably not made up of the personnel that would seem "ideal" for such a trip—two

teenagers and a 60 year old woman—but God's ways are not our ways. Praise Him!

The Lord bonded Peter, Tariho and me together in a wonderful way. We laughed together (a lot), cried together (not a lot), prayed together, read the Bible together, sang together, and worked together for two amazing weeks in Romania.

We flew 7 hours from Detroit to Frankfurt, then 1½ hours to Budapest, Hungary, then drove 4 hours in a minivan to S,iria, Romania, the village where Leah lives.

AT THE CAMP

After a restless night's sleep filled with the sounds of barking dogs and crowing roosters, we went to the mission's youth camp, Taut,. [Note: the comma after the final "t" in the name of the camp makes an "s" sound]. There I worked harder than I have for a long time, but most satisfying.

At the camp we were wakened at about 5:45. Peter said we woke up and then the rooster crowed. We went down to the cafeteria for tea, coffee and toast, sometimes tomatoes and cucumbers. Then we worked until 9:00, our "fikka" time. (It's a Swedish word for a coffee break. I don't know how to spell it).

We had our big breakfast then. Porridge, more bread and jelly, sometimes eggs, tea, coffee. Then back we went to our work until 1:00, when we had our dinner. By then the sun was really hot, so most of us did not continue work. We used this time to read, have devotions, take a shower, swim in the lake, sleep or whatever.

Sometimes I would do a little more painting because it was not as exhausting as the heavy work the young people were doing. Supper was at 7:00. We had lots of great visiting time with the Networks staff members and volunteer young people from Ireland. Sometimes Peter would talk the others into a game of "football," our version of soccer.

MISSION WORK

So, what work were we doing at Taut.? We painted, cleaned, raked, chopped down bushes and overgrowth and chopped roots out of the ground, etc. We were helping to get the camp ready for Drumfest, a Christian youth conference.

One of the Networks staff members said that the Taut, Youth Camp could not function without the work of the volunteers. So I was very thankful to hear that our hard work was useful to the kingdom of God.



today is not too difficult for you - Deuteronomy 30:11

Berry

I should also mention that the camp was in the beautiful rolling hills of western Romania. It was very lovely to look down into the valley and see the village, the horse-drawn hay wagons, the cows being taken out to pasture and the sheep. God is good. The work was hard, but refreshing and rejuvenating at the same time.

The mission works primarily with the street people and gypsies of the village of S,iria, (where Leah lives), and the city of Arad. At the camp, we were able to work side by side with two former street people who are now working for the mission, Garofita and Vasile. It was a blessing for me to hear Vasile express how he loves working for the Lord. Please pray for Garofita that she will come to know the Lord soon.

On Saturday, we went into the city of Arad with Leah and David, an Irishman who kept us in stitches. We did a little sight seeing and shopped at the market. On Sunday we attended worship in S,iria at the Networks center.

GET ON THE BUS

Monday found us heading back to Taut, Camp to finish up our last three days there. It was on Wednesday afternoon that I heard the news that Tariho, Peter and I were to walk down the road by the lake and board a bus. If

we did everything right, the bus would take us to the city of Arad, and our luggage "might" be taken into S,iria where we would spend Thursday night before leaving the country on Friday.

There was a lot that could go wrong, especially since we would be doing this alone, without any mission staff who knew the Romanian language and culture coming with us. We were on our own. I might as well have been asked to jump off a cliff. After letting my feelings be known, (needless to say, I was not trusting the Lord at this point,) I went to my cabin, had a good cry and then went back to work.

As I was working, I thought, "I need to talk to Leah." So the staff member gave me the number and let me use the phone. After talking to her and another staff member in S,iria, I realized that this would be our only opportunity to see the ghetto work in Arad. I also realized, albeit somewhat tenuously, that I could trust the leaders and most importantly, I could trust the Lord.

So, 6:00 a.m. Thursday morning found us walking to meet the bus with the night watchman, who conversed continually with us in pure Romanian, even though we couldn't understand a word. He put us on the bus and told the bus driver where to let us off. Karen, a Networks staff member would meet us in Arad. By this time, I was happily

enjoying the adventure, confident in the Lord that all would go well. And it did. Praise God!

IN THE GHETTO

In the ghetto in Arad we cleared some land for use by the children and played with them in the afternoon at the Kids' Club. The gypsies in the ghetto are uneducated, very poor, have no electricity, no running water, no plumbing.

The mission has a small Outreach Center which has started a kindergarten, has a clinic and runs a youth club. Their vision is to help the families learn to help themselves and show them the love of the Lord Jesus.

BLESSINGS

What has Jesus done in me through this mission trip? I believe that my commitment to Him, my love for Him and my faith in Him is stronger. I feel closer to the family of God both here at Hope church and in Romania.

I continue to be humbled and thankful for the blessings the Lord has given me. I can confidently say that if the Lord asks you to do something, like jumping off a cliff, He will supply all that you need to achieve it. Trust Him. The blessings will flow. ☩



It's Love – Not Legalism

Debbie Boyer

Sometimes when I visit with old friends, they comment on lifestyle changes I've made over the years. Behind the questions lie fears: "Is she becoming a legalist? Will she judge me?"

A legalist is a Christian who has added a list of man-made rules to the gospel, and uses adherence to those regulations as a way to measure spiritual maturity, thereby resembling a Christian Pharisee. Certainly, legalism tempts me, and needs to be purged from my heart and interactions. But legalism is not the only motivation impelling a Christian to make specific choices about what to wear, eat, read, watch, or do – sometimes it's all for love.

Some illustrations from human relations may clarify the distinction. For example, my husband likes me to wear blue. You'll find plenty of blue clothes in my closet, not because I feel a compulsion to obey a "blue-only rule," but because it is my pleasure to gratify his inclinations. I'm not harshly judging



the rest of you for not choosing blue. On the contrary, I am thinking only about him, not anyone else.

Similarly, my friend always makes both bean and spinach dips when her grown children come to visit her. She doesn't fill the refrigerator with dip because she must, but because she desires to do what she knows they will enjoy. She does not feel constrained by the narrow menu, but delights to serve their favorites.

Lastly, suppose there were books, DVDs, or music that spoke ill of my husband, denigrated what he loved, exalted his enemies, or made actions that he hates look sophisticated and clever. It wouldn't be a sacrifice for me to refrain from those entertainments, because my love and respect for my husband would make them repugnant to me.

That's the way it ought to be between the Lord and me. Rather than rigidly following a set of changeable and culturally biased rules, I could instead

seek to know and do what He likes, and to avoid what offends Him. Then my loving relationship with Him would guide my lifestyle decisions. Then my driving force would be not legalism, but LOVE. ✚



FOR KIDS



GUESS WHO I AM



Jericho was a fortified city, well supplied by springs, being just 5 miles away from the Jordan River. We had heard of the accomplishments of the Israelites taking over other cities with the help of their God. Even though we were a strong city, our hearts melted and our courage failed at the knowledge that we were next. Now I was also an innkeeper, after a fashion, and during this time two men came to stay at my house. I found out they were spies from Israel, sent by Joshua to spy out the land. I knew the power of their God was real, so I decided to help them. I hid them on my roof underneath some stalks of flax that had been drying there. Soon after I heard a knock at my door. Some men had come to deliver a message from the king. Somehow they had found out that the spies were in my house, and the king wanted them brought out. I did some quick thinking, and decided that saving their lives was more important than telling the truth. Their only chance was if I could lead the soldiers away from the house. I said to them, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, the men left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." I went back to the spies and let them down by a rope through the window. I had told them to escape into the hills and hide for three days. They had told me to hang a scarlet cord from the window so that when they took the city they would know to spare me and my family. God miraculously gave Jericho into the hands of the Israelites, and saved my family and me before the city was burned. ✚



MOVED: Rob and Susan Rotz spent their last day with our church on Sunday, August 19. Members of our church helped them load the moving truck that weekend. On Sunday we had a time of congregational prayer for them after the worship service. They are now living in Maryland, and Rob is working in suburban Washington, D.C. Their new address is: 7208 Blanchard Dr., Derwood, Maryland, 20855. You can reach them by phone at: 301-977-7411 or e-mail: rrotz@comcast.net. ☩



MISSIONS: Five of our church members served this summer at Solid Rock Bible Camp in Alaska. Liz Delcamp spent the whole summer there. Peter Manwiller was at the camp in June, David Manwiller and Josh Rotz in July, and Dan Griffith in August.

At the end of July, Leah Ransom returned to her mission work in Romania. She took with her three volunteers, Tariho Lula, Alice Berry, and Peter Manwiller. Our short-term volunteers worked at a youth camp and at an inner city center that ministers to Gypsies. Details of their experience may be seen in Alice's article in this issue of the Faith Builder.

In July, our church enjoyed a visit with Brad and Kirsten Pingel. The Pingels were visiting from Asia. They have a son, Rees, and a newborn daughter, Claire. William and Debbie Boyer hosted a prayer meeting for the Pingels.

In August our church had a visit from Sherwood Pope. He reported that he is now married to the daughter of a pastor in Mexico. Sherwood divides his time between working as a doctor in the U.S. and serving as a missionary in Mexico. ☩

MARRIED: Larry Moore and Angie Dabney were married in a private ceremony on Wednesday, August 1, 2007. The wedding took place in Detroit. They plan a public wedding celebration later this year on December 29. Larry and Angie are living in the Moore home, 11250 Whittaker Road, Whittaker, 48190.

Shawn Pikka and Mary Redoutey exchanged marriage vows during a service on Saturday, August 25. The wedding took place in Ann Arbor. Pastor Paul led the service, while Shaun Walker led the songs of praise. The Pikkas' new home is the house owned by and recently vacated by the Rotz family, 5823 S. Mohawk, Ypsilanti, 48197. ☩

NEW BABY: Kyle and Gayle Taylor are happy to welcome their new baby daughter, Kylie Marie Taylor. Baby Kylie was born Saturday, July 28 at home in Wixom, MI. At birth she weighed 8 lb., 2 oz. and measured 21 in. ☩

COLLEGE: Samuel Hoppe has begun classes at Cedarville College in Ohio. He is living with his uncle's family in nearby Dayton, Ohio.

Our other graduate, Tariho Lula, is now studying at Heritage Bible College & Seminary, located in Livonia. ☩

CAMPING TRIP: The annual church camping trip took place on August 10-12 at Somerset Beach Christian Camp. Rick Routson organized the event this year. Some church members arrived early and spent part of the week at the camp site. Others came for just the weekend. In all, about eighty people from the church participated. On Sunday the 12th, Karl Thuemmel led songs of worship at the camp, and Wayde Hoppe gave a message from the Bible. Pictures on next page. ☩

VACATION BIBLE

SCHOOL: During the third week in August, our church conducted a Vacation Bible School for five evenings. For a venue we used Novi Christian School in Novi, Michigan. There were four classes for preschool and grade

school aged children, as well as a nursery. The volunteer workers included: Lina Soper, Amber Soper, Charlene Soper, Annie Kalis, Rachel Evans, Marilyn Bach, Alice Berry, Carrie Hoppe, Tariho Lula, Ben Lula, Seth Lula, Ben Hoppe, Ruth Hoppe, Elizabeth Hoppe, Jacob Hoppe, Peter Manwiller, and Sarah Boyer. ☩

FAMILY

LIFE SEMINAR: During the Vacation Bible School, teaching sessions for adults were held at the same location. John and Beryl Howkins spoke on Monday about marriage. On Tuesday and Wednesday, David Smith spoke about our relationship with God as the basis of family life. On Thursday, Dr. Gary Elfner spoke about Christian home education. And on Friday we heard Biblical truths from Tim and Kathy Bennett. ☩

SEPT. / OCT.

BIRTHDAYS: Dan Bach, Ruth Bell, Debbie Boyer, Marion Ferguson, Pam Hicks, Joseph Hoppe, Bill Jennings, Abigail Kalis, Asako Lula, Tariho Lula, Daniel Manwiller, Nora Manwiller, Joe McDonald, Girlie Pascua, Kevin Paterson, Elijah Routson, Josh Rushlow, Noah Smuk, Karl Thuemmel, Rachel Thuemmel, Amy Verkerk, and Rosie Zylstra ☩



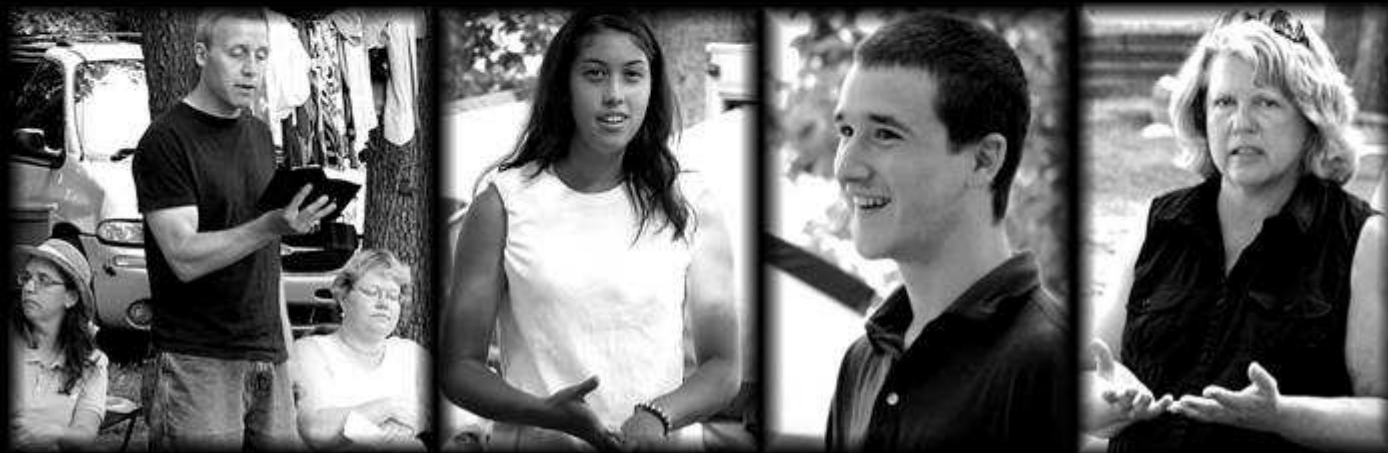
iFire UPDATE: During the spring and summer, the church youth held outreach meetings at Café Luwak in the Depot Town district of Ypsilanti. On Friday, August 31, these Friday meetings moved to the Hoppe's home. There is a greater emphasis on worship, prayer, and Bible study, along with the continuing outreach that has been the goal of iFire. On that first night at the Hoppe home there were about 25 young people in attendance, and two of the teens made a commitment to Christ that evening. ☩

Happy Campers 2007

Hunting and Gathering



Teaching & Testimonies



Sunday Worship



Snooze, You Lose

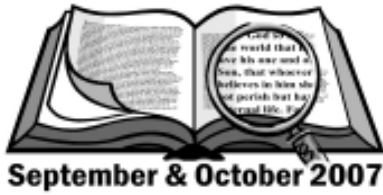


Vacation Bible School



Shawn & Mary Pikka!





BIBLE READING GUIDE

Heroes of the Old Testament

Saturday, September 1: Daniel 1

Who is Daniel? What is his name changed to? What are the Chaldean (Babylonian) names of his 3 friends? Why doesn't Daniel want to eat the king's choice food? When have you resisted going along with something that everyone "has" to do? God blesses those who obey Him. How did God bless Daniel?

Sunday, September 2: Daniel 2

King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream. Why does he want his Magicians and conjurers to tell him what the dream was before they give the interpretation? Why does God reveal the dream to Daniel? (see vv. 28, 30) Do you think God communicates in dreams today? Have you ever had a dream you thought was from God?

Monday, September 3: Daniel 3

Why won't Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego worship the statue of Nebuchadnezzar? What do they say to the king? Who else is in the furnace with them? In the midst of our trials, Jesus is the fourth man in the fire with us. How does the king respond, and how is God glorified?

Tuesday, September 4: Daniel 4

What was the king's dream? What did it mean? How long was he like a wild beast? God uses a pagan king of a pagan nation to reveal His glory to all people. God's main goal is to glorify His name, and if His own people are unwilling to do it, He'll use someone else.

Wednesday, September 5: Daniel 5

Who is the king of Babylon now? Why does he call for the aging prophet, Daniel? What does the writing on the wall mean? Why did God take the kingdom away from Belshazzar? God is in control of all nations and all rulers, even today.

Thursday, September 6: Daniel 6

Why do the king's commissioners hate Daniel? How do they trick the king into getting rid of Daniel? What does the king say to Daniel before he shuts him in the lion's den? What does the king do that night? How does God glorify His name through Daniel and king Darius?

Friday, September 7: Daniel 7

What kind of animals does Daniel see in this vision? They represent the kingdoms of Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome, though the last beast probably also signifies the kingdom

of the antichrist (see vv 23-27). Who is the Ancient of Days? Who is the "one like a Son of Man"? Note: Jesus refers to Himself as "the Son of Man".

Saturday, September 8: Daniel 8

What does Daniel see in this vision? Who tells him the interpretation of the vision? What do the ram and the goat represent? The details of this vision correspond directly to very specific historical events that happened many years later. Why does God show Daniel these things, and why does Daniel write it down for us?

Sunday, September 9: Daniel 9

How long is the Jewish exile supposed to last? How does Daniel find this out? (see Jer 25:11) What does Daniel do about this discovery? What is the main message of Daniel's prayer? How does God respond to Daniel? The word "week" refers to a period of seven years: this prophecy reveals the timing of Jesus' birth 2000 years ago.

Monday, September 10: Daniel 10

Why, and for how long, was Daniel mourning and fasting? Who does Daniel see in his vision? How does Daniel react to the presence of this angel? Have you ever had a physical reaction to God's presence? Who resisted the angel? Who helped him? Who or what is the "prince of the kingdom of Persia"?

Tuesday, September 11: Daniel 11

Who is talking in this chapter? This chapter corresponds very accurately to events that happened during the kingdom of Greece, during and after the time of Alexander the Great. Verses 36-45 likely refer to the antichrist, since they do not correspond to the history of Greece.

Wednesday, Sept. 12: Daniel 12

The angel Michael, who protects the people of Israel, will arise in the end times. There will be a resurrection of the dead (v. 2) God gives us some knowledge about the end times, but he deliberately seals up some information (v. 4) Why do you think God does this?

Thursday, September 13: Ruth 1

Who is Naomi, and why is she bitter? Who is Orpah, and why does she leave her mother-in-law? Who is Ruth, and why does she stay with Naomi? Ruth professes undying loyalty to Naomi and to God. Why does Naomi, with Ruth, return to Bethlehem?

Friday, September 14: Ruth 2

How does Ruth serve her mother-in-law? Who owns the field where Ruth is working? Is it an accident that the field belongs to a near-relative? Or that Boaz notices her? Can God arrange the details of your life today? Just keep serving God, and He will do great things!

Saturday, September 15: Ruth 3

A kinsman-redeemer is a man who provides for a relative who is in dire need. How does Ruth ask Boaz to be her kinsman-redeemer? How does Boaz respond to her request? This story has spiritual parallels with our lives. Who is willing to be our kinsman-redeemer?

Sunday, September 16: Ruth 4

Boaz offers a nearer relative the opportunity to be a kinsman-redeemer. Does that man accept? Why? Boaz unselfishly takes the responsibility himself. God gives unselfish Ruth an unselfish husband. How is Ruth related to Obed, to Jesse, and to King David?

Monday, September 17: Esther 1

Here is the beginning of the story of Esther. A powerful king named Xerxes throws a party. What problem does he have with his wife? What does he decide to do about it? Why? The king's decision is relayed to every part of his empire.

Tuesday, September 18: Esther 2

Why does Xerxes launch a beauty contest? Why is Esther taken to the palace? What does Esther's cousin, Mordecai, forbid her to tell about her background? What kind of plot is planned against King Xerxes? How do Mordecai and the new Queen Esther save the king's life?

Wednesday Sept. 19: Esther 3

A wicked man named Haman is elevated to a position of power. Why does Haman want to destroy all the Jews? Many wicked men, from Pharaoh to Hitler, have sought to eliminate the Jews. Why? Why does Satan hate the Jews? Why does God love them?

Thursday, September 20: Esther 4

How does Esther learn of Haman's plot? What does cousin Mordecai want Esther to do to help save her people? What danger does Esther fear? What does Esther ask all the Jews to do for her? (v. 16) Is fasting and prayer an important part of spiritual warfare today? Why?

Friday, September 21: Esther 5

Esther enters the King's presence. Is he pleased with her? What request does she make? Later, at the banquet, what request does she make? Why is Haman still angry? What does he plan to do, first thing, the next morning?

Saturday, September 22: Esther 6

Why do you think the king couldn't sleep that night? And why did Mordecai's long-forgotten service to the king get read that night? Can you see the hand of God at work? Haman planned to have Mordecai hanged that morning. What happened instead?

Sunday, September 23: Esther 7

The king and Haman come to Esther's banquet. Do they know Esther is a Jew? What is Esther's request? How does the king react? How does Haman react? What is the king's verdict concerning Haman? The Bible says that God curses those who curse the Jews.

Monday, September 24: Esther 8

Mordecai is given the honor and authority that Haman had. Can the king simply revoke the decree to kill the Jews? (v. 8) So what kind of edict is issued on behalf of the Jews? Clearly, God had put Esther in a unique position save the Jews. Why has God placed you where you are?

Tuesday, September 25: Esther 9 & 10

The Jews are victorious over their enemies. Why is the celebration of this event called "Purim"? (vv. 24-26) How are the Jews to celebrate on Purim? (v. 22). What do the Jews celebrate on Passover? On Hanukkah? What do we celebrate on Easter? On Pentecost?

Wednesday, September 26: Exodus 1

200 years have passed since Joseph died. How did the Egyptians oppress the Israelites? What command did the Pharaoh give the midwives? How did the midwives respond? How did God bless the midwives? What command was given concerning baby boys?

Thursday, Sept. 27: Exodus 2

Why did Moses' parents put their baby boy in the Nile River? How did Moses become a prince in Egypt? Why did he flee from Egypt? At this point, is Moses acting in God's strength or his own power? Where does he go to live?

Friday, September 28: Exodus 3

Moses meets God at the burning bush. What command does God have for Moses? What name does God use for Himself? What do you think is the meaning or significance of this name?

Saturday, Sept. 29: Exodus 4

What signs does God give Moses to prove he is sent from God? What objections does

Moses raise? Who does God send with Moses? What might God think when we raise objections to his plans?

Sunday, Sept. 30: Exodus 5

What is Pharaoh's response to Moses' request? How are the slaves affected? What do the Israelite leaders think of Moses? When we obey God, does everything always go well, right from the start? Does it ultimately go right?

Monday, October 1: Exodus 6

What does God tell Moses? What should Moses say to the Israelites? The Israelites don't believe Moses or God. Do you ever believe lies about God when times are hard? Why do you think people turn away from God when they need Him most?

Tuesday, October 2: Exodus 7

What did God make Moses and Aaron to be in relation to Pharaoh (v 1)? What was the first sign Moses and Aaron performed? How did Pharaoh respond? Now we come to the first plague, blood in the Nile. How was this bad for the Egyptians? How might this plague reflect on the Egyptian god of the Nile?

Wednesday, Oct. 3: Exodus 8

How many plagues does God send in this chapter? What are they? Who are the magicians? What do they do? Where does their power come from? Are there magicians today who use the same power source?

Thursday, October 4: Exodus 9

What are the three plagues God sends against the Egyptians in this chapter? God tells Pharaoh why he sends the plagues. What is the reason? Pharaoh repents, but then he turns back to his sin. Why does he do that? Have you ever done the same?

Friday, October 5: Exodus 10

What are the two plagues in this chapter? Pharaoh goes through cycles of repentance and then turning back to the same sin. Verse three says the way he can break that cycle is by humbling himself. What is a humble heart? Why is it so hard to have a humble heart? Why would a humble heart lead to obedience?

Saturday, October 6: Exodus 11

Moses announces the final plague. What does he say will happen to the Egyptian sons? Egyptian cattle? What sound will be heard throughout Egypt? What sound will there be among the Israelites? And what should the Israelites ask of their Egyptian neighbors? Can you remember all ten of the plagues?

Sunday, October 7: Exodus 12

Why is this event called "Passover"? The Hebrew families were to escape God's

judgment by coming under the blood of a lamb. How do we, as Christians, come under the blood of a lamb? The people are to eat unleavened bread every year as a remembrance of their deliverance. What do we, as Christians, eat as a remembrance of our deliverance?

Monday, October 8: Exodus 13

Why does God say that every firstborn Hebrew boy belongs to Him? How are the parents to redeem their son? Even baby Jesus was redeemed in this manner (See Luke 2:22-23). Why did Moses take some bones with him when the Israelites left Egypt? How did God guide the people by day and by night? Why didn't God lead them on the shorter route through Philistine territory?

Tuesday, October 9: Exodus 14

Why did the Egyptians pursue the Israelites? How many chariots did the Egyptians have with them? What does God tell Moses to do? During the night, what comes between the Israelites and the armies of Egypt? How does God throw the Egyptian army into confusion? How does God destroy the army?

Wednesday, Oct. 10: Exodus 15

Moses leads the people in a song of praise. The women also sing and dance with tambourines. Why do the people grumble at Marah? How does God intervene? After God had just done a BIG water miracle at the Red Sea, why are the people doubting God about water just three days later?

Thursday, Oct. 11: Exodus 16

Why do the people grumble in this chapter? How does God provide meat and bread for the people? Why do the people call the bread "manna"? What rules does God give about collecting manna? How do some of the people disobey? How do some people disobey God's standards about working, resting, saving and giving today?

Friday, October 12: Exodus 17

The people grumble again, for the third chapter in a row. What do you suppose God thinks about our repeated grumbling today? What steps are you taking to turn from such sin? The Israelites are attacked. During the battle, who helps Moses keep his hands uplifted? Who is uplifting you in prayer?

Saturday, Oct. 13: Exodus 18

Who is Jethro? Who is Zipporah? Who are Gershom and Eliezer? What advice does Jethro have for Moses? How will Jethro's plan help Moses and the Israelites? How might Jethro's plan be useful in governing a country today? In leading a church today?

Sunday, October 14: Exodus 19

God makes a covenant with the Israelites at Mount Sinai. What is a covenant? What

individuals has God made covenants with in the past? Now God is making a covenant with an entire nation. When God descended upon the mountain, what did the people see and hear? Which two men are permitted on the mountain?

Monday, October 15: Exodus 20

Here are the Ten Commandments. What is an idol? What does "misusing the name of the Lord" mean? What is the importance of the Sabbath? What blessing comes to those who honor father and mother? What is "false testimony"? What does "covet" mean? Can you name all ten of the commandments?

Tuesday, October 16: Exodus 32

Why did the people construct a golden calf? What does Moses do with the stone tablets? What does Moses do with the calf? What weasely answer does Aaron give regarding the calf? In this story (chapter 32), how many of the Ten Commandments do the Israelites appear to break?

Wednesday, Oct. 17: Exodus 33

God tells Moses to lead the people to the Promised Land. But God says He will not go with them. Why? Moses says he does not want to go unless God's presence goes with them. Why? Notice that all the people watch as Moses goes in and out of the tent; he alone is able to hear from God. How is that different for Christians today?

Thursday, Oct. 18: Exodus 34

Why did Moses need to chisel two new stone tablets? Who wrote the words on the tablets? (See verse 1). God says the people must not make a treaty with the inhabitants of the land where they are going. Why? What implication does this have for Christians today? What else does God ask the people not to do? To do? What does Moses' face look like after he has been with God?

Friday, October 19: Numbers 11

The people complain, again. How does God show his displeasure? (See verses 1-2). The people are tired of manna. How does God give them meat? God also puts His Spirit on elders who will help Moses in bearing the heavy leadership burden. Is Moses jealous of these new leaders? What do elders do in the church today?

Saturday, October 20: Numbers 12

What do Aaron and Miriam initially criticize Moses for? What does it appear they are really complaining about? Does Moses argue with them? How does God settle the matter? Verse three says Moses was the most humble man alive. What is humility? How would you know if you are humble?

Sunday, October 21: Number 13

Twelve men, one from each tribe, explore the

Promised Land. What information are they supposed to gain? What do they find, and bring back from the Promised Land? What report do the men give to the people? Why are they afraid to enter the Promised Land? What does Caleb say? Who do you think the people will listen to? Why?

Monday, October 22: Numbers 14

More complaining. How is complaining really rebellion? God decides that all the rebellious adults will never enter the Promised Land. Which two men are faithful and will not die in the desert? What does God do to the ten men who gave a negative, faithless report? Why do some of the people suddenly decide to possess the Promised Land? What happens to them?

Tuesday, October 23: Numbers 15

Several kinds of offerings are described. Clearly God doesn't NEED our things, so what are offerings good for? Some sacrifices are for unintentional sins. What is an example of an unintentional sin? Those who blaspheme God are to be punished. What is blasphemy? What method should the people use to remember to obey God's commandments?

Wednesday, October 24: Numbers 16

Why do Korah and 250 other leaders criticize Moses? How is their complaint like that of Aaron and Miriam in chapter 12? What do Dathan and Abiram have against Moses? How does God resolve the matter? Why do you think God disciplines Korah, Dathan, and Abiram in such a dramatic way?

Thursday, October 25: Numbers 17

God resolves, once for all, who is supposed to serve as priests. What is a staff? What happens to eleven of the staffs that are laid before the Lord? What happens to Aaron's staff? In what way will Aaron's staff be a "sign to the rebellious"? (Verse 10). Later Aaron's staff was kept inside the ark of the covenant.

Friday, October 26: Numbers 18

What role does God give to Aaron and His sons? What work does God give to the men of Aaron's tribe, the Levites? Give an example

of something Aaron can do that the other Levites cannot do. The members of Aaron's family will never have an inheritance of land. How will they be supported instead?

Saturday, October 27: Numbers 19

What is a heifer? The ashes of a red heifer are put into water used for ceremonial cleansing. What kind of thing does God say would make a person "unclean"? How could such a person become "clean" again? An unclean person was not allowed in God's presence at the tabernacle. In Mark 7:14-23, what does Jesus say can make us spiritually clean or unclean today?

Sunday, October 28: Numbers 20

This time the people turn against Moses because they have no water. What does God tell Moses and Aaron to do? Do Moses and Aaron do exactly what God directed? The problem here is that Moses and Aaron take the matter partly into their own hands rather than trusting God completely (see verse 12). What penalty do Moses and Aaron receive?

Monday, October 29: Numbers 21

In this chapter, what does God send to punish the people when they grumble? What does God tell Moses to do? The stricken people are to simply look and live. See John 3:14-15; Jesus will be lifted up so we can look and live. The Israelites begin to have some military victories. Who is Sihon? Who is Og? Og was apparently a very big guy (see Deut. 3:11).

Tuesday, October 30: Numbers 22

Who is Balak? Who is Balaam? What does Balak want Balaam to do? Why? Who warns Balaam that an angel with a sword is waiting to strike him? On this occasion, God uses a donkey to make something clear to Balaam. God can use almost anything. Has God ever used an unusual messenger in your life?

Wed., October 31: Deuteronomy 34

What did God show Moses before he died? Why didn't God allow Moses to enter the Promised Land? (See Numbers 20:6-12). How old was Moses when he died? Where is his grave? Who became the new leader of the Israelites? ☩



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TO:



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