

# The Joy of Finding the True Meaning of the Bible

Article by Pastor Scott Boerckel



*Most of the folks reading this article would say that they believe the Bible to be the Word of God. But there is a problem. The problem is that we must be able to know what the Bible means.*

In fact, skeptics like to say something like this, “The Bible can be interpreted in so many ways that we cannot know what it means.” In fact, the Bible has been interpreted many ways. Often, the result is that the true message of the Bible has been clouded or even lost.

Is there a way out of this problem? Are there principles that can help us sort out how to interpret the Bible? Yes, and it is critical that we know these principles, if we are to follow the Bible as our guide for faith and practice. Many believers do not possess these principles. As a result, their understanding of God, the Bible, and even themselves is diminished.

*...continued on page 2*



## Remodel Update

*Construction is complete! See more pictures and information about our new space (page 6)*



## Explore ABFs

*Interested in joining an Adult Bible Fellowship Community? Check out all the options here! (page 8)*

## CALENDAR

September 4 AWANA BEGINS

September 6 M.O.M.S  
MINISTRY KICK-OFF

September 8 CHURCH PICNIC

September 12 WOMEN'S FALL  
BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN

September 12 DIVORCECARE  
BEGINS AT THE HUB

September 15 CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRY FALL SUNDAY  
SCHOOL CLASSES BEGIN



## Here are six principles to keep in mind as you read the Bible:

### *1. A text cannot mean what it could not have meant to the human author.*

Often, we want to read a meaning into the Bible. I knew a pastor once who was trying to discern whether he should move from his town to a town called “Memphis.” He opened the Bible and read, “Proclaim in Memphis,” which he understood as his call to move. This is flatly wrong. The reason is that a text cannot mean what it could not have meant to the human author. In this case, Jeremiah would be confused to think that the Lord’s command to him is being understood as direction for an American pastor to move.

Reading our meaning into the Bible has lots of problems. One is that we see the Bible as a Magic 8 ball to sort out God’s will. Then, if things turn out well, we are reinforced in our faulty interpretation of the Bible. If things turn out poorly, we needlessly lose heart in God. We should always ask ourselves, “Would the human author be able to recognize that this is the meaning of his text?”

### *2. A text means what its author intends it to mean.*

If we are to understand the meaning of a text, we must know what the author intends. It does no good to be in a small group and ask, “What does this mean to you?” as though there are thousands of possible meanings of the scripture. No, no, no. While there are many possible applications of scripture, we must look for meaning

in the intention of the author. A text means what its author intended it to mean, nothing more and nothing less. Now, this can get complicated because of what is known as the “dual authorship” of scripture. That is, there is both a human and a divine author of scripture. So, especially in predictive sections of the Bible, there can be complications. However, the important general principle holds—a text means what its author intended it to mean.

### *3. Biblical truth comes from asking, “What is the Bible saying?” and NOT from “What do I want to know?”*

Far too many Christians come to the Bible asking the wrong first question. What we want to do is to have the Bible answer our curiosities, answer our questions. However, that is not how the Bible works. It is not an encyclopedia of answers to questions about life. Rather, it is the revelation of God. Specifically, the Bible tells us that God is at work to show that He alone can build His kingdom. So, while a question like, “Do pets go to heaven?” is one that we might have intense curiosity over, answering questions like that is not something that the Bible is designed to do. Occasionally, the Bible does in fact address our questions, but the important thing to keep in mind is that we should study the Bible for what the Bible wants to tell us, not for what we want to know.



“The important thing to keep in mind is that we should study the Bible for what the Bible wants to tell us, not for what we want to know.”

#### *4. The danger of having systematic theology dictate interpretation*

All of us have a systematic theology. That just means that we have developed a way of seeing God, the Bible, and life. We want this to be based on the Bible so that it helps us understand other parts of the Bible as well. The parts of the Bible help us understand the whole. The whole helps us understand the parts. This “circle” is a great joy of Bible study.

However, there is a danger of being a slave to our system. We can love it more than we love what the Bible is saying. Then, we try to cram our meaning into the text of the Bible because we cannot face what the Bible is plainly saying. All of us do this, and we need to ask our God for help to avoid it and for forgiveness where we do it.

#### *5. The critical importance of context*

You might be asking, “How can we figure out what the author’s intention is?” One clear way is to look at the context of the portion of scripture. For example, we just learned in Colossians that the commands at the back end of the letter are based on the life giving power of the Lord Jesus. If we neglect that context, the commands at the end become appeals to human based morality rather than a call to run to our Lord Jesus Christ for power.

#### *6. The problem of hobby horse interpretation*

Finally, we must note that some issues interest us more than others do. We must be careful at that point not to read all the Bible into our hobby horse interest. For example, we should not find end times prophecy in every text of scripture. We should not find the doctrine of election in every text of scripture. When we bend the Bible to satisfy our hunger for particular themes, we are misinterpreting the Bible.

There is one theme that runs through the pages of scripture—God is building a kingdom. Jesus Christ is the King. God calls people of all nations to that kingdom. However, even here, we must be careful not to make the Bible say what it does not say. To force a verse of satire in Ecclesiastes to be about God’s kingdom is unfair. Only by looking at the wider context can we see how some particular verse fits into the overall message of the Bible.

We have looked at six ways to unlock the meaning of the Bible. I want to encourage you as you read the Bible this year to make observations of what you read, then look for the author’s intention. Then, you will have the ability to apply the scripture to your life. This is the joy and journey of a lifetime. I encourage you in both that joy and that journey.

May the Word of Christ dwell in us richly,  
Pastor Scott





# SMALL GROUPS

Get Connected at The Oak!



## NEW TO SMALL GROUPS?

We are so excited here at The Oak to be starting up our Fall Small Groups! Take a look at the nine great options (right) for studies and know we have dozens more for small groups to choose from!

### What is a Small Group?

In Small Groups, the “cell” portion of our Pathway to Maturity, we are the body of Christ in a small group sized setting. The struggles of life cannot be overcome alone. The mission to make disciples cannot be accomplished alone. The small group is a wonderful ministry to the believer. Knowing, being known, and being on mission for God happens in Small Groups!

Numerous new Small Groups are kicking off and there is plenty of room for you to join in! Feel free to ask me questions about recruitment, training, creation and management of all things Small Groups!

Sign up for a Small Group on a Connection Card or e-mail [justin@ewo.org](mailto:justin@ewo.org) to register.



## HERE ARE FOUR THINGS I WANT SMALL GROUPS TO KNOW:

**1. I am so thankful for the time you will take to meet with your groups, build relationships, and invest into the lives of one another this fall.**

*John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

I know how much time and hard work it will take to go to groups after long and tiring days, but I am thankful as this ministry would not exist without you!

**2. I am so thankful for you being willing to be there for your groups when they just need someone to talk with this fall.**

*1 Peter 4:10 “Each of us has received a gift, and we need to use it to serve one another”*

The worst feeling in the world is when we are struggling through a challenge in our lives and don’t have anyone to talk to. Your effort and willingness to be on time and prepared to attend your group will have a tremendous impact on each other’s lives and will show one another what it means to live a Christ like life!

**3. I am so thankful for the time you will spend in prayer with your groups this fall.**

*Ephesians 1:16 “I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.”*

Your prayer time with your group is calling on God to come and surround one another with His great love and mercy. For as James 5:16 says, “The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

**4. I am so thankful that you are equipping one another with the Word of God this fall.**

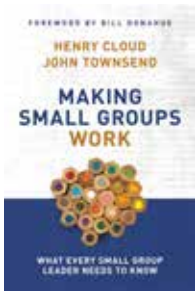
*2 Timothy 2:2 “What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

This is my goal for Small Groups, and I want to thank everyone for grounding and rooting themselves in the holy Word of God!

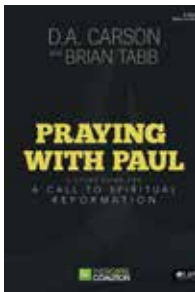
**Join us in Small Groups today, Pastor Justin**

# SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

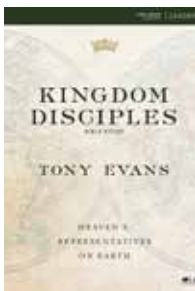
*These resources (and many more!) are available for you to use in your small group.*



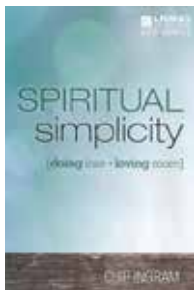
**MAKING YOUR SMALL GROUP WORK** with psychologists Henry Cloud and John Townsend provides small-group leaders with valuable guidance and information on how they can help groups grow spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. They show how God's plan for growth is made up of three key elements: grace plus truth plus time.



**PRAYING WITH PAUL** with theologian Dr. Don Carson shows the priorities of prayer, a God-centered framework for prayer, and practices for a more meaningful and dynamic prayer life. God doesn't demand hectic church programs and frenetic schedules; he only wants his people to know him more intimately.



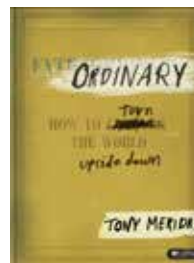
**KINGDOM DISCIPLES** with Pastor Tony Evans calls believers and churches back to our primary, divinely ordained responsibility to be disciples and to make disciples. Only when we take this assignment seriously will the world see heaven at work on earth.



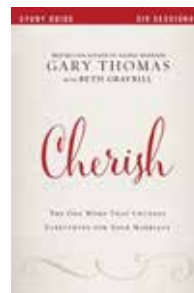
**SPIRITUAL SIMPLICITY** with Pastor Chip Ingram shows that the answer to our culture's craving for simplicity and peace lies not simply in doing less but in loving more. Fatigue, shallow relationships, and fractured families are just a few of the troubling side-effects of a frenetic culture that seems to be "always running but never arriving." Learn to make "love" your #1 priority, slow down to a "meaningful speed," concentrate on what really matters—and simplify your life.



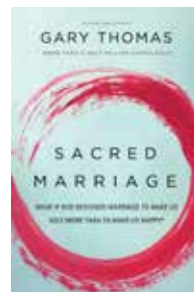
**SATISFIED** with Pastor Jeff Manion explores the way in which the messages to the New Testament churches were received by the original readers and how these passages can alter the way we view wealth, accumulation, and ultimate contentment today.



**ORDINARY** with Pastor Tony Merida encourages participants to move into a life of mission and justice—speaking up for the voiceless, caring for the single mom, restoring the broken, bearing burdens, welcoming the functionally fatherless, and speaking the good news to people on a regular basis.



**CHERISH** with author Gary Thomas draws on personal stories and teachings from the Bible to show how cherishing can have a powerful effect on marriage. Learning to truly cherish each other turns marriage from an obligation into a delight. It lifts marriage above a commitment to a precious priority.



**SACRED MARRIAGE** with writer and speaker Gary Thomas invites you to see how God can use marriage as a discipline and a motivation to reflect the character of Jesus. Your marriage is much more than a union between you and your spouse. It is a spiritual discipline ideally suited to help you know God more fully and intimately.



**SACRED PARENTING** with writer and speaker Gary Thomas illustrates how God can transform lessons in raising children into opportunities to grow in the image of Christ. Dig deeper into learning how God can transform dirty diapers, toddler tantrums, and a teenager's silence into occasions for becoming more like Christ.

# REMODEL UPDATE: *Construction is finally complete!*

We want to thank our church family for your generous giving and your patience throughout this process. We hope you will be able to enjoy the new space, but most of all, we pray that you will use this space to “welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.” Romans 15:7



## FOYER

Our new foyer adds more light, space for seating, and better traffic flow. The Welcome Center area provides space for guests to step out of traffic and find a friendly welcome. By early October you will notice new furniture and feature lighting fixtures in the foyer.



## RESOURCE ROOM

Our new Resource Room offers plenty of storage and a great workspace for our fantastic Resource Center team.





## LIBRARY

The library space adds room for coffee and conversation. More comfy library seating is coming soon! Did you know that we serve flavored Gobena Coffee each Sunday morning beginning at 8:30am? All proceeds of Gobena Coffee benefit orphan ministry around the world.

Find out more about what is available in the library at our Library Open House on October 6!



## CLASSROOM

This new classroom space off of the main foyer and will be the home for our Crossroads ABF (Room 126 shown below).



## BATHROOMS

In addition to updated men's and women's restrooms, we've added a family restroom, including a baby changing station.







# HAVE YOU *EXPERIENCED* AN ABF COMMUNITY?

Adult Bible Fellowships (we call them ABFs) meet every Sunday morning at The Oak. Each ABF provides a great setting for digging into God's Word and for getting to know other believers. You're invited to visit at any time! Here is a short summary of all the current ABFs:



**Enjoying Friendship** *Builders*



**Sharing Life** *Fellowship 13*



**Studying the Bible** *Search the Scriptures*

## **ACTS 2:42**

**Studying Revelation**

**Meets in Room 171 at 9:00am.**

**Contact Jon Scott: [jonmscott@gmail.com](mailto:jonmscott@gmail.com)**

*Open to all adults. Broad age range!* Some things never change, like the basic needs of people desiring to live a Christian life in a culture antagonistic toward Christian living. After 2000 years of church history, those basic needs are still Bible study, relationships of interdependence, and prayer. You'll find in ACTS 2:42 a group of people on the exciting adventure of creating that kind of ABF.

## **BUILDERS**

**Studying "Learning to Pray the Scriptures"**

**Meets in Room 171 at 10:30am.**

**Contact Jeff Fritzen: [jfritzen@bopi.com](mailto:jfritzen@bopi.com)**

*Open to all adults, generally those who attend have grown children.* We think that Scripture should affect the way we live, speak, and act. Every week, we



go to God's word for His perfect instruction for our lives. Also included every week are delicious refreshments and terrific times of prayer.

## CROSSROADS

**Studying Isaiah**

**Meets in Room 126 at 10:30am.**

**Contact Wes Hill: wesjudy629@gmail.com**

*Geared toward those in their retirement years. We're focused on what the Bible has to say about facing the challenges that come during the retirement years. You'll find a warm welcome, new friends, and good Bible teaching.*

## FELLOWSHIP OF THE RINGS

**Studying "The Spiritual Life"**

**Meets in Room 172 at 9:00am.**

**Contact Jim Simmons: jdsrs@gmail.com**

*Open to all adults, generally those who attend have school aged children. Do you believe—really believe—that God's love can change your life—really transform who you are? We are committed to making our lives all that God intends them to be. We pursue the transforming love of God together by studying the Bible, praying for one another, fun activities, and caring for each other through the highs and lows of life.*

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

**Studying Psalms**

**Meets in Room 170 at 9:00am.**

**Contact Lyle Risius: lylerisius@outlook.com**

*All adults welcome. Not your typical ABF. Search the Scriptures is an in-depth Bible study requiring daily preparation throughout the week. Class time focuses on discussing the observations and the learning that have taken place through that week's daily study.*

## FELLOWSHIP 13

**Studying James**

**Meets in Room 139 at 9:00am.**

**Contact Adam Gary: adijeada@gmail.com**

**or Frank Henard: fdhenard@gmail.com**

*Geared toward newly married couples or couples with younger children. All the marriage "how to" books in the world will not make you the spouse that God wants you to be. Deepening your relationship with God and becoming more like Christ is a journey of discipleship and a strong foundation for a joyful marriage. Our friendships and study of the Bible will influence not only your marriage but every area of your life.*

## IGNITE

**Meets in Room 172 at noon.**

**Contact Pastor Scott Boerckel: scott@ewo.org**

*College students and adult singles. Lunch provided.*

*This lively and relevant ABF is designed to present the life-changing truths of God's word and support one another in prayer and genuine care. You will find an accepting, friendly, busy, loving group of people.*

# ARE YOU *WONDERING* WHAT AN ABF IS LIKE?

**WE ASKED CLARK KAEB TO SHARE HIS EXPERIENCE. THIS IS HIS STORY:**

*I have given this "shortish" testimony much thought. How exactly do I squish all of the bullet points into one "don't-lose-your-attention" blurb? I could perhaps talk about the spiritual truths that we have been taught or the application of the word to our lives, but truthfully everything could be wrapped up in how we have been loved, accepted, and made a part of the Fellowship 13 family. In times of celebration and births, we have been celebrated for and with. In times of fear when our son was sick, we have been prayed for. When we experienced the grief of losing our twin boys, we were cried with and carried on their shoulders. Through it all, our friendships were strengthened and forged, as our burdens and joys were shared. I'm not sure if we would want to choose any other group over our F13 to go through life's highs and lows with.*



*The Kaeb Family: Clark, Jessica, Jett, Lux, Bodee*



*Fellowship 13*



# COSTA RICA: BEING CALLED—BEING BLESSED

by Chuck and Deb Van Hoorn

ON JUNE 22-29, EAST WHITE OAK SENT A TEAM OF SIX TO WORK WITH MARK AND MEG KUZDAS IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA.

We have never led a trip that was so unstructured, but we were convinced that God was working behind the scenes to ordain our week and our work with the ministry. And that is what He did! All activities of the week evolved as we worked with Mark and Meg to determine what our team was called to do in Costa Rica.



## The schools:

Since Debbie is a teacher, she asked about the possibility of getting into some schools. That request led to two large events. Nothing like this had ever been done before and we pray that relationships were strengthened and doors opened to Mark and Meg and their team.

## The hair cuts:

When Mark and Meg saw that Tammy Mitchell had training as a hair stylist, they asked if we could offer free haircuts to the community. Tammy agreed to train us, we all watched a lot of YouTube videos, and two days of hair cutting in Costa Rica was the result.

## The feeding center:

We were blessed to spend time in the feeding center, where kids 17 and younger can have a hearty lunch from 11-1, returning to refill their plates until they are full.

## The encouragement dinners:

Through the generosity of family, friends, and The Oak, we were able to have three dinner events where we encouraged the cooks, the leadership team, and the board

members with gifts and prayers. One evening we took ten young people, ages 12-17, from the Leadership Team for shoes and socks. These young people were overwhelmed and tears flowed—theirs and ours!

## Support for the ministry:

Through the generosity of our supporters, we were able to ask and provide for a “wish list” for the ministry including a laptop, soccer nets, and a new projector. Mark noted that no one had ever asked them for a “wish list,” and that our church was unique in our thoughtful and consistent support, and our desire to know how we could bless their ministry.

## Prayer cover:

Your prayers were evident throughout our trip, especially with Tammy feeling sick the day before hair cutting was to begin, but feeling strong and leading us for two days full of six hours of hair cutting! There was an earthquake on the Panama/Costa Rica border and, although our bunk beds swayed while the building moved, all except Debbie slept through it and no injuries were sustained. All else went smoothly and God blessed us with many powerful experiences and conversations.

With humble, thankful, and changed hearts, your Costa Rica team: *Tammy Mitchell, Blake, Helene, and Pierce Vrooman, Chuck and Deb Van Hoorn*



## THOUGHTS FROM HELENE

“From our initial meetings as a team I knew our goal was to serve in the feeding center, prayer walks, haircuts, and just help out where we could. Each of the team members took on individual tasks in preparation for our trip. We all worked together and everything was going smoothly. Then we had our Skype meeting with Mark Kuzdas a few weeks before our trip and he shared information about the day-to-day routine, the environment where the prayer walks would be, and that





there was a high probability of no water for showers, among other things. The fear started building up in me. What in the world am I doing? I began praying, asking God to show me if this was truly what he wanted me to do. Of course it was! God had a plan and he wanted me to trust him fully. God was there along the entire way and it was definitely seen throughout the trip.

Costa Rica is a completely different environment than the U.S. The poverty, drug, and crime level is so great there, but seeing the joy of Christ coming out of the children and staff at the feeding center was life changing. This trip has grown my faith and has given me a continued desire to serve."



#### THOUGHTS FROM BLAKE

"During this trip, I experienced for the first time what it truly means to be part of the body of Christ. Each of us has talents and abilities to bring Christ to others. During this trip, I met people living in very difficult circumstances that were Christ-filled and in many ways richer than me. I met young adults who were leaders in their church. Meeting Mark and Meg redefined my view of what a missionary does and what success is. They are not only well-versed in scripture and have a strong faith, they are also visionaries on how to successfully grow disciples in Christ.

This experience has increased my desire to make a difference for Christ's kingdom."

#### THOUGHTS FROM TAMMY

"It was with great joy that I was called and able to go on this trip to Costa Rica. Many of you know my son was killed in a car accident. To my dismay, this past year has been extremely difficult. It was on one of those hard days of grief that my heart's prayer was to go away from my present surroundings, leave behind my self-absorbed grief, and do something for someone else. Shortly after this, Pastor Scott announced that there would be some short term mission trips coming up, and I couldn't wait to see the possibilities. This excitement was a blessed reprieve from the past apathy I had been experiencing, and that alone was a sure sign to me that God was behind this... As I pause to reflect upon all that transpired to make this trip possible, I'm so very humbled to see all that God did just to answer my heart's plea and restore my hope and joy in my Savior, to bring me some healing and fill my heart once again with a passion to serve my Savior. He has put within my heart a zeal for living again and an acceptance that my son has gone on before us but we still have a life to live, for God has put an end to Trevor's story but He is not finished with ours. This renewal was not something I could do for myself or that anyone could talk me into. It was a gracious gift from above and all I had to do was ask for it. Only God can change the heart through no amount of good works or wisdom, but only an admission of helplessness. His grace is sufficient for me, for his power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9)



*Do you have  
an abortion  
wounded heart?*

*Deeper Still* is a biblically based healing retreat for post abortive women and men. Deeper Still exists to bring lasting healing, freedom, hope, and restoration for women who have an abortion(s) in their past and for men who have lost a child(ren) to abortion, whether they were involved in the abortion decision or not. The process of making an abortion decision and experiencing the procedure can be traumatic and can evoke emotions very similar to PTSD. Many women and men who have lost children to abortion experience regret, grief, sadness, anxiety, anger, drug and alcohol abuse, emotional "numbness", relational conflict, eating disorders and depression. Post abortion stress can affect many areas of your life. Deeper Still wants to help and we invite you to come and trust God for His healing touch.

## *Confidential* **WEEKEND RETREAT**

EAST BAY CAMP, HUDSON, IL  
**October 4-6, 2019**

**There is no cost to attend.**

## **REGISTRATION**

GoDeeperStill.org  
Phone: 309-212-1442  
Email: laurie@hopeforafuture.com



# Watching God Work

## IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

by Kris Seifert

**Many of you have been praying for boys and girls and the ministry to them at The Oak this summer. How have we seen God working? Come and see some of what God is doing!**

In September, the toddler class was very large! God brought us some fabulous souls who were willing to give of themselves and share Jesus with these sweet little people. We are so thankful! Early in the year, sitting on a chair and listening, spending focused moments in prayer, and guiding crayons and glue sticks across paper were all challenges for them. A peek in their classes this summer shows that they are growing in so many ways! They sit and listen attentively to Bible readings. They whisper prayers. They are learning to share. And they SING! Normally, the toddlers just listen to the grown-ups sing...but this class belts out the tunes all on their own. And all the while they are hearing how much their great God loves them. Please pray the toddlers grow in their love for God.

The preschool classes are large (15-20 most Sundays) and busy. God has designed their little bodies to learn best by moving and exploring. The teachers do a great job of involving all the preschoolers' senses to teach concepts like God is everywhere, what it means to love others, and the forgiveness of Jesus. Even in moments when their behavior needs some correction, teachers are pointing them to the good news that Jesus saves us from sin! Recently a preschooler responded to her father's question about what she learned in Sunday school with "Jesus turned water into wine—it was a miracle!" Would you pray that Jesus becomes more and more real to our preschoolers, that they know His love for them and give His love away to others?

Our 1st —6th graders are discovering how worthy Jesus is of following and what exactly that looks like in a believer's life. They are being encouraged to share their faith by giving away fortune

cookie snacks with messages, books, and Bibles to unbelieving friends and family members. They have engaged in prayer stations that challenge them to pray out the Lord's Prayer in specific ways. They are serving others by sending encouraging cards to people in nursing homes and the military and by making winter hats for babies at the Pregnancy Resource Center. They are seeing how worthy God is of our worship, and then spend time worshipping Him with words, songs and even play dough! Each week the children are encouraged to journal what God has taught them during class. One young lady wrote a poem to God confessing her fears and asking for help. Another planned to show "God-love" to someone who is hard for her to like by praying for this person and inviting her over to play at her house. And many are making plans to meet regularly with God in a specific place and at a specific time. Please pray that our boys and girls see Jesus in their everyday lives, that they trust His ways are good and right, and that they share His goodness with others.

This summer, the boys and girls in grades 1-6 have been challenged to read through the book of Matthew and get to know God better by journaling some responses to their readings. Around 50 kids have taken the Bible reading plan and journals. Pray that as they meet with God in His word, they find Him a faithful Savior and open their hearts to Him.

There really is nothing like seeing God at work and it's been a privilege to see Him at work amongst the children this summer. Thank you for your prayers! Please continue to pray for our children regularly.

If you would like information about serving in Children's Ministry contact Kris Seifert ([kris@ewo.org](mailto:kris@ewo.org)).

*"I will open my mouth and tell a story. I will speak about things that were hidden. They happened a long time ago. We have heard about them and we know them. Our people who lived before us told us about them. We won't hide them from our children. We will tell them to those who live after us. We will tell them what the LORD has done that is worthy of praise. We will talk about His power and the wonderful things He has done." Psalm 78:2-4*







# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WE INVITE YOU TO CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN:

## Bible Studies

Reading and discussing scripture together helps us grow in our knowledge of God and gain spiritual understanding. Sessions are offered in the fall, spring, and summer with both morning and evening options. Choose from 8-week studies of a specific book or topic, or join a Precept-Upon-Precept study for in-depth, inductive Bible study. Check out our fall studies

## Gather

**New this year!** Craving connection and an opportunity for deeper conversations? Join us for Gather, a Saturday brunch for women offered four times throughout the year. Designed to help us know one another better, Gather is also a great opportunity to invite friends or neighbors for fellowship and encouragement.

## High Quest Groups

**New groups are forming!** High Quest offers a series of studies designed to help you to know Christ deeply, to reflect Christ daily, and to share Christ naturally. Develop personal spiritual practices, explore scripture, and discover truth as you share the journey with a group of three to five women. Groups can form at any time, set their own schedule, and are open to all ages and stages of life.

## M.O.M.S.

**Fall Kick-Off September 6!** Moms Offering Moms Support provides fellowship and encouragement for moms. The group meets twice a month on Fridays at East White Oak Bible Church (you do not have to attend The Oak to attend MOMs) or at various parks in the summer. Childcare is available for a nominal fee.

## Thursday Morning Bible Studies

9:30-11:30am  
No childcare

### Precept Upon Precept: Joshua

Led by Lynny Wegman

### Stonecroft: Following Jesus with Luke

Led by Tonya Southwood

## Thursday Evening Bible Studies

6:30-8:30pm  
No childcare

### Precept Upon Precept: Joshua

Led by Lynny Wegman

### Stonecroft: Following Jesus with Luke

Led by Cari Wallgren

EIGHT WEEK  
STUDIES BEGIN  
IN SEPTEMBER

**\*\*Register online\*\***

[ewo.org/connect/adults/women](http://ewo.org/connect/adults/women)



# UPDATE



## LIVING STONE TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

by Tom Powell

We are excited at Living Stone about our new Transitional Leadership Team which will help us take next steps toward maturity as a church. Twenty-one core members have volunteered to form five sub-teams focusing their efforts to establish some key foundational processes and documentation. Just as a vine needs a trellis to mature, we need this effort to facilitate our purpose of glorifying God by making disciples who make disciples. The entire team will meet together monthly over about a six month period. Each sub-team is assigned one of the following areas: Social Media/Marketing, Sunday Gathering, Assimilation, Annual Calendar/Outreach, and Constitution/Leadership Development. One other area, Gospel Communities, will continually have monthly meetings for learning and planning, as the primary organizing structure of the church.

The meetings have been a time of joy and encouragement to see how God uses the gifts of each core member. With this kind of interaction there is always a risk of unhealthy conflict, especially when not all have the same church background. That is why prior to each meeting we read out loud our vision, mission, and values and then our 15 guidelines to remind us of the higher purpose. To close, here are a few of those guidelines we find especially helpful.

- What we are doing is critical to the mission, but it is not the mission.
- A church meeting is not a business meeting. We have a different bottom line.
- No relationship is on the line when we meet. We give each other the benefit of the doubt.
- Oftentimes we differ or disagree as a matter of temperament and perspective and not because one of us is sinning and the other one isn't.
- This thing we are doing is about Jesus, not us.
- We want to have a joy in our purpose, rather than a pride in our process.



## Elder/Deacon Notes Dave Osenga, Elder Chairman

1. One of the four affections leading to maturity in Christ is Growing in Christ. This means a continuing life of repentance, faith, and submission. Acknowledging and turning away from our sin, trusting in the person of Jesus Christ to save us from sin, and trusting Christ in all areas of our lives.

2. How are you doing with the reading of the whole Bible in 2019? We are past the half-way point already. If you haven't started this plan yet, you can start now. It is God's letter to you!

3. We are so thankful for the completion of the second phase of the renovation. There are still some details to be finished, but the construction is done and looks great. The workers were treated to a great "Thank You" video. Good job to all who had a part in this.

4. Please pray for the elders as we consider ways to enhance our ministry to our families and community as we pursue our mission, consistent with Christ's command, of making disciples of every person available to us, by orienting them to a deeper understanding of, and a more complete obedience to the triune God, as He is revealed in His Word, the Bible.





## CAMP GOOD NEWS

by Eren Moore

The Lord provided and we were able to send nine boys and girls from Tree House Bible Club to Camp Good News two different weeks this summer. Here are responses from some of the campers.

*From Rouri:*

“Thank you so much for letting me come to Camp Good News. I had a lot of fun meeting new friends and sleeping in the cabin. I showed everyone at home my button for being chosen by the frog! My brothers are jealous of me getting to do the zipline. I am very proud of myself for going and sleeping away from home for the first time ever. And for being brave enough to meet new people and experiencing camp. I hope I can return next year.”

*From Alilah:*

“My favorite part about camp was the zipline and learning about God. I loved to be with my cabin mates, they were very nice and funny. I liked to go to the creek because I got really muddy—I got mud in my ear! I loved free time because I got to spend more time with my friends and my counselors, and I learned how to be salt and light. I loved camp!”

*From Ariela:*

“My favorite part of camp was making new friends and learning more about God’s word and spending more time with my siblings. Also, the camp store and the zipline. Oh, and I loved the escape room with cabin mates and camp games against each other and it made me feel like I was home. The counselors were the best and the cabin mates were so nice.”

*From Caedemon:*

“Favorite memories are when I went to the zip line. It was really high and went very fast. BB guns were my first real live guns to shoot, and I got a bull’s eye with archery. Another favorite was breakfast, lunch, and dinner. I also liked the devotions, that we got to worship God. I learned that once salt is done, it gets trampled all over. So how do we get the taste back? That’s the main question. God wants us to be salt and light. We do that by being kind and showing other people God, giving them a little taste of God.”

*From Griffin:*

“Camp was really fun, and I hope I can do it next year. There was a zipline, a nature center and tomahawk throwing, but then there was chapel, and the theme was salt and light. My junior counselor showed me how to be salt and light, an example of him showing salt and light was he showed kindness to everybody and he wanted us to have as much fun as possible. One day I hope I can be a counselor like him.”

## BETTY’S COMMISSIONING

by Kerry Van Gundy

Many of you know my mom, Betty Holmquist, who has lived with Larry and me for almost six years. Even at age 89, she still has a heart for people and a great desire to share the love of Jesus with others. In a whirlwind of God-directed circumstances, God unexpectedly opened the door for my mom to continue doing that in a new setting. She became a resident at Luther Oaks Assisted Living on July 3. Seeing this to have eternal purposes—beyond her future care—LSC commissioned Mom on Sunday, July 14, as a missionary to Luther Oaks. It’s our joy to see her live on mission every day, and to come alongside her and build on the new friendships she’s making.

In case you’d like to send her a note or drop by, her address is: Betty Holmquist, Luther Oaks, 601 Lutz Rd., Apt. #130, Bloomington, IL 61704.





SPECIAL  
GUESTS  
*LIVING  
WATER*

SOUTHERN GOSPEL QUINTET



**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

**MAKE RESERVATIONS AT [EWO.ORG](http://ewo.org)**



**NEW THIS YEAR!**

*Edible Cookie Dough*  
from The Cookie Dough Café  
served FREE at 2:00pm



**Join us at Comlara Park** (Glasener Beach) for an All-Church worship service (10:30am) followed by baptisms (11:45am), lunch (noon), and activities.

**Lunch will be catered by Jason's Deli**  
Please consider making a donation toward the cost of the meal (suggested \$5 per lunch).

**Afternoon Activities:** Beach (No Swimming), Nine Square in the Air, Inflatables, Hayrack Rides, Canoes, Rowboats, Paddleboats, & Motorboats

**Have you  
registered  
yet?**

Sunday Morning *Sunday School*  
Wednesday Evening *AWANA*

**KIDS' FALL REGISTRATION**



**Register now at [ewo.org](http://ewo.org)!**

*Help us make sure we are prepared  
and staffed to serve your child.*

**MEET 'n EAT**

**EAT DINNER. MAKE FRIENDS.**

**Would you like to get to know other  
people who attend The Oak?**

Meet 'n Eat is designed to bring people together over a meal.  
Meet together one time and enjoy a meal and fellowship.  
Register online at [ewo.org](http://ewo.org) or grab a Meet 'n Eat card in the church office. Sign up by September 15 for an October group.

**REGISTER ONLINE  
[ewo.org](http://ewo.org)**