

Planning Ahead!

Business Meeting: next Sunday, January 17 at 4:00 p. m.
7th Annual Ladies' Day: just 3 weeks away! Saturday, January 30
25th Annual "Last-Saturday-in-February" meeting: just 7 weeks away! Saturday, February 27.

January Birthdays

5 John Aguiar 14 Juanita Small

January Anniversaries

8 Bob & Debbie Pescador

Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Each weekly bulletin for the next twelve months will include suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016.! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 11** - Job 29-31 Monday
- **Day 12** - Job 32-34 Tuesday
- **Day 13** - Job 35-37 Wednesday
- **Day 14** - Job 38-39 Thursday
- **Day 15** - Job 40-42 Friday
- **Day 16** - Genesis 12-15 Saturday
- **Day 17** - Genesis 16-18 Sunday

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ
81-377 Ave 46
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-1859

(Address Service Requested)

Indio Informer

Vol. 27 No. 2

January 10, 2016

Priorities

What Do You Carry With You?

By Mike McKnight

One day last year I was waiting outside my son's kindergarten class to pick him up and had brought my Bible to read. It was a beautiful day and I didn't mind at all being outside studying. While focused on a text, a classroom of young children walked past me led by their teacher. As she kept the kids in line, coaching them to keep quiet so as to not disturb any of the classrooms they past by, I tried not to be a distraction. The children quietly walked along, some of them whispering and I heard a little girl say, "... I think he's reading a Bible?" Realizing they were speaking about me, I looked up and another child asked, "Hey mister, are you reading a Bible?" Before I could respond, he excited continued telling me that he had one too. I asked if he ever reads it and he replied, "Yes, I read it with my parents, not all the time, and I like going to church too." I told him that was good that he reads the Bible and to keep doing it because it will always help him. So down the hallway they went, one by one as the teacher led them into the school library.

A few minutes past when I heard a woman's voice exclaim, "thank you so much for reading your Bible here! I wish more parents would do that!" I looked up at her kind of shocked by her excitement over the matter. I said "thank you" and wished her a nice day as she hurriedly continued down the hall. I went back to my Bible as I waited for the bell to ring. It seemed a few more minutes went by...how long I could not say for sure...and another adult voice caught my attention as a different teacher walked towards me, "Is that a Bible?" Her expression was a mixture of surprise and happiness as she came closer. I explained who I was and that I was making the most of the time as I waited for my son. As we conversed, she thanked me for being such a wonderful example to the teachers and students. It was the first time that she could remember someone bringing a Bible onto school grounds to read and invited me to do it more often.

As she walked away, I couldn't help but consider what had happened that day at Bishop Elementary. I had gone to school to pick up my son, and while waiting for him, I had received a lesson myself. Three different times in a matter of fifteen minutes I had experienced comments by others about my Bible. Three different times in a matter of fifteen minutes, I had been a good example; we never know all the ways that we can be an influence on others. How often do people look at us and observe things about us that we would never considered ourselves. All I was doing was trying to keep up on a study that I had started a few hours earlier and I ended up having a Godly effect on children and teachers.

One lesson that I take from this experience is that we always need to consider what we're doing everywhere we find ourselves, whether it be in the home, work or out at play. People are always watching and we do not always consider what they're seeing. Paul writes this in Philippians 2:15-16 *"...so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain."*

In the previous verse, Paul is instructing us to do all things without grumbling or complaining. The reason we are to be focused on our conduct is because He wants us to be lights of Him in this world. And that we are to hold fast the word of life so that our labor is not in vain. Others need to see Christ in us; although carrying a Bible wherever we go may not be exactly what Paul had in mind when he wrote these words. However, our conduct, love for others, the choices we make and how we carry ourselves (including what we carry) can influence people around us for good.

I'll pose another lesson by asking this question: How often do we take our Bible with us, in addition to church or Bible study? Some might snicker at this idea, but let's be honest...is carrying our Bible with us as we go through our day such a bad idea? We take our wallets, cell phones and purses with us, so why not our Bibles? Some may respond that they don't have time to read it, so why carry it? Well, how do we know that for sure if we do not have it with us? I challenge all of us to consider how often we look at our cell phones during the day. Those times that we're waiting in line to order food

or relaxing for a few minutes at Starbucks, or whenever we have down time ... are not all those times ones we can use to refocus our attention towards the Lord. Consider what the Holy Spirit says in Ephesians 5:15-16, *"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."*

Paul says that we are to be "careful how we walk." Let me ask you, have you ever tripped over a crack in the sidewalk? Why did that happen? Was it because you were not paying attention to what was ahead of you? It's the same thing with our walk of faith. We must be careful, observing the times in which we live. And not just observing, but making the most of each day that we're given. We do all have obligations and responsibilities; however, we also know that there is no justification for not working to be prepared. So let's make the most of our down times, leaving the phone in our pocket and open up our Bible and read. We will be making the most of that moment and who knows how much we might inspire the people around you, young and old alike.

Priorities

(from angelfire.com)

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell-phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if when we forgot it – we turned back to go get it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?
- What if we gave it to Kids as gifts?
- What if we never traveled without it?
- What if we always referred our friends and acquaintances to it?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make us go...."Hmm -- where is my Bible?" Oh, and one more thing: Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected...because Jesus already paid the bill. Makes us stop and think "where are my priorities?"