

### Please Note...

Business meeting next Sunday, June 12 at 4:30 p.m.; note **change in start time, 4:30 p.m.**

### Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 151** - 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chronicles 1; Psalm 72 Monday
- **Day 152** - Psalm 119:89-176 Tuesday
- **Day 153** - Song of Solomon 1-8 Wednesday
- **Day 154** - Proverbs 1-3 Thursday
- **Day 155** - Proverbs 4-6 Friday
- **Day 156** - Proverbs 7-9 Saturday
- **Day 157** - Proverbs 10-12 Sunday

### June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador 20 Mike Bruni  
12 Celina Perales 23 Agripina Carrillo

### June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 11 Marcos & Celina Perales

#### 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*

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# Indio Informer

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### *Hymn Stories...*

#### *"Our God—He is Alive,"*

A.W. Dicus

Many Christians—whether young or old—know quite well the beautiful and stirring hymn, *"Our God—He is Alive,"* by A.W. Dicus. Most of us know the beautiful and stirring refrain with which the song begins: "There is, beyond the azure blue, a God, concealed from human sight. He tinted skies with heav'nly hue, and framed the worlds with His great might."

But while the hymn itself is well known to most of us, sadly, its famous author is not. Aaron Wesley Dicus was born on May 30, 1888 in Festus, Missouri. When he was just a small child, his family moved to Swayzee, Indiana, where he was reared and later graduated from high school. In that same small, north central Indiana town, he met and married his first wife, Bertha Jane, in 1908—the same year he was baptized. It was that year, on the occasion of his baptism, that he made a vow: "If the Lord will allow me to get an education," he said, "I will use it in service to Him." The Lord would indeed allow him to obtain an education. And he would spend the rest of his life remaining true to that vow.

In fact, it was shortly after his baptism that he began to prepare himself to preach and to obtain the education he wanted so badly. He started his teaching career in a one-room rural schoolhouse, but left that position to become an inventor. A.W. Dicus is the man who, shortly prior to the Great Depression, invented the automobile turn signal!

He began preaching full time for the church in Bloomington, Indiana, and around 1925 was offered a student instructor

scholarship at the University of Indiana, which helped pay for some of his school expenses. He continued to preach whenever possible, in order to help pay for things the scholarship did not cover. Eventually, even though he had to drop out of college on more than one occasion to earn money to continue his schooling, he graduated with B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. In 1929, he was offered the job of chairman of the department of physics at Tennessee Tech in Cookeville, Tennessee—a position he held for a number of years. In the mid-1940s, Dr. Dicus became heavily involved in training graduates for nuclear studies in connection with the Oak Ridge National Laboratories. One of his former students, atomic scientist Ray Kinslow, was hired to work at Oak Ridge, and later observed that A.W. Dicus “probably had more of his students at Oak Ridge than any other physics professor. I was one of those. After doing atomic research at Columbia University in New York, I came to Oak Ridge and hired probably more than half of his former students there, including one of his sons.”

Even though he could have stayed on for many more years at Tennessee Tech, he chose to leave his prestigious position at the University and move to Temple Terrace, Florida, to become academic dean of Florida College, where he worked until his retirement in 1954. [His first wife, Bertha Jane, had died, and in 1953 he married a sweet Christian lady by the name of Flora, who was instrumental in encouraging him in his song writing.] Due in large part to his reputation and untiring efforts, Florida College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

During his retirement, Dr. Dicus remained active in the Lord’s work, preaching full time for congregations in Winter Haven and Miami, Florida. He also wrote three books: *Sermon Outlines*, *A Commentary on Hebrews and Romans*, and *Church Leadership*. In addition, he wrote more than thirty-five songs, among which was **“Our God—He is Alive.”** Eventually, his health began to fail and he was afflicted with cataracts and glaucoma, which left him almost completely blind. Even then, however, he continued to compose songs, including the beautiful, **“Lord, I Believe.”** Dr. Dicus died on September 2, 1978 in Tampa, Florida. Although he long ago quit these earthly walks, it truly may be said of A.W. Dicus that he, **“being dead, yet speaketh”** (Hebrews 11:4). As a result of his dogged determination to remain true to his vow to use his hard-

earned education (and considerable speaking and song-writing talents) for the Lord, even today he reminds us, each and every time we sing the song he composed, of the fact that ***Our God—He is Alive!***

### **Amazing Grace**

John Newton

This is probably the most popular hymn in the English language—a television documentary was even made about it. Perhaps it is because its words so well describe the author: John Newton was a slave trader before coming to Christ. It was sung at the funeral of American president Ronald Reagan.

### **Blessed Assurance**

Fanny Crosby

“During the recent war in the Transvaal,” said a gentleman at my meeting in Exeter Hall, London, in 1900, “when the soldiers going to the front were passing another body of soldiers whom they recognized, their greetings used to be, ‘Four-nine-four, boys; four-nine-four;’ and the salute would invariably be answered with ‘Six further on, boys; six further on.’ The significance of this was that, in ‘Sacred Songs and Solos,’ a number of copies of the small edition of which had been sent to the front, number 494 was **‘God be with you until we meet again;’** and six further on than 494, or number 500, was **‘Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine.’**” Sankey, Ira David. *My Life and the Story of the Gospel Hymns*. Harper & Brothers, 1906.

### **What the Bible says about Singing...**

*“...speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord”.* (Ephesians 5:19)

*“Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”* (Colossians 3:16)