

CONNECT *e-free*

Evangelical Free Church Newsletter

CONNECTING | CARING | COMMUNITY

Read the Bible

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

I am so thankful for the Bible, God's Holy Word! Through it God draws me to Himself and changes my life. In fact, as I look back on my journey with Jesus, the Bible stands out as an absolutely indispensable, hugely transformative aspect of my spiritual life.

Through the Bible, God brought me to faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus. On the night I was born again, the pastor who helped me read John 1:12 to me: "But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." He asked me if I believed in Jesus and, when I said, "Yes," he said, "You are a Christian."

Fast forward now 42 years to the present. How is God at work in my life through His Word today? Let me tell you.

As I have mentioned in the past, I use *The*

One Year Bible for my daily Bible reading program. As I am reading through the Bible, this week I have been in 2 Chronicles. Twice this week God has used specific verses to encourage my heart. That is unusual in my experience. Every now and then a verse may "jump out at me," but that is usually not a weekly experience. And to have two in one week ... that is out of the ordinary! But I am very grateful to our heavenly Father for that. He knows what is going on in my life and what I need. And He is kind enough to speak to me in my need. He is good.

The Lord is helping me in another way through His Word besides pointing out passages that help me in the moment. What I have been noticing, and thinking about lately, is how reading the Bible shapes the way I think.

Let's face the facts: we are engaged in a spiritual war. To a large extent, the battle is for our minds. Thoughts can lead to beliefs, and beliefs do lead to behavior. This is quite clear in the way God put together many of the letters in the New Testament, such as Ephesians and Colossians. The first halves of these books reveal to us truths to believe; the latter halves of the books give specific instructions about how we are to live. Beliefs lead to behavior.

Satan is working hard to fill our minds with God-less thoughts. He is very effective in tempting people to believe things that are not true. And he has many slick ways to get his evil thoughts into our minds. The world around us, the culture in which we live is under his influence. And he uses all

possible avenues—the internet, social media, TV, movies, news outlets, books, classrooms, advertisement ... anything.

We live in a world of ideas. We are being constantly influenced by what we see and hear. If we are passively, absent-mindedly absorbing the thoughts and ideas that swirl around us, we will end up having the worldview of our culture. We will actually have a God-less mindset.

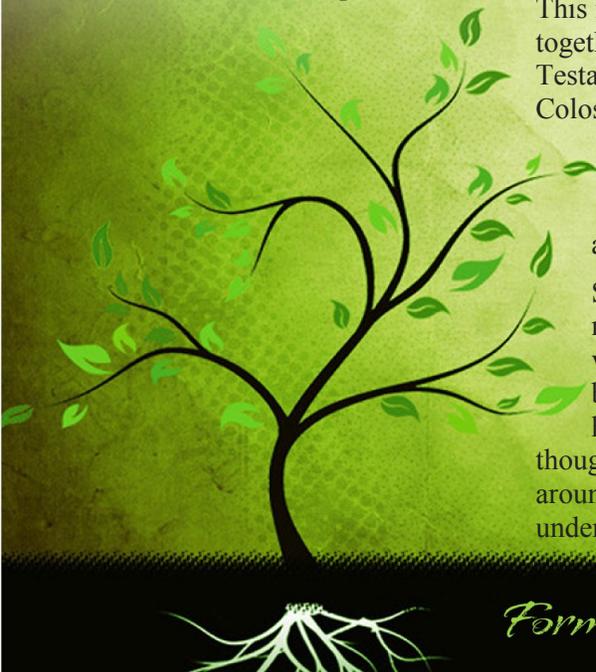
This is where God's Word is so absolutely vital. We can combat Satan's falsehoods with God's truth ... *if* we are immersing ourselves in the Bible, God's true Word to us.

So this is what I have been noticing, and appreciating lately: God's Word guards my mind, strengthens me in the battle, and cultivates in me a God-filled mindset. Regularly reading the Bible is a slow-drip way of infusing a biblical worldview into my mind and of resisting the God-less worldview Satan wants me to have.

Several months ago we canceled our subscription to a newspaper we used to receive daily. I enjoyed reading the paper while I ate my breakfast. However, the subscription price has escalated dramatically over the past few years, and cost increases were coming more and more frequently. If I got a letter in the mail from the newspaper, I knew what it was before I opened it: subscription rates were going up.

Now, when I sit down with my bowl of cereal and cup of freshly brewed loose-leaf tea, I read *The One Year Bible*. I am enjoying it! As you likely know from experience, *continued on Page 2*

Forming followers of Jesus who impact their world



Read the Bible continued

As you likely know from experience, reading the Bible is not always enjoyable or fun or easy. Sometimes it's something you just have to make yourself do ... like taking your prescription medication. It's a discipline. However, there are times when God gives you a special word of encouragement. And, what I've been noticing lately is that God is using this regular reading to protect my mind and to build and reinforce a God-centered way of thinking.

Thank God for the Bible!

Journey Update

BY SENIOR PASTOR TOM LOYOLA

We continue to move forward together in the Journey Vision!

In the month of July, the church family decided to change the name of our church from the Evangelical Free Church of Clinton, Iowa to Journey Church of Clinton, Iowa. We had two business meetings in which this decision was made. The first business meeting was on July 8 and it was there that the members voted to approve our name change. The vote was conducted by secret ballot and required a 2/3 majority for approval. The motion to change our name passed.

A second business meeting was held on July 15. Our By Laws required this second meeting. The motion being voted on in that meeting was to replace in our Articles of Incorporation and By Laws all occurrences of our former name with our new name. This motion was presented and tabled on July 8 and then voted upon on July 15. As with the vote on July 8, the vote was conducted by secret ballot and required a 2/3 majority for approval. The motion to revise these church documents passed.

We have now begun the process of officially changing our name with the state of Iowa. This process is estimated to take 2 months. We are hopeful that the process will be completed by September 9, the launch date for Journey Vision. We will wait until September 9 to begin using our new name.

There are many, many things to take care of in the meantime, such as signage, stationery, website, email, notifications, business cards, church brochures, We are grateful that God has provided for the costs of these changes through the generous gift of a donor! Please pray for God to bless the efforts of all, especially the church staff, who are working on these details.

We have finished our Journey Vision sermon series. However, on August 12, we will have a Journey recap sermon from Jeremiah 32 entitled, "How Big Is Our God?"

As previously mentioned, September 9 is the launch date for our new vision. What will take place on that day? As God wills,

- We will begin using the new Worship Journey liturgy.
- We will begin a 4-part sermon series from 1 Peter entitled "Sojourners."
- We will have our new Journey Church signage in place.
- We will unveil details of our Outreach Journey.
- We will display some renderings related to our Facility Improvement Plan.
- We will enjoy a celebratory meal together after our worship service!

September 9 will be a great day! I hope you will be there! We are moving forward together!

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CALENDAR

Aug. 4	Men's Open Fire Cookout
	Student Six Flags Trip
Aug. 12	Student Move Up Party
Aug. 15	Parent Meeting
Aug. 26	Membership Class

Asante Sana

UPDATE FROM JERRY & JOYCE DUEY



Thank you very much in Kiswahili is one phrase we have been able to learn and use while in Kenya. Learning the native language while in missions is, in itself, a ministry. It is not an easy task for some, including us. Thankfully, most Kenyans speak English as it is the language of the government. But to use the phrases we could, brought a smile to our Kenyan friends. (Only occasionally, a laugh)

We joined Africa Inland Mission in 2009 and left for Kenya in July 2010 to serve at Rift Valley Academy as high school girls' dorm parents. We retired from fulltime service in July 2015 and have returned to RVA twice to help on a short-term basis coming back this past April.

Rift Valley Academy (RVA) is a boarding school established in 1908 to educate and care for the children of missionaries serving on the continent of Africa. Many parents of our students report that they could not do what they do (e.g. medical missions, evangelize, church plant, church construction, Bible translation, theology education, agriculture) if it were not for RVA.

It takes a team of individuals to send off a missionary called to the work God has prepared. Acts 13:2,3. Many of you at E-Free and the church as a whole through the mission team assisted us prayerfully and financially and we are truly grateful. Because of your support, together we have cared for 75 different high school girls while their parents minister on the continent, taught student classes, provided physical therapy to students and staff, assisted Kenyan staff, and aided local orphanages. Through the ups and downs of our time there, praise God for He is good! We'd love to visit with anyone of you interested in RVA or overseas missions. Mungu, akipenda. (God willing)

Summer Camp Donation Response

BY JOYCE DUEY

In response to hearing that Brook of Hope was the recipient of the offering from Faith Lab Science Camp, I received this message:

“Much greetings to you dear friends. Wow! Glory to God for these inspiring, uplifting and wonderful good news about God's provision for BOH's construction!! May God bless you and the youths who gave!! Thank you very much!!”

Please pray in regards to the court delay in construction of the permanent housing project. He writes:

“If the judge will hear the case in Oct. we will request for the final ruling to be given out the soonest so that we can resume construction. At the moment we are praying, serving and waiting for God's victory for a peaceful and powerful take off of this orphanage! God bless you greatly, grant you great favor and sufficient grace, serving opportunities and good health!!

Shalom, Pastor James Mumo”



MEN of HONOR

Open Fire Cookout

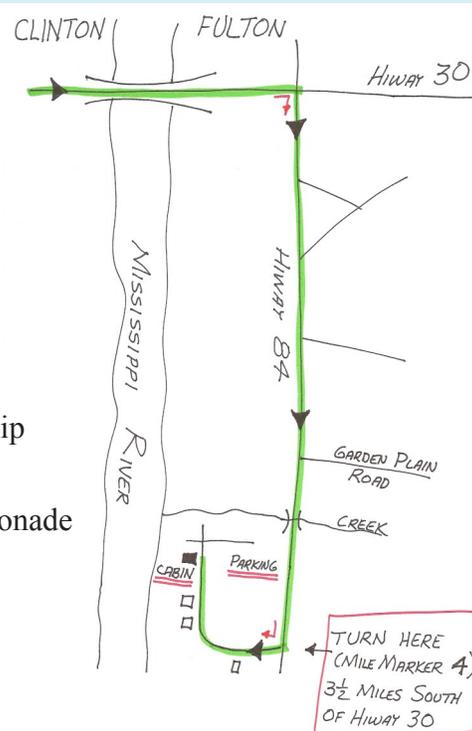
Saturday, August 4 • 4:00-8:00 pm, cooking starts around 5:00 pm
Where: 15071 Vans Road, Fulton, Illinois 61252

Men, bring your kids and/or grandkids and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship along the river. Stay as long as you can, leave when necessary.

Hot dogs, brats, buns, beans, chips, condiments, s'mores, marshmallows, and lemonade **provided**. Bring your own chair, hotdog "cooker" and favorite drink, if desired.

You're welcome to come, even if you didn't sign-up!

- Join the Adventure -



Tuesdays: 9:30-11:30 am, Sept. 4—Dec. 4, church fellowship hall

Sundays: 9:00-10:15 am, Sept. 16—Dec. 16, in room S of the education wing

Come join us for an inspiring journey through Scripture, and for a great opportunity to get to know women of our church and community! All women high school age and over are invited to be a part of this stimulating Life Group journey.

Free childcare provided.

Ladies, consider this your invitation! Please join us for a wonderful Life Group on Tuesday mornings. We enjoy good food, times of fun, prayer, Bible study, connecting with other women and more! Even if you have never joined us before, we would love to have you this fall. Invite your friends and family, even unbelieving friends. Women have been growing in Christ and even been coming to know Him as their personal Savior by coming to the Tuesday morning Life Group. We have women attending from many area churches.

Sunday morning is also a wonderful time to connect with women high school age and above in a Scripture-centered Life Group. If you don't already go to a Life Group or you are looking for a change, come and see what we do Sunday mornings as women desiring to grow in Christlikeness. If you have a grandma, mom or daughter who would enjoy studying the Word with us, we would love to have them join us as well! This could be a wonderful new experience that may take your relationship deeper. All our life groups are multi-generational. We value women of all ages and delight in learning from each other.

All the times and dates are above. We want you to be a part of something special and this is it! We hope you join us for one of these Life Groups! Invitation cards to give others are located at the Connection Point.

M&Ms

The monthly M&Ms lunch for the Mature & Motivated senior adults (50+) will be held on Thursday, August 16 at 11:30 am. If you are old enough, come join us this month for fellowship and great food!

Youth Move Up Party

On August 12 from 5:30-8:00pm, there will be a party at the Lowers' house welcoming our incoming Middle Schoolers and saying farewell to our College Bound Seniors. We will have burgers, hotdogs, and s'mores. Middle Schoolers are to bring a 2 liter of pop and High Schoolers are to bring a bag of chips. Come ready for a night of games and food! Any questions contact Nate Johnson.

Intro to American Sign Language

Karen Sager interprets for the deaf each Sunday during the worship service. She invites you to join her August 19 & 26 from 9:00-10:00am in the Parlor as she will introduce you to the hearing-impaired culture, the ASL alphabet, and some general sign language phrases so you can better communicate with our hearing-impaired friends.

CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Pete Hinrichsen
- 2 Scott Smith
- 4 Joe Haan
- 6 Brenner Vance
Elijah Eslick
Gary Fier
- 8 Bill Klahn
- 9 Patricia McClung
- 12 Isaac Decker
- 13 Kenzie Gordon
- 16 Makenzie Graves
Ronald Graves
- 18 Linda Gordon
- 19 Joshua Bolen
Marcia Duval
- 23 Brooklyn Gabriel
Erika Hansen
Jeff Eggers
- 25 Linda Puckett
- 24 Linda Cornelius
- 26 Kyle Norman
Mike Ketelsen
- 27 Monis Ramnath
- 28 Carolyn Livingston

- 30 Kate Foster
Benjamin Brown
- 31 Rose Johnson

Happy Anniversary!

- 2 Wayne & Jenny Gordon
Kevin & Rachel Hansen
Tom & Sue Ann Loyola
Earl & Jeannie McBride
- 4 Bob & Missy Bolen
Chris & Becky Pluister
- 5 Samuel & Corrine Sheets
- 6 Jaryd & Tiffany Prince
- 8 Daryl & Wendy Yoder
- 13 Brad & Cheri Hirl
- 18 Eric & Kristin Brown
- 19 Jerry & Joyce Duey
- 22 Dan & Kathy Liedtke
- 28 David & Carolyn Livingston
- 29 Russ & Deb Damhoff

What's the Best Next Step at E-Free Church?

Join us on August 26 after service for the Membership Lunch & Class in the Fellowship Hall to learn more about our church. Childcare will be provided. For more information stop by the Connection Point after a worship service or call the church office at 563-243-4164!

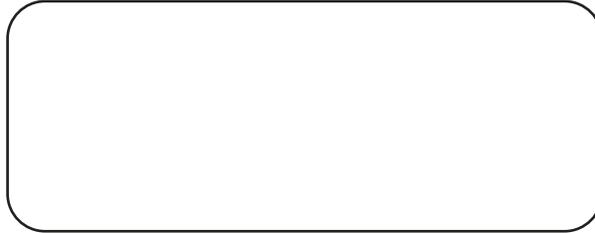




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