



WHAT DO WE DO WHEN WE DON'T WANT TO READ THE BIBLE?

By: Jairo Namnum

If you're reading this, I don't need to convince you that the Bible is an amazing book. It is the revelation of the God above, a lamp beneath our feet, a rock of certainty in uncertain times, and it contains the most beautiful news that we can ever hear: the love of Jesus Christ, Lord of all, poured on a cross for you and me. Given that it is the Word of God, exhaled by Him, it is a holy, beautiful, worthy, just, wise and good book. And so we approach the Bible in humility and faith, with the understanding that all its words are true and deserve our total obedience. Amen? Amen! But it doesn't always feel like that.

Even though we Christians are the people of The Book, we don't always feel like going to it. It is very easy for us to drift away and spend weeks, or even months, without spending significant time in the Scriptures. It has been my case at different times of my Christian walk, and I've heard it first hand from a hundred others. What follows are five suggestions that can help us in our search to desire the Bible more.

1. REPENT (BEFORE GOD) - All over the Bible, we see the tendency in man's heart to ignore God's voice and go after other voices more like ours. Look at the prophets (i.e. Jeremiah 7:27; Amos 8:11; Ezekiel 2:7). We are God's sheep and we hear His voice, and we have the Holy Spirit that leads us to the things of God. And yet we're also sinners, living in a fallen and broken world, and are easily tempted to forget our need and dependence on God. And so we need to go to Him in repentance and faith. This might be the most important step: we are always looking for guidance and advice. If we're not going to the Scriptures, we're going somewhere else. And so, even before you keep reading, I'd recommend you take a moment and go before the Lord right where you are. I stopped writing and repented as well.

2. ASK (HIM TO OPEN YOUR EYES) - When the psalmist said "Open my eyes so that I may contemplate wondrous things from your instruction" (Psalm 119:18), he knew what he was talking about. The Bible is amazing, but our eyes are not always right. Sometimes they're closed, sometimes they've lost their focus. Because He loves us, God's constant desire is that we go to Him in His Word. He knows we can't do it by ourselves, for we are but dust. So, ask! Ask the Lord to help you appreciate His Scripture, to desire His Truths, to crave for His Words. And you know what? If you ask according to His will, He hears you! (1 John 5:14)

3. START (SMALL) - One day you decide enough is enough: you're going to work out. So after years of not doing it, you start running until you pass out. The experience traumatizes you, and you spend a few weeks recovering. You also make no progress. You need to be constant and consistent. So once you decide you're going to start reading, start small. Something more than a verse here or there, but not a whole book. Someone once recommended to me years ago to begin the morning reading the day's proverb, and I've been doing it ever since. That's a good way to keep track and make progress.

4. TRY (IT IN AUDIO) - In my city, traffic can either be chaotic or unbelievable. Going basically anywhere means spending at least half an hour in your car. But the other day, rush hour in my car turned into the best of seminaries, as it allowed me the opportunity to listen to all of Paul's letters. There are many apps that allow you to do this, and there are also plenty of free versions on YouTube.

5. COMMIT (FOR REAL) - I'm diabetic: I don't use insulin only when I feel like it. I know I need it to survive. You know what? You and I need the Bible more than I need insulin. What's more, God and His Word are infinitely worthy of all our attention. It's true that not having the habit makes it harder. And we are always in constant need of the gospel of God's forgiveness. But life is in that book, so, let's commit! Maybe you want to bring someone else into this: a significant other or a friend or coworker. In any case, there's no silver bullet, but there is a glorious God waiting to meet us in His Book!

Jairo Namnún is executive director Coalición por el Evangelio, The Gospel Coalition's Spanish sister organization, and a member of Iglesia Bautista Internacional in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. He has an MA from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He's married to Patricia and together they have three children. You'll find the article at <https://lifewayvoices.com/discipleship-evangelism/what-do-we-do-when-we-dont-want-to-read-the-bible/>
<https://lifewayvoices.com/discipleship-evangelism/what-do-we-do-when-we-dont-want-to-read-the-bible/>.

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ANNIE ARMSTRONG EASTER OFFERING®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

According to statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau and the North American Mission Board (NAMB) Center for Missional Research, there are 363 million people, 350 languages, and 14+ religions in North America. Of those 363 million people, 273 million are estimated to be lost.

This year's theme is IT'S ALL ABOUT THE GOSPEL. Your prayers and financial support make it possible for the North American Mission Board (NAMB) to send hope to our continent by training, resourcing, and sending missionaries who share the good news of Christ. 100% of your Annie Armstrong Easter Offering gifts support more than 5,000 NAMB missionaries in church planting and compassion ministry. Here are some ways your gifts resource missionaries:

- \$5—Bus fare for travel in the local community
- \$25—Meal with an unreached person
- \$85—Subscriptions for training resources
- \$175—Laundromat fees for a family of four
- \$300—Training and conferences for a church planter's wife
- \$500—Neighborhood outreach event
- \$1,000—Emergency travel assistance for a missionary family
- \$1,200—Bibles, gospel tracts, and discipleship materials
- \$1,400—Monthly worship facility rent
- \$5,000—Worship equipment for a new church plant

“Therefore in the east give glory to the Lord; exalt the name of the Lord, the Lord of Israel, in the islands of the sea.”
Isaiah 24:15

A Word from the Canadys in SE Asia

Gong Xi Fa Cai! Halo! We hope you had a wonderful January and a Happy Chinese New Year! Chinese New Year was on January 25th this year, and the celebrations usually last about 15 days. Since there are so many Chinese origin Indonesians and Chinese immigrants in Indo, many people celebrate this holiday. This has meant fireworks for many days (at all hours of the night) and lots of Chinese decorations. We also visited Singapore for our visa renewal and were able to see a small dragon dance in the city.



Sarah and I have our official duties now and have spent the last month preparing for them with our teammates. Please pray that the L will be working in the hearts and minds of the people we interact with through our assigned tasks. Pray for boldness and wisdom for us to know when and how to share the hope of J.C. with the people we meet.



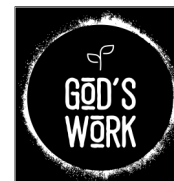
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
begins

Sunday, March 8, 2020.

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Saturday



The Guest Services team is offering its annual First Aid & CPR Training for those who serve on the team or in other church volunteer roles or staff positions. This class will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2020, from 9am—12:30pm in the Annex. Afterward, Guest Services will provide a free lunch to participants. The class size is limited to 16 people, so call Jim Brown at 210-417-6040 or John Long at 830-534-7427 to reserve your spot or ask any questions about the course.



God's Work Fund

The Titus 2 Bible Study class manages a fund that assists young people with educational expenses as they pursue ministry-related degrees. The fund also assists with short-term mission trips for individuals to defray the cost of travel. Donations to God's Work Fund, over and above your regular tithe, are greatly appreciated. Indicate "God's Work Fund" on your check or giving envelope, or select "God's Work Fund" when you give online at www.fbcf.org.

Greetings Everyone!

March is a busy month for some of you out there. We have several activities planned and of course SPRING BREAK! The Lenten season has begun, so we should prepare our hearts for the remembrance of Jesus Christ's death and Resurrection! This time of year we should take time to "thank the Lord" for all He has done for us! There are so many ways to show Him "thanks:" join a Sunday school class and learn more about Jesus Christ and the Bible or give of yourself and become a volunteer - Children's Church and Sunday school are always looking for volunteers on Sundays or Wednesdays.

At the time I am writing this article, we are expecting a visit from Char Hauser this week. Char has visited our church before and has a wonderful way of ministering to women. She has 40 years of Women's Ministry experience and she has a true servant's heart.

I have been asked by a few people when our next Tapestry of Tables is scheduled. We will be meeting to discuss maybe a "new" version of that event. If you have some new suggestions for a Women's Ministry event, please let me or Sally know and we may be able to help your vision come true.

On Saturday, March 28th, we will gather for our 6th Annual Plant and Flower Exchange. With spring right around the corner (March 19th to be exact), we will be sharing seeds, pots, plants, and anything you can think of that's garden-related. Clean out your garage or green house of those unused lawn and garden items. Remember... someone's trash is someone else's treasure. Buy some seed packets or an unusual plant! We will be setting up at 10:00 am in the back parking lot at church. Everyone is invited to bring something to share with others!

Upcoming Dates:

March 28th - 6th Annual Spring Plant & Flower Exchange - All are invited!

Remember to stop by and check out the Women's Ministry Calendar near the Coffee Corner!

If you have any questions, any Women's Ministry activity ideas or need more information, contact Sally Gaertner at 361.290.1068 or me, Donna Arispe, at 210.560.9642.

Wilson County Collection Event

Wilson County will hold a collection day for any household hazardous waste, used tires, used electronics, and pharmaceutical waste on Saturday, March 21, 2020, from 8am to Noon, at the Precinct 2 Yard at 1005 Railroad Street in Poth. This event is for residents of Wilson County only, and proof of address is required. Residential waste only; no businesses. There is no charge, but some items cannot be accepted. For more information, call 1-866-345-7272 ext. 3228. For more information, visit sara-tx.org.

What to Bring:

Acids, Antifreeze, Tires (with no rims), Batteries, Used automotive fluids (and filters), Household cleaning products (and those labeled "caution," "warning," or "poison"), Paint products (including varnish & solvents), Pool chemicals, Lawn & garden chemicals,

Herbicides & pesticides, Small appliances, TVs (no wooden console), Computer components & monitors, Pet Medication, Vitamins & herbal supplements, Prescription & non-prescription meds, Inhalers (leave all meds in original containers & black out personal information;

What NOT to Bring:

Tractor tires, Agricultural chemicals, Large appliances, Containers larger than 5 gallons, Explosives, Large propane cylinders, Radioactive materials, Industrial waste, Ammunition, Items with asbestos, Construction waste, Household/office furniture, Oxygen tanks, syringes, sharps, & lancets.



**“This time of year
we should take
time to thank the
Lord for all He
has done for us!”**

Save the Date for the WMU Spring Event



The Gambrell Association's Women's Missionary Union (WMU) is planning a Spring Event to be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020, at First Baptist Church in Stockdale. Lunch will be provided.

We had so much fun with the jump rope project at the last big event. This time we plan to decorate inexpensive flip flops, which the WMU will purchase, with strips of fabric or ribbon tied to the top of the shoes. We are inviting people to come help as we hope to adorn 100 pairs of flip flops. One of the members of our leadership team will be going on a mission trip this summer and will take the shoes to be given to children.

Additionally, the WMU of Texas Annual Meeting and Missions Celebration will be held March 27-28, 2020, at Oakwood Baptist Church in New Braunfels. The registration fee is \$30. It begins at 11:00 am on Friday and concludes around 12:30 pm on Saturday. The theme is "What Is In Your Hand," where women will pray to gain insight regarding the gifts God has placed in their hands and a clear vision for service through missions discipleship.

Please direct any questions to Judith Smith at judithsmith900@gmail.com.

A Sound Bite from the Sound Committee



As a member of the Audio/Visual Committee, Pastor Terry has asked me to communicate where we stand on the sound system upgrades. Shaun Murray suggested the new speakers that were installed and connected by him. These made a great improvement in sound quality. The pastor has a new microphone which has improved clarity. We are preparing for a transition from an analog system to a digital one, like moving from your wired house phone to a smart phone.

I will be taking a 10-week class at the Audio EnginEARing Institute in San Antonio to better prepare for the upcoming upgrades. Thank you for your patience as we work through each step to educate ourselves so that everyone's worship experiences may be enhanced each week.

~ Michael Guerrero



FBC Summer Camp Fundraiser
Golf Tournament
 Saturday, March 14, 2020
 River Bend Golf Course
 All proceeds will help defray the cost of summer camp for students. See Pastor Matt Keller for more information.

Easter @ First

Wednesday, April 8, 2020
 5:30 pm—7:30 pm

Dinner, Music, Bounce Houses, Egg Hunt

This community event is hosted by the FBC Kids Ministry.
 Donations of candy and plastic eggs are appreciated.
 There are collection bins in the foyer and in the Guest Services area. See Darlene McKeen for details.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Baptism 10:30am Deacons Mtg Noon *Tom Kuykendall	2 Worship at FV Nursing Home 3pm	3	4 WNS Pork Steaks	5	6	7
8 Dinner @ Kellers 11th-12th grade families  *Amos Garcia	9	10	11 WNS— Lasagna Ole'	12 FBC Vols @ Food Pantry 10am	13	14  Golf Tournament
15 *Shaun Murray	16	17 	18 NO WNS Business Meeting 6:30pm FISD Spring Break	19	20	21 CPR/First Aid Class Apologetics Conference @ HBU
22 *Greg Parker	23	24	25 WNS Hamburgers  Kids' Movie Night 5:30-7:30	26	27 WMU Annual Meeting	28 Ladies Plant Exchange 
29 Fabulous Fifth Sunday *Damon Shine	30	31				

Schedule of Events

- Sunday
- **8:00**—Worship Service (except Lord's Supper & 5th Sundays)
 - 9:15—Bible Study
 - 10:30—Worship Service

- Wednesday
- 10:00—Ladies Mid-Week Study
 - 4:30—FLC open for students
 - 5:30—Supper
Kids Movie Night
LAST Wed/mo
 - 6:30—Life Groups / Prayer Meeting / Kids on a Mission Youth Bible Study
 - 7:30—Choir Rehearsal

- Weekly Activities
- Creative Hands—Quilting Mondays at 10:00 am
 - Worship at Veterans' Home Wednesdays at 2:00 pm (except for 2nd Wed of each month)
 - Sr. Adult Game Day Thursdays from 1-4 pm
 - Line Exercise Classes Mon, Tue, & Thu from 9:30-10:30 am
 - Mother's Day Out Tue & Thu from 9am-2pm

* Deacon of the Week

March Birthdays

- 1 Bob Herndon
- 2 Chris Coats
- 2 Sean Coats
- 2 Jane Lee
- 3 Dr. Mike Clements
- 4 Braxton Richardson
- 4 Preston Pehl
- 4 Adlai Welfel
- 5 Tony Perez
- 5 James Whatley
- 6 Darlene McKeen
- 7 Elton Gilchrist

- 8 Keegan Ward
- 9 Luis Chavarria, Jr.
- 9 Adam Tracy
- 10 Matt Perez
- 10 Charlotte Rolland
- 10 Mae Belle Stringer
- 11 Robin Parker Ingram
- 12 Gail Fuller
- 13 Luke Clements
- 13 Rosa Beltran
- 14 Henry Coleman
- 15 Wade Harris

- 16 Bro. Aaron Coffey
- 16 Bethany Smith Vick
- 17 Lyndi Keller
- 17 Brooke Fewox
- 17 Jonathan Parker
- 18 Mark Davis
- 18 Paula McGee
- 19 Stephanie Simmang
- 19 Michelle Talley
- 20 Matt Bingham
- 22 Allison McKeen
- 23 Randy Gorzell
- 23 Kyle Houdmann
- 23 Chris Reed
- 23 Russell Rodriguez

- 24 Alyssa Flores
- 24 Kaitlyn Flores
- 24 Lou Johnson
- 25 Paige Wheeler
- 26 Jean Harris
- 26 Jovi Murray
- 26 Charles Rice
- 28 Mike Hopper
- 28 Mary Pierce
- 29 Ralph Coston
- 29 Rick Huber
- 29 Ivy Lanier
- 31 Jonathan Huber
- 31 Fay Rogers




First Baptist Church

1115 B Street
 Floresville, TX 78114
 Phone: 830-216-4946
 Fax: 830-393-3613
 E-mail: office@fbcf.org

Mike Clements, D.Min, Pastor
 830-391-2016
Terry Smith, Worship Pastor
 830-391-3362
Matt Keller, Student Pastor
 409-656-3089
 Darlene McKeen, Children's Director
 Penny Smith, Office Manager
 Christie Davis, Office Assistant
 Rosa Beltran, Church Custodian



Because He First Loved Us.

 WE'RE ON THE WEB!
 /FIRSTBAPTISTFLORESVILLE

BUILDING HISTORY

Original Loan Amount:
 \$ 525,000.00
 February Loan Payment:
 \$ 5,000.00
 Current Loan Balance:
 \$ 160,984.91

**"Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord."
 Exodus 35:5a (NKJV)**

— B L E S S E D —
ARE THOSE WHO MOURN
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED
 M A T T H E W 5 : 4

Sincere condolences are extended to the family of LaNell Coslin, aunt of Tricia Tipton, who passed away on February 1, 2020;

Deepest sympathy is offered to the family of Jan Aldrich, wife of Gerald Aldrich, who passed away on February 5, 2020;

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of Ashley Zaiontz Marroquin, step-daughter of Kristy Zaiontz, who passed away recently.

It's hard to believe it's been a year since my beloved husband, Ted Wesley, has passed. Looking back from beginning to end we could see many miracles happening large and small. Just surviving the 14-hour surgery was huge. He had 3 different strains of pneumonia the first 3 weeks of being hospitalized, being able to "talk" through his trach, eating pureed foods, and the moving of little parts of his body was the main reason we didn't have to go to Houston for rehab. Learning to use a mobility chair with the use of his mouth, assisted standing, some muscles starting to react to stimuli, etc., from beginning to end we could see and feel the prayers and God's awesome hand in Ted's progress in his final chapter of life! Because of the support and prayers of our church family, we could see and experience God's grace and mercy. The final act of mercy was seeing the ray of sunlight hit his face the last 2 mornings before he passed. This I know was a sign that he was being called home and it was time to let him go. Bro. Mike & Allison, thank you just doesn't seem to be enough! Bro. Terry, there are not enough words to explain how we felt about your presence with us those final moments. Though this year has been tough, I've experienced the most precious gift of what a church family really is and how blessed I am to be a part of the family of God! Thank you to Jan & Jim Browning, Jan & Carter Thomas, Ron & Peggy Tipton, Bob Herndon, Bro. Mike, Bro. Terry & Sandra and countless others for your visits, for giving everyone information about Ted's progress, you don't know how much that meant to us. The tons of cards, prayers, and thoughts from everyone, and the love we felt was PRICELESS! And to all the people who helped at the funeral, God bless you and thank you all from the bottom of my heart. What an Awesome God we serve!
 God Bless from your sister in Christ!
 ~ Sharron Wesley

Dear FBC Servants,
 Thank you for your help in the kitchen after the service for my wife, Jan. Thank you especially for your prayers and support.
 ~ Mr. Aldrich

Special thanks to Pastor Matt Keller, youth parents and the youth students that served at the Senior Adult Valentine Luncheon. It made us feel so very special. The food was delicious and the dessert was outstanding! Our servers could not have been more polite and attentive. To God Be the Glory!
 ~ Bob & Barbara Herndon


Floresville Food Pantry's
 Suggested Donation for MARCH
**Pasta (1# bags or smaller),
 Pasta Sauce, Tomato Sauce/Paste**

The Floresville Food Pantry is partnering with *Daily Bread* ministry of San Antonio to provide food to the needy of Floresville. The Pantry is now open on Thursdays only. Clients need to arrive at 9am to sign in and wait for food distribution. A devotional time will be at 10am. Clients are asked to bring their own bags. The Pantry is located on the corner of 4th and A Street and the phone number is 830-321-1151. Volunteers are always appreciated.

New Members

By Statement
Yolanda Pacheco
 921 Vista Verde
 Adkins, TX 78101
 210-417-6417

online GIVING
 easy. fast. effective.



Online giving is an easy, convenient, and secure alternative to writing a check. Go to the church's web page, www.fbcf.org, or scan the QR code

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
January 2020	\$ 49,326.88	\$ 57,596.85
YTD thru January	\$ 49,326.88	\$ 57,596.85