

## Family Information

### What's The Point Of The Book Of Judges?

The next installment of the monthly series on the books of Scripture is now available in the racks in the foyer. This month, Caleb Dillinger and Mark Garner have each written one page on "What's The Point Of Judges?"

### Easter Egg Hunt

Tara Bell and Vicki Cowans are putting together an Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the Child Care on Good Friday, April 15th. If you'd be willing to support financially, they'll be in the foyer and you can leave some funds with them to acquire the candy, etc. for the Easter eggs.

### Food Pantry Update

Food Pantry Volunteers: Northland is supporting the Northside Food Pantry (two blocks north of the church). We are helping the second Saturday of each month from 8 -11:30 am. If you would like more information, please contact Caleb.

### Wednesday Service Meetings

The next service meeting will be this Wednesday, April 6. The first Wednesday of every month will be devoted to children's ministry, including Sunday ministry and our Child Care. The third Wednesday of every month will be focused on outreach opportunities, meaning anything to do with non-Northland members. These meetings will take place between 6:30-7:30 PM. See Jeff or Caleb for additional information.

### Camp Weeks

July 17th through July 23rd is Northland's camp week with Bill Hopkins at Fort Hill. Campers, sign up as soon as possible to receive a discount. July 24th through 30th is Northland's 2nd camp week with Nick Strawser at NWOCYC. Sign up as soon as possible to receive a discount.

Both weeks are in dire need of staff. If you can help out in any way for either week, contact Josh Evans to sign up. If you have any questions, or for more details, also see Josh.

### Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 9:00 AM  
 Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Spanish Worship 10:00 AM  
 Sunday Ghana Worship 12:00 PM  
 Sunday Evening Worship 4:00 PM

*For sessions that are currently meeting on-line, see the announcements above.*

**Minister:** Caleb Dillinger  
**Elders:** Mike Evans, Jeff McVicker, Jim Robbins  
**Deacons:** Lynn Champney, Perry Coate, Glenn Culler, Darrell Estep, Jack Evans, John Lindsay, Don Milnor, Art Silva  
**Spanish Ministry:** Luis Valdez

## On Line Bible Studies

### Work Days Schedule

The next work/clean-up day will be on April 23rd. If it rains, the following Saturday, April 30th, will be the backup date. The second work/clean-up date will be on August 20th. If it rains, the following Saturday, August 27th, will be the backup date. See Mike Evans for further information.

### Current On-Line Studies

Every other Friday at 7:00 PM - TGIF Bible Study led by Mike Evans. Contact him for details and the current schedule.

Mondays at 7:00 PM - Women's prayer group, hosted by Peggy Kaiser. Contact her for details. If you aren't able to join, you can e-mail prayer requests to Peggy.

Tuesdays at 7:00 PM - Women's Bible study "Abide In Christ", led by Karen Susenna. The current study is on Colossians. Contact Karen for more details.

Contact Caleb Dillinger if you would like to have free access to RightNow Media, a digital collection of faith-based videos.

### Contribution

|                    | Last Week | Average YTD |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>General:</b>    | \$4395    | \$4404      |
| <b>Designated:</b> | \$130     | \$34        |



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## Our Savior Has Been Mindful Of Us

*And Mary said: My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. - Luke 1:46-48*

The coming of Jesus tells us of God's mindfulness for us all, and our Heavenly Father cares about each of us, regardless of what this world thinks about us. God pours out the spiritual blessings of his heavenly pasture on those who hold fast to the message of Jesus, for the Mighty One has done truly great things for all of us through his Son - *From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me - holy is his name. - Luke 1:48-49*

The hymn "Silent Night" originated during a time of despair in Austria, where years of war had been followed by a lengthy famine, leaving many people impoverished and traumatized. Writer Josef Mohr (1792-1848), who had just become an assistant priest, and schoolteacher Franz Gruber (1787-1863) were considering how to reassure others in their local congregation of God's care.

Mohr lived in the Alpine region of Austria, where the majesty of its snow-covered mountains and the flowers in its open meadows could be calming. This reminded Josef of the lasting peace that comes from the message of Jesus, so he wrote several verses of a poem and then took it to Gruber, who wrote the music for it, producing the familiar hymn.

In one of the later verses, Josef Mohr writes "Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; Radiant beams from Thy holy face With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth". For through Jesus the dawn of redeeming grace came to every nation and in every language, and truly the mercy and compassion of God extends across the generations to those who seek him with a humble and reverent heart - *His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. - Luke 1:50-51*

Another verse of "Silent Night" describes both angels and shepherds rejoicing in the coming of Jesus, who brings the good news of God's redemption and salvation: "Holy night, peaceful night, Only for shepherds' sight Came blest visions of angel throngs, With their loud alleluia songs, Saying, Christ is come, Saying, Christ is come." For the Son of God came to fulfill many of God's good promises that he had made long before -

*He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors. - Luke 1:54-55*

God's promises are trustworthy, and the message of Jesus will endure forever.

- Mark Garner

## A Light Behind The Cloud

Keep in heart, be ever patient,  
There's a light behind the cloud;  
Be not gloomy or discouraged,  
Let not mists your soul enshroud.

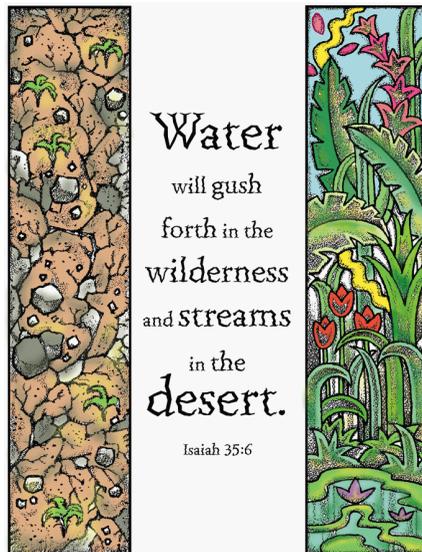
You remember Christ had trials  
That were many and were sore;  
And you may be only passing  
O'er the ground He trod before.

You can rift the cloud with sunshine  
If your heart is glad within,  
And make brighter paths to travel  
If you prayerfully begin.

Oh, be patient, ever patient,  
When life's cares around you crowd;  
Oh, be patient, ever patient:  
There's a light behind the cloud.

- Sara Louisa Vickers Oberholzer, 1841-1930

*Besides publishing several volumes of her poems, Sara Oberholzer also wrote frequently about travel, ornithology, and other subjects. She was also well-known for her efforts that encouraged schools to help children set up savings accounts.*



## God Gives Us Hope & A Future

*In Jeremiah 29, God reassures the exiles in Babylon that he is near, that he cares for them, and that he will give them hope and a future. This week, Leon Norwood writes about some of things that God has in mind for us.*

### The Prosperity of God

As many look towards the future, the reassuring verse that is found in Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future* is one of the most well-known verses read today by those seeking comfort and hope in the promise of God's future blessings. Many have found renewed zeal and determination about the future by believing and trusting in this verse.

But it's important to note the context in which these assurances of prosperity and a hopeful future were written. Jeremiah wrote these words to God's people who were in exile. Not only were they exiled, but it was God who sent them there. And herein lies the key to really understanding the prosperity of God. So what does prosperity mean to God?

True Biblical prosperity comes when we are in a loving, trusting, faithful relationship with God, when we are walking with Him and getting to know Him better. If we look at the Bible as a whole, not just pieces here and there, we see God constantly calling His people into a relationship with Himself. Instead of shielding them from hard times, He draws closer to them in the midst of trials.

Time and time again, we see Christians then and now enduring hardships joyfully. It's not because they enjoy hardship and pain, but because they believe everything is going to be okay. They may not know when or how, but they trust God and have a peace knowing He sees beyond our pain and struggles. We all hope and long for what we consider "good" things, but God has a hope and a future for us that is full of great things. Our finite minds cannot comprehend the things God has in store for those who love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9.)

Try viewing the future from a different perspective. What if we imagined our lives as a puzzle? As we go through our lives, God gives us pieces of our puzzle. Sometimes He gives us a piece that fits nicely with the other ones we have. But sometimes He gives us a dark piece that doesn't seem to fit with the others. We try to make sense of it, but the fact of the matter is we can't see the full picture of our lives. We don't hold the puzzle box. But God does.

The Bible gives us a snapshot of God's unfolding plan and it can be helpful to realize that our lives are small pieces of a much larger puzzle. As we understand that, we realize we have a loving God who has a long-term plan to prosper us and not harm us. He is our hope and our future.

So when we're given a piece that doesn't make sense, we trust God that this piece wasn't given to us by mistake—it was given to us because it is necessary for the bigger picture. Good times but especially tough times will always bring God closer to us because that is one of the biggest and best parts of his plan. Always remember that God's earnest desire is the redemption of all mankind. It is for the people of God to have fellowship and eternal life with Him. God's plan for you is the same; it is to prosper and grow you spiritually in Christ. His plan to give you a hope and future has never changed.

- Leon Norwood