

Be a Berean!

The Bereans...received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day (Acts 17:11). "Be a Berean" will regularly cover topics that arise during Lockport Alliance Bible classes. Contact Franklyn Pfeil—pfeilmail@yahoo.com—with questions or comments.

Many, many people from all over the world are "Standing in the Rain" with us!

In September, when Lockport Alliance Church launched the 3-year Bible reading program we call "Stand in the Rain," we were thinking locally. But it seems that the Holy Spirit has been thinking globally.

We began by distributing a little booklet with the reading schedule printed inside. And we've had to print more and more of them, because LAC-ers have been handing them out by the hundreds. LAC--that's you and me--is getting out the Word!

Along with the booklet, we (Franklyn, Pastor Joe, and Norm) determined to write and post a daily blog. Don't be confused by that internet word. Just think of it as an article, accompanying each day's reading, which is designed to help the Bible reader understand "the big picture" of the Bible. Go to lockportalliance.org, click on the man standing in the rain, and you're there.

But it was when Shelley posted the blog via the networking site called "Facebook" that Stand in the Rain went international--to infinity and beyond! We haven't been just surprised and happy at the response; we've been startled and ecstatic!

It is not necessary to read each day's blog article to Stand in the Rain. But we offer an example below--the article that accompanied the reading of Psalm 62. We hope you'll read each day's article. We promise that if you do, you will be not only read the Bible; you will understand and love the Bible as you draw ever closer to the character at the heart of it all...

"pour out your heart"

Trust in him at all times;

Pour out your hearts to him. (Psalm 62:8)

My family and I are blessed in about a zillion ways that I know of--and, I suspect, in a zillion ways I'm unaware of.

One of our great blessings is that we go to a real Bible church. It's not too big and it's not too small. It's just right.

We have musicians who sing/play real Bible songs, old and new, with Spirit-driven giftedness. We have Sunday school teachers who tell real Bible stories to the kids, loving them to pieces as they do.

Adult Sunday school classes are short on worldly philosophy and long on Jesus, the real Jesus--not the movie Jesus but the biblical Jesus: the lamb slain from the foundation of the world; the creator of the universe; the sinless Son of God, born of a virgin, who performed miracles, taught the precepts of his kingdom, and died on the cross to save us from our sins; who rose from the dead; who lives forever to keep us saved; who will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom will never end.

We have a youth pastor who delights in life, carrying a big red Bible in a banana box wherever he goes. You read that correctly. He carries his big Bible in a banana box--along with sundry other items he'll be needing that day--like candy, shoestrings, a measuring cup. (How the rest of us manage to get through the day without a measuring cup is hard for him to fathom.) Best of all, my teenage sons note that he not only carries the Bible, but opens it often and avidly, and teaches from it with reverence, enthusiasm, and skill.

We have a senior pastor who does the heavy lifting--lifting all our spirits as he lifts up Jesus. He boils complex things down for us so we can understand. Right now he is teaching us that prayer is not just about asking for things all the time. Prayer is about connecting with God, it's about expressing your heart to God, it's about a relationship with God in the making.

Yesterday he taught the acronym ACTS--a pattern that's been proven to activate more well-rounded prayer:

Adoration (praise)

Confession

Thanksgiving

Supplication (the "asking" part of prayer).

Then he reminded us that the Psalms are the Bible's prayer book. Between the lines of the Psalms we can feel the passion, power, and personality of prayer. We can see the relationship between God and David grow before our very eyes as David *pours out his heart* in prayer.

I don't know who you are or where you are. But wherever you happen to be, find a real Bible church with real Bible teachers and pastors, who pray real Bible prayers to God the Father through the real Jesus, the biblical Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit--the Spirit which infuses the prayers of the Psalms.

Sit outside in the parking lot on a Sunday morning. Are they carrying Bibles through those doors? If not, go home. If they are, go inside. Are they referring to those Bibles in Sunday school and in the sermon?

And if, while you're surveying the scene, you see a man carrying a big red Bible in a banana box, then look no further. You've found a real Bible church!

It is our fervent hope that you will 'be a Berean' by attending one of these Bible-based classes this week—

"Behold"--Sunday at 9:45

"Having a Mary Spirit"--Sunday at 9:45

"Psalms for Guys"--Sunday at 9:45