

Good Tidings

Monthly Newsletter of Pioneer Bible Church
March 2014



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Read Along with the Book Club By Rosemary Bluhm

Reading is a passion for me, it takes me away from the demands and stress of my everyday responsibilities (if only for short periods of time when I can find the time to read) and over the years I have discovered the treasures that are found with Christian authors. Whether it is a historical novel or other fiction, the message is always encouraging or challenging to help us all in our spiritual walk. I started the book club at PBC many years ago when my children were still at home. I realized that most of the mainstream novels included language or topics that I did not want my children to see me reading, nor to pick up themselves! My daughter is now an avid reader also, and I noticed that many of my books (all Christian authors) moved out with her. This alone is a treasure for us to share! Rachel just finished the *Chronicles of the King* series by Lynn Austin, again! I love the fellowship that I find with fellow readers, to share a book, discuss the message and see how it can be applied to our life, or to just find entertainment for a time. I hate for books to end!

I select books based on my preference and knowledge of the author's style. I confess, I do have favorites and have not been disappointed, I hope you won't either!

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In the News

North Korea Detains Missionary in February

Australian missionary John Short, 75, was reportedly arrested by police in North Korea on Feb. 16. Short, who has lived in Hong Kong with his wife for the past 50 years, was questioned and detained after police found gospel tracts in his possession.

Short traveled to Pyongyang on Feb 15 with a tour group, and police questioned him at his hotel the next day about the Korean-language gospel tracts that he was carrying. Officials reportedly asked him who translated the material into Korean, who sent him and to what organization he belongs. Short's wife was informed of his arrest by a member of the tour group who was allowed to leave on Feb. 18. The tour company has made repeated calls to North Korea, but officials have refused to provide any information.

North Korea is considered the worst persecutor of Christians in the world. Although its constitution provides for freedom of religion, the practice of any non-state-sanctioned religious activity is prohibited. The Australian government is working on

Short's behalf through its embassy in South Korea and has also requested help from Sweden, which has an embassy in Pyongyang.-
www.persecutionblog.com/2014/02

Arizona Senate OK's Refusal-of-Service Bill

The Arizona senate passed a bill on Feb 12 backed by Republicans that expands the rights of people to assert their religious beliefs in refusing service to gays and others, a measure that Democrats say will open the doors for discrimination and hurt the state economy. Democrats and civil rights groups opposed the bill that was pushed by social conservatives, saying it would allow discriminatory actions by businesses. But sponsor Sen. Steve Yarbrough of Chandler said his push for Senate Bill 1062 was prompted by a New Mexico case in which the state Supreme Court allowed a gay couple to sue a photographer who refused to take pictures of their wedding. He says he's protecting his religious rights. "This bill is not about allowing discrimination," Yarbrough said. "This bill is about preventing discrimination to people who are clearly living out their faith." The bill passed on a 17-13 party line vote. - Associated Press, 2/19/14

Guest Devotional: Adventure With Significance

"There are only three sports: bullfighting, motor racing, and mountaineering," said Ernest Hemingway. "The rest are merely games." Hemingway wants what all of us want—adventure. Yet adventure alone never satisfies. We crave adventure with significance. We want meaning, not just thrills. We want something that's worth taking risks for.

In the 5th century BC, the Persian PM Haman became livid when a Jewish man, Mordecai, refused to bow down to him. So Haman convinced the king to issue a decree to exterminate the Jewish refugees. When Mordecai heard about this, he asked Esther to go to the king. (The king didn't know that his wife Esther was Jewish.) This was adventure with significance. For the law was clear—anyone who approached the king without being summoned would be killed unless mercy was shown. *"Go, gather all the Jews... and fast for me.. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law, and if I perish, I perish!"*

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I also look for topics that I think people will be interested in. I have not read any of the four selections yet, so we will discover the treasures together. I also like to hear what others have been reading, so let me know your favorites for future selections.

This book club does not require a commitment, if you see one of the four on the list that interest you, I encourage you to pick it up and join us to discuss it. This is a very casual, fun format. Your best option to purchase any of these books is to go on Amazon or CBD. The Family Christian bookstore in Folsom can order them for you, also.

The book club will be meeting at 6:00 pm on the third Monday of each month, in the church library. Refreshments will be provided, but there is no childcare scheduled at this time.

Thank you ladies for allowing me to share my thoughts and selections with you. Come join me!

Child Sponsorship Matters

Paul and Michele Holliday are the proud sponsors of **Cruz Taboada**, 15, of Bolivia. Cruz, whose photographs and letters are featured on our child-sponsorship bulletin board this month, attends the local Compassion International program at the Missionary Evangelical Baptist Church, which has been in place since 2003.

Pastor Subieta tells us about conditions affecting the children at his center. "Our center, called CDI Kami, is located on the west side of the city of Cochabamba in one of the outlying neighborhoods, made up in large part of relocating miners that were part of a mining center. Many are still jobless, and with that, we can appreciate that the need in this neighborhood is great and much more so with the children."

"Here there is quite a lot of need in the health area. There is a lack of basic services or a hospital, as well as no neighborhood security. The lack of these services causes diseases like infections and a high percentage of children with malnutrition, as well as a lack of healthy habits. The most important thing is that in the neighborhood there are families that don't have Christ in their hearts."

"... the staff that works at the center, and members of our church, work together to... teach the children habits that help them live under Biblical principles. In that way, we see more children growing with physical, emotional, cognitive, and... spiritual health.... It's a work team made up of [sponsors], Compassion, and our church, obeying the Great Commission given by our Lord, Jesus Christ. It gives us great satisfaction and immense joy that all of this can happen by forming a team with [sponsors] and knowing that these children will be great men and women in the future."

Bolivia is a country of extremes. The landlocked nation of 10 million people is the highest in altitude, and the most isolated nation in South America. Although it has many natural resources, and is an exporter of soybeans, tin, zinc, wood, sugar, and natural gas, it is one of the poorest on the continent. The average Bolivian earns \$2,220 U.S.D. per year, although 51% of its population lives below the poverty line.

Thanks to sponsors like the Hollidays, children like Cruz have a brighter future.

Ladies Book Club

At Pioneer Bible Church



March Selection

All Things New

By Lynn Austin

Join us,
Monday, March 24 at 6:00 pm

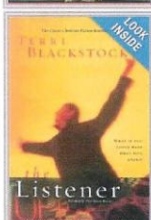


April Selection

Tempest's Course

By Lynette Sowell

Join us,
Monday, April 21 at 6:00 pm

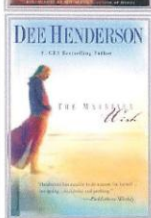


May Selection

The Listener

By Terri Blackstock

Join us,
Monday, May 19 at 6:00 pm



June Selection

The Marriage Wish

By Dee Henderson

Join us,
Monday, June 23 at 6:00 pm

Joy Vierra's Life-Changing Bread

Ingredients:

1 cup sunflower seeds
½ cup flax seeds
½ cup hazlenuts or almonds
1 ½ cups rolled oats
2 Tbsp chia seeds
4 Tbsp psyllium seed husks*
1 tsp fine grain sea salt
1 Tbsp maple syrup, or a pinch of stevia
3 Tbsp melted coconut oil or ghee
1 ½ cups water



(*3 Tbsp if using psyllium husk powder)

Directions:

In a flexible, silicon loaf pan, combine all dry ingredients, stirring well. Whisk maple syrup, oil and water together in a measuring cup. Add this to the dry ingredients and mix well until dough becomes very thick. If the dough is too thick to stir, add one or two teaspoons of water until the dough is manageable.) Smooth out the top with a spoon. Let it sit out on the counter for at least 2 hours, all day, or overnight. To ensure the dough is ready, it should retain its shape even when you pull the sides of the loaf pan away from it.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Place loaf pan in the oven on the middle rack and bake for 20 minutes. Remove the bread from the pan, place it upside down directly on the rack and bake for another 30-40 minutes. Bread is done when it sounds hollow when tapped. Let it cool completely before slicing; difficult, but important. Store in a tightly sealed container for up to five days, or freeze.

Joy says, "I do like eating it. I'm making my 3rd loaf. I use honey instead of the maple syrup, and I did not have any of the chia, but I am going to get some and try it with that. It has been working okay without it."

Reminder:

Our church will be holding a rummage sale the 1st weekend in April! Be ready to come and find that knick-knack you've always wanted!

Adventure With Significance Continued...

We often associate meaningful risk with grandiose moments. Yet mere obedience can create adventure with significance daily. For example, when we observe the Sabbath, we risk being outdone by our colleagues. When we tithe, we risk not being able to buy the things that we want. It is in these seemingly small faithfulnesses, however, that God prepares our hearts to say, "If I perish, I perish." For we want to learn to trust Him.

Lord, we confess that we often pursue adventure without significance. As we look to Christ, give us the courage to take up our crosses daily, knowing that you will lift us up too. Help us to choose faith over fear, obedience over sin, and courage over comfort. Amen.

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Mark Your Calendar for March:

2nd- Budget Meeting, 10:00 am

6th- Senior Potluck, 12:00 noon

8th- Quilting Group, 9:00 am

11th-14th- Staff Crisis Response Training- *office hours may be affected*

24th- Ladies' Book Club, 6:30 pm