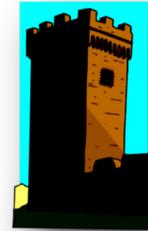


FORT DES MOINES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love God Love People Serve Everyone

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515-285-1254

Fort Connections

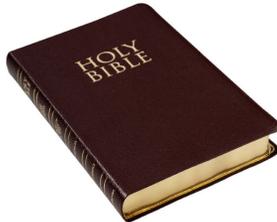
Service Times:
Sunday School- 9 AM
Worship- 10 AM

Mike Demastus

June 2016

Who can understand the Bible?

(From the series How to understand your Bible. Full series is available at Godsfort.org)



Not everyone can properly interpret the Bible. Its main truth is spiritual, so only the spiritually qualified can understand it. God's Word is for people who can and will listen. Every true Christian already has some of the necessary qualifications. Others he may acquire. Without them he has no chance of knowing the Bible properly. Here are the qualities...

*A New Heart. (1 Corinthians 2:14) The interpreter must be born again. The Bible message concerns God and man and their relationship. Therefore, one who stands outside that relationship will miss much of what God has said. He may be able to accumulate many facts and comprehend technical points of language. But the man who has not received spiritual life from God lacks an essential qualification for understanding God's message.

*A Hungry Heart. (1 Peter 2:2) Bible knowledge does not come through casual interest and occasional reading. It is not like pretty colored shells lying on the seashore that you can pick up in a few minutes if you wish. Rather, it is like precious ore in a mine; you can find it only if you are determined to get it. You have to desire it. You have to be hungry for it.

*An Obedient Heart. (Psalms 119:98-100) To understand the Bible we must be willing to obey what God shows us of his will. The Bible calls for response, not just analysis. If we are unwilling to act, we cannot reach the full truth. Learning and obedience go together. If God teaches me something and I obey, I can expect God to teach me more. If I refuse to obey, then I should not expect to progress in knowledge. Without obedience further steps in knowing God's Word are impossible.

*A Disciplined Heart. (Matthew 7:7) A person with a disciplined heart will start something and keep on doing it, even though it is hard. He will cut out other things he would like to do for the sake of a higher priority. The discipline must be self-discipline. No one else can compel a man to study the Bible. At times we will find Bible study very interesting and even thrilling, but not always. But only through discipline will we understand that the goal is not reached quickly or easily. Jesus said, "Seek and you will find," not "You will find by chance or a casual look."

*A Teachable Heart. (Isaiah 50:4) The teachable heart wants to learn and to go on learning. It never thinks it has learned enough. In fact the more it learns, the more it realizes it does not know. The teachable heart realizes that it need to learn from others as well. Most are willing to learn from God but being willing to be taught by another brother or sister, especially when you are in the wrong...that is another matter entirely. The humble and teachable heart is the one to whom God will show His truth.

A brief trip down Memory Lane: After the big flood of 1993 our church basement was flooded and afterwards a group of women who called ourselves “Encouragers” got to work to clean up the church basement. In one of the Sunday School rooms, I found a box of books— probably near 50. Going through the mess, I found six books that had not been water damaged, and I found an empty shelf in the room and put the books in alphabetical order on the shelf and the Church Library was born! With a sign-out/return sheet thumb tacked to the wall. Many moons and always to accommodate more books, until now it’s a real department of our church, with an inventory, subject sections—not only books but some tapes and CD’s. Bev Heuton, who has had some real library experience, has put things on a more professional basis, and has spent much time and not a little money in doing so. I hope everyone in the church will find good reading: spiritual food, interesting stories for leisure reading, and Biblical information on the shelves. In the Library file cabinet top drawer is to be found material for Service Meditations (Communion and Offering). In the second drawer there are Missions reports from the last five years. In the third and fourth drawers are miscellaneous items.

There is no charge or allotment from Church funds. All books are donated. “Free” is always GOOD, don’t neglect the Library treasure trove, but also don’t forget to return the books! So, until someone else picks up the Book Look torch, it’s “30.”

P.S. I expect to use the Library until the Lord calls me home.

Thank you, Marge for all of the hard work, time and money you have put into our Church Library! It really is an amazing resource for the members of The Fort!

Missions Ministry Update

By Jim Meisch

Blessing Hearts International is a non-profit organization based in Missouri. The currently funded ministry is Mission Chretienne Bérée in Haiti. The vision is to establish, support and promote other international Christian organizations like this one in order to fulfill Jesus’ Great Commission.

A brand new 2015 backhoe loader was donated to the ministry. When they went to the shipyard to pick up the machine after finally settling on a custom amount of \$18,000 (borrowing an additional \$9,000) it simply would not move. Apparently it broke as the port authorities were using it for their own purposes. Mechanics have tried to get it moving, so far no avail. In the meantime, the old tractor is unusable and is unable to create badly needed revenue. Operating funds are depleted due to weak financial support, no tractor revenue, and the cost associated with receiving a wonderful “donated” backhoe that is broken.

Please pray Blessing Hearts International will have this backhoe working and at home soon.

Manly Men Doing Manly Things

If you are man enough, you are invited to join us, on June 18th at the McMichael Farm, for a great evening of some serious men competition. Knife throwing, hatchet throwing, tire changing, tug of war and more! Plus food...but no napkins...because we are men!



The Bible says that our children are “like arrows in the hand of a warrior” (Psalm 127:4). We raise them up to shoot them out into the culture, bearing the image of Christ to the world. The enemy knows that our families are places of major concern because he doesn’t want our children to have any vestige of valor and virtue running loose in our world today. I mean, they might take bold stands of faith, they might become a pastor of a church, or run a Christian business, they might get involved in missions, or worse yet they might raise up a whole other generation of Christ followers. We shouldn’t be surprised then when spiritual attacks start happening to our families and our kids. There is too much at stake. An enemy is after your children, I’m telling you. Believe it. Know it. Most importantly ***deal with it*** by tunneling deep into your prayer closet and fighting back with every parental and spiritual weapon at your disposal. One weapon at your disposal, starting Sunday, June 5th at 9:00 am, is a class just for parents. We will be digging into the Scriptures to find out what God has to say about family life and parenting.

Make plans NOW to attend!

Fort Facts

Total Income for April: \$12,541.16

Total Expenses for April: \$10,876.18



We are in need of some items for VBS! If you are able to donate any of these items, please sign-up on Sunday!

10 foam paint brushes, 2 boxes of ping pong balls, 15 pool noodles, 10-20 glow sticks, 2 packages of fish crackers, 1 box of teddy bear cookies, 1 box of sugared dry cereal, 1 BIG bag of M&M's, 3 bottles of brown craft paint, 1 package of paper plates, 1 package of foam paper plates, 1 box of BIG paper clips, 1 box of q-tips, BIG XL boxes, spray bottle, LOTS of candy for the piñata and Bleach, and Soft dog treats for A-Heinz 57 Pet Rescue



Dinner and a Movie!

Kingdom Kids and JAM are invited to the Demastus home on Wednesday, June 15th from 6:00-8:00 pm for dinner and a movie! We will be grilling some hotdogs and watching "The Sugar Creek Gang". Please let Shannon know if your child is planning on attending so we will have enough food!



Mark your calendars... VBS in July 15th, 16th and 17th!

We will have a VBS meeting on June 7th and June 23rd @ 6:00

Mommy and Me will meet at Cathy Selsor's house to swim (so wear your swim gear with swim diapers if needed!) on June 21st from 10:00-12:00. Bring a sack lunch, towels, water toys, floaties... Take this opportunity to invite friends and their little ones!



Scripture Memorization for June

1 Peter 5:8

"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

The CIA is still meeting this summer on Wednesday nights! They are also going to be doing some fun activities!

6/2 Free Movie "Finding Nemo"

6/18 Southridge Theater "Finding Dory"

6/23 Free Movie "Norm of the Norm"

If you are in CIA make plans now to join the group for Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 and for the fun activities!



Birthdays

6/2 Hunter Abel
 6/3 Levi DeYoung
 6/3 Sue Keller
 6/5 Floyd Fluharty
 6/6 Luther Abel
 6/6 Jacob Demastus
 6/13 Cameron Ohnemus
 6/18 Benjamin Hoodjer
 6/19 Peyton Ohnemus

If your birthday or anniversary was forgotten, please send an email to secretary@Godsfort.org.

Anniversaries:

6/6 Kevin and Mary Rowedder
 6/9 Nathan and Melissa Shanks
 6/10 Terry and Bev Heuton
 6/15 Shawn and Lori Kinman

Special Dates to Remember

6/5 Parenting Class starts @9
 6/7 VBS Meeting @6
 6/9 Elders/Deacons Meeting @6
 6/12 Board Meeting
 6/15 JAM and Kingdom Kids Dinner and a Movie @6
 6/18 Manly Men
 6/21 Mommy and Me @10
 6/23 VBS Meeting @6

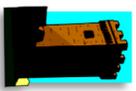
Server Schedule

	06/05/16	06/12/16	06/19/16	06/26/16
Greeters	Nathan/Deanna	Teressa	Doug/Sue	Terry/Bev
Scripture	Lindsay	Diane	To be determined	Ashley
Praise Team	Abel's/3:16	Mike/Mary	Nate/TIkrs	DVD/3:16
Offering Meditation	Nathan O.	Richard	Makya	Nate S.
Communion Meditation	Kevin	Lonnie	Ben	Kirk
Server	Roy	Mike	To be determined	Forrest
Closing Prayer	George	Doren	Hunter	Mike D.
Stewardship	Richard/Nate	Jim/Kevin	Doren/Terry	Nathan O./Bruce
Nursery/Toddlers	Kirk/Ashley	Stephanie/Carter	Nathan/Deanna	Forrest/Ben
Junior Church	Shay #25	Justin #26	No Jr. Church	Shan #27
Communion Prep	Roy/Celeste	Roy/Celeste	Roy/Celeste	Roy/Celeste
Communion to the Sick	George	Cameron/Shannah	Kirk	Miles
Security	Richard/Kirk	Jim/Forrest	Mike/Roy	Austin/Jacob

**Mowing in June:**

6/3 Kevin/Mary
 6/10 Dale/Sue
 6/17 Terry
 6/24 Jacob

The mowing schedules are on the table in the foyer



June 2016

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 CIA	2 CIA "Finding Nemo"	3	4
5 Parenting Class starts!	6	7 VBS Meeting @6	8 CIA	9 Elders./Deacons Meeting @6	10	11
12 Board Meeting	13	14	15 Dinner & a Movie! CIA	16	17	18 Manly Men! CIA "Finding Dory"
19 Father's Day!	20	21 Mommy and Me @10	22 CIA	23 VBS Meeting @6 CIA "Norm of the Norm"	24	25
26	27	28	29 CIA	30		