

# Heartbeat

INDIAN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 10, 2016

A hearty welcome to you, beloved of God. An exciting, new year is ahead and we look forward to all God has prepared for us in 2016 and the privilege of serving Him together.

A special welcome is extended to our visitors and guests. We are glad you are here and invite you to check out all the activities we have available throughout the week.

Begin the new year right by returning tonight for a time of singing and a study in the Word. The fellowship will encourage us, the singing will inspire us and the study of the Scriptures will mature us in our spiritual growth.

## New Year Plans

People have been making New Year's resolutions for centuries, and it's common to think about changes or improvements we want to make in ourselves as we approach a new year. Universal resolutions are to lose weight, eat healthier, exercise more, etc., but this year, let's consider something spiritual, like striving to become more like Jesus.

We can begin by examining ourselves every day and prayerfully asking God to show us areas



in our lives that don't line up with Him. May we also commit to searching His Word and asking God to help us align our thoughts and behavior with His.

As believers, we are in the process of sanctification, a life-long process in which we grow more and more like Christ. As we submit our will to His, we can be confident that we are growing in His likeness.

## In the January Groove

All the weekly classes and programs have now resumed after the Christmas break. Be sure to take advantage of all the opportunities available for every age—from Sonshine Kids to Prime Time, as studying God's Word and serving together helps build godly character.

## A New Year's Prayer

We wish each of you a blessed New Year. May the Lord be your personal guide each day, and may He be pleased to lift each of us to a higher spiritual plane in 2016.

# Becoming a Student of the Word

Gil Rugh

As Christians, it is our responsibility to study God's Word. Studying the Bible, however, can be difficult if one does not know where to start. That is why I would like to point out some helpful instructions for getting started with effective Bible study.

## Tools for Bible Study

For starters, I recommend purchasing a good study Bible. A study Bible is a Bible that has explanatory notes at the bottom of each page. These notes will help you understand what the text means and will give you important information concerning a book's author, date, purposes and key themes.

When choosing a study Bible, it is important to choose one that comes from a sound theological perspective. Personally, I like the Ryrie Study Bible. The notes are helpful, plus it is written from a dispensational perspective that understands the biblical distinction between Israel and the church. Understanding this distinction is necessary for proper interpretation of the Bible.

Second, I recommend purchasing a good Bible dictionary. A Bible dictionary provides helpful information on a wide variety of biblical topics. For example, if you want information on the Tabernacle, you can look up "Tabernacle" in a Bible dictionary and receive helpful information on this subject. Likewise, if you want to study about the person, Daniel, a Bible dictionary will give you a summary of the life of Daniel.

The New Unger's Bible Dictionary is one Bible dictionary you will find helpful.

I also suggest purchasing a good one or two volume commentary on the whole Bible. The notes in such a commentary may be brief, but they will give you helpful comments on the whole Bible. I prefer the Bible Knowledge Commentary published by the faculty at Dallas Theological Seminary. This two-volume work gives very helpful insights on most of the passages of Scripture.

An exhaustive concordance is also a good tool for Bible study. A concordance will help you find all the passages where a particular biblical word is used. Perhaps you are interested in doing a study on the prophets of the Bible. You can go to a concordance and look up all the references to "prophet" or "prophecy." You can then read all the passages where those words are used. As a result, you will have a greater understanding about that subject. Make sure the concordance you buy corresponds with the Bible version you use. Since I prefer the New American Standard Bible, I like to use the New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance.

## Getting Started

With the right study tools in hand, you are now ready to begin actual Bible study. When you have decided on a book to study, read and reread it many times. Some Bible

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teachers read the book they intend to study fifty times before they even pick up a commentary or begin to write any notes.

Rereading a passage will help you avoid one of the most common mistakes made by Christians—diving into a section of Scripture without being familiar with the general content of the passage. Attempting to interpret the Bible without understanding its context can lead to faulty interpretations.

After you have read a book several times, it is time to narrow your study to a particular paragraph. A paragraph is a unit of thought and is a good place to begin your detailed study.

The first paragraph of a book is a good place to start. Most Bibles have paragraphs marked off by bold verse numbers, making the beginning of a paragraph easy to identify. When you study the paragraph, be inquisitive and observe what the biblical author is saying. Ask yourself, “What is the central thought in this paragraph?” In one sentence try to explain what the author’s point is.

For example, when studying James 1:2-8, you will see that the main subject of this paragraph deals with trials and how believers should respond to them. When you have figured out the main theme of the paragraph, try focusing on key sentences and words within that paragraph. For example when studying James 1:2-8, you may want to focus on James 1:2 which says, “Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials.” Ask yourself “What is James saying

in this sentence?” “What does the word ‘consider’ mean?” “What does the word ‘trials’ mean?” “How does the word ‘various’ relate to ‘trials?’” You may want to consult your Bible dictionary or commentary for help. Obviously, you will not be able to do a complete word study on every word in the sentence, so focus on the key words—those words that are especially critical to understanding the meaning of the sentence.

What about cross-referencing? Cross-referencing involves looking at other passages which relate in some way to the passage you are studying. I believe there is a place for cross-references, but we must be careful when using them. Before using cross-references it is best to make sure that you understand the primary passage you are studying first. When you have a firm grasp on the passage at hand, then you can see what other passages are saying.

### **To summarize, do the following when preparing to study:**

1. Acquire the basic study tools: study Bible, Bible dictionary, Bible commentary and concordance;
2. Choose and reread the Bible book many times;
3. Study a paragraph until you know the theme or central idea of that paragraph;
4. Study the key sentences and key words by using your dictionary, commentary and concordance.

Learning the Word of God is challenging but rewarding. The more you study, the more you will sharpen your Bible study skills.

## Family News

**Death.** Jan Allen, sister of Vickie Nogle, died October 9, 2015.

**Hospitalized.** Ruby Rogers is a patient at Bryan East.

**Hospitalized.** Michelle Mertens is a patient at Clarkson Hospital, Omaha.

**Hospitalized.** Zoey Leach is a patient at St. Elizabeth Hospital.

**Hospitalized.** Rod Laucomer was a patient at Bryan East Hospital.

**Hospitalized.** Dick Goodding was a patient at Bryan East Hospital.

**Hospitalized.** Ruby Ann Ganzel is a patient at Methodist Hospital, Omaha.

## Children's Studies

**Sunday School.** The children studied Jonah 1–4 and learned about God showing mercy to Jonah and Ninevah.

**Children's Church.** The children studied 1 Kings 8 and learned about God's glory filling the temple. The lesson goal is for students to depend on God's faithfulness.

## Information

**Clothing Outlet** will be open Tuesday, January 12 from 8 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

**Ladies Retreat** will be held February 26, 27 at the Lied Lodge in Nebraska City. The theme is

“Biblical Friends Forever” and will be team-taught by Titus Tuesday teachers. Stop by the table in the south lobby to sign up. January 24 is the last day to register.

**Issues in Our Contemporary World** meets Wednesdays from 7–8 p.m. in room 1414. Donald Gortzen is teaching on Eretz Israel—the Land. Everyone is welcome.

**Titus Tuesday.** Ladies, please join us Tuesday, January 12 at 9:30 a.m. as Janice Horn teaches the Bible lesson “How Do I Get Wisdom?” The second hour class “Reasonable Expectations of Children” will be taught by Judy Zabel. Child care provided.

**Offering Envelopes.** 2016's offering envelopes are available next to Sound Words. Envelopes that are not picked up today will be available at Sound Words until the end of January. If you don't have an offering envelope you can have one issued to you at Sound Words.

**Cash Donations.** The IRS requires that charitable cash donations be substantiated by either a cancelled check or by a written receipt from the church. For donors who give \$250 or more, however, a written acknowledgement from the church is required. For your convenience, the church will issue a year end giving receipt to everyone who uses an offering envelope and also to those who paid using checks that totaled over \$250.

**Non-cash Gifts.** Separate receipts will be issued for each non-cash gift. Non-cash gifts include stocks, mutual funds, grain commodities, and IRA distributions.

**Men's Retreat** will be held Friday and Saturday, February 19 and 20 at the Leadership Center in Aurora, NE. Stop by the table in the south lobby to register today.

**Choir and Orchestra** resume on Wednesday, January 13. We'll lead music that following Sunday, then every other Sunday after, and for the Easter concert.

**Sunday Morning Phone Receptionists** are needed during the Sunday School hour at the north desk. As the receptionist for the Sunday School hour, workers should arrive between 8:30–8:45 a.m. and answer the church phone until 10 a.m. (when the worship hour receptionist takes over). We hope to have enough receptionists so each one will work on a rotation schedule. For more information, call Lori Meyer, 402-488-7015 and leave a message. She will call you back.

**Faith: Is It Really that Simple?** is a five-week study beginning Wednesday, January 20 at 7 p.m. with Tom Price teaching. Everyone welcome.

**Teacher Needed** for a short gospel lesson on Sundays at The Waterford (Alzheimer's Unit) on South 27th Street. A musician/singer is also needed.

**Young Adult Bible Study.** A study for young adults meets every other Monday night at the home of Rob and Lynne Jensen, 7943 Hunters Ridge Road at 7 p.m. Adam Flaugh teaches. Child care is not provided. For more information contact Adam or Rob.

**Lending Library.** Be sure to check out the great resources for every age in the Lending Library. Many good study tools for every age.

**Several workers** are needed to care for children in the beginning walker's room during the second hour on Sunday mornings. Please contact Jennifer Lenzen at 402-435-0877 if you are interested in serving in this way.

**Hospitalizations.** Please call the church, 402-483-4541, and notify Pastor Aaron Nicholson for all hospitalizations and births.

**Nursing Home Door-to-Door** Evangelism. If you'd like to help, call Adam Flaugh, 402-580-3014.

**Forgotten Clothing.** Coats, jean jackets, hats, gloves and more are waiting to be picked up by their owners. Stop by the south lobby and check the coat racks on the far end for your personal belongings.

## **Last Week's Message**

Jan. 3 AM. Duane Nelsen. DN5 Man's Responsibility & God's Sovereignty. Philippians 2:12-13

# This Week's Events

## Sunday

Sunday Night Church  
Girls of Grace, Boys of Faith 6 p.m.  
Sunshine Kids 6:30 p.m.

## Monday

Sisters

## Tuesday

Clothing Outlet 8 a.m.–6:30 p.m.  
Titus Tuesday 9:30 a.m.  
Mansion Builders 7–9 p.m.

## Wednesday

Girls' Choir 5–6:15 p.m.  
Orchestra 6–7:30 p.m.  
Awana 6:45 p.m.  
Junior High 6:45 p.m.  
Issues in Our Contemporary World  
Choir 7–8:30 p.m.  
Mansion Builders 7–9 p.m.

## Thursday

Alpha Omega Study 7-8 p.m.

## February 14

Baptism

## February 19–20

Men's Retreat

## February 26–27

Ladies' Retreat

## February 28

Communion

## March 5–9

High School Ski Trip

## March 19

Boys of Faith Pinewood Derby

## April 12

Brunch Break 6:15 p.m.

## May 26–29

Girls of Grace Camp

## June 13–18

Senior High Camp

# Future Events

## January 23, 30, Feb. 6

Boys of Faith Riflery Clinic

## January 20

Faith Class 7 p.m.

## January 23

JHAM Ski Trip

## January 29–30

Boys of Faith Lock-in

## February 12

Girls of Grace Daddy Daughter  
Date Night



## December Report

Print Media Distributed:  
122 booklets

## Audio Media Outreach

**Sermon Audio:**  
2149 downloads & streams  
in 42 states and 42 countries

Let us be good  
stewards of the  
Lord's blessings

# No Food or Drink

in the Auditorium  
or Chapel

## Heartbeat

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## WINTER INSTRUCTIONS

As cold, snow and ice storms move  
in, Duane Nelsen and Kevin Wheat will  
try to keep abreast of the weather and  
road conditions.

Weather forecasting is tricky—even  
the professionals don't always get it  
right—but with the help of local meteo-  
rologists, Duane and Kevin will try their  
best to make sure we are not driving  
when it would be best to stay home.

Of course, each of us must use good  
judgment with the weather, drive safely,  
pray, and watch out for the other guy!

Church cancellations or delays will  
be posted on the church website: [www.ihcc.org](http://www.ihcc.org)

