

'WHATCHA' READING?

Have you got a Bible reading plan going for this year? Reading your Bible every day can often unfortunately be one of the first items to get removed from the 'To-Do list' when a time crunch happens, (or perhaps it will fall into the high failure rate statistic of New Year's resolutions). Yet we all know that it is vital to deepening our spiritual walk with Jesus!

The 2012 Devotional Dayplanners that are available at the Info Desk have many options to help us read our Bibles. From reading through the Bible *chronologically*, or reading *one chapter a day*, or focusing on reading *through the New Testament or the whole Bible* this year, or

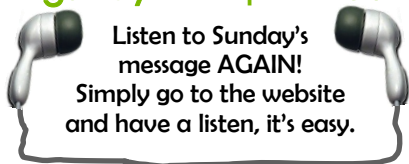
even simply taking 30 seconds to read *one verse and encouragement or thought-provoking question everyday*, surely we can do one of those options. In turn we will be amazed by how often we are encouraged by God through his Word.

Oh, one more thing... If you didn't start reading right on January 1st this year, or if you, at some point this year, miss reading your Bible or the Devotional thought one day (or even if you miss a week or a month...), don't worry. :) Don't feel bad. Don't get down on yourself. **And whatever you do, don't give up!** Simply pick up your Bible or planner again and move forward. (Please don't feel guilty into to reading ALL of Leviticus in one sitting just to 'catch up'!) Don't worry about what you missed but be expectant for what's ahead in your Bible reading and what you will be hearing from God.

So if you haven't yet picked up a 2012 Devotional Dayplanner at the Info Desk from the Bible League of Canada, please do. Because we are, after all, Kingsway Church, A People of the Word!

Sunday Messages are online!

kingswayfoursquare.com



SUPPORT OUR MISSIONARIES TO FIRST NATIONS

Cheryl Bear's newest CD "A' BA" has been released!

If you would like a copy contact her by email — cheryl@cherylbear.com



KINGSWAY CHURCH

God helping us we will know Christ and make Him known by being people who are grounded in the **WORD**, passionate in **WORSHIP**, devoted in **PRAYER**, focused on **SERVING**, given to **MISSIONS**, **INCLUSIVE** of others, committed to **COMMUNITY** and motivated by the **SPIRIT**.

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KINGSWAY CHURCH



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lead pastor

Dairn & Beth Peters
assistant pastor



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*we exist to know Christ and make Him known
 "I am the way, the truth and the LIFE."—Jesus Christ*

kingswayLIFE

january twenty-twelve

"YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE"



by Renee Hixson

When I was a little girl I remember singing "This world is not my home. I'm just a passing through."

I hated that song. It wasn't just because the tune sounded like a one-hit wonder sung by toothless hillbillies. The words were just plain disturbing. As far as I was concerned this world was my home. And, I wanted it to stay that way; Mom, Dad, me and my siblings all together. Forever.

The second line got even worse. "My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue". Really? Our family could barely make it through the week on a preacher's salary.

Clothing consisted of hand-me-downs and garage sale finds. There was no cash for frivolities like eating out at restaurants or staying at a motel six where little bitty bottles of shampoo and hand lotion were given out for free. Why would we invest in a place "somewhere beyond the blue"?

A TIME TO HOARD OR A TIME TO GIVE?

It was time to hoard what little we had in order to survive. Unfortunately, my mom and dad never got that memo.

"Mom," one of my siblings yelled from the back seat during a family drive, "Why are we stopping?"

I looked up from my library book. Somewhere between chapters five and six Dad eased our station wagon off the road. We now sat directly behind an ancient Buick with a flat tire. I rolled my eyes and continued reading.

"Dad pulled out his wallet," yelled the same sibling twenty minutes later, "He's giving that stranger money."

I shut my book and tossed it onto the floor board.

"Next stop," I groaned, "the poorhouse."

Maybe we wouldn't end up in an 1800s-style brick building built for the poor. But, if Dad and Mom kept reaching

out to the needy with our meager resources we would become just like them: lost, confused and mighty hungry.

DAD BEGAN TO PRAY

Sure enough, the day of reckoning came. We ran out of food. No bread huddled in the cupboard. No meat hid in the freezer. There wasn't even box of crackers left in the car.

At suppertime, we crowded around a table set with empty serving bowls, empty cups and empty plates. Dad began to pray. It was like a scene from the Peter Pan spin-off movie "Hook". The lost boys also sat at a table filled with empty dishes. Peter Pan watched as the boys scooped up invisible helpings of what they acted like was a delectable feast.

"You've got to believe," one child told Pan as he chomped on an invisible turkey leg. When Pan finally reached out in faith for a chicken leg the empty bowls miraculously brimmed with meats, plump fruit and fresh baked bread.

KEEP ON PRAYING AND GIVING

I did not believe. At the wise age of ten I felt a little sorry for my praying father.

Then, someone banged on the door.

Dad just kept praying.

A woman burst into the kitchen and heaved a box crammed with bread and can goods onto the counter.

"Don't know why God told me bring this stuff," she said slamming the box on the counter, "but, He did. Now, come on and help unload the truck."

I ran outside. Boxes of flour, sugar, can goods, cuts of beef and fresh garden vegetables towered up from the pickup bed.

That night, I ate until my stomach ached. Then, I started to worry. What about next time? Would we go to bed hungry? If we did, would Mom and Dad quit serving God?

(Continued inside)

What's happening in the LIFE of Kingsway Church?

January 2012 is under way but it's not too late (it's never too late) to get involved in a LifeGroup or a weekly meetup at Kingsway.

Friday Nights at Kingsway — Fridays from 6:30 to 9:00 pm

We start with dinner together in the Auditorium then there is the **Alpha Course** or a **Bible Study** to join. There is childcare for the younger pre-school and kindergarten aged children and **KIDS ZONE** for the kids in Gr.1-7 (always a high point of the week for our Kingsway Kids) who meet in the Activity Centre from 7:00 to 9:00.

Kingsway Lunch: Chinese New Year Celebration— Sunday, January 22nd after Church in the gymnasium

Don't miss this great afternoon celebrating Chinese New Year together. Those in our Chinese fellowship graciously provide a delicious dumpling lunch as we celebrate being a multi-cultural church who are united in Jesus!

There are many other **LifeGroups** and **Bible study groups** you could be a part of ('Tuesday Tune-Up' Bible Study, Seniors prayer groups, Young Adult guys and girls LifeGroups, Youth Group, Filipino Fellowship, and so many more...) — talk with a leader at Church or contact the office for details. We'd love to see everyone connected in a LifeGroup!

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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31	... February 2012 ...	1	2	3
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"YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE" CONTINUED

(Continued from page 1)

I knew that answer almost before I fully explored the question. Mom and Dad were not in the ministry for the perks, not even the miracles. If the truck had not arrived with a load of food Dad may have gotten frustrated. He probably would have spat out stupid comments to cover his embarrassment. Mom would have cried. But, ultimately they would have kept on praying and giving.

THE GIFT OF POVERTY?

Many years later I sat in a meeting with a ministry team from the church where I attended most of my adult life. The discussion quickly turned toward Christians and money.

"Time to leave," I started to say in hopes of exiting before everyone started talking about how God had blessed them with nice homes, great vacations and substantial retirement packages. Most importantly, I did not want to sit through a litany of stories of "powerful" ministries. My dad had been dead at that point for almost a decade but I still ached over his absence. The obscurity of his ministry still brought tears to my eyes. It seemed that he had been overlooked not just by many of his peers but even by God himself.

"There are people who have the gift of poverty," the senior pastor said before I could escape the room, "They give generously out of what little they have and find great joy in doing it."

A wave of understanding splashed across my soul. The notion that my Dad had somehow foolishly wandered off into obscurity dissipated. An im-

age of him courageously pursuing a life of generosity and sacrifice took its place.

JUST PASSING THROUGH

I still have problems listening to a song that sounds like a cross between banjo on its death bed and Podunk Hollow's worship band. But, the words don't scare me anymore. Compared to eternity, this world is as about as permanent as an outdated movie set. Heaven is real and forever. It is our home.

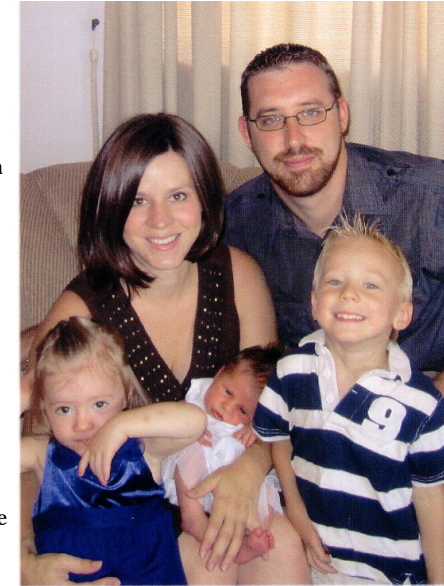
The little girl from the past still reminds me that I don't own a house, I don't have much of an education and I certainly don't make much money. She points out the possibility that I could die alone in obscure poverty. So, why not let the rest of the world fend for themselves and pour all my energy in protecting myself and my family from utter ruin?

Why not? We are all "just a passing through" this life and not for very long. Each moment is a gift, a chance to see God work in the darkest of circumstances. It's opportunity to touch the life of another person with the incredible power of forgiveness and love. Nothing else really matters.

Renee Hixson and her husband Dennis are members and leaders in our Church. Renee along with her daughter Lily are our Sunday Morning Kingsway Kids Zone coordinators. Renee has written many articles that have been published in the "Chicken Soup" book series as well as other publications. She has also written Christian training curriculum for children.

OUR MISSION TO OUR MISSIONARIES

The Jorgensen family have been serving a family of 5 with 2 preschoolers and a baby? (A house sitting situation would be ideal!)
 They will be in the Vancouver area from March 16th to May 3rd and need a home base for their family. The ideal situation would be for them to have their own place - a home a way from home - rather than having to keep moving their kids from place to place.



Do you or someone you know have a furnished house or apartment that would handle support through your prayers and finances. Our ongoing mission is to make sure that their needs are met, month by month, whether here at home or when they return to Africa.

Note: The Jorgensens depend upon, and are very thankful, for your continued support through your prayers and finances. Our ongoing mission is to make sure that their needs are met, month by month, whether here at home or when they return to Africa.

LIFE LESSONS: A LEGACY OF GIVING

The Kingsway Family is richly blessed by our senior generation's legacy of giving. Our dear friend, June Wilson, is a great example of our elder's generosity. June was a public school teacher for 48 years but even in her retirement she continues to enrich the lives of children.



Part of June's story was featured in last fall's edition of the Vancouver Foundation magazine (pp.26,27) where she is quoted as saying, "[W]hen I don't need my money anymore, why not give it away? ... I get a lot of pleasure out of giving my money away."

June's Life Lessons article is posted by the church office. You can also read it online at www.vancouverfoundation.ca.