

Messenger

Winter 2004

Volume 1 Issue 1

Some thoughts to ponder...

about the Bible.



From the
Pastor's Perspective

*It's the all-time,
number one, best-selling
book in the world. It's found
in hotel rooms and hospitals.*

*It causes more controversy
than major political
candidates. It also offers
more guidance and more
hope than any other
book in the world.*

*It is the Bible –
God's inspired Word
to mankind.*

We are the Wausau *BIBLE* Church. Every time you drive by the church and see the name on the front of the building you see that Bible is central to our name. It is also central to our teaching and central to our beliefs.

We hear so much about what man thinks and we know that the conclusions of even our "experts" change as time passes. But God's Word never changes. That's why the Bible, God's Holy Word, is the foundation of our faith, our teaching and all we do. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth may pass away, but My words will not pass away" (*Matthew 24:35*).

The Bible is totally inspired of God: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness" (*2 Timothy 3:16*).

The unity and harmony of this book is miraculous. Taking over 1,600 years to write, with over 40 different authors whose occupations ranged from kings to shepherds, from prophets to fishermen, the Bible stands without contradiction. Historic facts about nations, empires, moral and social conditions were foretold centuries before their happening. Details about the incarnation of Christ – His virgin birth and the place of His birth – were given with pinpoint accuracy. The fact that many Biblical prophecies have been fulfilled gives us the confidence that the future events described will be completed with the same accuracy.

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Thoughts to Ponder *(continued from page one)*

The Bible also contains statements of scientific truth. Revelations concerning the suspension of the earth in space (*Job 26:7*) and the roundness of the earth (*Isaiah 40:22*) are just a few of the Bible's teachings that were initially questioned. Today, many scientific facts are now verified.

Perhaps one of the most convincing facts is the Savior's guarantee of the authority of the Scriptures. Jesus picked the most difficult portions of the Old

Testament and associated Himself with them. Creation, the flood, the destruction of Sodom, and the experience of Jonah, are all declared true by Christ.

Finally, millions have found that the message of the Bible written thousands of years ago, works in lives today. This is the greatest proof of all. This is why the Bible is at the center of Wausau Bible Church. It is central to our life. It is central to our faith.



Pastor Duane Hamilton, Sr. Pastor

If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?

1 Timothy 3:5

Building Men of High Reputation

Men, we know the pressures you are under today to juggle work, family, and personal responsibilities. It is a challenge to walk through the stresses of life as a Godly example to our families, friends, and coworkers. To meet this challenge, our men have started studying the qualifications of an elder, as described in I Timothy 3.

We are learning what the Bible says about living morally pure lives, loving what is good, managing your household and many other topics relevant to living in today's world.

The Tuesday night class, taught by Dustin Radloff, begins at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Hamilton leads a Saturday morning class at 8:00 a.m. Come and join us. This is a great time to meet with other men who are trying to live Godly lives. It's a great time support each other in prayer.

These classes will recess in the middle of December, but will resume the second week of January. Call the church for more details.

Wausau Bible Honored at Frontier School of the Bible

Tim Miles, President of Frontier School of the Bible in LaGrange, Wyoming, notified us that they have named one of their buildings *Wausau House* in honor of Wausau Bible Church.

In his letter, President Miles said, "We appreciate the number of churches that have supported the school by sending students here for training, providing summer workers, and assisting in other ways. Your church has been a tremendous blessing to us."

On your next trip through LaGrange, stop by and take a look at the *Wausau House*.

Meet Our Family

“Because we view the church as a family, it is important that you know who the other members of our family are. We would like to introduce you to some of the new members of the WBC family. In this issue of the Messenger we want to introduce you to Joe & Jackie Nordin and their new baby, Gracia.”

Their Story.....

From Chicago to Wausau, one family finds a church home.

Once upon a time... about a year ago, two Nordins set out on a quest to find a Bible-believing Church that would welcome them to the Wausau area. They searched and searched and went to many a Wednesday night prayer service. They went here and there, to Merrill and to Point, but nowhere did they find what they were searching for.

Finally, one day, as they were trying to find their way around downtown Wausau, they remembered the church they had seen when traveling with their realtor — Wausau Bible Church. So they went to a service, and oh, what a find! A Bible-believing Church with doctrine they could agree with.

The Prayer Warriors that Wednesday night were so welcoming and friendly, they



Joe, Jackie and Gracia Nordin

decided to come back on Sunday, which just happened to be the Pie Social. They knew they had definitely found what they were looking for after sampling all that pie. A few months later they became members of the church and lived happily ever after.

Ok, so, that’s close to what it was really like when we first came to the area. We had been living in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago and we were looking for something more. Joe had a job offer from a company in Wausau and we came to the area to look for a church. If we couldn’t find a Bible-believing Church with sound doctrine and warm fellowship, he wasn’t going to take the position. We came to WBC because it happened to be next door to our realtor’s office and it claimed to be an IFCA church. That Sunday night, we attended the service and were welcomed openheartedly. We weren’t sure if this was going to be the church for us, but we felt confident in Joe taking the job that at least there was hope of finding a church for us in Wausau.

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Programs

Awana

Pre-K through 6th Grade

Awana meets weekly from August to May on Wednesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00. Awana is designed to build self confidence and team skills while establishing a firm foundation on biblical principles.

Youth Group

Junior & Senior High

Youth Group meets three times a week throughout the year. Biweekly special events are planned from August to June., including biweekly S.N.A.C.s (Sunday Night After Church) and a monthly praise and worship coffee house. Students are encouraged to participate in Quiz Team, the puppet ministry, drama, music or other activities. Anyone in Jr High or High School is welcome to attend.

Adult Bible Fellowship

Winter Classes

“Who Is God?”

(Post High School Singles)

“Influential Leadership”

(20 - 30 year olds)

“Exodus and the Life of Moses”

(30 - 40 year olds)

“One Solitary Life”

(50 - 60 year olds)

“Studies in I Corinthians”

(70 year olds +)

“Forsake not the assembling of ourselves together.”

Hebrews 13:5

The Sufficiency of God

A Message for the youth and the young at heart.
By: Pastor Travis Huseby

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (*Philippians 4:13*) This is a “Hallmark” verse that often times, Christians take to mean that the sky’s the limit for what we can accomplish because of the power of Christ. While this idea is popular, the context points us in a very different direction.

We would all like to believe this verse means we will have a trouble-free life, but that is not the promise. The verse clearly promises victory and strength — but with qualifications.

Paul, the writer of the verse, is dealing with the issue of attitude in times of need and in times of plenty. In America, we definitely know what it is to have plenty. Our needs are met everyday and many Americans, Christians included, focus mostly on our wants. Our needs seldom consist of the bare necessities, although there are times when we do have legitimate needs.

In *Philippians 4:11-12*, Paul says, “I have learned in whatsoever state I am to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” This statement seems totally out of place in the “gotta have it now” culture of today.

However, it is critical to see through these statements of Paul (*inspired by the Holy Spirit*) that our attitude needs to be the same in times of need and in times of abundance. To be “abased” means to

have little or nothing. While to “abound” means to

not only have our basic needs met but to have an over abundance to satisfy both needs and wants.

While I was a Youth Pastor in Chicago, a young man came to youth group one evening looking very depressed. He had just celebrated his 16th birthday. I felt compassion for him and asked him why he was so sad. He proceeded to tell me that he had been given a Camaro for his birthday that morning. Finding it hard to understand why he was so down, I asked him, “Well what went wrong?”

“Nothing,” was his reply, “I just really wanted a Corvette!”

At that point, it became very hard for me to empathize with him. I encouraged him to be thankful for what he had instead of focusing on what he wanted.

We have to be careful to acknowledge that we can only make it through this life because of Christ who is our strength—whether we have nothing or whether we have been handed the keys to a Camaro.



Pastor Travis Huseby, Youth Pastor

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”
Philippians 4:13

The idea that we can do, or make it through, all life’s experiences with Christ who is our strength needs to keep us focused on God no matter what we find ourselves needing, wanting, or having.

God needs to be our sufficiency! If He is, then what we have or don’t have won’t really matter. To say that God is sufficient for you, is to say that your attitude and focus are on Him and not on the “stuff” of life.

Meet Our Family (continued from page three)

A few months later we moved to Wausau and began to search for our church home. Several churches captured our interest, but we knew they weren't what we were looking for. Finally, we came back to WBC and haven't left since. Everyone has been so kind and welcoming to us. They've been especially supportive now that Gracia's joined the family. Thank you all for making us a part of your church family.

The rest of the story. . .

"Since attending WBC, Joe and Jackie have become members of the church and are actively involved as a part of our youth staff. Their friendliness and contagious smiles have been such an encouragement to us. Joe works at U. S. Filter in Rothschild and Jackie is employed at the Courtyard Marriott. We thank God for their faithfulness and commitment to Him as well as to us."

The Meaning . . .



Behind the Music

All of us have heard the great hymn of faith, Amazing Grace sung at one time or another. Most of us have even

sung it and appreciate the powerful message of the song, even though we know nothing of its author, John Newton (1725-1807).

"John Newton was born in London in the year 1725. His father was a sea captain. His mother, a devout Christian woman who, realizing that an illness she had would take her life within a short time, taught her son to know the Bible at an early age.

"When John was seven, his mother died and he became a cabin boy aboard a sailing ship. His experiences through the years on the sea were dangerous and exciting. He was even once shanghaied. That is, he was forced to join the crew of the Man of War. Here, he was cruelly treated, being flogged and abused. After this experience, he joined the crew of a slave ship and eventually became a captain. During all of this, John drifted far from his mother's God and the Bible.

He later wrote, "I often saw the necessity of being a Christian as a means of escaping hell, but I loved sin and was unwilling to forsake it."

"Each year saw him sinking lower into the pits of sin and soon he had gotten so low that even the ship's crew despised him as being no more than an animal. On one occasion, the drunken captain fell overboard, but the men did not so much as make an effort to drop a boat over the side to rescue him. They simply took a whaling harpoon and threw it at him. The harpoon caught him in his hip and the crew hauled him aboard, much the same as they would a large fish. Because of this occurrence, John Newton limped for the rest of his life. Later, he would say, "Each limp is a constant reminder of God's grace to this wretched sinner."

"Amazing Grace" is really the life story and testimony of John Newton. It was in 1779 while working on the hymnal "Olney Hymns" with William Cowper, author of "There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood" that he wrote this gem of hymnology. Its original title was "Faiths Review and Expectation."

- Al Smith, *Al Smith's Treasury of Hymn Histories*

Christmas is a Time for Celebration

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas in the next few weeks. For most, it's a time to gather with family and friends and enjoy the lights and decorations of the season.



But, the true focus of the celebration is centered around the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We encourage you to come join us as we celebrate Christmas this year. During Christmas week, we have several events that will help us remember that God became a man so He could ultimately lay down His life to provide our salvation.

It is our hope that during this Christmas season, we would all remember what Christmas is truly all about. Think of it – God became a man for you and me!!

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given. . .

Sunday, December 19, 2004	8:00 am & 10:45 am	“Jesus Came As Priest”
Sunday, December 19, 2004	6:00 pm	Christmas Program: “I Will Serve Thee”
Friday, December 24, 2004	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 26, 2004	8:00 am & 10:45 am	“Jesus Came As King”

Golden Heirs Rally

The Golden Heirs group from the church gathered together for a pot-luck lunch on Thursday, November 18. We invited the Jubilant Seniors from Immanuel Baptist Church to join us. We had a great time of fellowship as we enjoyed a good meal together.

Ed Kersten shared some of his personal writings and observations. His insightful remembrances are always enjoyable to hear and act as the springboard for devotional thoughts from God's Word.

The Golden Heirs is a group of folks who are 55 years old and over. If you are interested in finding out more about our monthly activities, please contact the church for more information or call Dawn Hettinga.



WBC Provides Van for Ukrainian Pastor



We are so pleased to announce that after several months, WBC has raised enough money for Alexander Sekret, a Ukrainian pastor, to purchase a different vehicle. For the past several years, our church fully supported Pastor Sekret, his wife Vera and their five children. They have faithfully labored to minister to several churches about an hour's drive out of Kiev.

During this time, they drove a 34-year old car that was obviously, becoming a very unreliable source of transportation.

This summer, our church began a project to raise \$10,000 in order to purchase a van for the Sekret family. The van would offer them reliable transportation and would be a useful ministry tool for them to use to pick up others and take them to church. In October, we reached our goal.

The money has been forwarded to the Sekrets through the Slavic Gospel Association headquartered in Rockford, IL. While Alexander and Vera probably have not received the funds yet, I know they will be truly excited as they see how God has used our church family to satisfy their need.



Pastor Alexander and Vera Sekret and their children.



We are grateful for the victory we have seen in being able to provide this vehicle for them. Please join us as we celebrate the faithfulness of God in using us to supply this tremendous need. What a joy it is to see God honor the faith of those who will step out to trust His provision.



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To prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. *Ephesians 4:12,13*

Visit Our Website at:
www.wausaubiblechurch.com

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Services



Sunday
8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. - Morning Worship Services
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School classes for age 5 - Sr. High
9:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Fellowship Groups
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group prayer night
6:00 p.m. - Evening Service
Wednesday
6:30 p.m. - A WANA and Youth Group
6:30 p.m. - Adult Bible Study