

# Newsletter Jerusalem Baptist Church

Number 1 ~ January/February 2014

## COLOFON

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**Editorial staff:** Billie Nucciarone,  
Dianne Hill and Petra van der Zande

Each new year brings us new opportunities  
to know Him more, to walk in faith,  
and grow by His grace.

May your year be  
blessed in the Lord.

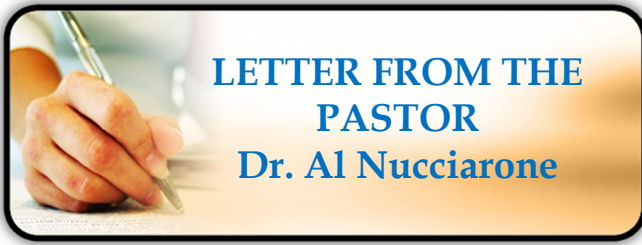
“...Eye hath not seen, nor ear  
heard, neither have entered  
into the heart of man, the  
things which God hath  
prepared for them that love  
Him.” — 1 CORINTHIANS 2:9 KJV

Jim Lewis

**Deadline next issue: Sunday, February 23, 2014**

Distribution date next issue: Sunday, March 2nd, 2014

Serving our Lord  
until He comes...



## Anatomy of a Church

During my service in Italy as a church planter and pastor there was one book that really changed my life. Actually, it was more like a study guide from a series about the church by Pastor John MacArthur of Grace Church in Panorama City in California. It was called "The Anatomy of a church". At the time I was very interested in the subject of church growth and studied great movements of God around the world. Looking at Mega Churches I wondered what were the factors that made them grow? Listening to tapes of "The Anatomy of the Church" I realized, "This is what it is all about." By looking at present church growth theories, Pastor McArthur explained that all we had to do is to go back to the basics. So what are the basics?



The church was described by illustrations of the human body. (I Corinthians 12:12-27. Romans 12:4, 5). The body's skeleton keeps everything together and upright. The various organs inside the body are supplied by the internal blood system, while the muscles move various parts of the body. The skin (flesh) covers and protects the body,

which is controlled by the brain inside the head.

Let us start with the skeleton. There are certain fundamentals to which a church must be committed.

The ones holding the church together are:

1. **A high view of God.** Our goal is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. (I Corinthians 10:31). We glorify Him by putting him first and exalting Him. "I have always placed the Lord before me." (Psalm 16:8) Our view of God affects our entire spiritual life. How big and great and awesome is our Lord?
2. **A firm belief in the inspiration of scripture.** (2 Timothy 3:16). Our God is a perfect God and He has given us a perfect Word which He inspired using various authors from different times and locations. The Word is trustworthy and practical. We should accept the Bible for what it is and seek to diligently understand its message and apply it to our lives.
3. **Doctrinal clarity.** God has given us His Word, which teaches all we need to know for our faith and practise. Sound doctrine should lead to a sound life. The Bible teaches us the existence and attributes of our mighty God. It describes the Trinity comprised of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It speaks of the creation of man and his fall. It teaches us about Jesus Christ who lived, ministered, and died on the cross for our sins. It declares the free gift of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. It pictures the blessed work of the Holy Spirit in illuminating the Scriptures, convicting us of sin, righteousness, and judgement, and guiding our lives. Through the Scriptures we also learn about angels and the end times.
4. **Our personal holiness.** We must obey what the Bible teaches. We are to be holy as the Lord is holy. Robert Murray McCheyne said, "It is not great talents that God blesses so much as likeness to Christ." He also stated "The Greatest need of my congregation is my personal holiness."
5. **Spiritual authority in the church.** Whether pastors or elders, leaders must be men of integrity and wisdom as they direct the affairs of the church. They are to be examples (I Tim. 4:16). Henry Martyn, the great missionary to Burma said that the primary responsibility of a man of God was not to evangelize but to sanctify his own soul.

*"It is not great talents that God blesses so much as likeness to Christ."  
Robert Murray McCheyne*

Like the blood, our spiritual attitudes are the living systems in the body. We can know the truth, have great talents, but without proper attitudes we are nothing. Paul sums up the proper spiritual attitudes which we should possess

*"The primary responsibility of a man of God is not to evangelize but to sanctify his own soul."  
Henry Martyn*

ness in Galatians 5:22, 23. The fruit of the spirit is: "love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, gentleness, against such things there is no law."

We now come to the muscles. These are the functions of the church, what the church does – worshiping God and praying. Preaching and teaching are functions which believers do as they flex their muscles. We can also include training and discipleship.

Of course, these activities should be motivated by love and pure motivation (our spiritual attitudes).

The skin (flesh) is what people see. We 'flesh out' all of these principles and apply them to our lives.

Of course, in all things Christ is to be the Head (Matthew 16:18, I Corinthians 12). He leads, sustains, provides and protects. At the end of the book of Hebrews is a great prayer: "May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen." (Hebrews 13:20-21).

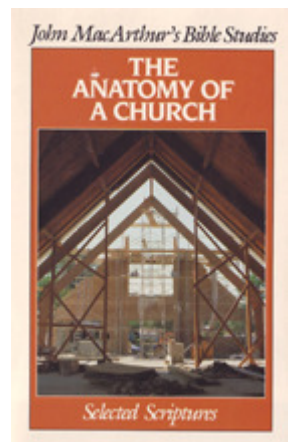
As part of my research for a church growth project, I asked John McArthur how I could apply his message to our church.

He wrote back these simple but profound thoughts: "First of all, take the principles from the Anatomy of the Church and apply them to your own personal life. Then pour your life into the lives of other people in the church."

May God help us, both as individuals and as a church, to make these principles an integral part of our lives.

For more info, log into website:

[www.gty.org/resources/study-guides/40-0598/the-anatomy-of-the-church](http://www.gty.org/resources/study-guides/40-0598/the-anatomy-of-the-church)



## SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN NOVEMBER 2013



Slavic  
Gospel  
Association

**DR. ROBERT PROVOST** is the President of Slavic Gospel Association. He

speaks Russian and has made more than 175 ministry visits to the former communist world to serve evangelical pastors, evangelist-missionary pastors, and their church families. Dr. Provost helped create a Russian department at the Israel School of the Bible and partners with the Bible Society on a number of printing projects. Bob and his wife, Louetta, reside in Rockford, Illinois. We had the privilege to welcome our brother Bob in our church on November 3rd, 2013.



## CHOSEN PEOPLE MINISTRIES



Pastor Frank is the Associate pastor at Englewood Baptist Church (Pastor Al and Billie's home church where Pastor Cloer is pastor). A graduate of Southeastern Baptist Seminary in North

Carolina, Frank has been a senior pastor in churches in north and South Carolina. Together with Chosen People Ministries Frank is now in Israel to tour the land. He and his wife Julie have four children: Jordan, Ben, Jared, and Maddi Grace.

On November 10 we welcomed a group from Chosen People Ministries who were on a tour to "SEE ISRAEL THROUGH JEWISH EYES". Chosen People Ministries was founded in Brooklyn, New York in 1894 by Rabbi Leopold Cohn, a Hungarian Jewish immigrant with a zeal to share the knowledge of Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah with God's chosen people. Today, the organization serves in thirteen countries across the globe.





24 NOVEMBER 2013, we welcomed **Pastor Dan Nelson**. The church planter is presently pastor of Calvary Chapel Ojai Valley, California. He and his wife Shelley have four children, and serve Jesus as a mission family. Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley started as a Bible Study group in 1998. Two years later, their first Sunday morning service took place as Calvary Chapel of the Ojai Valley at the Oak View Community Center. In 2013, they celebrated their 15-year anniversary as a Christian ministry and 13-year anniversary as a local church.



The Nelson Family



Asking the Lord to bless the Service



Sending them out with our prayers—until the next time—in Jerusalem!



Praying for those who leave on a ministry trip

Welcoming old AND new friends!



So many reasons to be THANKFUL!

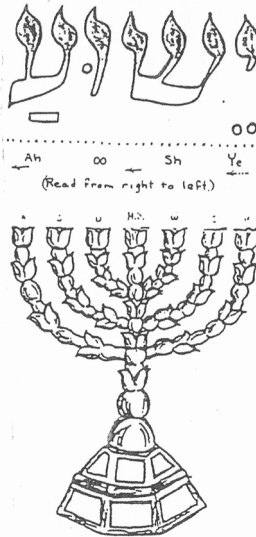
Thanksgiving 2013



## SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN DECEMBER 2013



Sunday, December 1st,  
Irene Levi explained the  
meaning of Chanukah.



Irene always carry copies of this  
card in her purse. Wherever she  
can, she shows people that  
**YESHUA** is the Light of Israel.

### SNOW IN JERUSALEM

The early winter was one of the driest on record, so Israel's chief rabbi asked Jews worldwide to insert additional prayers for rain and recite special psalms. And behold, soon after meteorological data indicated that rain was headed to Israel. "You can stop praying for rain now!" the rabbis urged when the country was gripped by rain, wind and snowstorms. Instead, people were told to insert a prayer of thanksgiving. Friday, December 13, Jerusalemites awoke to a city covered in white. The thick layers of heavy snow shut down the capital and thousands of motorists were stranded. Public transportation was barely functioning, and only a handful of people were able to make it to Church that Sunday, December 15. The 20 that did come enjoyed a special service in the lounge.



Black ice and melting snow create hazardous roads.

# Sunday December 22, 2013



## Sunday School Christmas Program: "Christmas by the Book"





After the service, everyone was invited to join us for hot and cold drinks, cakes and cookies and savory snacks!

Frans, Aukje and Judy (all from Holland) worked hard behind the scenes to prepare the food.



## Bethlehem Christmas Eve Outreach

Around 40 people from different nationalities assembled at JBC, welcomed by Bruce with hot and cold drinks and cookies.



The bus left JBC around 1 p.m. and during the short ride Pastor Al began rehearsing the Christmas songs. Passing through the newly opened check-point the driver expertly maneuvered the bus through the small, steep and narrow streets of Bethlehem.

At the Russian Orthodox Pilgrim Palace Hotel the group wisely dressed in warm clothes. Despite the sun it was chilly outside. On their way to the main square, Pastor Al pointed out the tourist attractions. The "Milk Grotto" commemorated the place Mary fed baby Jesus. There were many olive wood factories, and from the roof of one of these shops you had a beautiful view of the area. Manger Square had been prepared for the festivities, while the souvenir and coffee shops were eagerly waiting the influx of pilgrims to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

The JBC group had until 4.30 p.m. Some went sightseeing through the town. When the call to Muslim prayers died down, some of the group began to sing Christmas carols with Pastor Al. Curious bystanders were offered Arabic tracts and New Testaments.



Part of Manger Square was taken over by trucks from four major International TV networks who were to broadcast the celebrations live. Together with a few other organizations, JBC had been invited as a church by the Bethlehem municipality. Around 5 p.m. it was JBC's turn to enter the Peace Center for rehearsals.

Like every year, the program was changed. JBC would be on stage much later than scheduled, which messed up Bruce's carefully planned dinner at the hotel. While waiting in the freezing cold building the group was filmed by a TV crew.

Next to the stage they had to wait some more, but had a good view of the Austrian dance group that performed a musical about the birth of Jesus. Tired and cold from the long wait, the JBC group was relieved when their turn finally came around 7.30 p.m. The guitar was out of tune and the care-



fully prepared program had to be shortened and adjusted. Pastor Al was able to package the Gospel in between the songs he announced. And there they were: a bunch of people from all parts of the world, dressed in a colourful assembly of trainingsuits, winter coats, hats and gloves. Other groups were dressed in similar outfits or well-cut uniforms. For months they had been practicing for this evening. Our group sang the Christmas songs with conviction and from their hearts. And the people in the audience responded. Like every other year, the people enjoyed listening to the beautiful words of the Gospel of Life.

Eleanor, from our congregation, noticed a Muslim woman standing near the platform. She felt led to give her an Arabic tract, which the woman handed to her son who began to read it. When Eleanor also gave her an Arabic New Testament, the Muslim woman immediately began to read. The two women

hugged and then the Muslim kissed the little NT. It was a God-moment. Eleanor said such moments are the reason why she loves to join the Bethlehem Christmas Outreach.



The friendly and patient hotel manager had a wonderful dinner waiting for the cold, tired and hungry group. Bruce had organized everything "as if he was preparing a wedding banquet for his daughter," the manager told the group.

"He even arranged for everyone to have ice cream for dessert." He thanked Bruce for being his first American friend.

A hilarious time of taking the traditional group picture followed because so many people had given their cameras to the Nucciarone's cousin who kept saying, "Smile!"

According to the program, the bus was supposed to be back at JBC around 8 p.m. Due to the change in schedule, it was obvious everyone would be back in town much later than that. The bus driver met quite a few other challenges when he tried to leave the (not so little) town of Bethlehem, but managed to reach the check point safely.

"Let's sing 'We wish you a merry Christmas'," Pastor Al suggested when it became clear they might have to wait for inspection. Rolling down



the window, everyone began to sing at the top of their voices. Hearing the 'joyful noise' from the bus, the Israeli soldiers waved them through. It was warm and cozy in the bus. On the way to JBC the bus made several stops to drop off people.

For those who joined the Outreach, it had been a blessed adventure. And for those of you who missed out – Lord willing, on Christmas Eve 2014 we'll have another Bethlehem outreach. You are welcome to join us! (And bring your friends.)

## ***NEWS FROM OUR JBC FAMILY ABROAD***

### **EMILY NUCCIARONE – New Delhi, India**

Emily was able to join her parents and sister in Jerusalem for the Christmas Holiday, and it was great seeing her in church.

In June this year she graduated from Bethlehem University with highest honors with a Masters in International Cooperation and Development. She did her thesis on Women and Mobility in the West Bank and interviewed many people. While befriending Arab women she was able to testify about the way to freedom in Christ. In 2012, when applying for a job as a fellow with a relief organization she found out that 600 people applied for 21 positions. Emily received one of those positions in April 2013 and was also given her first choice of country to serve: India.

In New Delhi since September, she found a church, and is happy to be in that vast country. However, living and working there is not easy. Emily is sometimes sent on special missions to disaster areas. Flown first by plane, and then brought on the back of a motor bike, she then has to meet with people affected by e.g. a cyclone. By doing field surveys, taking pictures and



analyzing the situation of the local population living in the affected areas, she then has to report back to the headquarters in Delhi.

Much of her work is in villages quite a distance from Delhi and conditions are often less than desirable. Because of the unhygienic situations in the villages, Emily prefers to stay overnight in convents. But even so a 'clean' toilet may have 20 cockroaches on the wall.

**Please, pray for Emily's safety while travelling, and also for her health – she suffers from stomach problems and has lost a lot of weight.**



Last year around Christmas, the Dannecker's were busy packing their suitcases to return to the US, not knowing what the new year would bring. In December 2013, 1 New Heart was able to purchase a home/office in Mount Joy, PA, USA. This base enables the family to do what they love: stay in missions, on a small salary, while keeping the overhead low. Helped by others, Hank does what he can to remodel the 40+ year old house. They hope to move in this spring. Michele continues to home-school the children who are growing and doing great. In February, Hank plans to visit Israel in order to look into ways to sponsor 2-3 children.

Remembering what He's done in the past, seeing and rejoicing at what the Lord is doing in the present, Hank, Michele and their family trust Him for the future.

### **Contact info**

Website: [www.1newheart.org](http://www.1newheart.org)

Email: [hank@1newheart.org](mailto:hank@1newheart.org)

### **Special request from the Dannecker's:**

Please, do NOT post excerpts of our news on Facebook or websites. Thanks!



## CALENDAR 2014

According to the website of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Christianity is practiced by more than 150,000 Israeli citizens. Some 127,000 (80% of Christian residents) of Israel are Arab Christians, some 25,000 - the majority of the remaining are immigrants from the former Soviet Union who immigrated with Jewish relatives due to mixed marriages; there are also smaller ethno religious affiliations of about 7,000 Maronites, 1,000 Assyrians and 1,000 Copts.

President Shimon Peres spoke at the Franciscan Church in Ramla  
*"It is a special occasion for us to be able to celebrate Christmas all together – we all pray to the same Lord and we all pray for the same thing – that the Lord may grant peace to us and our children, free from hatred and animosity. I came to offer my greetings on behalf of the State of Israel where Jews, Christians and Muslims live together. It is my pleasure to bring you the greetings of the whole people of Israel; a holiday for one religion is a holiday for the whole country. As a state we are responsible for your safety, freedom and holy sites and for your feeling as free and equal citizens that carry with them the hope that unites us for peace and a better world. The Lord is doing what he can but we must do what we need to do, to follow His wish and our destiny, to live in peace."*

### **More CHRISTMAS celebrations in Jerusalem:**

**January 6/7:** Greek Orthodox celebrations in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Old City; Romanian Church, Shivtei Israel; Russian Orthodox (Russian Compound)

**January 25/26:** Armenian celebrations in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre



### **In Bethlehem:**

**January 6/7:** Greek, Syrian, Coptic, Romanian and Ethiopian Churches celebrate in the Basilica of the Nativity on Manger Square.

**January 18/19** Armenian Church celebrates in the Basilica of the Nativity.



## January 16, 2014 *TU B'SHVAT* - THE NEW YEAR OF TREES

"As others have planted for you,  
so you will plant for your children."

Leviticus Rabbah, 28

*Tu B'shvat*, the 15<sup>th</sup> of the Hebrew month of *Shvat* (end of January, beginning of February) is not mentioned in the Bible. However, the *Mishnah*\* (part of the *Talmud*), describes it as the "New Year for trees". Around this date, Israel's rainy season is usually over, but people still hope for the blessing of the "latter rain". This holiday marks the revival of nature, which is symbolized by the budding of the almond tree.

Leviticus 19 tells us what was expected from the Israelites when they entered the Promised Land:

"When you come to the land and you plant a tree, you shall treat its fruit as forbidden; for 3 years it will be forbidden and not eaten. In the fourth year, all of its fruit shall be sanctified to praise the Lord. In the 5<sup>th</sup> year you may eat its fruit." (NIV)

Having a specific date as the New Year for trees also helped with the law of tithing – 1/10<sup>th</sup> of the farmer's fruit had to be donated to the priests.

### **Biblical tithes were:**

- ◆ *Orlah* - refers to a biblical prohibition (Leviticus 19:23) on eating the fruit of trees produced during the first three years after they are planted.
- ◆ *Neta Reva'i* - refers to the biblical commandment (Leviticus 19:24) to bring fourth-year fruit crops to Jerusalem as a tithe.
- ◆ *Ma'aser Sheni* - was a tithe which was eaten in Jerusalem.
- ◆ *Ma'aser Ani* - was a tithe given to the poor (Deuteronomy 14:22-29) that was also calculated by whether the fruit ripened before or after *Tu B'shvat*.

During the Second Temple period it was customary to plant a tree when a child was born - a cedar for a boy (referring to its height and strength), and a cypress (smaller and fragrant) for a girl. When the child married, the wood of the tree was used to make the *chuppah*\*, the wedding canopy.

Throughout the ages, the diverse Jewish communities in the Diaspora developed all kinds of customs to celebrate this day. In the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the first Jewish settlers began to redeem *Eretz Israel*, part of their work was to plant trees on the barren and eroded hills.

On *Tu B'Shvat*, January 25, 1890, Rabbi Zeev Yavetz and his students set a good example by planting trees in the agricultural colony of Zichron Ya'akov.

The idea to plant trees on *Tu B'Shvat*, was in 1908 adopted by the Jewish Teachers Union and later by the Jewish National Fund (*Keren haKayemet leIsrael*), who, amongst other endeavours, began to oversee the forestation of the Land of Israel.

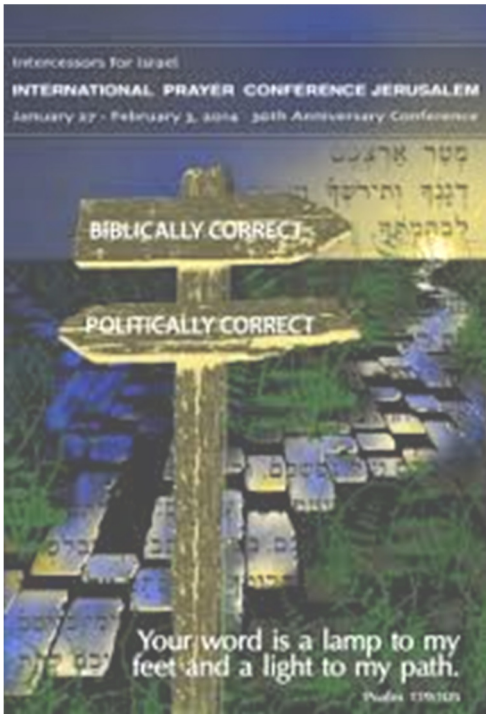
Many of Israel's major institutions have chosen this day for their inauguration ceremonies.

The cornerstone of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was placed on *Tu B'Shvat* 1918, and the first stone of Haifa's Technion was laid on the same day in 1925. The first Jewish parliament of the Jewish sovereign State chose to hold its first Knesset session on *Tu B'Shvat* 1949.

On *Tu b'Shvat* it is customary to eat the types of dried fruit mentioned in Deuteronomy 8:8 (the Seven Species). Some Orthodox Jews make candy from their *Etrog* (one of "Four Species" during *Sukkot*) and eat it during *Tu B'Shvat*.



*Tu B'shvat* is sometimes called the Jewish Arbor day. The highlight of the holiday is planting a new sapling in the soil of *Eretz Israel*, the Jewish homeland.



## International Prayer Conference - Jerusalem 2014

**Theme: Biblically Correct or Politically Correct**

**Date: January 27th - February 3rd, 2014 at the Dan Jerusalem Hotel.**

**Speakers:** Eliyahu Ben-Haim; Chuck Cohen; Lance Lambert; Steve Lightle; Jeremy Smith; Marc Chopinsky; Claude Ezagouri; Devin Mitchell

IFI's mandate is to intercede for Israel, the Church and the world - usually in that order. Yet for God to accomplish all that He wants in Israel, He looks to the Church to co-

labor with Him in prayer. Recent happenings in the Church - especially in the West - seem to indicate that it has lost its hold on the Word of God and is adrift, being swayed by every wind and doctrine of men and demons. The loss of God's plumb line - His Word - will affect whether or not the Church will pray for and stand with Israel and if they do, how will they pray. We have already seen a rise of humanism and political correctness in many churches that used to stand with Israel. Thankfully, there is a remnant that does see the lateness of the hour and the prophetic significance of Israel being restored to her land and her Messiah.

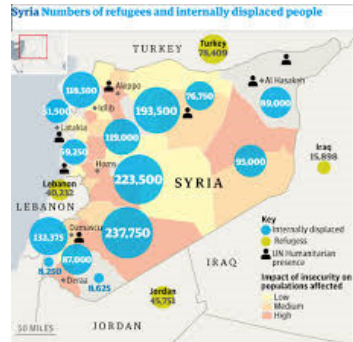
2014 will be the 30th IPCJ. We are very aware of all the prophetic promises which God has fulfilled, and is fulfilling right before our eyes. Our God is both faithful and able to do all that He has said. So we continue to stand with Him as we prepare ourselves for His Return in Glory.

Website: [www.ifi.org.il/events/conference/ipcj-2014/](http://www.ifi.org.il/events/conference/ipcj-2014/)

## NEWS FROM JORDAN

Recently, Coach Terry shared the following testimony about his Jordanian friend.

This Pastor had been able to lead a Muslim Sheikh to the Lord. The man, who was also an Imam, told his followers they were on the wrong track. Boldly he stated that Islam was a false religion and that he now followed Jesus. It was his first and last public testimony. Enraged, the Muslims beat him to death. The man administering the final blow was a fighter in Syria. Not long after the incident this fighter was wounded in his arms and legs. After managing to reach the safety of Jordan, he had trouble finding his home. In the darkness he entered the wrong house, and found himself at the mercy of the Imam's widow. However, she too had become a believer in Christ. Forgiving the murderer of her husband she witnessed to him and led him to the Lord.



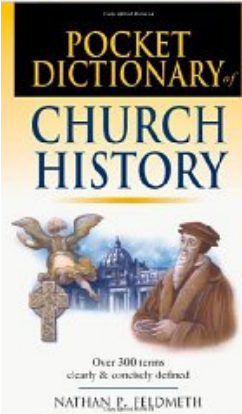
During the cold rains prior to the snow, over 200 people died of influenza. When the snows came, the bodies were frozen until such time that they could be buried.

There are still tremendous needs for mattresses, warm blankets, warm clothes and food items. Please pray how God might use you to meet some of these needs.



Syrian refugees in Jordanian camp

## BOOK REVIEW



### POCKET DICTIONARY OF CHURCH HISTORY

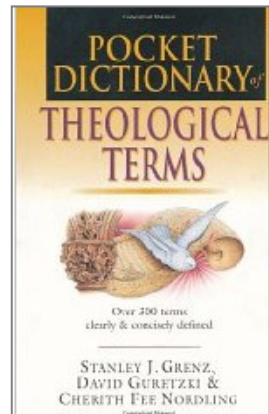
"In order to grasp the contemporary issues that face the church, we need a deep understanding of the Christian story. To find our way along the path of this history, we need a series of reference points. This volume...is designed to provide the interested reader and student of church history with essential facts about the key personalities, movements, books and ideas that shaped the history of Christianity....The entries, although brief, are written with enough detail and 'texture' to pique interest in the subject and point the way to further study."

In addition to the helpful alphabetically listed explanations, this volume also contains a chronology listing the most important people, events and ideas during each century of church history. This is an essential guide for the beginning student of the history of the Christian church.

Paperback, 144 pages, Publisher: IVP Academic. ISBN- 9780830827039

### POCKET DICTIONARY THEOLOGICAL TERMS

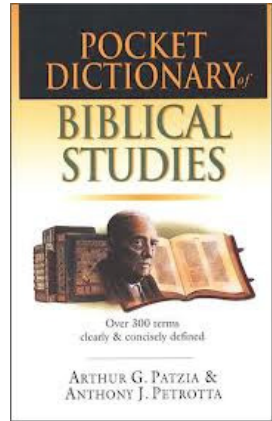
This book is the perfect companion to your theological studies. Among its three hundred-plus definitions are: English terms, from *accommodation* to *wrath of God*, foreign terms, from *a posteriori* to *via media* theological movements and traditions, from the Alexandrian School to Wesleyanism theologians, from Anselm of Canterbury to Ulrich Zwingli. Here is an affordable and easily accessible resource for your theological readings, lectures and writing assignments. It's a must-have for every beginning theological student!



Paperback, 128 pages, Publisher: IVP. ISBN 9780830814497

## Pocket Dictionary of Biblical Studies

If you are puzzled by parataxis or rankled by recensions, the Pocket Dictionary of Biblical Studies is just the thing for you. Whether you are studying Old Testament or New Testament or both at once, this is your private tutor, your ever-ready guide to over three hundred biblical-studies terms. Here's your glossary for reading those textbooks, a decoder for listening to lectures, a crib sheet for cramming for finals and a help key for writing those papers.



Paperback, 128 pages, Publisher: IVP. ISBN 9780830814671

These books, and more of this series, print versions and as an eBook are available at [www.Christianbook.com](http://www.Christianbook.com) or at the JBC ministry book table. Contact Bruce for more info and when the next ministry book table will be.





## Gold, Fur and Common Sense

(This story circulated by e-mail)

My husband and I had been happily married (most of the time) for five years but hadn't been blessed with a baby. I decided to do some serious praying and promised God that

if he would give us a child, I would be a perfect mother, love it with all my heart and raise it with His word as my guide. God answered my prayers and blessed us with a son. The next year God blessed us with another son. The following year, He blessed us with yet another son.

The year after that we were blessed with a daughter. My husband thought we'd been blessed right into poverty. We now had four children, and the oldest was only four years old.

I learned never to ask God for anything unless I meant it. As a minister once told me, "If you pray for rain, make sure you carry an umbrella." I began reading a few verses of the Bible to the children each day as they lay in their cribs. I was off to a good start.

God had entrusted me with four children and I didn't want to disappoint Him. I tried to be patient the day the children smashed two dozen eggs on the kitchen floor searching for baby chicks. I tried to be understanding when they started a hotel for homeless frogs in the spare bedroom, although it took me nearly two hours to catch all twenty-three frogs. When my daughter poured ketchup all over herself and rolled up in a blanket to see how it felt to be a hot dog, I tried to see the humor rather than the mess. In spite of changing over twenty-five thousand diapers, never eating a hot meal and never sleeping for more than thirty minutes at a time, I still thank God daily for my children.

While I couldn't keep my promise to be a perfect mother - I didn't even come close—I did keep my promise to raise them in the Word of God. I knew I was missing the mark just a little when I told my daughter we were going to church to worship God, and she wanted to bring a bar of soap along



to "wash up" Jesus, too.

Something was lost in the translation when I explained that God gave us everlasting life, and my son thought it was generous of God to give us his "last wife."



My proudest moment came during the children's Christmas pageant. My daughter was playing Mary, two of my sons were shepherds and my youngest son was a wise man. This was their moment to shine. My five-year-old shepherd had practiced his line, "We found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes." But he was nervous and said, "The baby was wrapped in wrinkled clothes." My four-year-old "Mary" said, "That's not 'wrinkled clothes,' silly. That's dirty, rotten clothes." A

wrestling match broke out between Mary and the shepherd and was stopped by an angel, who bent her halo and lost her left wing.

I slouched a little lower in my seat when Mary dropped the doll representing Baby Jesus, and it bounced

down the aisle crying, "Mama-mama." Mary grabbed the doll, wrapped it back up and held it tightly as the wise men arrived.

My other son stepped forward wearing a bathrobe and a paper crown, knelt at the manger and announced, "We are the three wise men, and we are bringing gifts of gold, common sense and fur."



The congregation dissolved into laughter, and the pageant got a standing ovation.

"I've never enjoyed a Christmas program as much as this one," laughed the pastor, wiping tears from his eyes. "For the rest of my life, I'll never hear the Christmas story without thinking of gold, common sense and fur."

"My children are my pride and my joy and my greatest blessing," I said as I dug through my purse for an aspirin.

# 2013 ~ THE YEAR THAT WAS....

*"Happy  
Birthday,  
Dear  
Billie....!"*



MARCH



*Saying good-bye is never easy*



APRIL



JULY



*'The keeper of the keys',  
while the Nucciarones  
are on furlough.*

SEPTEMBER

*Gideon's funeral*



OCTOBER



*Dutch couple on their honeymoon*

*Pastor Al and Billie's first grandchild*



NOVEMBER



DECEMBER



Coach Terry and Dianne singing "Because He Lives" with their new grandson sleeping nearby.

"How sweet to hold a new-born baby, and feel the pride and joy He gives; but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days **because He lives...**"

## The ABC of Praise

Although things are not perfect

**B**ecause of trial or pain

**C**ontinue in thanksgiving

**D**o not begin to blame

Even when the times are **hard**

**F**ierce winds **are bound to blow**

**G**od is **forever able**

**H**old on to **what you know**

**I**magine life **without His love**

Joy would **cease to be**

**K**eep thanking Him for all the things

Love imparts to thee

**M**ove out of "camp Complaining"

**N**o weapon that is known

**O**n earth can yield the power

**P**raise can do alone

**Q**uit looking at the future

**R**edeem the time at hand

**S**tart every day with worship

**T**o 'thank' is a command

**U**ntil **we see Him** coming

**V**ictorious in the sky

**W**e'll run the race with gratitude

**X**-alting God most high

**Y**es, there'll be good times and yes some will be bad, but...

**Z**ion waits in glory... where none are ever sad!

## 2014 BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Enthusiasm – comes from the Greek word “*Entheos*”, which means “God in”. Enthusiasm is the ability to see God in a situation that makes it exciting. God, our heavenly Father is aware of and involved in our activities and applauds our lives. Think of all you’ve accomplished to this point. Try to imagine the future horizons and challenges From the vanishing point of yesterday to the vanishing point of tomorrow you’ll find God has been, and always will be present – forever more!

**Charles Swindoll**

*“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”*

*(Hebrews 13:20-21).*



Established in 1925, the **Baptist House in Jerusalem** is one of Jerusalem's oldest Protestant institutions. Jerusalem Baptist Church (JBC) is a member of the Baptist Convention of Israel and is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention of the United States. We operate under the *amuta* of the Baptist Convention of Israel.

Over the years, faithful congregants have joyfully served in many positions throughout Israel and partnered with many denominations and organizations to serve the Savior here. Each Sunday, the worship service is filled with people from many nations, and visitors from around the globe. You may be surprised to find someone from your hometown worshipping with us when you visit!

The purpose of JBC is to serve the interest of Jesus Christ in this city until He returns.

Sunday morning Prayer Meeting at 9.30 A.M.

Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.

Children's Sunday School ages K-6. Older children are invited to attend the main service.

Communion: every first Sunday of the month.

Wednesday Prayer Meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Friday Ladies' Bible Study at 9.30 a.m.

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