

his faith.

"When I told them I was a Christian, they asked me to join a group of people already ordered to lie down by the side of the road. I did as I was ordered to do, and then one of the men came and searched me and took money from me, including my mobile phone," he told Morning Star News.

"It was when the gunmen started shooting and killing those of us that were Christians grouped together that I ran into a nearby maize farm, because it was already dark. They shot wildly at me, but I escaped unhurt, except the injuries I sustained while running in the bush," he added.

Nigeria has been the host of years of brutal sectarian violence and thousands have died as a result. Aggression toward Christians has been fueled by Boko Haram, or "Western Education is a Sin," a militant group fighting for an Islamic state within the country, BosNewsLife reported.

## On New Persecution Against Christians in Syria

Three quarters of the world's 2.2 billion Christians – the expanding part – now live outside the largely tolerant West. At the same time, the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life reports that Christians suffer more persecution than any other religious group.

<http://www.spectator.co.uk/features/9006591/dont-expect-the-government-to-raise-its-voice-for-syrias-christians/>

## News:

An in-depth Bible study is scheduled for September 19-21 (Thursday through Saturday) at the Copper Basin Bible Camp in Prescott, Arizona. This workshop is similar in purpose to the *Workshop in the Word* workshops that are held annually in Durango, Colorado. The workshop is called **Tackling The Text** and will focus on the book of Ephesians. The speaker will be Guy Orbison. For more information, call Chris Macy at 480-818-3807.

Neil Short's dad, Buryl Short, is now recovering at home in Loma Linda.

## Prayer List:

**Healing:** *Jerry Robinson's mother Norma. Mike and Sandy Cavasos, Ben Atchley, Faye Atchley, Nicolas and Annie Self, Jonda Gardner, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.*

**Travels:** *The Cunninghams.*

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# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

8 September 2013

## Topics

**A.M. Bible Class: The Holy Spirit and Us**

**A.M. Lesson: Our Fellowship With God**

**P.M. Lesson: Israel's Only Savior**

Isaiah 43

**Wednesday: Jeroboam's Son Falls Sick**

1 Kings 14

Notes

Pulpit Evangelist

*Ken Knowlton: 428-3494*

Elders

*Ben Atchley: 428-2246*

*Greg Briggs: 428-8756*

*John Cunningham: 428-0895*

## Services

|                             |            |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Sunday Bible Class          | 10:00 A.M. |
| Sunday Morning Worship      | 11:00 A.M. |
| Sunday Evening Worship      | 6:30 P.M.  |
| Wednesday Evening Class     | 6:30 P.M.  |
| Thursday Ladies Bible Class | 10:00 A.M. |

## Digesting Truth

Daniel Dalton, *Think*. July 2013

The stomach is an important part of the body. It is the stomach that breaks down the food and turns it into useful energy for our bodies.

The Word of God is referred to many times throughout the Bible as "food." Matthew 5:6 says, "Blessed are they which hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Jesus described Himself as the bread of life and promised that all that come to Him will never thirst (John 6:35).

As Christians we realize the importance of the Word of God and we spend time reading His Word. His Word is what feeds us and keeps us growing (2 Peter 3:18). Yet we need to realize that reading His Word without applying it is no more useful than eating food without digesting it. We must use our minds to break down, digest, and consume His Word. It takes a conscious

effort to examine the Scriptures and to determine how they apply to our lives. Paul's desire for the people of Colossae was that they would not only read the Word of God, but that they would completely digest it into their lives. Colossians 1:9 reads, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that you might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." Paul's desire for them is that they have three levels of studying the Word of God.

First, Paul wants them to be filled with the knowledge. Knowledge is simply the ability to comprehend and recognize facts. Knowledge is being able to recite the account of Noah and the ark. Knowledge is knowing what the Bible says. Many times a Christian's study of God's Word stops with knowledge without ever really digesting His Word.

Second, Paul desires that they have "spiritual understanding." Understanding is the ability to comprehend **and** to put it into our own words. It is not just reciting, but understanding the meaning contained in what is studied. This understanding is where the Word of God becomes more than a book of stories.

Third, Paul desires that they have "wisdom." Wisdom is the ability to use our acquired knowledge and understanding. This is where we begin to realize that God's word applies to us! This is where I read the account of Noah, and it encourages me to stand strong among the lost of the world and to trust and obey God without wavering.

The thing we often forget is that digesting His Word requires effort on our part. Digesting His Word requires us to think about His Word. Digesting His Word requires us to think about our lives and evaluate where we stand in relation to His Word. Digesting His Word requires us to make changes in our lives so that we are the Christians He would have us to be.

John was given a book in Revelation 10:8-11. He was told to eat the book and that it would be sweet in his mouth and bitter in his stomach. Sometimes the word of God, while it is sweet to read, should be bitter on our stomach. It should bring us discomfort and move us to change our lives. Too many times we read His Word and taste the sweetness in our mouths, but never digest it because it makes us uncomfortable.

Digesting God's Word into our lives is just as important for our spiritual survival as digestion is for our physical bodies. We cannot survive spiritually if we don't apply God's Word. We need to move beyond just knowing to the point that we understand and apply His Word with the wisdom that He has given us and make the changes in our lives that His Word demands (Hebrews 5:12-14).

## "The love of God was magnified"

*Christianity Today*, September 2013

A **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** revision to "In Christ Alone" (the No. 11 most popular song sung in churches) [# 302 in our hymnals], because a committee found the original lyrics' atonement language ("the wrath of God was satisfied" [based on Isaiah 53:11, KJV]) too controversial. Songwriters Keith Getty and Stuart Townend refused to authorize the change.

## A Light to the Nations

Wesley Study Bible Notes on Isaiah 42

"I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations" (Isaiah 42:6b). Jesus is the light of the world – he came to chase away the darkness of brokenness, sin, and death. He calls us to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). God's grace has been released for the whole world in the person and work of Jesus, and God calls us to be partners in spreading the light of the good news to the whole world. Are you reflecting the light and grace of God in your life?

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The following article is from a secular source; but it should open our eyes to the importance of eternity, the reality of God and his expectations of his people. I ask myself what I would do in this situation. I cannot know until I am there; and if it's all the same to God, I am in no hurry. As much as Jesus is demeaned in this nation, such incidents may be eminent. Matthew 10:32-33; Revelation 2:10; 21:8.

## Nigerian Islamists Gun Down 5 Christians After they Declare their Faith

*The Washington Times*, September 3, 2013

Islamists gunned down five people in a roadside ambush near Nigeria's central city of Jos, only killing them after they declared their Christian faith, church representatives said Monday.

Pam Gyang, 33, Felix John, 32, as well as Jimmy Tiger, 28, Ishaku Gyang, 40, and Dachung Monday, 20, were all members of a Church of Christ in Nations (COCIN) congregation in the nearby town of Foron, BosNewsLife reported.

Islamists reportedly forced the victims out of a minibus and ordered them to lie on the ground before shooting them on Aug. 29.

Christian news agency Morning Star News quoted the local pastor, Pam Jang Pam, as saying the attackers "were a combined band of ethnic Fulani herdsmen and Islamic extremist mercenaries."

Two other unidentified Christians were hurt in the attack, including a pregnant woman, the report said.

Witness Emmanuel Sunday, a technical school student, said he was riding his motorbike near the scene of the attack when the gunmen stopped him to ask about