

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

27 March 2016

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Victory in Jesus! (Hebrews 2:11-18)

### A.M. Lesson:

He has risen! (Luke 24:1-12)

### P.M. Lesson:

The persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8)

### Wednesday:

Christian evidences: Dinosaurs are in the Bible

Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

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.

*Great are the works of the Lord,  
studied by all who delight in them. Psalm 111:2  
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

## Bullies

Neil Short

This week's terrorist bombing incident in Brussels, Belgium is quite disturbing. It speaks very strongly about how communities (in the world, in a nation and in a church) are expected to manage themselves, each other and how they handle others who are behaving badly.

The Belgium incident and the world's reaction reminds me of a historical incident that occurred in the Judges period. The account in Judges 18 makes for a terrific commentary on current events.

The land of Canaan had long been conquered; but there were some Israelites who had yet to receive an inheritance from the conquered territory. The tribe of Dan, for example, had not received an inheritance.

The Danites sent out some scouts to find some territory they could settle. On the way, some scouts stayed with a friendly and hospitable man named Micah.

Later, they found a community called Laish. Laish was the ideal soft target. They were wealthy, civilized and trusting that others are equally good natured. The defense of Laish was not their military

(they didn't have one) or their tall rock wall (didn't have that either). They were allied with the Sidonians who lived far away down by the Mediterranean coast. The protection of Laish was the threat of retaliation against their enemies by their friends over at Sidon. While Aram was their nearest superpower neighbor (by primitive standards), Aram was not allied with Laish.

The Danites decided to go down and take Laish from the people living there. On the way, they robbed the house of Micah who had earlier given such hospitality to the Danite spies.

Then, the Danites continued their mission to Laish. The Bible says they "came to Laish, to a people quiet and unsuspecting, and put them to the sword, and burned down the city. There was no deliverer, because it was far from Sidon and they had no dealings with Aram" (Judges 18:27, NRSV).

The inspired historian does not moralize about this action; but he clearly did not approve. Dan set up a shrine there which was furnished with stuff stolen from Micah's house. This sanctuary is contrasted against the legitimate sanctuary of the Tabernacle in Shiloh (vs. 31). A Levite from the family of Moses (not Manasseh, as some translations read) presided in Laish (now called Dan).

It is striking that the Danites got away with this

atrocities. Sidon did not respond, possibly because there was no one left in Laish to defend or possibly because Sidon was reluctant to go up against the entire confederacy of Israel. Israel itself did not respond either. We cannot know why but the reasoning might be that the territory of Laish was seen as inheritance for Israel. It could be that the people of Laish were unrelated and therefore not a concern of Israel.

The Danites were bullies and people tend to avoid confronting bullies.

In those days

“... there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes” (Judges 21:25).

The tiny country of modern Belgium has no military of its own and is unable to respond to the terrorist bombing they suffered this week.

Belgium has superpower allies which should serve as deterrents to any powers apt to attack her. Curiously, the leaders of the Islamic State are not trembling in their boots about this threat (but the leader of one superpower ally of Belgium spent a lot of quality time enjoying the hospitality of socialist dictator Raul Castro in Cuba).

There are bullies in the world, in communities and in the church. It is the duty of the larger community to stand up to them (Deuteronomy 14:29; 16:19-20; 24:17; Isaiah 1:17; Amos 5:24; Micah 6:8; James 3:1-18 and many more).

### **Prayer list:**

*Jonda Gardner has requested prayers for*

*her brother Randy.*

*Joy Gibson has requested prayers for her family.*

*Christian Children's Home in Portales, New Mexico*

*Dan Keele—mission work*

*Robin Richards—depression, back pain*

*Sam Appleton—declining health*

*John Cunningham—cancer*

*Norma Robinson—health*

*Linda Boling—health*

*H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia*

*Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration*

*Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs*



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## APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 April Fool's Day	2 Catalina Short birthday
3	4 Pete & Cindy Waller Anniversary	5 Inez Clendenen Birthday	6 Singing	7	8	9 Robin Richards birthday
10 Louella Briggs Birthday	11	12	13	14	15 Taxes Due	16
17 Fellowship Meal	18	19	20 Kathy Cocke Verdell Kescoli Birthdays	21	22 Earth Day Nic Self Birthday	23 Passover
24	25	26	27 Admin Assist Day	28 Joy Gibson Birthday	29	30