

The Challenger

Ministerial Staff

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Reaching people, touching lives, and growing together in Christ's love.

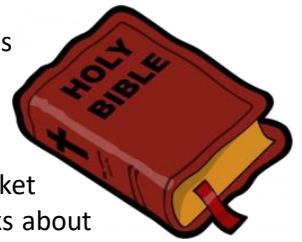
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NO. 3

I stood in line at Payson's Maverik with my heart beating wildly in my chest. In my coat pocket was my little New Testament that I had received from our Thursday Night Evangelism Training; on its back cover were the verses that clearly spelled out the Gospel message as well as a prayer that somebody could pray to give his or her life to Jesus. I had awakened that morning telling myself and Jesus that I was going to give that little Bible away before the end of the day.

Now I was standing in line staring wide-eyed at the cashier and everything in my being was saying, “She's the one. Give it to her.” Well, maybe not everything in my being. A part was arguing, “You don't even know her, she will think you're a freak of nature! What are you going to say anyway? Are you going to try to engage in a whole Gospel-centered conversation while you purchase your Twizzlers or are you just going to chuck your little pocket Bible at her and run?” To which my original mindset answered, “Who cares what she thinks about me? What does she think of me now? Besides, you're a pastor! If you don't start acting on opportunities that are put before you, how can you expect anybody else to?”



I hope at least I wasn't verbally arguing with myself but ready or not, it was my turn. I swiped my debit card after she rang me up and while we were waiting for “Approved”, I had just enough time to pull out my little Bible and say, “I am on a mission to give out as many Bibles as I can because I *really* want people to know God and go to Heaven. Can I give you one?”

What was she going to say? Was she going to mock me for being one of those wide-eyed radicals that she heard about on the news that just goes around hating gay people and abortionists? Was she going to come up with all the scientific reasons of why she didn't believe God existed? Was she going to ask why bad things happened to good people?

She said, “Thank you,” and took it.

That was it. I mentioned the verses on the back cover that told her everything she needed to know about how to go to Heaven, said I hoped she had a good day, and walked out with my Twizzlers. I had to ask myself, “Why is that so uncomfortable? Even us pastors, why do we make something like that such a big deal? What are we scared of?” Every time I've done something like that, I'm reminded that my biggest fear stems from my own wild imagination and it has nothing to do with reality. People have usually seemed more open to talking about the faith than I am. How about you? Statistically speaking, out of 10 Christians, one of them will share his faith some time this year. Are you the one or the other 9 who are busy scaring themselves out of it? If our church is going to be faithful in doing its job, its people MUST become more faithful in doing their job. Perhaps the topic of Christmas can be a great doorway to some sharing opportunities. Will you join me through His gracious patience in doing better?

In His Grip,
Pastor Fred

First Baptist Church
411 N. Warren Ave.
Winslow, AZ 86047



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...help change a life

289-2484 (leave a message if we're not in!). Two hours out of your day will mean donations to help others and the money stays in our community! Small groups are welcome here as well. It's a great way for families and friends to hang out and share in the ringing!

Are you getting in the Christmas spirit yet? How about the giving spirit? We are looking for people to "man the bucket" for the Salvation Army. Would you like to be a bell ringer? Look for our sign-up sheet on the church Facebook page or call the church office at



MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6 pm: Come celebrate the birth of our Savior! Music, encouragement from the Word of God, and candle lighting ceremony. Take the opportunity to invite a family member, friend or neighbor to come and worship with you.



Christmas Dinner

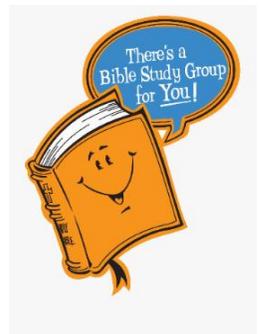
Community Christmas Dinner - Christmas Day from Noon - 3 pm

Don't have a place to share a Christmas meal with someone? Looking for a place to serve others on Christmas Day? Come to our Community Christmas Dinner. If you'd like to donate food or cash for this event, donations are being accepted. If you'd like to help work at the event or in preparing food ahead of time, please let Freddie Campbell know or call the church office at 289-2484.

Thinking about making a New Year's Resolution? Why not make it to grow your faith by attending one of our many Bible studies? We have Bible studies for all ages on Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. as well as many mid-week studies. Men's groups, women's groups, book studies, and video series. Some meet in the day time, some in the evening. Interested in joining one? Check out the schedule below or call the church office. We'd be happy to help connect you to a group that will be just right for you! In the end, your spiritual health is just as great a need as your physical health is. Make 2020 the year that you improve both!

Sunday Morning Adult Studies:

- Faith Walk - Rm 203B - Teacher: Jim Sepi - Study: Selected Topics
- Friends - Rm 103A - Teacher: Lou Slonczewski - Study: Book of Psalms
- The Forum - Rm 104B - Teacher: Larry Dickey - Study: Bible Studies for Life
- Digging Deeper - Rm104A - Teacher: Dave Conatser - Study: Selected Topics
- Cross Seekers - Rm 207B - Teachers: Jim & Lisa MacLean - Study: Lifestyle Priorities
- Berean Breakfast Class - Denny's - Teacher: Mary Ann Smith - Study: Living Out Your Faith
- Living Water - Rm 104C - Teacher: Rene Chase Begay - Study: MasterWorks
- Brothers In Faith - Rm 104D - Teacher: John Stephenson - Study: Explore the Bible & Selected Topics
- Young Adults - Rm 203C - Teacher: Fred Harris - Study: Bible Perspectives for Young Adults



Midweek Adult Studies:

- Mondays:**
 - 6:30 pm Men's Bible Study - Rm
 - 6:30 pm Women's Bible Study - Rm
- Tuesdays:** 9:30 am Women's Bible Study (beginning again February 5th) - meets at 517 W. Henderson
- Wednesdays:** 6:00 pm Before God's Throne - Rm
- Thursdays:** 6:00 pm Teacher's Bible School - Rm
- Fridays:** 9:00 am Bible Study - Rm 104A

Mark Your Calendar!

Sunday, 12/8	4:00 pm	Deacon's Meeting
Friday, 12/13	6:00 pm	All Adults Christmas Party
Wednesday, 12/18	6:00 pm	AWANA & Youth Christmas Caroling
Sunday, 12/22	Noon	All Church Christmas Potluck
	5:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party
Tuesday, 12/24	6:00 pm	Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Wednesday, 12/25	Noon	Community Christmas Dinner until 3 pm
Friday, 12/27	11:30 am	Senior Adult Luncheon at BoJo's

