



NEW LIFE NEWS

The official newsletter for New Life Presbyterian Church • March 2010

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

by Pastor Brian Tallman

The Marriage Go-Round

Andrew Cherlin

A fascinating exploration into the state of marriage in America. Cherlin wrestles through the curious problem that in America marriage is more highly regarded than in Europe, but our failure rate is higher. The author also examines the results of marital breakups, especially as it relates to children.

Generation Me

Jean M. Twenge, PhD.

Ever wondered why today's youth seem to be so self-centered? It's because they are, and this book explains why. The author suggests that those of us who are under 35 are part of this generation. It is particularly revealing and quite helpful in understanding yourself and the way that the world in which we are embedded can subtly and not so subtly influence us.

Deep Church

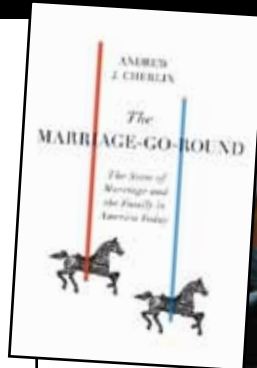
Jim Belcher

Belcher examines the "traditional" church and the "emerging" church and then offers a third way of being the church. The strongest part of this book is the insight it offers into the emerging church movement. Belcher, now a PCA minister, was involved on the ground floor. This book is really well written. If you have questions about the emerging church, this is particularly helpful.

God the Peacemaker

Graham Cole

Cole is an excellent scholar and in this volume simply points us to the cross. The death of Jesus brings about peace, shalom, peace with God and peace with others.



Counterfeit Gods

Tim Keller

Idolatry isn't just falling over and paying homage to a piece of wood. Idolatry is a disease with which all of humanity is suffering from, and Keller demonstrates that many times it manifests itself in the worship of money, sex and power. This book isn't big, but it will get to your heart.

The Temple and The Churches Mission

G.K. Beale

This book is big and dense. Sorry, but in the interest of full disclosure you need to know that. That said, if you read it and read it slowly and chase down the myriad Bible references and investigations of passages, this book will change the way you read the Bible. It is simply amazing and is like few books. It truly is a paradigm changer. The author sets out to interpret the last couple chapters of the Bible. But in so doing he actually goes back to the beginning and then to the temple. Having done that he teases out the implications for the church as we await the coming of the eternal dwelling of God.

Natural Law and the Two Kingdoms

David VanDrunen

Reformed theology isn't agreed regarding the manner in which the church should engage and interact with the culture. One of the reasons this book is so helpful is because of the historical engagement the author provides. Whatever your views on the subject, this book will provide you with a helpful introduction into the subject, as well as interesting historical data.

The Christian Life: A Systematic Theology for Pilgrims on the Way

Michael Horton

Not yet released, but look for it this year. It will probably come in around 1000 pages and be a standard for a long time. Everyone needs a systematic theology. This is a good one to have, and it will be solidly reformed.

Why We Love the Church

Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck

Many are interested in Jesus, but not the church. Of course this is an oxymoron for, as we confess, there is ordinarily no salvation outside the church. This book examines why some today are not interested in the church and convincingly shows why the church is so important for the Christian. Read this book, and you will love the church. ☛

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Katie Heinze

Hello New Life family! Some of you know me, some of you don't, but I've been a member at New Life since shortly after starting to attend the summer of 1998. That year was a year of two big moves. New Life moved to this building, and my family moved across the country from State College, Pennsylvania. I had just finished my freshman year at Penn State, but decided that tagging along to sunny California sounded a whole lot better than being stuck in the ice and snow by myself. I transferred to UCSD and finished there with a B.S. in Management Science, which is a highly quantitative business major, offered in the Economics department (lots of math). Though now a Californian, I still root for my PSU Nittany Lions during football season. (I feel badly for the SDSU Aztecs who are stuck in such a non-college football city.) I watch every game I can on digital cable at my parents' house, and if we can't do that, we listen on internet radio to any PA station we can find. Despite the fact that I still consider State College my hometown, San Diego has become "home," in large part because of this church. I have been incredibly blessed by the people who make up this congregation. The wonderful friendships and the opportunities to serve and worship here have been defining parts of my life.

Aside from being a college football fan, my primary sporting interest is figure skating. I have been figure skating since I was nine, and I still love to launch myself into the air, rotate as many times as I can, and then land on a piece of metal about the size of a bread knife. One of my favorite spins is called the "death drop." I wasn't afraid of doing anything on ice as a teenager, and although I'm slightly more tentative now that I am 29 and dealing with a chronic wrist injury, I still love to push

myself. When you tell people you ice skate, they always ask, "Can you do the stuff like they do at the Olympics?" My personal grand achievement is landing a triple sahlcow when I was 20, and I also had a two-foot landing on a double axel. And yes, those are jumps you would see on TV. Had I wanted to pursue competitive skating hard-core, I could have, but my interest tends to lie more in the enjoyment of the sport and performing than in competition. Also, I love the analytical side and would probably enjoy coaching someday.

My other hobby is music. I've been playing the piano and writing music for as long as I've been skating, and since being at New Life have had many opportunities to develop my singing abilities as well. As a personal project I recorded a CD of some of my piano compositions at the age of 16, and I would like to record my newer pieces as I have time. One of the greatest things about music at New Life is that here are so many creative people with whom I've been able to make music, and they have inspired me in my endeavors.

I've had a variety of interesting jobs as a programmer and teacher, and even studied fashion design. Right now I work as a sales data analyst at a company selling aids for the visually impaired. I work with some neat people, many of whom are also Christian, but the killer is that my commute takes me from La Mesa to Vista and back every day! Ultimately, my passion lies in a different area.

Ever since I was eight, I've been interested in the idea of adoption. The thought of being able to share the love of a family and the gospel with a child who might otherwise never know either, was one that captivated me. (I confess, I also wanted another sibling.) Then I read a biography of Amy Carmichael, which fed into that as well as into my interest in other cultures. Over the years



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I became interested in international adoption and ministering to orphans. If I am to be in the workforce for a time yet, I would like to either have a flexible enough job to devote significant volunteer time to ministry in this area, or find full time work in the field. I am still sorting out the details, but I hope to be able to share more of my heart for orphans with my New Life family soon. I am prayerfully considering going to India on a short-term trip this summer while my dear friend, Sherrere, is there with the thought of having the opportunity to minister at an orphanage. Please pray for me as I contemplate that idea. I am also hoping to attend the Christian Alliance for Orphans annual conference for the second time in a row this April. John Piper is one of the keynote speakers.

Well, folks, this is a little bit about me. If I don't know you, I'd love to meet you. Feel free to say "Hi" if you see me in Fellowship Hall! Just look for the 4'10" person wearing the 4" heels. ☺

CONSIDER THE LILIES

By Jeri Morris

“Consider the lilies of the field,” said Jesus. Also, consider the sweet peas, the hyacinths, the birds of paradise, and so many others. Then, consider how miraculous it is for a little seed to spring up into a beautiful blossom, which gives us such aromatic fragrance, substance for chemists to develop a curative medicine, and some sap deep in their center that the bees fly into to dust their feet so they can make honey—all this and so much more from that little seed.

Many years ago when we were at the church in Point Loma, Mary Ann Misere’s mother, Anna, brought a big bouquet to church every Sunday to place before the pulpit. This was discontinued after she died, and after we settled here in La Mesa there suddenly appeared flowers on the desk table to welcome members and visitors as they came down the steps or entered through the other entrance. Then, Pastor Tallman requested a greeter at the back door by the Missions’ Board, and it seemed fitting to put a few more flowers on that little table. Through the years we have received various vases, frogs and other floral paraphernalia, which we are happy to receive.

Both of us had a mother/grandmother who took bouquets to their church each week, and both of us were taught, at least a little, how to gather the flowers, what containers to use, and how to arrange them. We are grateful and happy to continue that link with our past and bring to you each Son’s Day one of God’s many gifts.

The Flower Girls ❀



Man finds it hard to get what he wants, because he does not want the best; God finds it hard to give, because He would give the best, and man will not take it. —George MacDonald

“MORE THAN JUST TULIP” MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Interested in joining New Life? Would you like to learn more about what we believe or feel like you could use a refresher class? Come to Pastor Tallman’s six week class Sundays at 4:30.

The class will run from March 14 to April 18. Please contact Allison Dossett at 619-667-5999 or info@newlifelamesa.org for more information. ❀



FOR YOU

By Diane Henderson, 2009

For You

*My arms were aching
From carrying the cross,
From carrying the cross
For You.*

*My soul was mourning
From feeling so alone,
From feeling so alone
For you.*

*My blood was spilling
From dying for your sins,
From dying for your sins
For you.*

*My heart was breaking
From paying the whole price,
From paying the whole price
For you.*

*My Love is lasting
Forever not to end,
Forever not to end
For You.*

*I now am sitting
My Father’s right hand Man,
My Father’s right hand Man
For you.*

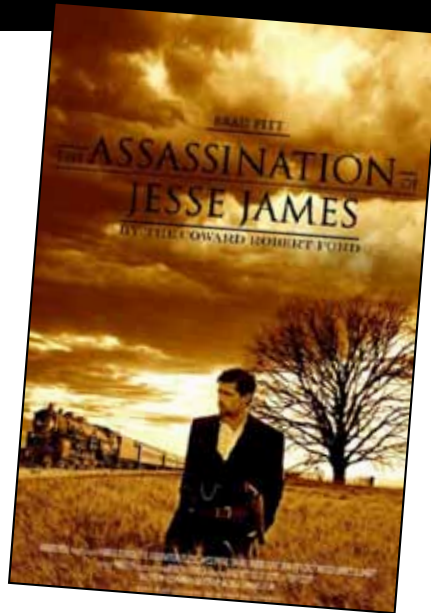
*I will be coming
Someday to take you home,
Someday to take you home
For Me. ❀*

FAITH IN ARTS' CONFERENCE

Held at King College, Bristol TN • by Court Patton

I recently had the opportunity to travel to King College in Bristol, TN to attend a conference on faith and the arts. King College is the home of the Buechner Institute, named after Frederick Buechner, Pulitzer Prize finalist and Presbyterian minister. I traveled with my friend, Tom, who besides being Fred's friend, has been recording Fred reading his works, which include *Godric*, and *Telling the Truth: The Gospel as Tragedy, Comedy and Fairy Tale*, among others.

We arrived in Bristol and were picked up by the Dean of King College's Philosophy Department. We were impressed with his hospitality and humility. Here is a man who has his PhD from Harvard serving as our personal chauffeur. I was struck by this all weekend; no rich, no poor, no Greek nor Jew in Christ, with a dash of southern hospitality thrown in for good measure. This year's keynote speaker was Ron Hansen, author of many novels including *Mariette in Ecstasy* and *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, which was adapted into a movie starring Brad Pitt and for which Casey Affleck was nominated for an Oscar for his chilling performance of Robert Ford. Mr. Hansen regaled us with many fascinating and often funny stories about the movie making process. (The extras in the movie wanted to take the realistic wax figure of Brad Pitt, used in the Jesse James' death scene, around to the local bars to pick up women, for instance.) After lunch about 300 people settled in for a screening of the film, with a question and answer session afterward. Most striking to me was the idea of Jesse James being one of the first American celebrities cast positively in books and press despite his murdering some 17 people. Mr. Hansen talked at length about his research and the obvious connections today with a morally vacuous culture obsessed with



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celebrity for celebrity sake. It is also interesting to note that Jesse James attended an Easter service two days before his death, an incongruity that reminded me of Christ's story of the wheat and tares.

The next evening's highlight was the one-man play based on Buechner's *Godric*, the story of an 11th century monk. The play, like the book, creates a brilliant chiaroscuro (the arrangement of light and dark elements in a pictorial work of art) contrast of man's sin and God's Grace. Sin is never minimized, and the actor portraying Godric did an

excellent job despairing over his sin even as the monk Reginald was trying to sanitize Godric's story in advance of his being beautified. "Gentle Jesu, Mary's Son, be thine the wounds that heal our wounding. Press thy bloody scars to ours that thy dear blood may flow in us and cleanse our sin," Godric prays at one point.

The last evening Ron Hansen delivered the keynote address. His subject was seeing, and he made comparisons between sight as a sensory attribute, and the necessity of "seeing" beyond the physical, into the invisible and eternal, in order that we might see God's power and glory in our daily lives. The address was complex and multifarious, and a challenge for the artist to write and create in a way that facilitates this kind of "seeing."

Jennifer Holberg, author and professor at Calvin College, summed up the weekend nicely with this quote from John Calvin from the Institutes. "And since the glory of God's power and wisdom shine more brightly above, heaven is often called His palace (*Psalms 11:4*). Yet,...wherever you cast your eyes, there is no spot in the universe wherein you cannot discern at least some sparks of His glory. You cannot in one glance survey this most vast and beautiful system of the universe, in its wide expanse, without being completely overwhelmed by the boundless force of its brightness....Certainly, however much the glory of God shines forth, scarcely one man in a hundred is a true spectator of it." May we all be better spectators of the sparks of God's glory. ✪

The season of Lent involves the telling of the same old story that invites us to become participants in the drama. If we choose to act in this great Passion Play we shall find ourselves called to be experiments in vulnerability. We will have set in motion a course of events totally beyond our control. — Alan Jones, Passion for Pilgrimage