



one of those words would be represented by the same “SNG.” (You might even think of other options.) You have to decide which is meant. How would you know which is meant, assuming you even know all the options?

Context teaches us much of what we need to know. If I told you that I had gone fishing and had difficulties because of a SNG in my line, you would not think my line was playing a song, right? If I said I put a soft, cozy blanket on my child and she felt very SNG, you wouldn’t say she was singed, would you? If I said that we invited Amy Grant to come to our church to SNG a SNG or two, you wouldn’t expect to see her come snag and singe. The companion words help provide hints to the meaning, but sometimes there are more than one possibility that could make sense....hence the alternate word in the footnotes. And sometimes the letters may not correspond to any known words, and so you end up making a deduction based on the surrounding words, or read notes about it somebody else did before, in which case the footnote may say, “Hebrew uncertain.” If you really want to get a sense of what this is like, get out some newspaper article or story page, and write it out using only the consonants, then see if you are able to read it without the vowels there, asking yourself why you are able in some places, and what makes it hard in others. Afterwards, maybe we could get you a job translating the Bible!



PASTOR'S NOTES

“...the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they then gold, even much fine gold;”--Psalm 19:9b-10a (esv)

“...the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ...the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.” - 1 Peter 1:7b & 12b (esv)

Some stories in this article I have shared before, but as we approach Holy Week, I want to highlight again the incredible value of the salvation Jesus obtained for us, and the scriptures God has given. When you think of the value you place on your faith and the Bible, what things inspired you to believe as you do? Here are some of the things that have helped me appreciate that privilege over the years. I remember many years ago when a missionary shared that Christians in the (then) Soviet Union were worried about and praying for the American church, because they believe we have gotten soft, and things were too easy for us. That has always stuck with me, as I have observed churches focusing on so many things other than their mission, and not seeing privileged we are to have churches so accessible to attend and Bibles to read.

Many years ago, I read the biography of Dawson Trotman, founder of the Navigators. His family were not church folks, but a friend had invited him to the kids' classes. At one, they were given a verse to memorize, and the next meeting, he had done so...and was the only one who had—none of the church kids did! The teacher gave him more to learn, and he began doing so. Later he made that a priority in his adult life, and worked on ways to help others memorize scriptures, stating that he memorized his first thousand verses at a verse a day! I have always wondered how many thousands he ended up having memorized. It challenged me to take on my own project (after having resisted attempts by others to get me to do so), and I have experienced nothing that compares. (I wonder how those church kids turned out...)

I remember a missionary sharing that he had entered the Soviet Union and was asked to speak at a church gathering one Sunday evening. He preached for about an hour, maybe two, then laid down in the back room to rest. He was awakened at midnight or 1:00 with a request that he come back and preach more....they were still gathered. What a spiritual hunger for the Word! I was also stunned when he said the church was so packed that they had opened the windows and doors so that those gathered outside in the snow could hear! I grew up with about an hour-long worship service! One time I visited a different church's service that started about 1030 or so. I loved



the singing, and the prayers and preaching were very encouraging. I finally began to wonder how close we were to the end, as I was getting hungry. I looked at my watch, and it was 1:00 p.m.....and that was the first time I had looked! I'm not so sure I would have lasted from 6:00 p.m. until 1:00 a.m. in the snow, but it taught me about truly losing myself in worship. It was another challenge for me. 🍂🍂

That missionary mentioned earlier told us that during his time in the Soviet Union, Bibles were very precious, and Christians would hand-copy any page they could find, making multiple copies and sharing them with others, swapping them between churches. He said that Bibles confiscated by the government were not destroyed, but taken to another area to be sold on the black market and at that time, *any page* of the Bible would sell for \$100 on that black market...that is the equivalent of \$590 today! That was a powerful inspiration for me of how truly precious the Bible is that we so easily take for granted. It always makes me consider whether I hold God's Word in the same esteem, and if I am as hungry to know and absorb its teachings as they were.

Another missionary told me about the time they were attending services in what was then Zaire, as I recall. As the clock ticked on, he asked what time the worship service would start. The answer given was, "when everyone arrived." Having heard that services can be very long, he also asked when the service would end, and was told, "when we are done." The pastor then explained that some of the people in the congregation would have *walked 8 hours to get to the church service and 8 hours home*, and so nobody worried about the length of the worship service...it was too valuable. I remember at my first church an individual commenting on how long a church service ought to be and being ornery (and friends with the person), I told him, "Our bulletin only says what time the service begins!" Another person in that church also mentioned that some individuals always wanted to leave at a certain time because they wanted to be at the restaurant before the Methodists. My comment? "Well, I guess it just depends on what you are hungry for!" (I told you I used to be obnoxious!)

Finally, there was Stanya, the woman from communist Czechoslovakia, who, after having traveled around our country asked me if I could tell her where she could find a church to attend that was "alive"; she added that so many churches seemed filled with such complacency, and that in her country, nobody went to church unless they really meant it, because government agents were outside and took down the names of everyone who entered, and that if someone joined the agents would be record that as well and the individuals would be forbidden having the better jobs. I think how easy it is for us to skip worship.

These things are nothing new. The early church met in the catacombs in secret because it was not safe for Christians to worship in Rome. In Colossians 4:16 Paul refers to the way the early church valued his writings and shared them with each other. Perhaps these stories might inspire you, as they have me. Regardless, these are some of the reasons I count it such a privilege to be able to preach and teach in our church, and why I take seriously the importance of the Bible for doing so, and for application to our lives. I was reminded of these things when the blizzard hit, and we had to cancel our Wednesday activities.


Kind of makes you think, doesn't it?

Richard



Jesus's day, while their scripture was in Hebrew, their spoken language was in the related language of Aramaic or even Greek, so it is hard to tell how well Hebrew was understood.

One of the challenges, as I have mentioned in this column before, has to do with Hebrew words that appear only once or twice in the Bible, since there are really no other sources to help figure out a word's meaning. We may find help by examining how other people have translated...but anybody who has compared the Greek translation of the Hebrew (done around 100 B.C.-ish) knows that there were a number of things in the Hebrew those translators were not able to figure out. Sometimes you will still discover some of the uncertainty in the footnotes of your Bible, with such things as an alternate word, or a reference to their using the Greek or Latin text as the source, or simply "Hebrew uncertain." I want to add to your understanding what that might mean...some of you will know this example because we used it at Bible study once.

Hebrew as a written language did not have vowel letters. In fact, even the shape of the consonants changed over the years. There are a small handful of consonants that serve as notations that a vowel is needed; one of them is a silent letter and only marks the place of vowels. Weird, huh? In the middle ages, a group of Jewish scholars called "masoretes"  recognized that sometimes the lack of written vowels led to confusion, and so they developed some dots and markings to indicate which vowel was to be used. Along with that, they developed musical notations into the text, because the scripture is often sung in the synagogue services. They sought to be very careful, diligent to preserve the text as they had it. They did so to the point that there are some places in the Hebrew text where one letter of a word is in an odd location, halfway between the lines, and nobody knows why, and yet they still placed them there to preserve the original. When the masoretes had wordings they didn't understand, they would place their notes in the margin. Sometimes this was in the form of what they called "catav" and "qare"....written and read. Thus, when something wasn't very clear they would help the reader know how they thought it should be pronounced, because, after all, you can't pronounce just consonants without putting something in there, right?

Today I want to give you a sense of what this is like. We actually are seeing some of this take place in the world of texting and so on, where things like "thx" is used to mean "thanks." Let's take an example that might help you understand what Bible translators face. If you saw these consonants: "SNG," what are the vowels you would put in. Perhaps your pronunciation would be "sing" or "sang" but it could have been "sung" or "song," right? Maybe you took a different tack. Maybe you ended up saying "snug," "snag," or "singe." In the old Hebrew writings, every



For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power
and love and self-control. 2Timothy 1:7

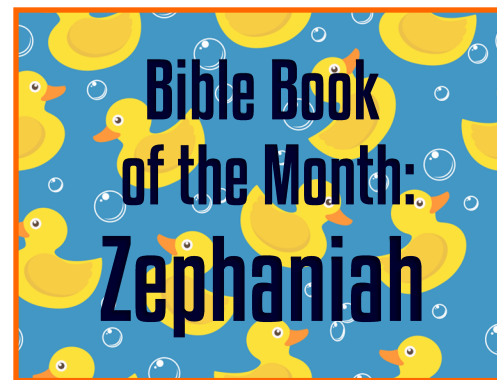
FBKids K-6th | Wednesday Nights | 6:15p Meal | 6:45p Groups
FBYouth 7-12th | Sunday Nights | 6p Meal | 6:30p Groups | with Youth Leader Jesse Kracht



SIGN UP FOR



As we finish out the School year, I want to give a quick update on everything that has happened at youth since the last Chimes edition. Last week, the weekend of the 21st, the youth, sponsors and I set out for a weekend trip to Des Moines, Iowa to attend a Christian concert called "Winter Jam". While at Winter Jam, we saw Christian artists such as Anne Wilson, Newsong and Skillet. The youth have also been going over a sermon series I titled, "Peace of Mind", which was a 3 week long series about mental health. As we transition into this last few months of youth, we will be going over a series talking about how to live life like Christ. We must first learn how to sit with Christ, then walk with Christ, and finally run with Christ. Lastly, be on the lookout for the **Easter Fundraiser** that the youth will be putting on! We will be raising money for some upcoming trips that we have planned for next year. To close, this is my prayer for the youth and for the body of Christ - "May the Lord bless you and keep you; may his face shine upon and be gracious to you; and may the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." - Jesse Kracht



American Baptist
Women's
MINISTRIES

Monthly Meetings

Hannah Circle - April 8th - 11:30a @ Arby's

Esther Circle - April 14th - 11:00a @ the Village Inn

Naomi Circle - April 24th - 12:30p



**JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL LUNCHEON!!**



Look at the birds of the
air: they neither sow nor
reap nor gather into
barns, and yet your
heavenly Father feeds
them. Are you not of more
value than they?

-Matthew 6:26 esv

In attendance: Eileen Cash, Randy Cash, Betty Laughlin, Joel Foreman, Mary Weldon, Alan Holzerland and Pastor Richard. As the main building was being prepared for the Kelsi Anderson wedding, the Vision Team met in the Family Center.

Randy reported that he has not seen any Foundation report to know what we will be receiving this year through the Laten Memorial. He pointed out that Utilities were up due to the cold weather, and the same is true for the snow removal.

Alan reported that the 3rd floor repairs from the roof leak have been repaired, and that the doors have also been completed. Upcoming will be some drywall repair in the Parsonage from earlier roof leaks last year. Alan also reported they are awaiting bids for the supplemental heat in nursery, etc. In addition, after the last snow there has been some leakage again on the north side of the foyer. The carpet in the airlock of the Family Center was missed when carpet was cleaned, but will be followed up.

Marcia reported 7 or 8 youth went to the Spring Retreat this weekend, along with Raymond and Siam as cabin leaders. The youth are also planning on going to a Christian Concert celebration in Des Moines on March 21-22. She also reported that she is passing around large cards to send to missionaries Mike and Becky Mann and Jeanine White due to illnesses, and Rhonda Reed at the passing of her husband, J.D., and they will be mailed out after people have a chance to sign Sunday.

Joel presented the written outreach report received from the Andersons. Feb 10, candy was taken to Linden, Washington and Grant for teachers conferences. Coats also went to Grant that day. Food items will be taken to the schools on March 10 for spring break distribution. On March 12, 5 dozen donuts are going to be delivered to Washington School in lieu of the lunch we do for other schools. Testing snacks are planned to be delivered the first week of April.

Eileen reported ABWM will meet in April for luncheon and annual budget, at which time they will make decisions about Fremont Days adjustments. 🦆



Happy Birthday!

Kelsi Castillo (Anderson)	402-727-0740	03
Kelly Regier	308-458-7906	03
Paul Foreman	402-719-4316	07
Tom Scott	402-525-6937	08
Dorothy Charleston	402-720-5238	14
Everett Moerker	402-721-4290	17
Mike Raasch	402-727-6854	22

Happy Anniversary!

Tom & Jessica Peterson 402-719-5408 29



Christ in Passover with



Avi Snyder

April 10, 2025 @ 6:30

MARCH BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWER

Who, besides Solomon (1:1, 9:1, 25:1), is recorded as having written portions of the book of Proverbs? Proverbs 30:1 lists Agur son of Jakeh as the source of the words in chapter 30, and Proverbs 31:1 indicates that chapter were words King Lemuel was taught by his mother!

Nothing more is known about either of these individuals (although some posit that Lemuel could be a “pet name” for Solomon, and thus Bathsheba was the mother teaching him...but it is mere suggestion). In addition, Proverbs 24:23 refers to the section as “more sayings of the wise” whereas 25:1 refers back to Solomon, so this section could easily be a collection of sayings by the sages of the time. (The Egyptians had a collection such as that and just prior to Jesus’s time, the Jews assembled a similar collection of recent sages as well, called “Sayings of the Fathers”). These all clearly indicate that God uses whomever he chooses for his works... even to record the words of scripture!

APRIL BIBLE PUZZLE

How about continuing in this vein to ask a bit more difficult question:
Who wrote the book of Hebrews?

It Takes 90 Gallons of Water to Baptize a Christian, and 9 Drops of Rain to Keep Them from Church.

Praise the LORD! Great News!
We won our donation request from Target for \$100! These funds will be used to purchase testing snacks for our the local school kids

Joel reported ABMen Easter supplies are ready for the pancake breakfast, which will be served from 8:30 to 9:15 and again 10:15–1100 like last year. The lawn fertilizer bill has been paid. For JC Fremont Days, we will be given the breezeway under Anderson for our booth, which will provide for easier loading/unloading and setup. Instead of selling water bottles, they are thinking to set up water coolers and provide cups, and maybe sell hotdogs at a reduced rate or include hotdogs, and we may need to consolidate space. We have ample book supply, except if someone wants to provide some children’s Bibles.

Pastor reported that this afternoon was the wedding of Kelsi Anderson and Cutty Castillo. He also indicated that we now have a Lenten Devotional book based on Luke’s account of Holy Week available, and that he anticipates using the theme of significant questions for the Holy Week services. We also discussed the possibility of having the Jews for Jesus do a Seder service.

Meeting Adjourned



It’s fascinating to see the many ways God is using our church, some you already know. Over the past few weeks, however, were some new opportunities you might not have heard. In North Carolina’s fire zone,

thanks to Laura Reavis, Bibles we donated are being by a local church to support the sudden influx of new attendees seeking answers. Also with the *Beyond All Borders* group Laura works with, a few of our folks provided Ready Reference booklets in both English and Spanish which they will distribute along with the supplies that “Borders” sends around the world. To *our missionaries in Mexico and the Congo*, we are in the process of sending 200 much-needed children’s socks (donated by a local *Oriental Trading* representative) Friday coffee and study groups helped ready them for shipping}. To the *Open Door Mission*, we provided protective underwear Vicki Anderson had received from *United Way*. When the call went out from *Moses Merrill* for help moving items for Weaver Hall’s remodel, we had some dedicated workers go assist. And of course, our ongoing school projects included delivering treats to encourage teachers at conferences, providing warm clothes for children, and are preparing to deliver testing snacks soon to *Linden, Washington, and Grant Schools*. The impact of First Baptist for Christ continues to reach out in so many ways, and know *your* support and God’s help, are what makes it all possible!

APRIL 2025

It's always a good idea to verify times and places, Thanks!

Cookies & Coffee

6 - Hannah
13 - Esther
20 - Naomi
27 - ABM



Scan the QR Code to go to
our Website:
www.fremontfbc.org
Worship Service | Pictures
Outreach | Giving
Chimes and much more!

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 April Fools' Day	2 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6 7p - Bible Study	3 12:30p - ABW Memorial Luncheon 5:30p - Kay Circle	4 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	5 7a - ABM Bible Study 8a - ABM Breakfast 9a - Property Team 6p - Fun and Fellowship
6 Communion Sunday International Missionaries Guest Speaker 9:30am - Traditional Service 11am - Casual Service 6p - Meal 6:30p - FBYouth 7-12th	7 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - Woodcarvers	8 11:30am - Hannah Circle @ Arby's 7p - AA Meeting	9 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:30p - Meal 7p - BINGO	10 11a - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom 6:30p - Jews for Jesus Christ in Passover service by Avi Snyder <i>*Last Day to Order Easter Lilies</i>	11 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	12 8:45a - Personnel Team 9:30a - Vision Team
13 Palm Sunday 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - Brown Bag/Movie Night in Family Center 6p - Meal 6:30p - FBYouth 7-12th	14 9a - Men's Coffee 11a - Esther Circle	15 7p - AA Meeting	16 Holy Week No Wednesday Activities	17 Maundy Thursday 7-8p Come and go for communion available in sanctuary.	18 Good Friday 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor 6:30p - Good Friday Service	19 No ABW Bible Study— See You Next Month.
20 Easter Sunday 6:30a - Sunrise Service 8:30a - Pancake Breakfast 9:30a - Traditional Service 10:15a - Pancake Breakfast 11a - Casual Service NO FBYouth	21 9a - Men's Coffee 7p - Woodcarvers	22 7p - AA Meeting	23 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6 7p - Bible Study	24 11am - Pastor Led Bible Study to include Zoom 12:30p - Naomi Circle	25 9a - Men's Coffee 12p - Bible Study in Parlor	26
27 9:30a - Traditional Service 11a - Casual Service 11a - Bible Study 6p - Meal 6:30p - FBYouth 7-12th	28 9a - Men's Coffee	29 7p - AA Meeting	30 9:30a - Women's Coffee 6:15p - Meal 6:45p - FBKids K-6 7p - Bible Study	But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for He Is Risen, as he said. - Matther 28:5-7		