
Zion News

A newsletter of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia – October, 2008

“Come let us declare in Zion the work of the Lord our God.” Jeremiah 51:10

Preaching Station Road Trip

If you have glanced through our most recent membership directory, you may have noticed that there are several members of Zion who live outside the state of Georgia. You have been serving these members (and other scattered CLC members) by allowing your pastor to make monthly trips to Tennessee and Kentucky for visits, new member classes, Bible class studies, and worship services.

Because these members are very spread out, we alternate our schedule. One month the members will travel to Monterey, Tennessee for services at the home of Donna Wright. Then on the following month pastor makes a long trip to visit the far-flung members at their homes. They can't all be visited on the same trip (over 1200 miles and 22 hours of travel time separate these families) so these road trips vary from month to month.

Our members live in Taylorsville, North Carolina (Marcia Knowlton), Lexington, Kentucky (Shaun, Julie and Ian Levandoski), Scottsville, Kentucky (Wayne Everhart), and Franklin, Kentucky (Judy Low). We

also serve CLC member Donna Wright (Monterey, Tennessee) and have new contacts with CLC members in Nashville, Tennessee, and Louisville, Kentucky.

What a blessing it is to see these members make such an effort to hear the Word of God, despite the time and distance. May the LORD continue to be with them and strengthen them through His Word! †

In This Issue:

Preaching Station	p. 1
Africa visitation	p. 1
Taking Issue	p. 2-3
Meet the Kings	p. 4

Africa visitation

Pastor Mayhew will be leaving for our regional Pastoral Conference in Springfield, Illinois on October 6th. The conference will begin Tuesday morning and let out Thursday after lunch.

Then, on Friday night (October 10th) he will be flying to Nairobi for his yearly visitation of the churches in Kenya and Tanzania. Pastor will be gone for five weeks this year, returning on November 14th. During his absence Pastors Vance Fossum and Glenn Oster have been asked to fill in. Pastor Fossum will be here providing Bible Class and conducting our worship service on October 26th, and Pastor Oster will be here for our communion service on November 2nd.

We thank them both for their willingness to proclaim the precious Word of Truth here at Zion during Pastor Mayhew's absence. †



This map shows the location and distances between the members we serve in North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky.

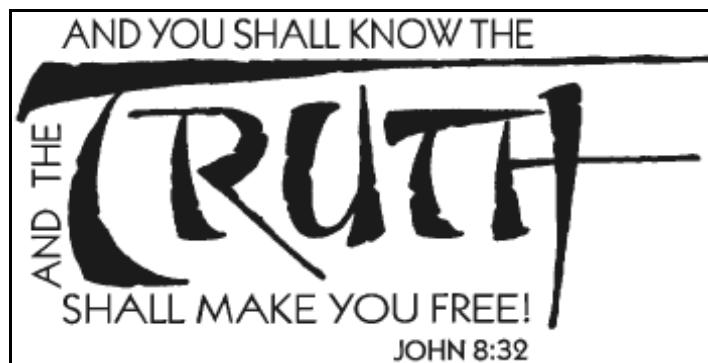
Taking Issue

By Bill Duncan

Have you ever been asked the question, "Do you take the Bible literally?" I have, and I have never liked the question due to its ambiguity. Besides, it's awkward to answer. A short yes or no isn't very helpful, because as Lutheran Christians, we have a very high view of the Scriptures. The best response to the question is that we take the Bible in its ordinary sense. Now this response may seem ambiguous as well, but it should prompt another question asking for clarification. At that point, we might say, "Do you read the sports pages literally?" While all newspaper stories have some factual information, some may have figures of speech. Do the Georgia Bulldogs actually "crush, stomp, or mangle" their opponents? These are figures of speech and we take them as such. Figures of speech communicate literal truths in a way some words ordinarily can't. Figurative speech is always meant to clarify, not obscure. So, even if you don't take a phrase "literally," some literal point is still being made. This is the way we read everything. Even non-Christians read the Bible that way except

when they come across controversial claims. These are claims that are at odds with their theological or moral worldview. So the question, "Do you take the Bible literally?" becomes "You don't take that seriously, do you?" At this point, we tell them we take the Bible in its ordinary sense unless we have some compelling reason not to.

For years, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran a weekly "roundtable"



discussion in the Saturday edition. A new topic was discussed each week by a panel of area clergy. Our own pastor occasionally was among the voices heard in the roundtable. Now at this point, you may be wondering what this has to do with the above issue. Where Lutheran Christians have no problem with what the Spirit has superintended through the writers of scripture, some of the area clergy had big problems with this view. Some would

invent new meanings that have no direct relation to the words the writer intended. Now one may disagree with what the Bible has to say and that's not intellectually dishonest. But if that is your view, then I have other questions for you. But, how does one ask a question of a face in the paper? With a word processor, that's how.

One of the most consistently liberal views in the roundtable was by the Rev.

Joe Evans, assistant pastor at Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lilburn. Good Shepherd is a member of the Presbyterian Church USA, a far-left denomination with ties to the ELCA, Methodists, and

other National Council of Churches organizations. Rev. Evans last post was a beauty. He claimed in his first sentence to the answer of the weekly question, "It was impossible to discern what the author of the scripture passage intended..." Now let that sink in a moment. Does that make any sense to you? Since it made no sense to me, I couldn't help myself. I wrote Rev. Evans a letter as printed below.

(Continued on next page)

To: Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Attn: Rev. Joe Evans

Well Joe, the AJC killed a really good newspaper when they downsized their liberal rag to save money. Losing the Gwinnett section was especially hard on me. I looked forward to the Saturday section and its Round Table/Views from Area Clergy. I read with interest the varying views of those who share my Christian faith. It never ceased to amaze me that so many “smart people” could have so many opposing views. From the silly and dangerous cult (Trudy and her Mary Baker Eddy nonsense) to the happy pluralists (at the UU joint where all roads lead to Rome) to Mr. Mountain Dew (Rev. Carter “can’t we all just love each other” McInnis) to the prosperity gospel (Bishop Wayne Pugh – BTW, by whose authority did this guy become a Bishop?) to your left wing liberal view, the marketplace of ideas was always lively. The shear number of heterodox views was most often disappointing. The guys most often on the money were the Baptist guys. As a committed monergist I always read carefully due to the occasional synergism in their views.

Your last response to the Col. 3:18 and Eph. 5:22 question started out with the sentence, “It is all but impossible to discern what the author of these scripture passages intended, ...” If that is a true statement, then what is the point? How or why would God give us something that we could never understand in His word and then expect us to know what a true picture of the world is (a true Christian worldview). If this scripture is impossible to discern, then where does one draw the line? The relativism that you show (and in past responses) in your first paragraph may be the hip theology for the PCUSA, but it is a false view. All scripture is clear and God so intended it to be. How else could we be saved if we couldn’t figure it out with our simple minds? You make complicated the plain for what reason? I’ll miss your weekly post.

Full disclosure: I am a Lutheran Christian in the Church of the Lutheran Confession (a very small denomination and very conservative).

Thanks,

Bill Duncan

Are some things in scripture hard to understand? With our limited understanding, I would answer in the affirmative. But, that doesn’t mean there is no right answer. God gave His Word to man for a very definite purpose, namely: a) to save man from sin and damnation through faith in Christ, b) to educate and train His children in holiness of life, and c) to magnify His glory. Or put another way, the Bible is a unit in which all parts, statements, doctrines, commandments, and promises, either directly or indirectly, serve the purpose of teaching men how to be saved through faith in the Savior, and how to live as the children of God in this world to the glory of our Lord. On the other hand, it is a wrong and sinful use of the Bible when we quote Scripture, or claim ignorance of the plain Word, to defend false doctrine and a wicked life.

I will have more to say on this in the next issue. †

*This publication is
produced by:*

*Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
468 Northdale Rd. Suite D
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*

You can contact us at

770-962-9034

or

ndmayhew@juno.com

Meet the King Family

By Ann Duncan

Who are those good-looking new people who have been attending Zion fairly regularly since mid-July? They are the Kings – Jerry, Sarah, Nathan and Annie – who just happen to live around the corner from the Duncans in Lawrenceville.

Jerry is originally from Alabama, and his family moved to Dallas, Texas, when he was 10. After graduating from high school, Jerry joined the U.S. Army and became a paratrooper. His unit was involved in the invasion of Granada in 1983.

Sarah was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Her family moved to Chicago when she was 4 and moved again to Fort Worth, Texas, when she was 14. While she was living

in Chicago, Sarah became very weak and thought she had the flu. She was diagnosed with Friedreich's ataxia at age 12. Her younger brother Adam also was diagnosed with the disorder shortly thereafter. Sarah's mom died of breast cancer in 1999.



Sarah graduated from a Christian high school and went on to attend Texas Women's University, studying nutrition. She received her bachelor's

degree in dietetics and institutional administration (with honors) in 2001.

Although Sarah faced many challenges, she decided to live her life to the fullest and not be restricted by any physical limitations or sorrows. While Sarah was at college, a friend introduced her to Jerry, who was then working for a utility company in Dallas. At first they were just good friends, but romance blossomed. Jerry and Sarah were married in June 2001 at a LCMS church in Keller, Texas. Nathan was born in 2002, and Annie was born in 2005. Jerry has two children from a previous marriage: a daughter, Tracie (27), and a son, Tony, who was killed in a car accident when he was 18, shortly before Jerry and Sarah were married.

The Kings moved to Duluth in 2003 because of a job transfer and then to Lawrenceville in 2007. Jerry works for UPS and loves the Dallas Cowboys. (Watch out for those Packer fans!) Sarah said they found Zion through a VBS flier stuck on their mailbox. They currently are receiving lessons with the goal of becoming members. †



The King Family (from left to right): Nathan, Jerry, Annie and Sarah.

