

Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

Boulevard Park Press

JANUARY 2024

THE NEWSLETTER OF BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

Tending the Flock

Reasons for the Seasons

By Jon Recker, Elder

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease.”

– Genesis 8:22

Each December 31, people all over the world gather with friends to “ring in” a new year. But have you ever considered why we mark time the way that we do? Why do we organize our lives around units of twenty-four hours, twelve months, and four seasons?

An astronomer might answer that it simply reflects the mechanics of Earth moving through the solar system. But a deeper question remains: Why did God structure our world this way? I believe scripture provides several reasons.

Evidence of our Creator

God uses creation to reveal important aspects of His nature to all mankind. As David wrote in Psalm 19:1, *“The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.”* Paul later declared that the created world testifies to God’s *“invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature”* (Rom. 1:20).

Earth’s cycle of seasons provides clear evidence of an intelligent Creator, such as how the seasons support our need to grow food. Each year includes just enough time to plant, nurture, and harvest crops to provide a reliable food supply. Even the animals,

who neither sow nor reap (Matt. 6:26), are sustained by plants growing in their proper seasons.

Reminder to Worship God

Samuel Johnson famously wrote that “men more frequently require to be reminded than informed.” (*The Rambler*, No. 2) This principle was already clear during the Old Testament era, as God ordained specific rituals for the same time each year. The Mosaic law prescribed a precise schedule for observances such as Passover, Firstfruits, and the Day of Atonement. (Lev. 23)

These holidays reminded the Israelites of God’s character and of actions He had taken in their history. Similarly, the church holds annual celebrations such as Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost. We are an easily distracted people, so these are critical in promoting consistent worship of our Lord.

Encouragement for the Future

After the Flood God promised Noah that He would not again interrupt the cycle of days and

See *Reasons*, page 6

INSIDE

What’s New for You in 2024? > page 3
An Invitation to Kairos Study > page 4

January Calendar of Events > page 5
Heartfelt Thanks > page 6

Women’s Connect Event –
Clothing and Accessories Swap > page 7

PAGE 2: YOU AND YOUR GLOBAL WORKERS Twosomes Partnering with God around the World

This monthly PAGE 2 column reminds us that a partnership takes two. We should all be active, on-going SENDERS partnering with the SENT.

Compiled and edited by Ellyn Roe

*Because the Press is published online, some of our global workers must guard their identities. If you need email addresses, contact ellynroe@comcast.net



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3 SOHLS Questions

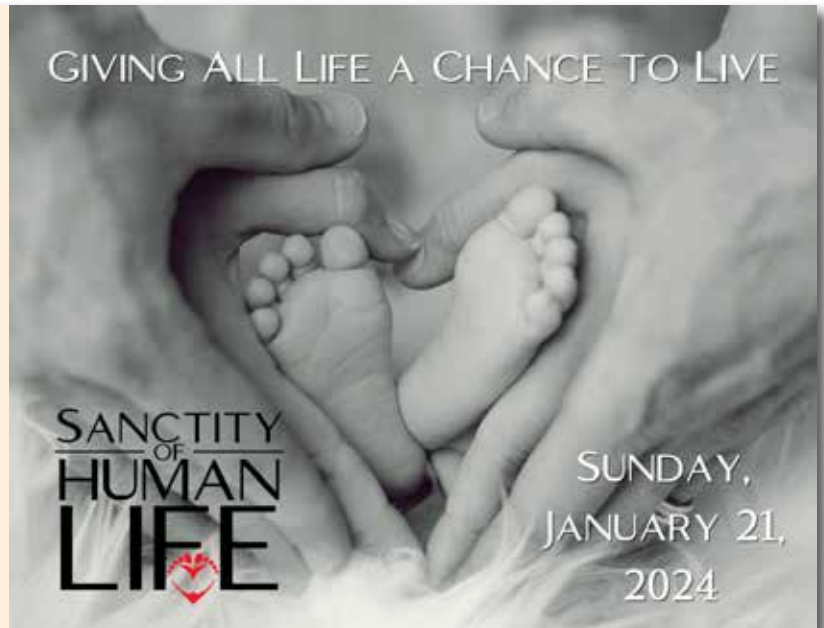
By Ellyn Roe

1. What is SOHLS? It is the acronym used by life-affirming individuals and organizations in reference to **Sanctity Of Human Life Sunday**. SOHL is the understanding that human life is inviolable because we are made in the image of God. (Gen 1:26-27) SOHLS is the Sunday on which life-affirming churches recognize and celebrate that unique relationship to God, and that all human life, particularly preborn life, is worthy of honor and protection.

2. When is SOHLS 2024? It will be observed this year on **January 21**. (But as Peggie Recker has said, "EVERY Sunday, every DAY is Sanctity of Human Life Day! Spot on, Peggie!) Each year since 2011, the service at Boulevard on SOHLS has included a message from Care Net, Puget Sound's largest faith-based, life-affirming pregnancy resource center.

3. Why is this SOHLS article on Page 2, which is the page to inform us about our global workers? Anyone who actively supports or works with Care Net IS a global worker — without leaving home! That's because our m** field walks right into our facilities! Many women experiencing unplanned or unsupported pregnancies do not know (or have

*m** The Press is published on line, and for the security of present and future global workers, we avoid the more familiar term associated with those who fulfill the Great Commission.*



forgotten) that they need Jesus. When they walk into the Care Net facilities YOU help support, they are given the information and help they need to perhaps choose life for their babies, AND often, with permission, the Good News of Jesus.

Thank you, Boulevard Park Family, for faithfully, year after year, supporting Care Net with your prayers, financial contributions, and donations of baby supplies. Celebrate the SOHL daily!

Pray for M. E.* as she wraps up her global worker career in Chad, and arrives in America "for good" on January 14.

Aiding the Escape

By Mark and Joanne Mackey

Thank you, BPC Family, for donating cell phones, laptops, and other electronic equipment to Ukraine.

The second set of boxes was sent in mid-December.

Our contact person in Ukraine wrote that cell phones have been especially appreciated, as individuals in high risk areas lose their cell phones, perhaps when "relocating" (aka escaping) to safer areas.

Many thanks to Randy Boyd who scrubbed all personal information from the donated equipment.



Photo credit: Randy Boyd

Left: Precious cargo for a war-torn country

Below: Ready for shipping to Ukraine



Photo courtesy of Mackeys

What's New for You in 2024?

By Pastor Bud

If you are like most people, each new year begins with a list of goals, dreams, and desires that you hope to realize within the next twelve months. Sadly, statistics reveal that only about 9% of those who make resolutions keep them, and 43% quit by the end of January. In a way, the apostle Paul made daily resolutions, and sometimes, he felt as unsuccessful as we do. Remember these words in Romans 7:15? *“For what I am working out, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.”* When Paul wrote his letter to the Romans, he felt he failed to accomplish his resolution to live for Christ. His despair led him to exclaim in verse 24, *“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from the body of this death?”*

Thankfully, in the years between A.D. 56, when he wrote Romans, and A.D. 60, when he wrote to the Philippians, Paul grew in Christian maturity. The Lord taught him how to think appropriately as a born-again Christian. So, in Philippians 3:12-14, the apostle Paul penned these words, *“Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not consider myself as having laid hold of it yet, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”* In this passage, Paul provides us with three essential realities for growing in the new year:

1. Admit our weaknesses, but don't dwell on them.

Let's face it, we all have flaws. As long as we live in our unredeemed bodies, we will be laden with the frailties of the flesh. There are times when we give in to the lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. In short, we still sin! Ignoring or denying our weaknesses does not serve us well, but we are equally handicapped if we dwell too much on our weaknesses. You will never progress if your back is turned away from the goal. Yes, we may miss a hurdle, but dwelling on it will not help us get over the next one. Paul was determined to

press on so that he would *lay hold of* that for which Christ Jesus had laid hold of him.

2. Let go of the past and reach forward.

At first glance, this may appear to be the same thing, but let's consider what Paul is saying more closely. It is one thing to not dwell on the past, but *reaching forward* to what lies ahead is entirely different. The phrase reaching forward translates a single Greek word. It means “to exert effort or energy toward the utmost; conceived of as extending or stretching out to the full length.” The picture is that of a sprinter who fully lays out forward, straining with everything he has to cross the finish line before his opponents. In our Christian life, we can only reach forward by letting go of the past. The writer of Hebrews tells us to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of faith (Heb. 12:2).

3. Fix your eyes on the goal to which you are called.

The goal to which we are called is to be conformed to the character of Christ (Rom. 8:29). In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul taught that Christ gave to the church, *“some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ”* (Eph. 4:11-13). In other words, believers' goal of growth and development is to be like Christ. When Christlikeness is the focus of our straining ahead, we find little energy to explore the flesh's sinful desires.

So, what is new for you in 2024? I encourage you to set your goal to be like Jesus firmly at the forefront of every plan. May your most extraordinary effort be to glorify God by becoming like Jesus. If that is your goal and the focus of your efforts, you will glorify God and be most satisfied in Him, and 2024 will be your best year yet, no matter what happens in the world around you.

Happy New Year,
Pastor Bud

Milestones

Birth

Maverick Saunders

December 13, 2023

Parents: Laura & Justin Saunders

Delighted grandfather: Larry Stougard.

Graduation

Naomi Ruth Hartley, RN

December 15, 2023

Naomi received a B.S. degree and her pin in nursing from St. Martins University. She is the granddaughter of Don and Shirley Hartley.

Engagement

Tyler Siedenbug was recently engaged to Callie Barnett; they plan to be married in May. Best wishes!

Deaths

Shirley Hartley

December 4, 2023

wife of Don Hartley; mom to, Steve, Tricia, Jon, Dan and Tommy

Jim Dawson

December 7, 2023

brother of Sharon Nickells

A World-Expanding Opportunity for You



An exciting 9 lesson, interactive study of the purpose and plan of God from Genesis to the end of the age
AND how this impacts every area of your life today.

KAIROS is a foundational course on world Christian mission, designed to educate, inspire and challenge Christians to meaningful participation in God's heart for all the nations. It is a tool God is using to help transform the worldview of believers, so they see themselves as having been blessed in order to be a blessing to all people groups.

- * Discover the missionary thread throughout scripture from Genesis to Revelation.
- * Glimpse the awesome advance of Christianity around the world.
- * Explore the challenging, yet achievable final frontiers of world Christian mission.
- * Identify your part and place in the expansion and growth of God's kingdom worldwide.
- * Learn from leading mission personalities, theologians and historians.

KAIROS is very interactive and includes: Worship & Devotional Teaching, Prayer for the Least Reached, Small Group Interaction, Cultural Activities, Multi-Media presentations, Readings & Worksheets.

You are invited to take this life-changing course!

Hosted by Grace Church in West Seattle 10323 28th Ave SW, Seattle, WA 98146

Feb. 16, 17, 18 (Fri. 6-8 pm, Sat. & Sun. 1:00-3:30 pm) at Grace Church

Feb. 22, 29, Mar. 7, (Thursdays, 6-8 pm on line)

Mar. 15, 16, 17 (Fri. 6-8 pm, Sat. & Sun. 1:00-3:30 pm) at Grace Church

Register by Feb. 1: \$100 2 in same family \$150

After Feb. 1, \$125

To register: <http://bit.ly/kairosgracechurch2023>

For additional course info: <https://www.simplymobilizing.us/kairos>.

Carolyn Watson, Grace Church local contact: vistamissions@gmail.com

What do graduates say about KAIROS?

*"Kairos is the single best way to energize the church." "Life-changing. You will not regret taking this course."
"I hoped Kairos would light a fire in me — and it did!" "Entirely scripturally based with practical steps to take."
"More do-able than the Perspectives Course for the average person, but with all the key elements."*

(Kairos is based on Perspectives.)

Women's Ministry at BPC

HE *restores* MY SOUL

Many women know Psalm 23 by heart but haven't experienced its power in their lives. This beloved psalm can breathe new life into women who are weary and unsure of their next steps. It's more than a psalm that comforts in death; it gives confidence in life.

In this 7-week DVD study series by Jennifer Rothschild, gain fresh insight and encouragement from Psalm 23.

Explore the depths of God's compassionate care while debunking the self-reliance myth. Learn how your vulnerability is not a liability because you can trust the Shepherd's goodness throughout each season of life.

Please join us beginning Tuesday,

JANUARY 9th

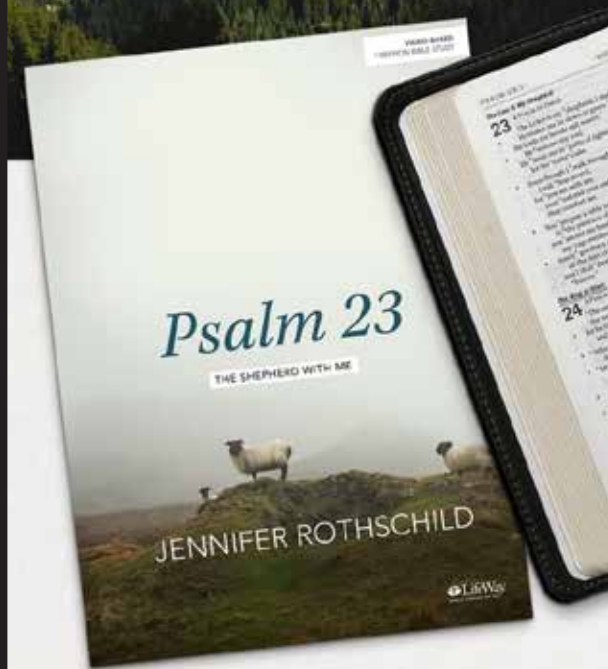
from **6:30-8:00 pm**

in **room 431**

Each week, we'll grab a hot drink, open our Bibles, spend time listening to teaching from God's Word and share what we're learning together!

Study Books available in class. \$20 suggested donation.

Contact Lisa Bowen for more info at lisa.bowen@bpcburien.org or by phone or text at 206.354.0339.



LifeWay | Women

Calendar Events

JANUARY

Monday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, Jan. 3, 10, 17

9:30A Women's Bible Study

Wed., Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

6:00P Wednesday Night Dinner

6:00P Youth Group

6:40P Adult Bible Study

Sunday, January 7

9:00A Prayer Meeting

9:15A KIDS/Youth Sunday School

10:30A Worship Service in person

& Livestream/Communion

10:30A KIDS Church

Monday, January 8

11:00A Ladies Fellowship Circle

Monday, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29

6:00P Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, January 9 & 23

9:30A MOMLife.

Sunday, Jan. 14, 21 & 28

9:15A KIDS/Youth Sunday School

10:30A Worship Service in person

& Livestream

10:30A KIDS Church

Monday, January 15

11:00P Press Articles Due

bpcpress@bpcburien.org

Saturday, January 20

8:00A Men's Breakfast/

Pancake Chef

Saturday, January 27

8:00A Men's Breakfast

10:00A Women's Ministry

"Connect" – Clothing

and Accessories Swap

Heartfelt Thanks!

FROM THE DESK OF KATHY RAINEY

My heart is full and I'm so humbled by all the cards, gifts, and love shown to me in celebrating my 40th year of working at BPC. Thank you to each one of you!

I am so grateful to our Lord for being able to be here and work with so many wonderful people.

With love, Kathy Rainey



The Werle's – TJ, Lindsay, Ace, and Tor – would like to thank everyone at Boulevard Park Church for all the care and love we have received over the last few months since the twins were born. There are so many of you who have gifted us diapers, wipes, and meals; sent cards and congratulations; and have been checking in on us and praying for us. Too many to count in fact.

Our family feels deeply seen, cared for, and known during this season of our life. We can't express our gratitude and appreciation enough, and we look forward to having our boys grow up in this wonderful and amazing community that is BPC.

– TJ



Potential babysitters admire the twins in the MPR.



Ace and Tor (or is it Tor and Ace?)

Reasons, continued from page 1

seasons as He had just done. But the promise came with one condition. Summer and winter, day and night, would not cease “while the earth remains.” (Gen. 8:22) And God later confirmed that our present planet will not endure forever.

Peter wrote that *“the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar...”* (II Peter 3:10). And John saw in his vision *“a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them”* (Rev. 20:11).

For those in Christ this prophecy is no cause for despair. Quite the opposite! God will replace our Earth with something far better: *“A new heaven, and a new earth,”*

where *“the dwelling place of God is with man”* (Rev. 21:1-3). This will certainly involve dramatic changes. There will be no night, for example. (Rev. 21:25) But I find it encouraging that God will also retain some familiar elements.

Consider the Tree of Life, which will produce *“twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month”* (Rev. 22:2). It appears that even in eternity we will be aware of years and seasons, but now completely freed from the effects of Adam's sin. (Gen. 3:17) There will be no harsh winters, no failed crops, and a life-giving harvest every month! So as a new year begins, let us worship the Lord of all creation and share with everyone Christ's invitation to dwell with Him forever. (John 14:3)

Women's Ministry



Ladies! You are invited to join us for our January CONNECT event! We're having a

CLOTHING and ACCESSORIES SWAP

January 27th at 10:00 am to Noon in the MPR!

Start gathering all those clothes, purses, coats, shoes as well as jewelry and other miscellaneous accessories that need a new home, are still in great shape, clean and ready for someone else to enjoy! That morning, bring those treasures with you to the MPR, and we'll put everything out, and be able to find some new treasures for FREE!

We'll have coffee and donuts available, as we "shop together".

Come join the fun!

Any questions? Contact Lisa Bowen at 206.354.0339 or at lisa.bowen@bpcburien.org.

***If you have items that you'd like to donate to this event, and you can't join us, please contact Lisa Bowen to coordinate a drop off time beforehand. All remaining items after the event will be donated to a local charity.**



Celebrations!

January Birthdays

- 1 Lynda Eck
- 6 Eleanor O'Keefe
- 8 Edmund Faulkner
- 10 Sheila Richardson
- 11 Greg Heintz
- 12 Kelly Graham
- 15 Dan Kent
Emrys Kowallis
Katie Siedenburg
- 17 Carrie Hilstad
Sylvia Thompson
- 18 Jean Rose
- 19 Doug Barton
Bud Thorne
- 22 Shawn Will
- 23 Tim Simmonds
Vicky Steiner
- 24 Christabelle Hall
Rachel Wagner
- 27 Serena Hale
- 28 Annette Conroy
Dee Secrest
- 29 Diane Siedenburg
- 31 Pat Jorgensen

Early February Birthdays

- 1 Anita Coffman
Donald Ellefson
- 3 Aidan Conroy
- 4 Debbie Bryce
- 5 Scott Boone
Jim Buck
- 8 Elijah Wagner
- 12 Donna Lightfoot
- 15 Daphne McBreen
- 16 Emelita Moore
Carol Roenicke
- 17 Kathy Erdahl
- 19 Mara Oldroyd
- 21 Wilder Faulkner
- 24 Stan Noble
- 26 Sharon Brown
- 28 Brenna Arnesen



BOULEVARD PARK CHURCH

1822 S 128th Street
Burien WA 98168-2903

*Reaching Our
World for Christ*

The 2024 Bible Reading Plan
is available from the church office.

2024 56x Daily Bible Reading Plan

- Check off each day's reading, and then each week in the Weekly Progress Register below. You will be pleased to see your progress each week.
- The Old Testament reading is chronological to show the flow of God's work throughout time.
- New Testament readings are in Bible book order.
- May this reading plan help you along in your spiritual journey.
- "*Thy word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path*" (Psalm 119:105).

Weekly Progress Register				
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<input type="checkbox"/>	3	12	21	30
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Week 1

- Genesis 1-2, Matthew 1, Psalm 1
- Gen 3-5, Matt 2
- Gen 6-7, Matt 3, Ps 2
- Gen 8-9, Matt 4
- Gen 10-11, Matt 5, Ps 3
- Job 1-3, Matt 6

Week 2

- Job 4-5, Matt 7, Ps 4
- Job 6-8, Matt 8
- Job 9-11, Matt 9
- Job 12-13, Matt 10, Ps 5
- Job 14-16, Matt 11
- Job 17-18, Matt 12, Ps 6

Week 3

- Job 19-20, Matt 13, Ps 7
- Job 21-23, Matt 14
- Job 24-25, Matt 15, Ps 8
- Job 26-28, Matt 16
- Job 29-30, Matt 17, Ps 9
- Job 31-33, Matt 18

Week 4, Abraham 2285-2010 BC

- Job 34-35, Matt 19, Ps 10
- Job 36-38, Matt 20
- Job 39-40, Matt 21, Ps 11
- Job 41-42, Matt 22
- Gen 12-13, Matt 23, Ps 12
- Gen 14-16, Matt 24

Week 5, Jacob 2005-1858 BC

- Gen 17-18, Matt 25, Ps 13
- Gen 19-21, Matt 26
- Gen 22-23, Matt 27, Ps 14
- Gen 24-26, Matt 28
- Gen 27-29, Proverbs 1
- Gen 30-32, Prov 2

Week 6, Joseph 1750-1804 BC

- Gen 33-34, Mark 1, Ps 15
- Gen 35-36, Mark 2, Ps 16
- Gen 37-39, Mark 3
- Gen 40-41, Mark 4, Ps 17
- Gen 42-44, Mark 5
- Gen 45-46, Mark 6, Ps 18

Week 7, Exodus 1528-1408 BC

- Gen 47-48, Mark 7
- Gen 49-50, Mark 8, Ps 19
- Exodus 1-3, Mark 9
- Exo 4-5, Mark 10, Ps 20
- Exo 6-8, Mark 11
- Exo 9-10, Mark 12, Ps 21

Week 8

- Exo 11-12, Mark 13, Ps 22
- Exo 13-15, Mark 14
- Exo 16-17, Mark 15, Ps 23
- Exo 18-20, Mark 16
- Exo 21-23, Prov 3
- Exo 24-25, Luke 1, Ps 24

Week 9

- Exo 26-27, Luke 2, Ps 25
- Exo 28-30, Luke 3
- Exo 31-33, Luke 4
- Exo 34-35, Luke 5, Ps 26
- Exo 36-38, Luke 6
- Exo 39-40, Luke 7, Ps 27

Week 10

- Leviticus 1-2, Luke 8, Ps 28
- Lev 3-4, Luke 9
- Lev 5-6, Luke 10, Ps 29
- Lev 7-9, Luke 11
- Lev 10-11, Luke 12
- Lev 12-13, Luke 13, Ps 30

A Story of Good News from Penny Neff

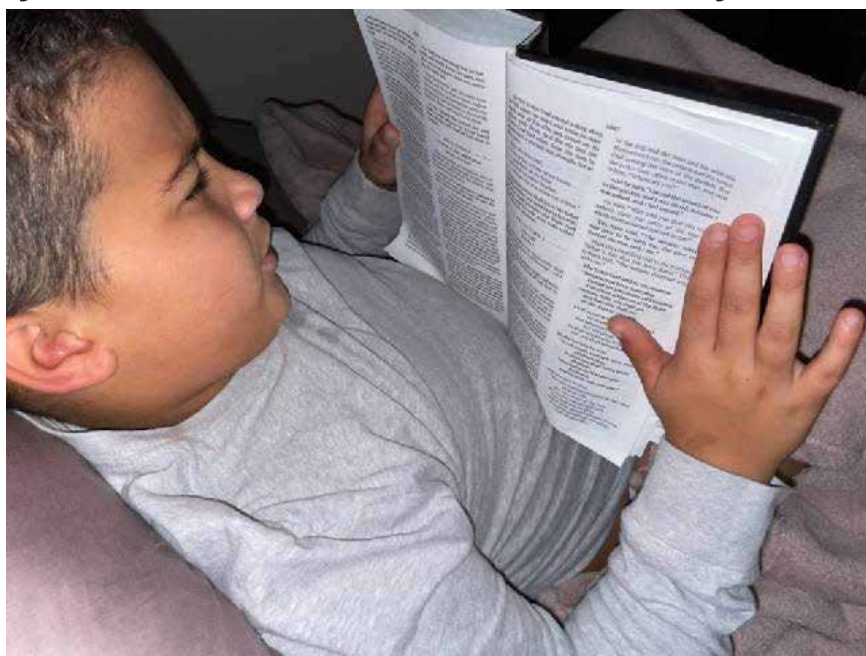


Photo courtesy of Penny Neff

Meet Penny Neff's little friend, K.J. He noticed a Bible on her coffee table and asked her if he could have one. She gave him one from the church and as you can see from the photo, he is reading it and he repeats stories of Cain and Abel and Adam and Eve. He said that his mom is reading it, too! The church now has provided a children's Bible for Penny to give to K.J. Isn't this a precious reminder of how God's Word reaches out to children?