

FALL BIBLE STUDY

Is the Purple Book the next step for you? From students and scholars to parents, kids, rock stars, and professional athletes, people all over the world are doing The Purple Book. It is designed to help new believers and longtime followers of Jesus stand firm and grow strong in the Christian life.

*This 12-week series will meet each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Kick-off day: 09/13/16 - Sign up with Emma*

COUNTDOWN EVENT

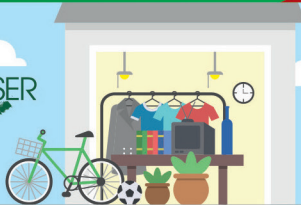
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH / Crystal Lake

Speaker: **Alex Nsegimana** from Rwanda

THUR, SEPTEMBER 15



MISSIONS
FUNDRAISER



GARAGE SALE
491 RIVER BLUFF ROAD

SEP 16-17

If you have items to donate or transport, contact Emma, Kenny, or Rod.

BIBLE STUDY (OFF CAMPUS)

If you are interested in attending the Bible Study at Kimberly's, please contact her. There are three sessions in September: 15; 22; and 29—all are Thursday evenings.

CONNECTION CARDS

in order to **"MEASURE"** our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.

Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card

I Believe in Blessing

Sept 04 » A Closer Look at Blessing
 Sept 11 » The Power of Decrees
 Sept 18 » The Blessing of Identity
 Sept 25 » The Blessing of Destiny

PRAYER REQUESTS

▶ THINKING-OF-YOU PRAYER

Breanna V. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lily M. ▶ Dementia	<input type="checkbox"/>
Annabelle G. ▶ Lung Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noe F. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenny D. ▶ Neurological	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trevor W. ▶ Afghanistan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny L. ▶ Peace Corps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ralph H. ▶ Fluid in the brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moe M. ▶ Lung Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzie S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lotz Family ▶ Family Grief	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb D. ▶ Bone Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phyllis L. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donald S. ▶ Addictions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer M. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

▶ URGENT PRAYER

Peggy H. ▶ Arthritis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Toni R. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary S. ▶ Recovery	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jennifer M. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Paul S. ▶ Chemotherapy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peggy K. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb S. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Emma G. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Human resources, no matter how limited, willingly offered, divinely empowered, are more than adequate to achieve a divine end.” –Anonymous

09/04/16

33 ATTENDANCE
 \$1,977 GIVING
 0 GUESTS
10 VOLUNTEERS
 0 DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

METRICS ▶ THAT MATTER

I Believe in Blessing

THE POWER
OF DECREES

“You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you; and the light will shine on your ways. *Job 22:28, NASB*”

A decree is a command made in Jesus’ name. It involves taking our authority in Christ and speaking forth God’s word in agreement with heaven’s decrees.

- ◆ A decree is an official order that has the force of law.
- ◆ When we decree something, we are making a declaration that has the weight of Kingdom authority behind it.
- ◆ Your words of blessing have the power to change atmospheres, touch hearts, break through opposition and shift situations into alignment with God’s purposes.
- ◆ Through a **blessing decree** we express not our will or wish but we declare the Father’s revealed intention.

A Story With a *Gutsy Decree*

¹Now the Philistines gathered their forces for war and assembled at Sokoh in Judah. They pitched camp at Ephes Dammim, between Sokoh and Azekah.

²Saul and the Israelites assembled and camped in the Valley of Elah and drew up their battle line to meet the Philistines. ³The Philistines occupied one hill and the Israelites another, with the valley between them. *1 Samuel 17:1-3*

- ◆ Single combat warfare was employed.
- ◆ The champion represented the entire army.
- ◆ A win or loss was a representative win or loss.

Goliath **Boasted Daily** Against *Israel’s Army*

- ◆ Goliath challenged Israel’s champion on a daily basis.
- ◆ David was sent by his father to replenish food for his brothers who are in Israel’s army.
- ◆ David witnessed the disparaging challenge by Goliath the giant and the continuing erosion of morale among Israel’s army.

David Offered Himself as a Worthy Opponent

- ◆ David asked what the reward was. He is summoned by King Saul. He encouraged Saul telling him not to be fearful because of the giant. He offers to fight the giant himself.
- ◆ He recounted his victories over the lion and the bear, and now this would be another chance for God to prove himself.
- ◆ He **prophesied** that this no-covenant loser will fall too because he has defiled God's people who have a covenant.
- ◆ Saul tried to give David his armor and identity. David says—these were not proven weapons.

Goliath Trash Talked David

- ◆ David headed out to meet the giant. He stopped by a brook—picked out some smooth stones—something familiar to him.
- ◆ The giant disparaged David verbally. He discounted David's abilities and his weapons.
- ◆ He decreed what he would do to David. His decree had no power.

David's Bold Prophetic Decree

⁴⁵ David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶ This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." *1 Samuel 17:45-47*



THE *After*-SERMON

Last Sunday, just before the offering, Rod presented a mini-sermon. It didn't last long—maybe three minutes, but it was as important as the main sermon. In it, Rod spoke about our **passion bucket**.

Each of us has a passion bucket of sorts, a holding place inside our souls where we store and ferment this insatiable desire to experience what drives us the most. Not just anything can fill our **passion bucket**, only those interests and experiences that make us come alive.

Rod told how his **passion bucket** was refilled as a result of going to Guatemala to deliver some much-needed school supplies for a newly founded orphanage. He took two extra suitcases filled with stuff, first to El Salvador, then to Guatemala where he met with the missionary. When he spoke with her, she informed him that the newly-formed orphanage had recently given away all the basic school supplies to help people living at the Guatemala City Dump. She told him that the orphanage had no way of obtaining more school supplies. Rod showed her the content of the suitcases. It was just what was needed! Things that we think are insignificant — purchased with proceeds from the garage sale! Who would have thought?



Our **passion buckets** have a way of leaking over time and need to be replenished. Paul admonished Timothy with these words: “And the special gift of ministry you received when I laid hands on you and prayed—keep that ablaze! God doesn't want us to be shy with his gifts, but bold and loving and sensible.” *1 Timothy 1:6-7 The Message*

Is it time for you to refill your passion bucket?

Pastor Bob

