



## Money is a Cheap Substitute for Faith

A teacher says to Billy, "If you have two dollars and you ask your father for four dollars, how many dollars will you have?" Billy answers, "2 dollars." The teacher said, "Billy, you don't know your math." To which he responded, "You don't know my father."

Like this father, we too have a hard time letting go. But understanding some the benefits and concepts of Biblical giving will help us. What are the benefits? If we are giving people, we will increase our dependence on God.

Money is a cheap substitute for faith. When we do not need to rely on God, then we will not rely on God. Jesus knew this as he prepared his disciples to venture out into their first teaching assignments.

*Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: Take nothing for the Journey except a staff- no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear Sandals but not an extra tunic. Mark 6:7-9*

In this learning task, Jesus was teaching the disciples not merely how to cast out demons and teach, he is allowed them to learn through dependence on Him. He wanted them

to struggle and question so that they would need to rely on faith and not things.

In my experience, many people don't plan on not giving, they just don't plan on giving. It's like the old adage, "People don't plan to fail, they fail to plan." When we don't sit down and carve out a specific plan for giving, it will not happen. As a father, I love to relate many aspects of my faith to parenting. When one of my daughters intentionally goes out of her way to come and hug me and tell me she loves me, I am moved. However, on the other hand, when I say, "Lily, come give me a hug," or "Maisy, give your old man a kiss," and they say, "fine" and begrudgingly come over and give me an emotionless kiss, it is not so meaningful.

Just to clarify: I am talking to the church here. If you are a visitor or have not made a commitment to Christ, these words are not for you. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ and you do not give intentionally, sacrificially and faithfully, you are not experiencing all that God has to offer you. Your relationship with Christ is stunted and will likely never grow beyond where you are right now. If your faith is not growing, you have likely stuffed it unintentionally in a locked box.

There are no excuses when it comes to giving. If a dime comes into your home

in a month, a part of it should go back to God. If you can't give because you have too many bills, you will always have too many bills. Everybody has bills. Everybody has things they would rather spend their money on. Statistics would show that most of the people reading this have an unreasonable amount of debt.

But I would also say that there is always something we can live without. A can of soda, a trip to the coffee shop. A dinner out. Life can nickel and dime us to death which is why we should better keep track of our nickels and dimes. There is not a single person that I know who could not spare something for God financially. The question always comes to me, "what if I just serve and that will be my gift?" We are all called to give and serve. You cannot bill God for services rendered. Money is easy, it comes in and you tell it what to do.

Going without so that you can give will be one of the most rewarding things you can do and will be a great boost to your faith. It will be tough, but remember, God wants you to learn about him by being dependent on him.

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CONTACT OUR STAFF



Current Meeting Place:  
Huntington YMCA  
1160 W 500 N  
Huntington, IN 46750  
11 AM Worship Service

# Worship as a Way of Life

## Romans 12 (NIV)

### A Living Sacrifice

**1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. **2** Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### Humble Service in the Body of Christ

**3** For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. **4** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, **5** so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. **6** We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; **7** if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; **8** if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

This is one of my favorite passages from the Bible. I like how Paul simply puts what it means to live a life to honor God, and what true worship is. I think it is too easy to think that worship is what happens when we all gather on Sunday morning, tune up the guitars, and sing words that appear on the big screen. But, clearly, worship is so much more than that. Paul calls us to live a life of worship. So what does this mean? Well, I feel that it means worship of God can happen in any of our actions. We can worship God by treating others kindly, with humbleness. We can worship by serving as a volunteer in our local church or other organization. We can worship God with how we lead our families or how we interact with our friends, strangers, or people we may not even like.

So, if you are wondering how this could be applicable as relates to your connection with your local church, let me offer these suggestions to you: first and foremost, pursue God in every aspect of your life, dig into the word, and pray that His will be done. Secondly, love your family, encourage them, and let Christ guide your relationship. And finally, serve with the gifts that God has given you. If He has gifted you with teaching, lead a small group; if He has gifted you with musical ability, serve on the worship team; if he has gifted you with hospitality, make your church a welcoming place for people to come; if He has gifted you with giving, then give freely. I'm sure I could come up with many more examples, but I leave you with this: explore your gifting. Worship God in all you do. Love and serve others, because doing so is a natural overflow of our Love for God.

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." – Leo Buscaglia

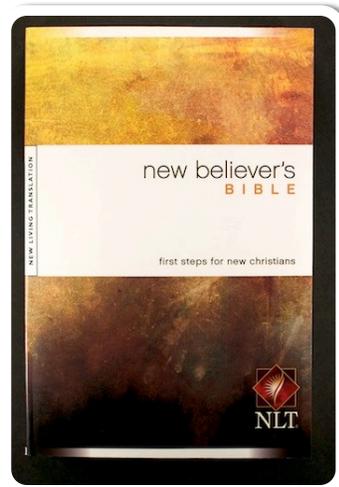
Marvin McNew, Pastor of Communications and Worship

## Compassion and Care Ministry

I pray that everyone is having a good start to the new year. Romans 8:18-19 says, "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed."

Josh has mentioned that we should be spending time in God's word, and if you're wondering how to approach this idea, I suggest you pray about it and ask for God's direction. Ask him to help you understand his words. Secondly you can choose a reading plan, [www.lifejournal.cc](http://www.lifejournal.cc), is one example. The home page lists the scriptures to be read for the day and if you keep up with it, you will have read through the Bible in one year.

Jim Hippensteel  
Coordinator of Compassion and Care



If you are in need of a Bible, The Well has one to give to you. Just see Pastor Josh on a Sunday morning.

# Meet Jay Ballard, General Contractor.

Although he probably wouldn't admit it, Jay Ballard is quite the historian when it comes to information on The Well.

Jay currently oversees the building and renovation project for the church's new location, the former Huntington Lumber building on Old 24.

He says one of the main reasons the church had to find a new home was to maximize cost efficiency.

"The former building at Good Shepherd had 183 rooms, 53,000 square feet and about 30 acres to mow," Jay says. "The utility costs alone were very expensive and we didn't use all the space. So we had to figure something out."

Prior to the economic recession, a large portion of the church's revenue originated from retreats.

**"WE HAVE A MISSION OF REACHING PEOPLE AROUND THE COMMUNITY."**

"They helped to cover the utility costs, but after gas prices increased that source of income kind of dried up," Jay says. "Also, it was an older building that wasn't handicap accessible and wasn't suited to be a long term home for the church. After looking at the numbers and praying about it, we knew that staying there wasn't a good option."

"Additional factors led to the decision to close Good Shepherd and sell the building," he adds. "That process in itself was an interesting one."

"After listing the property with a commercial realtor we got interest from a buyer out east, who was interested in starting a Bible college," Jay notes. "However, that offer fell through."

He adds that the negotiation process had advanced to the point where the church had decided to move out of the building and began holding services at Flint Springs Elementary.

*Continued on next page...*



**BALLARD FAMILY**



**OFFICE AREA**



**VIEW FROM BACK OF SANCTUARY**



**CURRENT SETUP AT THE Y**



## Jay Ballard, cont.

“That was a temporary arrangement and after the first deal fell through, we faced a situation that saw us paying to use the facilities at Flint Springs and still cover expenses at the old building that hadn’t been sold,” says Jay. “We had to find an alternative option.”

Shortly afterwards, they received word that an offer was made on the old building by a businessman from Fort Wayne.

“We knew that Flint Springs wasn’t a long-term solution, so we started looking at other properties.” The church came to an agreement with Parkview Huntington YMCA to use its facility to hold services. “Again, the ‘Y’ is only a temporary solution for the church, so as time went by, we began to prayerfully seek God’s guidance in regards to finding a more permanent location.”

After entertaining a few options, Jay says, Pastor Josh received a call from Bob Oliver, former owner of the Huntington Lumber building.

“Bob was transitioning his operations to his headquarters in Indianapolis and was looking to sell the Huntington building,” Jay states. “He attends Emanuel and talked to the pastor who told him that we were searching for property to buy.”

Jay adds that he and a group of elders went to check out the location to see if it would be a good fit for the church.

“We looked at the property and saw a lot of potential, from the size of the main building for our sanctuary and more than adequate parking space already paved, to the fairly new warehouse out back that would make a great gymnasium. We really liked what we saw,” says Jay.

After working the numbers and looking at the logistics of converting the building into usable space for the church’s purposes as well as the time frame in which it could all be

accomplished, Jay says The Well and Oliver agreed on a purchase price.

“In praying about how to pay for the building, we wanted to stay true to scripture and be good stewards of the money we had,” he adds. “We decided to pay cash for the property and get a loan at a reasonable rate for the renovations. We went with a local contractor, Scott Baker, who gave us a good deal on the renovation costs.” Stepping out in faith and trusting God to provide for the church was another reason that prompted the cash purchase. Contingency plans had to be made to provide adequate water pressure for a sprinkler system in the main building, which was required by state law, Jay adds. That added to the cost of the project.

“We thought that the water connection was on the other side of the highway, but thankfully it was on our side a few blocks down,” he says. “It would have been much more expensive if we had to cross the highway.”

As the renovation project progresses Jay says there is a certain degree of urgency to have it completed.

“Of course we want to move into our own location as soon as possible,” he says. “But we’re also covering the cost of using the YMCA as well as costs on the new building, so we want to avoid having to do that for too much longer.” The current expected completion date is April and Jay says that the project is on schedule.

“Obviously there are things that could potentially happen to change that, but as of right now, everything is progressing nicely with the expectation that we will move in to new building in April.”

Staying on schedule has been aided by the help of volunteers from The Well, Jay adds.

“There are people who have volunteered their time to help with demolition. Terry Sappington, who had

his own electrical contracting business in California, has volunteered to do all the electrical work. That alone is going to save us about \$25,000.”

Jay says that he and Larry Lawrence are assisting Sappington with that portion of the project. He adds that prior to his retirement from Square D, he was able to secure electrical circuit breakers at a discounted price, saving another \$3,000. The church will be using volunteers to paint and Oliver has agreed to get materials including carpeting and interior doors at contractor’s price to help the church minimize costs.

“He’s also storing some overflow inventory in the warehouse, so he’s doing some things for us and we are doing some things for him as well,” Jay adds.

In terms of value for money spent, Jay says the church definitely received a favorable outcome.

“Using the average of \$40 per square foot, if we had to start from scratch to replace the main building, which is 12,000 square feet, the new warehouse at another 4,500 square feet and the smaller garage, if you do the math, then you realize that we got a pretty good deal. And that doesn’t include the land or any paving. That helped us with a reference point to say that this made sense.”

As smart as the investment is, Jay says that it shouldn’t be overlooked that the building is simply a tool to help the church reach the community of Huntington.

“We all want a place to call our home church and that’s fine,” he says. “But the church is the people and our goal is not to just move in and never do anything else. We still have a mission of reaching the people around us in the community. The location itself shows us the mission field in Huntington.”

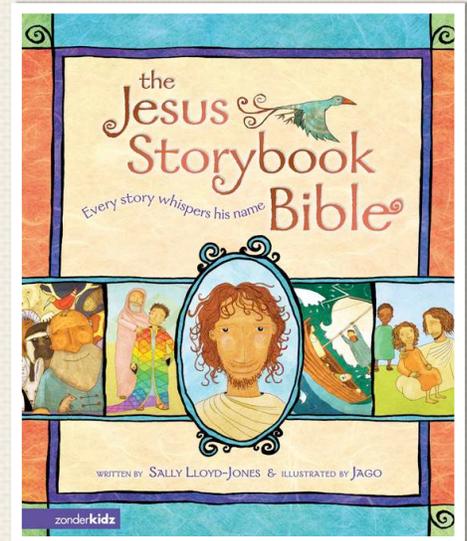
**Story by André Laird**

# Children's Ministry

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## Let's Celebrate!

On Sunday, February 3, we will be recognizing all children in The Rock and Big Dippers who have earned their own *Jesus Storybook Bible*. We have around ten children who have or will reach this goal in time! This will take place at the start of church in front of the congregation. We hope you can make it and support our children!



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## Youth Ministry

The Well had 2 students and 2 volunteers participate in Festivus- an overnight party with several other local youth groups. They had a blast bowling, laser-tagging, and swimming until the wee hours of the morning! We have been focusing our meeting time the last few weeks on discussing bold steps to take in following Jesus- using Daniel, Esther, and Peter as examples. We may be making some changes to our meeting place and time, so be watching the website and the Sunday morning loop weekly for what's going on!

*Youth Group will NOT meet February 3.*

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## Small Groups

The next Sunday morning study series is "Sharing the Faith," based on scripture from 1 Thessalonians. We are excited to learn more about how we can be challenged to impact our communities by sharing our testimony of salvation with others.

The class started on Jan. 27 and is held in the conference room at 10 a.m. It is not too late to join. Future plans and studies include a small group leadership series, with the hopes of identifying individuals or couples interested in leading small groups; offering multiple classes/studies on Sunday mornings as well as small groups throughout the church. A survey is being drafted to help identify and target studies and small groups that are most needed based on response from members of the church.

If you are interested in being a part of the small group ministries team, contact André at [andre@thewellathuntington.org](mailto:andre@thewellathuntington.org) or via phone at 224-3754.

# LOVE THY NEIGHBORHOOD



Let me hear  
of your  
unfailing love  
each morning, for  
I am TRUSTING  
you. Show me  
where to walk, for I  
give myself to you.

Psalms 143:8

## FEBRUARY DATES

FEBRUARY 3 - CHILDREN'S  
RECOGNITION IN SERVICE

FEBRUARY 3 - NO YOUTH

FEBRUARY 24 - NO REGULAR  
WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE  
YMCA. WE WILL BE HOLDING  
BREAK-OUT CHURCH. WATCH  
AND LISTEN FOR  
ANNOUNCEMENTS IN THE  
WORSHIP SERVICES LEADING  
UP TO THAT SUNDAY.

## Love.

**John 15:9-17 (NIV)**

**9** "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.