



Will Forrest

Jin-sun's* life was in disarray. He had everything most people strive for, but none of it mattered in the middle of his family crisis. Despite wealth and power tied to a successful job in South Korea, Jin-sun felt helpless and hopeless. He turned to his friend Will Forrest and said he was looking for the meaning of life.

"I was able to share with him the truth of Solomon's writing in Ecclesiastes—that everything apart from God is meaningless," says Will, who leads Summit LIFE Church near Seattle. "We recognize, as Augustine appropriately stated, "Every heart is restless until it finds rest in Thee."

Summit LIFE Church is divinely positioned to reach many employees and families who are connected to Microsoft and Amazon. Church members also have seen God bring many people from various nations to their church. On any given Sunday, nine nations spanning five continents are represented among church members.

"We constantly tell our people that we desire to make everyday people into everyday missionaries and send them into everyday places of life," Will says. "We are confident that as we faithfully steward the gospel opportunities the Lord has entrusted to us, we will reach not only many influential leaders in our region but leaders around the world."

Pray for God's wisdom as Summit LIFE Church seeks to labor effectively and according to God's will. Pray, too, believers would boldly walk in obedience to God.

*Names changed

*Submitted on behalf of the WMU by Edna Stanley

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Messenger

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FROM THE
Pastor's Desk

TJ's Take

After a long and challenging 2020, many are welcoming the new year with open arms in hopes for a fresh start. Something about the turn of the calendar provides an opportunity for a new beginning. With the new year, many will make resolutions—resolutions to lose weight, to work out more, to manage money more wisely, and to spend more time with family. Others will resolve to pray more, to attend church more regularly, or to read their Bible each and every day.

Unfortunately, a great majority of these New Year's resolutions will be distant memories after a few months. The reason for this reality is that there is no power in a New Year's resolution. Nothing magical happens when the calendar turns over from December 31 to January 1. Resolving to start or stop doing a certain activity—no

matter how good or godly—has no value unless you have the proper motivation and the proper tools to succeed.

In particular, I see this play out year after year with people who make resolutions to read their Bible through in a year. It begins with excitement and anticipation. When the newness wanes, there are feelings of drudgery and dread. Finally, it ends with apathy and discouragement until the next January when the cycle repeats itself.

Perhaps this has been your experience for reading the Bible. Or perhaps you've never done regular Bible reading before and would like to start. Although you can start the spiritual discipline of Bible reading at any time, a perfect time to begin is right now as we enter 2021 together.

If you have no idea where to begin, I am happy to offer some guidance. I have read through the Bible in a year many times. Over the last several years, I have come to enjoy a 5-day reading plan with pre-selected passages to work our way through the Bible together. The plan builds in two days so that you can catch up if you miss a day and so that you can meditate on what you have read in the days prior. If you're interested in this plan, I can make sure you have access to it. And you don't even have to try to read the Bible in a year. You could just read the New Testament this year. Or perhaps it may take you a couple of years to complete. There is no guilt or legalism or expectation. Simply go at your own pace and devour the sweet gift of God's Word.

I want to emphasize that the spiritual discipline of Bible reading is best done with a hard copy of Scripture (I've written about this in the past) and with a regular reading time in your daily routine. I would also recommend online resources such as blueletterbible.org, netbible.org, or biblememory.com for further study as you go. If you're interested in some more resources to help you take the next step, I also have several books that might be of help to you along the way.

Finally—and this is perhaps the most easily overlooked aspect of the spiritual discipline of Bible reading—find someone to help keep you accountable. If you have no one checking in on you as you go, it becomes much easier to step away and stop altogether. But if you have another person who is on the journey with you, they can help encourage you and help you when you may want to give up.

Don't let this be just another New Year's resolution; those are easy to quit and never make a lasting impact. Instead, simply make this a commitment to obedience and spiritual growth. Reading through the Bible is not some goal to achieve. Rather, it is a pattern of living for those of us who are in Christ. It's not an item on our checklist that we need to complete each day. It's spiritual nourishment—our daily bread as believers.

If you have a desire to read the Bible, pray that as you read God would continue to grow that desire even further. If you do not have a desire to read the Bible, pray that God would ignite that desire within you—and then begin to read it anyway.

Not out of guilt. Not to earn God's favor. But as an act of submission and worship to the one true God.

In Christ,
Pastor TJ



MICKEY'S MUSINGS

All Year Long

As we pack away our Christmas decorations and begin a new year, I am ever mindful of a song to which Sue Ellen introduced me. In the Larnelle Harris song, "All Year

Long," a young child asks his father as they are putting away the Christmas decorations "Do we store away Jesus too?"

It is my prayer that 2021 will be the year where we return to worship with a newfound vigor. May we sing with joyful exuberance. May we read and study scripture with a hunger and thirst for righteousness. May we serve the Lord with gladness. May we proclaim the truth in love. May we boldly share the good news of Jesus with all. May we truly be His hands and feet. Worship services are at 8:00 and 10:45 in English and 12:30 in Spanish. New for 2021 is the return of Sunday School. If you are not in a Sunday morning Bible Study, why not? May our lives and not just our words reflect a resounding NO, we will NOT "store away Jesus too!" Instead, He will be at the forefront of all we do!

Who Is Yours?

Over the past year I've heard much displeasure at the fact that we do not have a functioning baptistry. I'm more concerned with the fact that we've not needed a functioning baptistry. So, who is yours? Who is the person that God has laid on your heart to share the life-saving good news of Jesus? Let's break out the water trough and celebrate this year!

Outreach Activities

Clearly this past year has been a most unusual one. One of the positives has been that we are developing new methods with which to reach our community. We will need the church body to do its part in ministering to the community and we will certainly keep you informed as a congregation of how we believe God is leading us to serve our neighbors.

When's your birthday?

Over the past several weeks, I have asked several members for information such as address, birthday, anniversary, phone number. You could REALLY help us by updating your own information. Simply go to centralbaptistparis.churchtrac.com, log in, and update your information. Additionally, if you and/or your family

did not have your picture taken this past autumn, please send one to me at mickey@centralbaptistparis.com so we can get it uploaded for you.

Blessings,
Mickey Ballard



Jonny's Corner

Hello Church Family,

It is hard to believe that it is 2021! I am looking forward to when everything gets back to some kind of normal and we all can get out and about without worry. I know our church staff and lay leaders have been working hard to figure things out and get ministries functioning again. Please be patient with us as we seek to try and open ministries in 2021 and hopefully be able to offer ministries for all age groups again soon.

As of right now, camps for both children and youth are still planning on functioning as normal this coming summer. But I also know that could change depending on the pandemic situation. I will keep everyone informed as soon as I find out information. A \$75 deposit will be due January 24 for everyone that did not pay a deposit last year for camp. I have everything documented from last year. If you need to know if you have paid the deposit or not, just call me.

After the holidays, both children and youth committees will be meeting to try and figure out some fundraisers to help with the cost of camp. If you have any suggestions for possible fundraiser ideas, please let me know. However, keep in mind that we are limited on what we can do given all the pandemic regulations.

I pray that everyone had a Merry Christmas and enjoyed spending time with family. Please keep our church in your prayers as will keep working through things to try and get other ministries open in the near future. If you have any questions about children or youth ministries, please call me!

God Bless,
Jonny

Average Giving Report through December 20th

Year to Date Budget Giving \$437,896
Year to Date Budget Required \$494,445
Budget Shortfall \$56,549

Lottie Moon Offering
\$6,504.00 Collected as of December 20th

CBC Welcomes New Members

Daryl Berry	Sharon Berry
Chloe Daugherty	TJ Daugherty
James Poe	Carolyn Poe

In Loving Memory of CBC Members that were called home in 2020

Betty Barnes	Margaret Kerr
Louis Biddle	Jim Long
Utevia Decker	Drew Martin
Brenda Earlywine	Bill Mers
Emma Lee Ferrell	Ayleen Sale
James Hyatt	Dwayne Tubbs



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the kindness you have shown to me and my family in the passing of my father. The cards, phone calls, food, and prayers were much appreciated. A special thanks to the Sojourner's Sunday School class for their constant concern and prayers during my dad's illness and passing, and providing a meal for us. What a wonderful church family we have.

Janice Kilburn

To My Church Family,
I would like to say thank you for the Christmas gift, it was greatly appreciated. And I'm looking forward to serving my Church family and our Heavenly Father in 2021.

Kaye Purcell

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the Christmas gift. I am truly blessed to be a part of the CBC family. I look forward to serving you & serving with you in furthering God's kingdom in 2021.

Cathy Toadvine

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for helping me with the loss of my Dad. Thank you for your prayers and cards.

Love, Jessica Earlywine

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 8:00 AM Worship 10:45 PM Worship/ Live Stream Worship 6:00 Youth	4	5 10 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Church Council	6 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	7	8	9 Deacons Meeting
10 8:00 AM Worship 10:45 PM Worship/ Live Stream Worship 6:00 Youth	11	12 10 AM Staff Meeting	13 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	14	15	16
17 8:00 AM Worship 10:45 PM Worship/ Live Stream Worship 6:00 Youth	18	19 10 AM Staff Meeting	20 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	21	22	23
24 8:00 AM Worship 10:45 PM Wor- ship/ Live Stream Worship 6:00 Youth	25	26 10 AM Staff Meeting	27 6:30 PM Prayer Meeting	28	29	30
31 8:00 AM Worship Lord's Supper 10:45 PM Worship/ Live Stream Worship 6:00 Youth						

Healthy at Church

* We ask that you abide by the CDC guidance that families sit together and stay 6 foot apart from others, inside and outside the building at all times.

* Please take advantage of our wall Hand Sanitizers in the front foyer, side door, sanctuary ramp door and the back door by the water cooler.

* If you do not have a mask please ask an usher and one will be provided for you.