

Dear all

The bible developed into a single volume over 1300 years by over 40 writers. Various parts were written in Europe, Asia and Africa in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek. The whole bible is available in over 420 languages whilst the New Testament is available in at least 1115 languages. Over 4500 languages still wait for even one book of the bible. Not only is the bible the best-selling book of all time it is also the most shop-lifted book in the world¹. The essential difference between *it* and *every other book* is that it is living: God's instructions for His people, breathed out by Him into the lives of authors. As such, the study of the bible is one of our main priorities as a church. It not only informs and educates but it changes our lives through its Divine Author, its Divine Subject and its Divine Agent. In my time as pastor I have had

the thrill of teaching it and also hearing it being taught in our church. 20 books in full or part have been explored in our Sunday preaching and teaching services. 8 from the New Testament and 12 from the Old. And we'll cover 4 other books in 2018! Given its importance to our lives, we should ask the question of ourselves: **'In what ways have I changed as I submit to Christ and His Word?'** It should always come down to individual impact. Christ is building His Kingdom: one disciple at a time. I am thankful to be walking with some as they face change in one way or another and again I would like to extend this to anyone. Please let me know if you are interested.

In my early days as pastor at TCF, I issued a number of surveys on the various teaching and preaching series and I published the results in summary form in the Monthly Update. The responses helped to inform the approach and content of the preaching though this had to be primarily directed by the Lord. We varied the programme by having more contributors to the preaching and teaching as this seemed to be a good mechanism to ensure variety in approach and style so that all tastes and preferences were addressed. However, the response rate to the surveys was getting smaller and so the surveys stopped so as to avoid 'respondent fatigue'. It would be good to know what effect the scriptures have on us and so the elders are looking at how we may ask questions - suitably anonymised - that will supplement our understanding of spiritual development in the church. We'll keep you informed of that initiative.

I should also remind you that all of the notes from my sermons are posted on the website and can be used for personal study or follow up. In addition, I am also very happy to respond to particular questions either in person or in writing and I have developed a folder of pieces called 'The Pastors Notebook' of answers to questions that the TCF Family have asked over the last 27 months. If ever you have a biblical or spiritual question, please ask it!

	Family Service	Bible Teaching	Weeks
Jan-Apr 2016	James		10
Jan-May 2016		1 Corinthians	17
Apr-May 2016	Exodus		7
Jun 2016		Habbakkuk	3
Sep-Nov 2016	Matthew		12
Sep 2016		Knowing God	3
Sep-Oct 2016		Ruth	4
Oct-Dec 2016		Covenants	6
Jan-Mar 2017	Mark		9
Jan-Mar 2017		Exodus	8
Mar-Apr 2017		Knowing Jesus	9
Apr 2017	Psalms		3
Apr-May 2017		Philemon	3
May-Jun 2017	Jonah		5
May-Jun 2017		Kings and Chronicles	7
Jul-Aug 2017	Daniel		7
Sep 2017	Psalms		3
Oct 2017		Spiritual Gifts	3
Oct-Nov 2017	Acts		7
Nov 2017		Leviticus	4
Dec 2017	Prophetic Books		3
Oct 2017		Jude	3
Dec 2017		Psalms	2
Jan-Jun 2018	Luke		18
Jan-Mar 2017		Judges	9
Apr-Jun 2018		Colossians	9
		Knowing the Holy Spirit	3
July-Aug 2018	Genesis (Joseph)		8
Oct-Nov 2018	Romans		6
Oct-Dec 2018		Proverbs	11

¹<http://www.christian-research.org/religious-trends/the-bible/bible-facts-and-figures/>