



# Rowandale Reporter

## GOODBYE 2020!

### LIVING on GOD'S WORD in 2021

*Jesus said, "Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."*

(Matthew 4:4; Christian Standard Bible)

It's the start of a new year. What better time to kick-start or re-start a daily habit of reading the Bible?

There is perhaps no single more important practice in the life of a healthy and growing Christian than regularly feeding on God's words in the Scriptures.

Prayer is important too, of course. But how will we know how to pray, or what to pray about, or who we are praying to unless the Bible tells us?

Loving others and doing good deeds is also important. As James the brother of Jesus said, being a "hearer only" and not a doer of the word is a dangerous deception (James 1:22). But what James is against is not hearing the word, but hearing the word without doing what it says. And how will we do what it says unless we first hear what it says?

I recently read through the Book of Genesis. In reading about the creation of the universe, I was again struck by the fact that God created everything by speaking. Everything that we see around us exists simply because "God said" (Genesis 1:3). Not only did God create all things by his powerful word, but Scripture also tells us that he sustains all things by his powerful word (Hebrews 1:3).

Consider what else the Bible says about God's words:

- Faith comes through hearing God's word

"So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the message about Christ" (Romans 10:17).

- God's word creates the new birth

"you have been born again—not of perishable seed but of imperishable – through the living and enduring word of God" (1 Peter 1:22).

- God's word makes us wise for salvation

Paul tells Timothy, "from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are able to give you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

- God's word testifies about Jesus Christ, so that we will have life in him

Jesus tells the religious leaders of his day, "You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me" (John 5:39).

- God's word searches the thoughts and intentions of our hearts:

"For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

PASTOR JONATHAN KROEKER

- God's word trains and equips us for every good work

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16).

- God's word encourages us and gives us hope

"For whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures" (Romans 15:4).

Much more could be written here about all that God does in our lives through his powerful word. What a privilege it is to own a Bible in our own language! But there is a vast difference between having God's word and hearing God's word. We all know it's good to have food in the cupboards, but we also know that nourishment comes only by eating that food. In the same way, it's good to have a Bible, but the spiritual nourishment comes from reading, receiving, and responding to God's word in faith.

In 2021, let's read and receive God's word as if our spiritual life depended on it. Because, according to Jesus, it does: "Man must not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

### Praise & Prayer

**PRAISE GOD** for his faithfulness to us as a church over this past year: "Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!" (Lam. 3:22-23)

**PRAY** that we would be faithful to the Lord in this coming year – faithful in our marriages, our families, our homes, our work, our neighbourhoods, and our church.

**PRAY** for those who are in care homes, or sick in hospital. Grietje Brumm at Maples PCH; Lynda Dengate at Riverview; Sieglinde Glesmann at Holy Family; Abe Goertzen at Donwood Manor; Rose-Ann Lucius at Donwood Manor; Edgar Olney at Bethania; Egon Ulrich at Donwood Manor.

**PRAY** that there would be a dramatic decline in Covid-19 cases in 2021, so that restrictions would be relaxed, so that we can gather together in worship soon.

### Bible Reading Plans for 2021

Ligonier Ministries has put together a list of Bible reading plans that you can download and use in this coming year. Go here to view them:

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/bible-reading-plans/>

If you are reading a print version of this newsletter and would like a Bible reading plan, please phone the church office and we will print one for you.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES** In-person Sunday worship services have been suspended while Code Red is in effect, until further notice. Worship services will be livestreamed at [www.rowandale.ca](http://www.rowandale.ca) at 10 am on Sunday mornings (musical prelude starts at 9:45), and will be available to watch after the livestream has concluded.

#### LISTEN TO THE SERVICE BY PHONE

SUNDAYS at 10:00 am (YOU CAN CALL IN AS EARLY AS 9:45)

**STEP 1:** Call **204-272-7920**

**STEP 2:** Enter Meeting ID: **829 0930 0180** then press #

**STEP 3:** Wait for the service to begin  
(ignore further instructions/options)

**STEP 4 (optional):** After the service you can press \*6 to un-mute yourself and speak with others on the phone

**ONLINE PRAYER MEETINGS** Resuming Wednesday, January 6 at 7 pm. Look for a weekly email with a link to the meeting. We look forward to having you join us!

### Thank you for continuing to support Rowandale Baptist Church

ALTERNATIVES TO IN-PERSON GIVING

1. Mail a cheque to the church or drop it off in the mail slot at the Rowandale Avenue entrance. 162 Rowandale Ave, Winnipeg, MB R2K 0A5
2. Contact our treasurer, Jason Nickel to get set up for regular withdrawals from your bank account (use this option only for regular, ongoing donations)

### January birthdays

1	Linda Kahler
1	Hedy Mielke
1	Ed Thiede
4	Oz Pedde
6	Helga Nachtigall
8	Pete Giesbrecht
9	Abigail Garcia
9	Zena Thiede
12	Bettina Gerl
13	Wolfgang Tiegs
14	Bonnie Reimer
14	Hans Serger
16	Reese Francey
17	Susan Lepp
18	Joe Jagdeo
20	Eugene Kohler
20	Caleb Schroeder
21	Timothy Roller
21	Carla Unrau
23	Leona Gollub
29	Judy Newton
29	Linda Nickel
30	Leah Kohler
31	Rudy Paas

### January anniversaries

26	Karl & Ingrid Erkau
26	Derek & Cynthia Hoorman

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name and email address.



**ROWANDALE**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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