

## Looking for a good read this summer?

*One of the great things about summer is it's a great opportunity to take on a new reading. We wanted you to know what your Staff Leadership Team is reading and encourage you to join us in some of these. It's a great opportunity as well to be on board with things we are being challenged by. Enjoy reading this summer!*

### **What Mike Moses (Lead Pastor) is reading this summer:**

**"The Reason For God,"** by Tim Keller. I can't believe I haven't read it yet! Friend after friend has told me this is the best book today offering reasons to believe. Tim is a pastor in Manhattan, and a scholar. He gives carefully reasoned answers to peoples' biggest problems with Christianity, spending particular focus on science and religion, and knocking apart the loud contentions of evangelistic atheists who've recently shot to the top of bestseller lists.

**"The Hole in Our Gospel,"** by Richard Stearns. Rich is CEO of World Vision, and says Christians have a huge hole in their lives, an emptiness that comes from ignoring the plight of the poor. He tells his story of success in the business world, to the founding of World Vision, and ushers a prophetic call to Christians to love the poor in the name of Jesus. I'm worried this book may be bad for my current settledness in life and faith – I plan to read with caution.

### **What Mitch White (Discipleship Pastor) is reading this summer:**

**"The Jesus Way"** by Eugene Peterson. Eugene has been a mentor of mine from afar through his writings. In this writing, he encourages his readers to dialogue with him around what truly is the Jesus Way. He challenges the churches use of technology and other cultural driven ideas and questions if they oppose the Jesus Way. He does this by looking at various characters in the Bible and their situations. What I love most about Eugene's writings is his constant tie back to the Scriptures. I'm looking forward to this challenging read.

**"Spiritual Direction and the Care of Souls"** by Moon and Benner. I'm very curious of all the ways different traditions have gone about the practices of spiritual direction. How does it fit within the context of mental health profession and pastoral counseling? Not the most fun summer read, yet I'm hoping it further shapes our development in this area.

**"The Last Jihad"** by Joel Rosenburg. Simply an action packed book for the beach to offset the other two. Suggested by a good friend and my first introduction to Rosenberg. I look forward to using different brain waves on this read!

### **What Marcy Smith (Children's Ministry Director) is reading this summer:**

**"The Monkey and the Fish: Liquid Leadership for a Third-Culture Church"** by Dave Gibbons  
God took Dave Gibbons down a journey that has huge implications for us today. What he came to embrace is that the world is changing to a third-culture where we need to be willing to cross lines to reach people where they are. Third-culture is about being water to a thirsty world. It's being adaptive. It's being willing to change.  
Three things I hope to explore further:

1. Where is Nazareth? Who are the people on the margins of life? Who are suffering the most?
2. What is my pain? It is through that pain that the power of Christ is magnified.
3. What is in my hand? What has God given me? How can I use it?

### **"Flickering Pixels: How Technology Shapes Your Faith" By Shane Hipps**

It is clear to many that our world has changed and a primary reason may be that "images and icons are fast displacing words as the dominant communication system of our culture." Hipps argues that the media all around us is not simply changing the way we get our news, entertainment, and sports but "re-pattern the neural pathways in our brain[s]", and as such, the media through which we get information is reshaping us.

Working with children I see how visuals ARE a language. I will be very interested to read this book and discover what it has to say about the advantages and disadvantages of technology as a vehicle for the message of God.

### **“A Lion Among Men” By Gregory Maguire**

I have read everything Maguire has written and can't wait to return to Oz to see through the eyes of the Cowardly Lion—the once tiny cub defended by Elphaba in *Wicked*. While civil war looms in Oz, an oracle named Yackle prepares for death. Before her final hour, Brrr—the Cowardly Lion—arrives searching for information about Elphaba Thropp, the Wicked Witch of the West. As payment, Yackle, who hovered on the sidelines of Elphaba's life, demands some answers of her own. YAY! This is the vacation that I can't afford now that I have a kid in college. Can't wait. ☺

### **What Michael Flake (Missions Director) is reading this summer:**

**“The Dangerous Act of Worship: Living God’s Call to Justice”** by Mark Labberton,

Written by a Presbyterian pastor in Berkeley, the book explores how followers of Christ might celebrate God while not being oblivious to our neighbors. I am hopeful that the book will challenge me to consider how vulnerable people and our church's concern for vulnerable people are vital to the act of worship and our lives as worshippers of God.

**“In the Name of Jesus: Reflections on Christian Leadership”** by Henri Nouwen,

Nouwen names relevance, spectacle, and power as temptations of Christian leaders and offers a potentially counter-cultural view of leadership based on Jesus' interaction with Peter in John 21. Nouwen, who left an Ivy League professorship to live with people with developmental disabilities in a L'Arche community, will certainly challenge and temper some of my understandings of spiritual leadership.

### **What Bill Worsley (Executive Pastor) is reading this summer:**

**unChristian** by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons

The book jacket describes this book better than I will... “Christians are supposed to represent Christ to the world. But according to the latest report card, something has gone terribly wrong. Using descriptions like “hypocritical,” “insensitive,” and “judgmental,” young Americans share an impression of Christians that's nothing short of . . . unChristian.”

Sad, and regrettably, true. I want to be a part of changing that perception, and I hope this book will challenge both my thoughts and my actions as a follower of Christ.

**The Life You've Always Wanted** by John Ortberg

A re-read of a book I first read over 10 years ago. John Ortberg is one of my favorite authors. He is personable, humorous, and challenges me to grow in how I live out my faith every day. **The Life You've Always Wanted** is a book about spiritual disciplines. Life is a marathon, and not a sprint, and growth as a follower of Christ comes not by trying harder, but training consistently. An enjoyable and challenging read.

**The Summons** by John Grisham

Gotta balance out this reading list with some brain candy, and this one has been sitting on our bookshelf just waiting to be cracked open. Nothing like a good Grisham novel, and can't wait to curl up with this one in the hammock at the beach.