

Treasuring His Word...

From the Pastor's Heart:

"How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy word... I have rejoiced in the way of Thy testimonies, as much as in all riches... Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Thy law... Thy testimonies also are my delight; they are my counselors... Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Thy ways... O LORD, I remember Thy name in the night, and keep Thy law... This has become mine, that I observe Thy precepts... Thy word is very pure, therefore Thy servant loves it... I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Thy words. My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Thy word... Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe of Thy words. I rejoice at Thy word, as one who finds great spoil. I hate and despise falsehood, but I love Thy law. Seven times a day I praise Thee, because of Thy righteous ordinances. Those who love Thy law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble" (Psalm 119:9, 14, 18, 24, 37, 55-56, 140, 147-148, 161-165).

"This will change your life" is the encouragement we shared over and over on Sunday morning. The Word of God spoken to our hearts by His Holy Spirit, as we meditate and listen, giving Him our undivided attention pierces to the depth of our souls. We need this continual transformation! God is unfailing in His pursuit and ability to change the human heart. Therefore, let us heed the admonition of the Scriptures, "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts..." (Hebrews 3:15).

What great testimonies we heard Sunday about how God used the Gideon Bibles to bring eternal salvation to hurting hearts and to hard hearts. Thank you so much for your offering, every penny of which goes to the purchase of Bibles. We collected over \$1100.00 dollars. The Gideons have taken more than 2 billion Scriptures in more than 95 languages to 200 countries, territories, and possessions around the world. They exist to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus through His Word through placing and distributing Scriptures, and through personal witnessing. If you did not have the opportunity to give, you still can do that through many avenues with the Gideon Ministry (see their website or come by and pick up information from one of our Gideon displays at church).

How wonderful to hear Sunday evening our AWANA kids quoting scripture, having engraved that Word upon their hearts. Also, as their voices blended together to sing praises to the Lord, our hearts were warmed with the joy of knowing each child's love for our Savior is being encouraged and fortified. Many thanks go to Mrs. Nikki Mote and all our incredible AWANA leaders for their investment in what will prove to have eternal value.

Several of us also were thrilled to attend the recital for our School of Fine Arts Sunday afternoon. Mrs. Paula Kornegay has been a great blessing to us as this

first year of the school is coming to a close. The talents of these young people are being developed for the purpose of bringing glory to God as they are challenged to use them for service in Christ's kingdom. Many of you have heard them along the way in some of our worship services. I thank God for the ministries of our church that are building a foundation for the future followers of Jesus Christ! Praise the Lord!