

## The Gift of God's Word (A Testimony from Ed DeMatteo)

Last week, Scott's lesson helped remind me of some very good advice I received not long after I was a new convert to Christ. I accepted Christ and was baptized in February of 2000. Afterwards I hungered to know God completely; to know how He has worked throughout history and to know His will for my life. I attended bible classes on Sundays and Wednesdays. I read books, listened to lessons on tape, radio and on TV, and of course I read my bible. My bible reading was in piece meal fashion, but I was being fed spiritually and I was learning more and more.

It was late December of 2000 when the Minister at my church challenged me to make a new year's resolution. He handed me a paper book mark with a list of daily bible readings on it and asked that I commit to reading the bible straight through from cover to cover. He told me that if I would commit to read the whole bible and be disciplined enough to accomplish it I would experience such a blessing in my life. So I committed to do just that.

Yes there were days I skipped my reading regiment for various reasons and yes, some of the reading was arduous. The parts dealing with genealogy or when the Promised Land is divided up among the tribes of Israel are very tough to get through. After reading through God's law in the Old Testament I was left wondering exactly what is it that He has against mildew and yeast?! However a vast majority of the bible was fascinating and exciting and a little over 10 months later I finished!

It was a good feeling to know I had done what I committed to do, but little did I know the blessings God had in store for me just as my Minister had said. After reading the entire Bible all the Sunday sermons and the classes from that point forward had a deeper and richer meaning. That led to additional blessings such as increased discernment. Not that I know everything, but before reading the entire bible, discernment was not really present. But afterwards God added discernment to my spiritual maturity sort of like a graduation present! Looking back I can say that apart from my baptism, this single accomplishment was the point through which God's plan for my life was launched.

I want to pass on that same New Year's challenge to you. If you haven't already done so please read the bible all the way through and commit to accomplishing it this year. You may already read your bible often and attend classes regularly, or you may not. Either way, if you haven't read the entire Word of God, I strongly ask you to do so. You will be blessed by it in ways you cannot even begin to imagine. You will truly become that great tree planted by rivers of water and have peace that surpasses all understanding. Who doesn't want that?!

# Family News

Garden Ridge Church of Christ

Give us 8 weeks and we will give you a  
**DYNAMIC MARRIAGE!**

Are you ready for your marriage to go from ...  
...Good to Great?  
...Mediocre to Magnificent?  
...Hurt to Healed?



Lead by experienced facilitators since 1997:

Philip & Jan Nichols

On Sundays from 2:30-5:00

**Begins February 12 and ends April 15**

**Cost: \$120 per couple Course limited to 12 couples**  
**Deadline to register on line or in person is January 29**

This interactive self-taught course is guaranteed to work if you do.

Ask Philip or Jan for details.

January 8, 2012

### Assembly Times

Sunday Class	9:00 A.M.
Assembly	10:15 A.M.
LIFE Groups	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday	7:00 P.M.

102 N. Garden Ridge—Lewisville 75067

972-221-3561

Website: [www.gardenridge.org](http://www.gardenridge.org)

Find us on Facebook

This is a publication of Garden Ridge Church of Christ



Struggling with hurts, habits or  
hang-ups?  
Ready for solutions?  
Come to Celebrate Recovery

Wednesday Time: From 7 to 8

Room: 222

Come and join us.

LIFE Groups  
Tonight

*Reaching Out. Sharing Jesus. Changing Lives.*

## Welcome Guests...

If you would like to know more about Garden Ridge or if we can serve you in any way, please let it be known on your guest card. **(Please place your guest card in the contribution plate.)**  
We are glad you came today.

## Wednesday Nite Bite

Serving from 5:30-6:30  
Adults \$4, kids 10 & under \$1  
**Spaghetti, Salad, Green Beans,  
Bread & Dessert**



### Attention LTC Participants & Parents

LTC practices begin Sunday afternoon January 8th. Parents, you should have received an email with the teams your child is on and what time they practice. If you did not

receive this email please contact me.

PARENT: I will have a brief meeting at the start of each event in the back of the auditorium. I just need one parent to come to one of the meetings sometime that afternoon to sign the LTC forms and collect the \$15 per child participation fee.

Practice Times: Signing - 1-2pm Drama - 2-3pm Puppet - 3-4 Bible Bowl - 4-5

Co-coaches still needed for Puppets...please let me know if you can help. Contact Judy Tanner, 469-878-5404 or tjtan-ner@gmail.com

Baby Shower TODAY in Room 101 for Don & Donna Cofer's grandson.

Selections are at Babies R Us registered under Nick Cofer.

Gift cards to Walmart, Target & Babies R Us are also a great idea

Wedding Shower for Chris & Sara Jarvis on Jan. 22 at 2:00 in the fellowship center.  
Selections: Target.

### NEXT MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next breakfast for all Garden Ridge men is Saturday, January 28, 2012.

We will begin eating at 8 and conclude by 9:30 am.

## Pray For...

Jim Williams: Broken shoulder  
Lou Nell Bouchelle: Meeting with doctors about surgery  
Zach Cortez: Healing  
Wayne Farley: cancer treatment  
Surita Hatton: Continued treatment and healing  
Donnie Duffey - Linda Townsley's brother - bladder cancer  
Marriages  
People facing lay offs...families out of work

## Sunday Contributions

Dec 4th	\$17,279
Dec 11th	\$16,017
Dec 18th	\$18,267
Dec 25th	\$11,491
Jan 1st	\$14,300

The average weekly contribution during the month of December was \$15,764. The spending plan for 2012 has been approved based on a regular weekly contribution of \$17,300 which was the average weekly contribution for 2011. This will be a challenge to meet on a weekly basis, but we are optimistic that the giving will be available to meet the many ministries needs of Garden Ridge.

Sign up for Ladies Winter Retreat starts  
Sunday, Jan. 15  
Sky Ranch, February 10-12

According to Him...

His Divine Power has given us everything we need for life  
2 Peter 1:3



Save the Date and support LCS!  
LCS Lunch February 19, 2012 immediately following morning services

LCS Auction March 3, 2012

starting at 11 in the Fellowship Center  
Door Prizes are A Keurig Coffee Maker, Mountain Bike, IPAD, and a Kindle Fire



### Nursery Workers Today (1/8):

Erica Zook, Shae Raymond, Paula & Haley Hellums

### Nursery Workers Next Week (1/15):

Anne Wilhite, Tamara Wyatt, Carmen & Bailey Biggs

### January Memory Verses:

#### Preschoolers:

"Great is our Lord and mighty in power."  
Psalm 147:5

#### 1st-3rd graders:

"God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear."  
1 Corinthians 10:13

### Kids Worship Programs:

Christian Soldiers (age 3—K / Room 101) and Young Disciples (1st—3rd grade / Room 203) will be dismissed following the Ridge Kids' offering. Parents please check in / out your children for these programs. These programs will meet on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month. Our Christian Soldiers program is in NEED of helpers. Please contact Kim Atchley or Julie Morrison if you can help.



### Ridge Kid's Offering 2011:

What giving hearts our children and their parents have! Read below to see how God's money given was spent in 2011.

Jan/Feb.: \$184.71 to Christ's Haven

Mar./Apr.: \$466.82 to World Vision

May/June: \$379.12 to Nepal (bibles)

July/Aug.: \$407.09 to Magi Boxes

Sept./Oct: \$438.81 to Arms of Hope

Nov./Dec: \$278.63 to China orphanage



JANUARY 20-21



### "Twelve"

Winterfest is a youth rally weekend at the convention center in Arlington, usually with over 1,000 middle and high school students.

This year's theme is "Twelve." Students will learn about spiritual disciplines and will be inspired to take responsibility in the Kingdom of God.

For more info about Winterfest go to:  
www.winterfest.org

Winterfest is *Friday evening and all day Saturday, January 20-21*. The cost is \$35 (add \$13 if you want a shirt). To go, give your money to Trane or Josh *no later than Sunday, January 8th*.

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1

### Huddle-ocity

The Renshaw/Woods/Wallis/Chen Huddle will lead Velocity this Wednesday. Be in the youth room at 6:45pm.



Spring Retreat  
March 23-25

Parent/Teen Lunch Meet  
April 15

Senior Sunday  
May 6



E-mail Trane: twyatt@gardenridge.org  
Trane's cell: 469.237.7494

## A Nichols' Worth...

By Philip Nichols

### Dynamic Marriage Personal Comments About Their Experience

"This was the best thing I ever did for my marriage." husband

"We were going to talk to a divorce lawyer next week and then we heard about this class." Wife

"I've never been more in love with my wife than I am now. Thank you for this class." husband

### LIFE GROUPS IN 20012

Next week we will begin a series of studies following Scott's Sunday morning lessons on the churches in Revelation. Be sure you are in a group to enjoy applying his challenges.

Call me if you have any questions about the groups you might be in.

### L.I.F.E. GROUPS

#### 30 SOMETHING AND YOUNGER

Long/Hawes	972-355-9397
	817-490-9224
Caleb Foltermann	972-890-4039

#### 40 SOMETHINGS

Alan Walters	469-293-5428
Roger Selby	972-539-7133
Don Cofer	972-539-7311
Bret Atchley	972-459-0027
Charlie Steele	972-539-1979
Joel Anderson	972-691-3100

#### 50 SOMETHING AND OLDER

Terry Bouchelle	972-221-2041
Larry Roper	479-414-8079
Walter Tweedy	817-430-8144
Steve White	972-966-2116
Bobby Blankenship	972-436-8970
Roger Carver	817-430-8556
Kerry Townsley	972-539-7633

#### SPECIALTY GROUPS

Ignacio Rios-Spanish	214-697-8968
Joy Rozell-Singles	972-221-9136
Philip Nichols-All Ages	972-539-0806
Wanda Finley: Wed. Ladies Group 11:30	940-648-2734