

Faith Report

Renewing: Bible Reading Campaign to Kick Off in January 2010

By Ann Maouyo

So, how do you feel about the Bible?

Let's be honest—most of us probably fit into one of the following groups:

- I know I "should" read the Bible, but honestly, it's not that high a priority for me. I'm not sure how relevant it really is today.

- I believe the Bible is God's Word and I do read it devotionally, but it's a scattershot, hit-or-miss kind of thing. I'm not sure I'm getting the big picture.

- Once I wanted to read all the way through the Bible, but I got bogged down in Leviticus or Numbers. It was pretty discouraging.

- I read my Bible regularly and it's given me a different outlook on life—I just wish I knew how to share those blessings with other believers.

Here at FCF, personal discipleship is a priority—and that means developing your relationship with God in Christ through his Word. That's why, in January 2010, we will launch a 20-week church-wide Bible reading campaign, the **Essential 100** program developed by Scripture Union/USA.

What is the Essential 100?

The Essential 100 is a course of

100 daily devotional Scripture passages carefully selected to cover the scope of biblical revelation, from Genesis through Revelation. Each person who commits to the campaign will receive a free laminated punch card listing the texts to serve as a reminder and provide that little extra kick of motivation/satisfaction. Optional devotional guides will also be available at reduced cost. Covenant groups will provide encouragement and accountability, and may choose to use an optional weekly discussion guide; Soul Food series will also complement the Bible reading program.

What are the benefits of the program—for me and for FCF?

The Essential 100 campaign is a remarkable tool that helps congregations and individuals renew their commitment to meeting God daily in his Word. The encouragement and cohesion of joining others in a common venture helps establish the daily discipline of Scripture reading as a pattern to carry through the rest of one's life. Small group or informal one-on-one discussions and Soul Food teachings help make sense of difficult passages, and, along with chronologically ordered readings, bring into perspective the big picture of God's saving acts on behalf of his covenant people. Those who already have a regular devotion can join in solidarity, perhaps using the program as an option for an

extra daily meeting with God. Hundreds of churches around the country have discovered that, "The **E100 Challenge** is simple, achievable and creates a contagious enthusiasm for reading the Bible... the one Bible reading program people actually enjoy and complete."

What is Scripture Union?

Scripture Union is an international, inter-denominational fellowship serving churches by focusing on Bible reading aids and ministry to children and youth. In many countries Scripture Union works in close partnership with student ministries of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (like InterVarsity). Scripture Union/USA publishes quarterly Bible reading guides and also sponsors SuperKids summer outreach programs and Prime Time year-round afterschool programs in partnership with churches in a number of urban neighborhoods. For more info, visit their website at www.scriptureunion.org. And be sure to attend Faith Leadership Night on November 11, where the campaign will be presented in

Ann Maouyo is Coordinator of the Christian Education Committee which is overseen by Pastor Stan Long. Ann is married to elder Djik Maouyo. They are the parents of Myriam, Stephen, and Paula and have one grandchild, Eva.



Faith Urban Works Annual Challenge Review

by Helen Brown

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*United that the
world would
know*

*¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,
¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

Luke 4: 18-19

During our first Faith Urban Works (FUW) Annual Challenge, a number of events were designed to reach out to and serve our Pen Lucy community. They included a Community Clean Up, Buck a Bag Food Pantry and Health Fair, Car Wash and Service Shop, and PLYP Soccer Fan Day. At the Car Wash event, people were asked to fill out a survey to help us know how we as a church might better serve our neighborhood. Here are some of the responses we received to the question **"If you could ask God one question what would it be?"**

- What is the meaning of life?
- Why were people put on this earth?
- What is the overall purpose?
- Why are there a lot of people so poor in Baltimore?
- Why are men's hearts so hard and cold?
- How could I change my life?
- How long will I live? What do I need to get saved?

We long to be a church that reaches out to those who are living their lives apart from a living, loving relationship with God. This is our hope as we seek to grow a movement of making grace filled disciples at FCF.

One component of the Annual Challenge was the **FUNd Run**. Over forty people from FCF participated in the FUNd Run as part of the Baltimore Running Festival to raise money for Faith Urban Works. People ran or walked individually or in relay teams over distances of 5 kilometers, 13.1 miles (half-marathon) or 26.2 miles (full marathon). The first FUNd Run in 2008 raised over \$40,000. This year we have already raised \$54,000 and money is still coming in! Praise the Lord for people's generosity and commitment to support Faith Urban Works. Thank you to everybody who ran, supported, and worked to ensure that this was a great

event. Special thanks to Karen Bullard, FUW Development Associate, who spearheaded a lot of the planning and execution, to Joan Nelson and Elise Pohl for their administrative help, and to BCS for hosting the pre-race Pasta Dinner.

The Annual Challenge culminated in Commitment Sunday on October 18. At that time, attendees at FCF were given the opportunity to return tear-off pledge cards and commit to supporting FUW over the next year. Some of us were away on October 18 and others may have forgotten to bring their pledges. This is a gentle reminder that we are still accepting pledges. They can be dropped in the offering plate on Sundays. Please make checks payable to Faith Urban Works with a note on the memo line to indicate that it is in payment or part payment of your pledge.

Thank You !

Welcome Luncheon—Sunday November 15

By Helen Brown

Visitors and newcomers are warmly invited to the next Discovery Welcome Luncheon on November 15 after the second service.

Come and meet Pastor Craig and Pastor Stan, and other newcomers and members of FCF, find out more about our vision, mission and values, and why we value church membership.

Please sign up in the lobby if you wish to come. Childcare is available upon request. ♦

CALENDAR

- Nov. 6 Concert of Prayer
- Nov. 7 MOSAIX conference at FCF
- Nov. 11 Faith Leadership Night
- Nov. 15 Welcome Luncheon
- Nov. 26—27 Office closed for Thanksgiving