



Let's Read! March, 2013 Hosted by Open Doors

*Books of Numbers and Deuteronomy

* Psalms 32-37

* Proverbs (chapters 7-9)

* Book of Luke

Greetings fellow Bible-Readers!

Let's keep each other raised up in prayer as we take this fabulous journey together. Whether we're concentrating on Psalms and/or the Proverbs (filled with inspiration and wisdom), reading the entire Old Testament so rich in history and filled with stories that mesmerize and teach us, savoring the New Testament with Jesus changing the world and also changing us!—or tackling the entire Book of Books...

we read as one, drawing strength from each other and sharing insights that help us apply the truths and lessons we learn.

A member of our small group, which meets weekly, suggested that we create a project to put our growing faith into action in some unique and special way. From that seed of an idea has come our Lord Provides Project, which helps Open Doors to put its investment dividends to God-inspired and -directed uses. With the incoming funds we're planning to support faith-based projects, ideas and needs, with the goal being "To spread the Word, so God's voice is heard." Interested individuals and organizations can learn more about this Dreams-Come-True project by visiting www.OpenDoorsAGF.org where there will also be a printable application for potential recipients to tell us about their good ideas and projects.

This is a wonderful time of the year; we're well into the Lenten season. This humbles us and inspires us to give more of ourselves, and to draw closer to God as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Our church, Christ Fellowship, is having a special 3-week fast, one purpose of which is to raise funds for renovating a newly-purchased vacated Dillard's store into a church—the first time ever, anywhere, that a church has been accepted as an anchor "store" in a public mall. God is doing miraculous things and we as believers can be a part of it. Let's step out in faith today and watch what God will do with and for us! And let's support our steps of faith by conscientiously continuing our Bible reading. Here is what's coming up:

Numbers and Deuteronomy: The Hebrew name for this Book means "In the Wilderness" (note that this phrase is already in the very first sentence of the Book). All the action takes place during the 40 years the Israelites spent in the wilderness. It's full of counting, organizing, and details that make up the 613 laws that govern orthodox Jewish life to this day. And as a breath of fresh air there's a delightful story about a talking donkey! Deuteronomy means "the second law" and is so called because it presents the 10 Commandments a second time and interprets them in ways the first readers would have understood. The Book is presented in the form of three sermons delivered by Moses, pulling together all that the people have heard and experienced in order to inspire belief and obedience as they finally enter the Promised Land. It ends with the death of Moses, who never did enter the Promised Land himself.

Psalms and Proverbs: More wonderful songs and wise sayings, such as: Psalm 37:4 and 7: *Delight in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart —Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.* Psalm 34:3 and 8: *O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together!—O taste and see that the Lord is good! Happy is the man who takes refuge in him.* Proverbs 7:2-3: *Keep my commands and live, keep my teachings as the apple of your eye; bind them on your fingers, write them on the tablet of your heart.* Proverbs 9:10: *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

Luke: This book, written by an "outsider" (Luke, the only non-Jewish writer), stresses how Jesus ministered to and welcomed people from all walks of life. Look for a lot about women, prayer and the poor. The Book is addressed to Theophilus, probably a Roman official, to possibly prove that Christians weren't a threat to the government. Luke traveled with Paul but most likely never knew Jesus. He may have been a physician (note his attention to medical and physiological detail). His Book contains the beloved stories of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. And his story of Jesus' birth (with shepherds and angels) is the most loved and quoted one. There's lots about Holy Week, too, which is very apropos.