

## “James Was No American”

Comfort and enjoyment rank toward the top of the list of our culture’s values. We love convenience and ease. We expect life to be good, or at least have access to the resources that will make it better. After all, it is spelled out in our Declaration of Independence as one of our rights!

That’s why I was struck by an idea from last Monday’s scripture in our New Testament Bible reading plan. James, the half-brother of Jesus and a leader in the church in Jerusalem, writes, “**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything**” (James 1:2-4).

James presents an idea that is radical to our culture, that sometimes trials and struggles are not to be avoided but embraced. Think about how odd that sounds. If you get a splinter in your finger you want it out as soon as possible so as to end the pain. You don’t leave it in, and you definitely wouldn’t consider pushing it in deeper. No, our natural tendency is to avoid and flee from hardships and suffering. That kind of thinking is so fundamental to us that when difficult times come our first inclination is how to make them stop. Change jobs, defend self, purchase a solution. But what if that difficulty is not *meant* to be taken away? What if it actually has a *purpose*?

This is not to suggest we should pursue suffering or long for trials. Neither is it to suggest that looking for means to end the difficulty is wrong or unspiritual. It is to say that according to James, the goal of life is not happiness, but maturity in Christ. And sometimes maturity only comes through hardships. That is a concept that sounds strange to a culture defined by its pursuit of happiness.

*Curtis Williams*

### This Week’s Bible Reading Schedule

Date	New Testament	Old Testament
Monday, 4/07	Matthew 1	Numbers 21-22 Psalms 138-139
Tuesday, 4/08	Matthew 2	Numbers 23-24 Psalms 140-141
Wednesday, 4/09	Matthew 3	Numbers 25-26 Psalms 142-143
Thursday, 4/10	Matthew 4	Numbers 27-28 Psalms 144-145
Friday, 4/11	Matthew 5	Numbers 29-30 Psalms 146-147
Saturday, 4/12	<b>Reflection*</b>	<b>Reflection</b>
Sunday, 4/13	<b>Reflection</b>	<b>Reflection</b>

\*Saturdays and Sundays are reserved as days to re-read and reflect upon previous readings, or catch up on readings missed during the week.



## “Understanding Our Muslim Neighbors from a Christian Perspective”

Featuring Dr. Monte Cox, professor of world religions at Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas

**Sponsored by**  
**Buckingham Road Church of Christ, Garland**  
**972-494-0136**

**Community Seminar: Saturday, April 12**  
**7:00 p.m. “Understanding Our Muslim Neighbors” Part One**  
**8:00 p.m. “Understanding Our Muslim Neighbors” Part Two**

**The Unique Claims of Christ: Sunday April 13**  
**9:00 a.m. “Surprising Messiah”**  
**10:00 a.m. “The Word Became Flesh”**  
**(Nursery Provided)**

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#### Church Office Information

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 Phone: 972-424-2414  
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#### Sunday morning schedule

Bible classes.....9:30 am  
 Worship service.....10:30 am



“Pointing People to Real Life”

April 6, 2008

### Order of Worship

Song Medley

#### Welcome & Call to Worship

Song: *Days of Elijah*

Song: *My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less*

Song: *In Moments Like These*

Song: *Salvation Belongs to Our God*

Song: *Blessed Jesus*

#### Communion

Song: *And Can it Be*

#### Offering

(Children’s Offering\* and kids dismissed to Children’s Worship\*\*)

Song: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

#### Message

Song: *Hide Me Away, O Lord*

#### Lectio Divina

“Face-to-Face”\*\*\*

#### Family News

Song: *How Great Is Our God*

#### New to North Pointe and have children?

Children are an important part of the North Pointe church. For this reason we offer the following opportunities for children during our worship service:

**Nursery:** A staffed nursery with pagers for parents, is provided during the worship service. The nursery for babies, toddlers and two year olds is located in E Hall past the restrooms. A separate, non-staffed nursery is also available for parents to use as needed.

**\*Children’s Offering:** To teach our children the discipline of giving we provide them an opportunity to contribute in a visible way. This money is used for various ministries.

**\*\*Children’s Worship:** Because children have their own unique level of learning and expression we offer a special worship period for children 3 years of age through 4th grade. Children are dismissed to Children’s Worship following the Children’s offering.

#### \*\*\*What is “Face to Face with God”?

This time during our worship service allows three opportunities for personal prayer. Your may: 1) remain in your seat and spend time privately praying to God, 2) go to the back of the cafeteria where a member of our prayer team will pray for you or with you, privately and in confidentiality concerning your prayer request, or 3) come to the front row of seats with your public prayer request where the prayer leader will include your request in his prayer concluding this period.

## North Pointe News

### This Week

#### **Bunko**

**Monday, April 7**

7:00 p.m.

Home of **Frances Campbell**  
6006 Pleasant Valley Rd, Wylie

**All ladies are invited.**

Please call **Frances** for food assignment  
at 972-989-8533.

#### **Ladies Bible Class**

**Wednesday, April 9**

10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Home of **Deanna Priebe**  
316 Love Bird Land, Murphy  
972-423-1470

### Future Events

#### **Grandparent/Grandchildren Rocket Blast**

**Saturday, May 3**

4:30 p.m.

Backyard of **Richard and Linda Knox**  
235 Green Acres Drive, Murphy

The **Knox's** are having an additional Rocket Blast evening for North Pointe grandparents and their grandchildren. If you don't have any grandkids you can borrow some North Pointe kids. Wear shorts and shirts that are appropriate for getting wet (no swim suits please). Cost is \$3 per person to cover the cost of pizza, drinks and cookies. Bring an empty two-liter plastic pop bottle for the rocket blast.

"... so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation in which you shine like stars in the universe ..."  
*Philippians 2:15*



### Background Checks

We must re-submit background check forms periodically. If you received an e-mail or form in the mail, we need your form. Forms are available in the back if you forgot to bring yours today, so please fill one out.

### This Week

#### **Mother/Daughter Spring Fling**

**Friday, April 11**

7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

3401 S. Glenbrook, Garland (**Omer's** house)

### Future Events

#### **God's Girls**

**Sunday, April 13**

2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

1718 Vicksburg, Sachse (**Traugher's** house)

#### **God's Soldiers**

**Sunday, April 20**

3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

1013 Cowboy Court, Murphy (**Sharber's** house)

#### **Mother/Son Night Out**

**Friday, April 25**

Sons ages 4 through 5th grade will enjoy a night out with their moms at **Adventure Landing** (on Coit off of Hwy. 190) to play a game of miniature golf and arcade games. Cost is \$5.50 per person. Money is due on Sunday, April 20. (Cash only).

#### **Family Rocket Blast**

**Friday, May 16**

Backyard of **Richard and Linda Knox**  
For kids ages 4 through 5th grade and their families

#### **Kid's Kamp in God's Big Back Yard**

**June 9, 10, 11**

#### **Camp Impact**

**Sunday, June 22 – Thursday, June 26**

\$80 deposits and camp applications are due by May 4.

*Beverly Ritz*

## North Pointe Youth Ministry

### This Week

#### **Teen Pointe Group**

**Wednesday, April 9**

7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Home of **Mike and Frances Campbell**  
6006 Pleasant Valley Road, Wylie

### Future Events

#### **Parent/Teen Meeting**

**Sunday, April 27**

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

#### **Father/Son Canoe Trip**

**Friday, May 2 – Saturday May 3**

#### **Camp Zenith for High School**

**Sunday, June 15 – Friday, June 20**

#### **Camp Cornerstone for Middle School**

**Sunday, July 6 – Thursday, July 10**

#### **Summer Mission Trip**

**Wednesday, July 16 – Sunday, July 20**

Foster's Home for Children in Stephenville, Texas  
Sign up before April 1.  
Cost is \$65.

#### **Wilderness Trek**

**Friday, August 1 – Saturday, August 9**

#### **Record for Sunday, March 30, 2008**

Worship Attendance: 182  
General Offering: \$4,646.50  
Children's Offering: \$30.00  
Building Fund: \$100.00