



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

*Books of Exodus and Leviticus

* Psalms 24-31

* Proverbs (chapters 4-6)

* Book of Mark

Hello! This is Ruth Tschudin, founder and trustee of Open Doors an Amazing Grace Foundation. How are you doing so far? Were you able to complete *all* of the January readings or have you honed in on a certain portion of the readings, such as the Hebrew Scriptures, the Psalms and Proverbs, or the New Testament? You'll be blessed no matter how much or how little you read. And the fact that we're reading the same Scriptures at the same time adds extra power.

Please ask questions, make comments, share your experience by emailing us via the "Feedback" tab on our www.OpenDoorsAGF.org website; or do what a few of us here in the West Palm Beach, FL, area have done...

We've organized a small group of readers who meet periodically (in our case it's Wednesday at 9:30AM at my place). We discuss what we're reading, and have decided to also add song and prayer to our agenda,

This is the first time I have read the Bible in exactly this way. I like the fact that we're reading each Book in its entirety and can space out the readings to fit our unique schedules. I like having a few Psalms and Proverbs sprinkled among the major readings. And I love reading familiar and not-so-familiar parts with new eyes.

What Scriptures/stories have touched you this past month? Here is a sampling of those that jumped out at me:

*Let the Words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.
(Psalm 19:14)*

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Is anything too hard for God? (Genesis 18, when Sarah doubts she'll have baby in her old age)

Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28 Jesus speaking)

Let's look at what lies ahead in February as we draw closer to our "God of second, and many, chances."

Exodus and Leviticus: After Joseph's death he is soon forgotten and the Israelites are enslaved by the Egyptians. Exodus tells how God prepares Moses for his major role in freeing the people, and the amazing Passover story that results. This story is central to the Jewish faith and is still celebrated annually. We'll see miracles, not only in Egypt but also in the wilderness as the people move toward the Promised Land—a journey that takes 40 years, due to their repeated straying and hardheadedness. God sets down tough standards for right living, starting with the 10 Commandments in Chapter 20. Leviticus focuses on the rules and laws for worship, with Moses' brother Aaron and the tribe of Levi set apart as priests. Leviticus gets very tedious as details are laid out to show that being holy (set apart) for God is no small matter.

Psalms and Proverbs: More wonderful songs and wise sayings. Psalm 30 is praised by one of my favorite pastors; he likes the part about dancing. I like verse 5: *His anger is but for a moment, and his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes in the morning.*

Mark: This is first Gospel written. It's also the shortest and most active. It's filled with urgency: *immediately* appears 40 times in its 16 chapters. It's known for a thorough covering of Holy Week, devoting 6 full chapters to it—a good start to Lent which begins Feb. 13 (Note: the 40 days of Lent parallel the 40 years of growth and preparation in the wilderness.)