

Library

I have found the Library Ministry a fruitful one because I have got to know more church members and their family. In fact, remembering their names is no longer a problem especially if they were regular borrowers.

Through this interaction and fellowship with them, I have learnt a lot of things about them—for instance their jobs, their inclination to certain types of books, in short their interests and preferences for certain books and authors. I have also spotted some avid readers and regular borrowers of the CDs on leadership training.

Library members do sometimes give us feedback on books they have found enlightening and beneficial; for example, the book entitled **“stories of the Heart and Home”** written by Dr. James Dobson. Readers can get a tip or two on parenting or child upbringing.

I hope that more members will be interested in reading and will inculcate this habit in their children from young; we are living in an era where knowledge is “power”. Reading Christian books and the Bible will enrich our walk with God because we can learn Christian moral values and Christian lifestyles from them. There are too many false teachings circulating in our society. To deny that can weaken our faith or cause us to be wayward if our knowledge or our faith is superficial. Therefore it is very important for us to read the Bible and Christian books.

Reading should be deemed as one of the luxuries of life. Reading can bring hours of pleasure to oneself. However, many people have the misconception that books are meant only for students and so they stop reading books after school or college.

It is time to rethink. Reading brings us a lot of benefits. Besides improving our command of knowledge, it can also give us insights to a lot of aspects of life. We sometimes learn from the mistakes of others and so will not make the same blunders. At other times, we learn to see things from different perspectives.

Very often when we face a crisis, we can relate to the Christian author’s life experiences and begin to have a different opinion of our predicament. Instead of indulging in self-pity, we look at our problem from a wider spectrum and become more optimistic. Subsequently, it changes our outlook of life.

I would highly recommend the book entitled **“When Life is Unfair”** written by Larry Richards to the following groups of people:

- 1) People who experience hurt and pain in their personal lives.
- 2) People who are disappointed in their careers and in their working environment.
- 3) People who are suffering from chronic illnesses or incurable diseases which are attributed by others to their sins.
- 4) Anyone who has an unsuccessful relationship.

In this book, the author has quoted examples of well-known bible characters like Job, Michal (King David’s first wife), King David and also people of our century.

After reading this book, despite all the pain and anguish one may have, one can still realize that God loves him or her dearly and deal with the situation differently. This book helps us to understand the saying: *“Feeling God’s Presence in Life’s Dark Moments.”*

While serving as a librarian, I have been approached by sisters and brothers who were young Christians asking for books that could help them to understand the Bible better. I recommended them the short Scripture Union Bible study books which are a kind of commentary designed for use on a daily reading basis which helps one to understand the books in the Bible. However one should read both the Bible and the Bible Study Books simultaneously.

To those who love ‘solid’ reading, I recommend **“How to Read the Bible for All its Worth”** by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stuart which is a guide to understanding the bible.

We are indeed very blessed to have a library well-stocked with very good books such as **“Understanding the Spiritual Seasons of Life”** by David Swan. After reading this book, you will fully comprehend (ECC3:1-*“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under Heaven.”*) And **“19 Gifts of the Spirit”** by Dr. Leslie B. Flynn teaches one to identify ones gifts, their purpose and how to use ones own gifts.

Last but not least is the book entitled **“Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus”** by John Gray which is an ideal book for married couples. This book highlights the differences between the two sexes and how differences in their characteristics have led to misunderstanding and conflicts in their relationships. After reading this book, couples will be able to understand one another better and communication will be easier.

Ivy Wong
Librarian

