

## BOOKS, LIBROS, BOOKS, LIBROS

There is a lot of discussion around the Nash household these names about books, that is *What to do with all of them?*. Libros is Spanish for books, which should be easy to remember since its from we get our word, library. But the Spanish word for library, though is actually Biblioteca derived from Bible (a library of books) Interesting. but whether libros or books, our home Biblioteca is overcrowded.

At Sugar Grove, we have contributed and the church has purchased hundreds of books to make our library, I think, one of the better ones. Reading is important obviously but we know it seems everyone is often too busy these days to take a lot of time to digest a book.

I admit, I have trouble throwing away an old book. I still have old books on Teddy Roosevelt from teaching History and books on tubes from radio trade school. My wife's problem is keeping stacks of novels. She loves to ready stories for enjoyment. But I can't remember the last novel I read, probably an assignment from back in college. I want to read something that is real- true stories, research, biographies, commentary, religion, public policy etc.

I will take in a comedy book or movie for a good respite and laugh and collected all of Lewis Grizzard's books I have three published books of my own, and I didn't have to think them up as stories, they were there, they happened, I just had to research them and get them right...yes they were all history books!

It is interesting, that while my father, Dr. Donald Nash, was one of the most respected authors of Greek, and New Testament books of his day, he actually read mystery novels regularly and loved them. I guess he didn't pass that on to me.

Yes it is difficult to find time to read, but I have developed somewhat of a speed reading technique, my wife would call it "skimming." I carry books to fill wait time, and when I found out I could get a book in 60 seconds on my I- phone for \$9 or less, I was hooked on these My attention span is not great so I often opt for magazines and newspaper columns, although of lot of those columns have become a waste of trees. Where they get some of these people to write is a mystery.

The point of all these musings is that I recently preached a series of sermons on some important books recently published.

We used material from several books, including the reading of many passages from the Koran to show the violent spread of this religion and contrast the warrior-polygamist Muhammad with the peaceful Savior, Jesus.

A best-selling book Pagan Christianity by George Barna and Frank Viola traced the roots of many of our traditions and practices in Christianity to adaptations taken from paganism. They said we need to strip away these additions to get back to the original intent of Jesus and the apostles of the first century. Seems like we have been saying that for years in the Christian Church! I particularly like the part about.."where did the sinners prayer come from" The people in the early church, confessed Christ and were baptized immediately for forgiveness of sins.

We preached another message about our need to remember the many passages of the Bible and words of Christ regarding the poor and downtrodden. The need to do for more benevolence in our message was the point of the Hole in the Gospel by Richard Stearns, a wealthy CEO Christian, who reluctantly took the job of President of World

Vision and it changed his life. Another book on this line is Generous Orthodoxy by Brian McLaren. Both books see our mission as saving souls but also to care for the whole person and their condition in life.

We used the book The Language of God by Francis Collins as an example of many scientists who now see the Master Designer and Giver of Life. Collins was a leader in the Human Genome Project and an atheist who came to realize that God exists.

We also made reference to perhaps the most shocking book of all...There is a God by Anthony Flew, the most respected and outspoken atheist of the century, who likewise said, there must be an intelligence behind it all. Neither man expressed faith or conversion but both said if this God cares about man, the Christian God would likely be that story.

In another message we used many new books that denounce the evolutionist's gods of Time and Chance.. These are being overthrown by scientific writings critical of the very ideas of a first cause being a random speck that became a universe, that became a living amoeba that eventually became a intelligent human, the adult fairy tale!

One of our most popular sermons was on our Christian nation and the foundation of God, the Bible and Jesus on which our colonies were formed and our nation built. We used books, Forged in Faith by Rod Gragg's George Washington's Sacred Fire and even S. E. Cupp's book Losing our Religion, a writer who isn't a Christian but sees the liberal establishment stealing our heritage right out from under us.

Another important message derived from books by Pat Boone, Mike Huckabee and Bill O'Reilly talked about the crumbling ideas of marriage between a man and woman for life and the incredible out of wedlock births as children grow up with no fathers. The lack of ethics, cordiality, discipline and responsibility of our time can be traced, to a great degree, to the break up of homes and precious little time parents spend with children to teach them and be an example.

It's kind of nice getting sermons out of other people's writings! I think I'll have to come up with some more of these special series. Meanwhile...read a good book!