

# Kootenai Communicator

February  
2019

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

## Important Dates <<<

9 Clothing Swap and Shop  
10 13 Student Ministries Meeting  
27 Student Ministries Meeting

Check the Kootenai Thunder website and go to a basketball game!

*Expounding the Scriptures, Exhorting the Saints,  
Exalting the Savior*

## Random Thoughts, Vol. 13

**By Jim Osman  
Pastor/Teacher**

*If this "Random Thoughts" column is new to you, then here is a quick introduction. Below is a collection of my own observations, thoughts, and insights which may or may not prove to be a blessing to others. Each of these is not long enough to warrant an entire article on its own, but begged to be written down nonetheless.*

### The White Rhino

July 9, 2018

The northern white rhino made international headlines recently because the species is "functionally extinct." There are only two white rhinos left in existence and both of those are females. Without some radical "scientific intervention," in a matter of years, the species will be entirely extinct. Currently, scientists are using "assisted reproduction techniques" (ART) to create hybrid (southern white and northern white) rhino embryos to implant in the remaining females of the species. All of this is in a desperate attempt to save them from complete extinction.

The attempt to save any species from extinction is only consistent with a Christian creationist worldview. It does not make any sense from a secular atheistic worldview. Why would these scientists, many of whom adhere to an atheistic evolutionary worldview, be concerned about saving another species?

The theory of evolution postulates that our current biological advancement is the result of tens of thousands of species extinctions, all of which have made our current existence possible. Evolution is "survival of

the fittest." If the white rhino cannot survive in this brutal world where species struggle against each other for supremacy, why should we care? Is it not obvious that the blind forces of natural selection have "selected" the northern white rhino for extinction? If so, who are we to step in and contravene nature itself. Blind luck and mass extinctions have done a pretty good job of getting us to this point. Who is to say that stepping in to save this species, or any species for that matter, would not fight against the evolutionary process that has so masterfully crafted the diversity of life around us? *What if the extinction of the white rhino is necessary for the next great leap in human evolution? What if their extinction is necessary for the survival of the human race?* How would anyone know if it is not? What if the future of our entire planet hinges on the extinction of the white rhino? Could we be dooming our own race to extinction by saving theirs? Who is to say?

However, the attempt to save a species is entirely consistent with a Christian creationist worldview. We can explain why species go extinct. It is not evolution in action, but rather, it is the evidence that our creation is under the curse because of Adam's sin. We are to fight the effects of the fall as we seek to exercise dominion over all of creation for the good of all of creation.

We know that the northern white rhino was created by God and that the animal has value as part of God's creation. We can work to preserve any and all species from extinction because our mandate to exercise dominion includes a responsibility to be good stewards over God's creation. It is appropriate to use animals for man's enjoyment and good, but inappropriate to abuse that creation for the same end.

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The attempt by atheistic evolutionists to save any species is an implicit acknowledgement that they really don't believe all that nonsense they spout about "survival of the fittest."

### Hitchens on God

Christopher Hitchens was best known for his promotion of atheism. He was no friend to Christianity and his screeds against Christian theism earned him both popularity and prosperity. I listened to a moderated three-way debate featuring Hitchens (representing atheism), Dennis Prager (representing theism) and Dinesh D'Souza (representing Christian theism).<sup>3</sup>

One particular exchange went as follows:

**D'Souza to Hitchens:** You say in your book, *God is Not Great*, that you think that Jesus Christ did not even exist. You consider seriously the possibility that He was a fictional character. I'd like to ask you, by what standard of scholarship do you do this? For example, for Socrates—and I think there is probably no sane philosopher or historian of philosophy who doubts Socrates existed—we only have two sources really for Socrates: both admiring disciples—Plato and Xenophon—and they give very different portraits of Socrates. So, my question is, if Socrates existed, by accepted canons of historical scholarship, on what basis do you deny the historicity, forget the divinity, just the historicity of Christ?

**Hitchens:** Well you would only have to turn another page to see that I say that there is no proof of the existence of Socrates either.

**D'Souza:** What about Alexander the Great? Do you believe that he existed?

...

**D'Souza:** The historicity of virtually every figure in the ancient world from Alexander the Great relies on fragmentary evidence, and so canons of historical scholarship generally accept reliability even when there is partial documentary evidence, if there are no reasons to believe the contrary. You are elevating the degree of skepticism when dealing with Christ that you would nowhere apply to any other figure.

**Hitchens:** There is no evidence but the hearsay of fans. ...Alexander the Great at least has coins with his face on them... and name, written down by literate people. There's nothing of that for Jesus or Moses.... There is no evidence of any kind for the existence of Moses or Jesus, none at all, of the kind that there is for Alexander the Great.

**D'Souza:** Let's just say this puts you wide outside the mainstream of the entire living historical community.

**Hitchens:** I have been to the gravesites of the Macedonian royal house. You won't find Jesus' grave in a hurry. They haven't found Mount Sinai yet.<sup>4</sup>

### A couple of observations

1. Hitchens is right about one thing: you won't find Jesus' grave in a hurry. In fact, you won't find His grave at all. He has no grave. However, you can find a tomb that once belonged to Joseph of Arimathea. You can visit this tomb even today. It is located north of the Old City of Jerusalem, just outside the city wall. I have been there. I have been inside that tomb. You know what you won't find in the Garden Tomb? You won't find the body of Jesus. You see, the fact that you cannot find the grave of Jesus but only a garden tomb is not proof that Jesus never existed. Rather, it is proof that what the Bible says concerning the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is, indeed, true.

The Bible claims that Jesus was not put in His own grave, but in a borrowed tomb. The Bible claims that three days after His crucifixion, that borrowed tomb was vacated.

If the Bible is true, what would we expect to find today? We would expect to find that there is no tomb of Jesus or grave of Jesus as there is for Alexander the Great. Hitchens's observation regarding the grave of Jesus is yet another evidence that the gospel records are reliable. Hitchens never pauses for a moment to consider what the non-existence of the grave of Jesus might mean.

2. Hitchens sets up a "false standard" for evidence. Pay attention to this, because atheists do this all the time. It is one of their favorite rhetorical tricks.

Hitchens asserts that the proof of the historicity of Alexander the Great is the fact that coins bear his image. Then he boldly asserts that there is no evidence for Moses or Jesus "of the kind that there is for Alexander the Great." What kind specifically? Minted coins.

Would we expect to find that kind of proof for Moses and Jesus? No. We would not. They didn't mint coins and put their own image on them.

But Moses wrote five books of the Bible and at least one Psalm.<sup>5</sup> How many books do we have from Alexander the Great? Zero.

Let's turn Hitchens's argument around and see how well it plays. I could say that we

**Sunday  
School  
begins  
at 9:30 a.m.**



**10th-Young Adult Class:** The youth Sunday School class is nearing the end of our study in Systematic Theology. We are finishing up Ecclesiology this month with a look at the two ordinances of the church—baptism and the Lord’s supper. We’ll complete our Systematic Theology study with Eschatology for a few weeks after that, unless the Lord returns for us, in which case the study of Eschatology would seem superfluous. Next up, we are planning to begin a series on false belief systems. We should start that in March. The goal here is to give our students a solid grounding in biblical theology from both sides of the equation. We want them to understand what the Bible teaches (Systematic Theology), then clarify biblical doctrine by contrasting truth with error (false belief systems). Please pray for Dave Rich to teach the truth, and for the students to hear and apply the truth.

## >>> Missionary Moment - New Tribes Missions = Ethnos360

### **GOAL: A thriving church for every people**

Of the world's 6,500 people groups, 2,500 are still unreached. Ethnos360, founded in 1942 as New Tribes Mission, helps local churches train, coordinate and send missionaries to these peoples.



### **Why have we changed our name to Ethnos360?**

#### **Because we're positioning to reach a changing world.**

Our founders had a vision for reaching the world: *“By unflinching determination we hazard our lives and gamble all for Christ until we have reached the last tribe regardless of where that tribe might be.”* (Brown Gold magazine, Issue 1, May 1943)

That’s a far-reaching vision. A vision that represents God’s heart for the world. A vision that’s worth our getting passionate about and working together to make it a reality.

That vision hasn’t changed, but the world has. We face new challenges, and we are learning to face them together—relying upon God to unite His people to overcome them for His glory.

#### **Ethnos360 is the name that anchors us to our foundations and points us to our vision.**

*Ethnos* is the “nations” that Christ referred to when He commanded His followers to “make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19) and “...that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all the nations...” (Luke 24:47). It’s the word from which we get *ethnic*, and it means people groups.

360 represents the entirety of the globe—all 360 degrees. Our goal is to go wherever in the world is necessary to see a thriving church for every people, not only to focus on one particular type of people group.

360 also represents the full-circle work of a Great Commission ministry. We begin with thriving churches sending believers to an unreached people group, and keep working until there’s a thriving church sending out believers.

Our vision is the same today as it was 75 years ago: A thriving church for every people. As we move forward, we’ll draw from those lessons God has taught us in our 75 years of ministry to pursue new opportunities opening to us. Opportunities to reach a changing world.

**Together let’s continue to embrace God’s vision of reaching the whole world as we passionately pursue Him and His goals.**

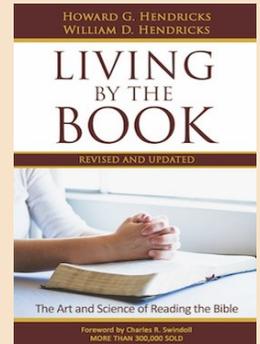
<https://ethnos360.org/about>

# >>>Garden of Readin'

## Living By the Book

by Howard G. Hendricks and William D. Hendricks

If you're looking for a simple, effective method for personal Bible study, this book will help you engage with Scripture in a systematic way. Step by step, the authors show you how to observe, interpret, and apply Scripture to your own life. If you can read, you can use this method to dive deeply into Scripture.



Please contact Jenny Leo (610-2520) about donations or any library-related matter.

## Women's Ministry <<<

### Questions about Women's Ministry???

Here are the ladies on the team

- Marcia Whetsel
- Diane Carlson
- Linda Trinidad
- Jan Bradshaw
- Lisa Slippy
- Kim Carlson
- Mary Schaffer



*Ladies' Retreat*  
April 26-27, 2019

*Save the date!*

At beautiful Camp Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d' Alene  
Featuring speaker and author, **Susan Heck**

**The CHURCH WEBSITE**  
Have you checked out the church website lately?

### CALENDAR

You can quickly access the calendar to see what events are ahead.

### AUDIO ARCHIVE

This comprehensive archive includes sermons, Sunday School lesson, missionary interviews and so much more!

### WRITTEN ARTICLES

This includes former newsletter articles and the statement of beliefs.

### SHOP

Here you can find books by our own Jim Osman, as well as valuable recommended resources.

### DONATE

If you wish to donate to our ministry as an act of sacrifice and worship, there is a link where you can do so.

<https://kootenaichurch.org/>

# Student Ministries <<<

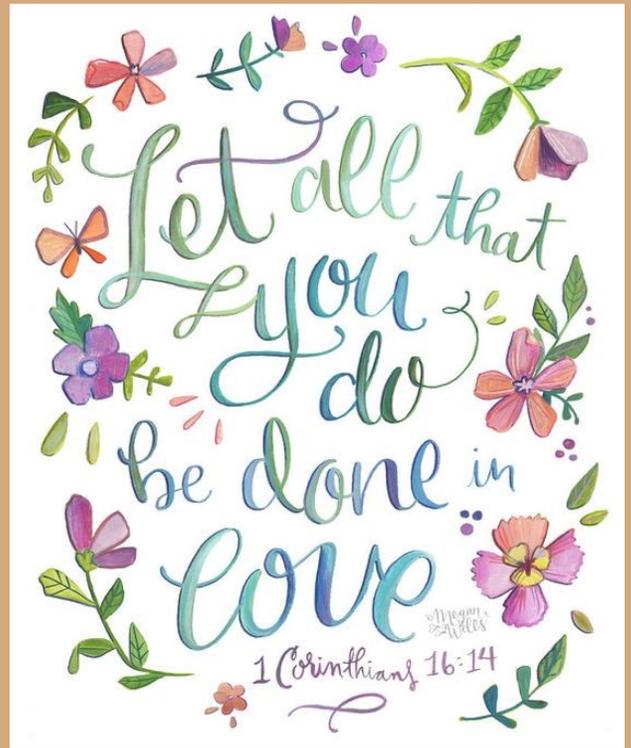
## February Dates!

**6 Girls' Bible Study, 7:30-9 p.m.**

**13 Youth Group @ Juneaus', 7-9 p.m.**

**20 Girls' Bible Study, 7:30-9 p.m.**

**27 Youth Group @ Smiths', 7-9 p.m.**



## >>>Kootenai Thunder

[kootenaithunder.com](http://kootenaithunder.com)

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.



### THUNDER NEWS

Thunder Varsity and JV basketball teams are wrapping up their seasons with end of year tournaments coming up soon.

Junior high boys and girls basketball is set to begin Jan 31st. If you're interested in playing, contact Tracy Jensen. For a full schedule, go to the website. For scores, go to the Mountain Christian League website.

We are planning a co-ed volleyball tournament fundraiser for a Thunder alumni (Carly Blair), who is taking a missions trip to Honduras with her nursing group. If you would like to participate or help out, contact Tracy. This is scheduled for March 30th at the Cocolalla Lake Bible Camp.

## JOIN NOW!

### KOOTENAI THUNDER

**JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL  
STARTS SOON!**

**FOR GUYS AND GALS IN  
GRADES 6-8**

- GAMES AND PRACTICES ARE HELD AT COCOLALLA BIBLE CAMP.
- CONTACT TRACY JENSEN 208-290-7898



**BE A PART OF A GOD-HONORING TEAM TODAY!**

## >>>Building Update

### Building Update:

This last month we got back to work on finishing some of the projects around the new facility. A servant who wishes to remain anonymous got to work on the baptistery, finishing up the plumbing. We will be able to use it for baptisms soon.

A little more work was done on the sound booth to make some extra room back there for security and audio-video workers. We got a whiteboard and a TV hung in the adult Sunday school classroom. Jess Whetsel and Pat Bradshaw have started work on window frames for the adult Sunday school classroom and the office window.

We will have a more detailed update at the annual meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>, where I (Jim) will present the list of projects we hope to get finished during 2019. God has been faithfully providing both finances and faithful servants to do the work. Soli Deo Gloria!

## Church News <<<



**Mid-Week Bible Study**

When: *Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.*  
 Where: *KCC*  
 Teacher: *Bryan Wood*  
 Topic: *The Doctrines of Grace*

In our study of The Doctrines of Grace, we will dig deeply into the plan of God and His sovereign actions in the salvation of the believer, by using the only resource available to us, the Word of God—the Holy Scriptures. The depth at which we will plumb has been rightfully called “Deep Doctrine.” But we can only plumb as deep as the Scriptures allow, and no further.

# SPRING EQUIPPING CONFERENCE

## MAY 17-18

**FEATURING JASON LISLE**  
**NOTED AUTHOR AND SPEAKER**

FRIDAY 6PM-8PM  
 SATURDAY 9AM-4PM



- Session titles include:**
- The Ultimate Proof of Creation
  - Astronomy Reveals Creation
  - The Secret Code of Creation

Dr. Jason Lisle is the author of “The Ultimate Proof of Creation” and currently runs the Biblical Science Institute (<https://biblicalscienceinstitute.com>). He is a Christian astrophysicist who writes and speaks on various topics relating to science and the defense of the Christian faith. He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University where he double-majored in physics and astronomy and minored in mathematics. He then earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in astrophysics at the University of Colorado. Dr. Lisle specialized in solar astrophysics and has made scientific discoveries regarding the solar photosphere, including the detection of giant cell boundaries using the SOHO spacecraft. He also does theoretical research and has contributed to the field of general relativity.

EMERGENCY USE ONLY

Winter is here and if you would like to be on the emergency email list, please talk to Marcia. Last winter we had to cancel service at the last minute due to snow. You would receive an email letting you know of cancellations.

## >>>Kootenai Classifieds

**Firewood:**  
 Call John Kinne: (208) 290-4359.

**For sale:** Drop-leaf **DINING TABLE**. Expands to seat 6 + matching chairs. \$250

**Also 3 STIHL CHAINSAWS:** \$150 to \$300 Dale Schultz **208-263-7975**



Place your ad here next month! Email the details to [lisaslippy@gmail.com](mailto:lisaslippy@gmail.com) by the 15th of the month prior to get it in!

have five books written by Moses and we don't have any evidence like that for Alexander the Great—therefore we have **no evidence of any kind for the existence of Alexander the Great.**

Do you see what I just did? I set up a false standard of evidence, one which I know will disqualify the historicity of Alexander. Then I suggested that if that standard of historical evidence is not met, the person in question has no evidence for their existence.

By Hitchens's standard we could say that there is no proof that Shakespeare ever existed. After all, you can't find any coins with Shakespeare's name and image on them. Never mind the fact that we have things written by him and about him! So it is with Moses. No, there are no coins with Moses's image on them. But we have five books written by him and he is mentioned in multitudes of other ancient writings.

What about Jesus? He did not write any books nor are there coins that bear His image.

We do have four different biographies about Jesus of Nazareth that were all written within the lifetime of those who were eyewitnesses of His life. Those biographies (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) were all widely circulated amongst those who could have refuted their claims if they were able. Further, the existence of the Christian church can be irrefutably dated to around 33 AD, the birth of which was in the city of Jerusalem among the very people most opposed to its truth claims.

There is more, not less, but more evidence for the existence of Jesus of Nazareth than there is for Aristotle, Socrates, and Alexander the Great combined.

The problem for the atheist is not the amount of evidence, or the kind of evidence, but a love for darkness. As I constantly reminded our congregation during our study in John, **“Unbelief is never due to a lack of evidence. It is due to a love for darkness.”**

We do not have the same kind of evidence for the existence of Jesus as we do for Alexander the Great. We have different kinds of evidence. It is different strands of evidence and different sources of evidence, but it is evidence, nonetheless.

One final analogy: imagine a homicide detective ruling out all pieces of evidence except video evidence of the crime in question. Imagine him disregarding eyewitnesses just because he felt they had a certain bias that would slant their perspective. Imagine him suggesting that photographic evidence, DNA evidence, and written records were all unreliable—not because they actually were, but because he deems them so. Imagine him setting up a false standard for evidence where only video

footage of the crime being committed would be considered. In such a case, the absence of video evidence would be “proof” to the homicide detective that a homicide never actually occurred. We would have every reason to second-guess his judgment, question his motives, and doubt his findings. Yet this is exactly what Hitchens had done concerning the evidence for Jesus Christ.

By the way, if a coin were ever discovered with the image of Jesus stamped on it, I can predict with 100% certainty how atheists would respond. They would claim:

1. It does not prove that Jesus actually existed since this coin was probably the creation of one of His fans (disciples) and thus just part of the elaborate mythology surrounding Jesus of Nazareth.

2. This proves that Jesus never actually existed since a real historical Jesus described in the gospel would never have a coin minted with His image on it.

3. There were hundreds of Jews named Jesus in the first century – how do we know this is Jesus of Nazareth son of Joseph?

4. This can't possibly be Jesus of Nazareth since we have no evidence that He ever existed.

This is called circular reasoning and atheists **EXCEL** at it!

Without Wax-



1 [https://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2018-07/fb-abt070418.php](https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-07/fb-abt070418.php)

2 <https://acu.libsyn.com/show-debate-highlights-christopher-hitchens-vs-dennis-prager-dinesh-dsouza-god-or-no-god-conservative-podcasts>

3 I use the term “Christian” in the loosest possible way here. At one point in the debate, D'Souza was asked by Prager if he believed that all those who do not accept Jesus Christ as their Savior (as Jews do not) would end up in Hell. D'Souza said no, and went on to reason that Abraham is in Heaven and he never “accepted Christ.” As you can see, D'Souza's Christian convictions are poorly reasoned, and his theology is lacking.

4 This section of the debate has been edited for space. I removed some rambling back-and-forth dialogue and needless interruptions in order to capture the essential parts.

5 Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Psalm 90.





# Kootenai Community Church

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Kootenai, ID 83840

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kcc@nctv.com  
www.kootenaichurch.org



Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8



**HELP NEEDED!**

## Clothing Swap & Sale

February 9 at the church



### How it works

- Bring clothing to church by Sunday, Feb. 3, and receive a punch card indicating number of items.
- For each item you bring, you may take one item. OR just shop - every item \$1
- Contact Lisa Slippy to bring items during the week.

See schedule.

Volunteers who help with set-up will be able to shop/swap first! Contact Lisa for details 208 265-4997 .

### What to bring

- Men's, women's and children's clothing, shoes, scarves, hats.
- Items must be clean, no stains or holes, no excessive pilling or stretched out.
- Please bring items on hangers if possible.
- Donations of hangers much appreciated.

### SCHEDULE

Now - Feb. 7: Bring clothing to church

#### Saturday, Feb. 9

- 8-8:30 Volunteers shop
- 8:30-9:00 Those who donated can shop
- 9:00-12 Anyone can shop (for just \$1 per item!)
- 12-1 All Items free