



## New FREE Resource: The Gospel of Mark by Mark Scott

ICR is excited to announce the release of the Gospel of Mark by Mark Scott, D.Min. For the last 25 years, Mark Scott has been a professor of New Testament and Preaching at Ozark Christian College in Joplin, Missouri and currently serves as the academic dean. His wife Carla has supported his ministry for 36 years and together they have two sons, two daughters, and five grandchildren. To download the lectures on the Gospel of Mark visit [www.icrtransform.com](http://www.icrtransform.com).

## In Other News

Shane Wood, Associate Director of ICR, is to be congratulated on receiving an MA and MDiv from Lincoln Christian Seminary on May 10th with special honors.

Mark Moore, Director of ICR, passed his oral examination on April 29 for completion of a PhD in Biblical Studies from the University of Wales. His final edits will be completed by September 1.

Shane and Mark would like to express deep gratitude to God for this extraordinary privilege of studying his word under scholars of renown and faith. They would also like to give special recognitions to their wives whose counsel, patience, and unmerited affection have made the journey an especially delightful one.



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TEACHING BIBLICAL APPLICATIONS AND SKILLS FOR EVERYDAY PROBLEMS IN FAMILIES, SOCIETY AND CHURCHES.

## Books Change Lives

By Mark E. Moore



My father used to tell me, "Son, in five years you will become the friends you choose and the books you read." His counsel was wise. Of all the decisions we make in life, few are as significant as the people we let into our hearts and the media we allow into our minds. This is why the dreadful effects of the communistic control

of information still wrecks havoc across Eastern Europe nearly two-decades after the fall of the Iron Curtain. But it is not just a European problem. An ICR Middle Eastern constituent has informed us that one of the more "progressive" countries in the region just blocked the shipment of 1,500 books for a theological library. In Africa there is also a dearth of materials. For example, most of the pastors of Ethiopia have a theological library they could fit in a briefcase. While the Bible is the only essential document for a Christian, almost all of us are indebted to women and men, both dead and living, who have imparted faith, strength, insight, and understanding through their inscribed words.



In nearly every continent of this globe, the proliferation of godly material, both printed and electronic, is a key strategy for waging an ideological battle against the Evil One. Hanging in the balance are real people, hurting families, even entire cultures. Please celebrate with us *what God is doing right now* to provide desperately needed resources to people seeking spiritual solace. Recently, Tony Williamson (from Washington) and Dr. Larry Page (of Branson, Missouri) accompanied me to a capital city in the Middle East and then on to Ethiopia where we participated in two dynamic works God is already accomplishing. First, there is an anonymous Christian leader in the Middle East who is providing theological training for Pastors from twelve countries in the region. Even through persecution, his labors bear fruit in hostile soil. Part of his difficulty is that his training center has a library of only 350 books. This is simply unacceptable. We are seeking God's guidance as to whether ICR is able to partner with this powerful ministry to provide training for those proclaiming the truth of Christ on the frontlines of oppression. Your prayers for wisdom are never more needed than now.



In Ethiopia we participated in two (of ten) conferences for Pastors. Aside from the teaching they received, each Pastor returned home with a library of about 40 books translated into their native Amharic. When all is said and done, as many as 25,000 Christian leaders across the horn of Africa will receive these tools. This project is sponsored by SIM (Serving in Missions) and the three of us were thrilled to witness God's anointing on this project. The task of eradicating biblical illiteracy is larger than any individual or organization and we see the hand of God orchestrating thousands of workers all over the globe to bring people to a saving knowledge of his son, Jesus Christ. The challenges are daunting;

God's sovereign power is working; and Jesus is coming.

For a full description of this trip with lots of pictures, visit: <http://markmoore.org/travels/Ethiopia.shtml>

# ICR and OCC Present: A Journey in the Footsteps of Paul with Mark Moore and Mark Scott

The Institute for Christian Resources, in cooperation with Ozark Christian College, would like to invite you to join us May 17-31, 2009 for a tour of every major church Paul planted as well as the seven churches of Revelation. Mark Moore and Mark Scott will be team-teaching. This can be a life-transforming journey as you stand on the tombs of three Apostles—Paul, Peter, and John—as well as the very stone where Paul was beaten with rods in Philippi and the river where Lydia was baptized.

We will hike Mars Hill in Athens, sit in the 28K-seat theater of Ephesus, and descend into the dungeon where Paul and Peter were kept in Rome before their assassination under Emperor Nero. In addition, visitations to Coliseums, Hippodromes, and Catacombs throughout Turkey, Greece, Italy, and Vatican City will give color to the black white pages of our Bibles. This is more than a tourist trip; it is an educational venture and a spiritual pilgrimage in which we will ask the Holy Spirit to teach us the heart of the Apostle Paul for the world today.

Each participant will receive a notebook six months before the journey enabling him/her to read Paul's

Epistles in conjunction with the book of Acts, creating a template for his ministry in the four countries.

If you are interested, please visit our website at [www.icrtransform.com](http://www.icrtransform.com) to learn the details about the trip, costs, and reservation form.



## Merrill & Carol Davis Bio



We are thrilled to introduce the two newest members of the ICR family. Merrill and Carol Davis are lifelong residents of Iowa (for those who don't know, this is the buckle of the Bible Belt). Merrill hails from southern Iowa, cutting his teeth on the pews of the Orleans Church of Christ. Carol grew up near the megalopolis of Davenport and was raised in a Lutheran church. But their romance began while both attended the Frytown Church of Christ near Iowa City where they were married in August of 1970. Carol graduated from the St Luke's School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids that same year and will retire in July 2008 after a 38-year career as a registered nurse. Merrill earned a B.A. in political science (1969) and a Masters of Art in Teaching (1972), both from the University of Iowa. He concluded a 30-year career in logistics management for the US Army, retiring in June 2007. They have three children. Two of them live in the Ft Worth, TX area: Carter and his wife Holly (with their two children) as well as their daughter, Molly. Their son, Colin and wife Kirsten, live in Rochester, NY.

As of September 1, Merrill and Carol will move to Budapest, Hungary to assume the lead role in the library established there by Andy and Phyllis Anderson. Why would two retirees, living in the comfort of the Midwest and the proximity of their children, pack up and move half-way around the world to a major city, learn a different language, and take on the sometimes grueling demands of mission work? Here is what Merrill says: "We have been so blessed throughout our lives with good parents and good churches who gave us a strong spiritual foundation, great Christian friends who have been so encouraging, and a wonderful family that we are compelled to heed the statement that where much is given, much is required and do what we can to share those blessings with those who have not had those opportunities." Merrill and Carol, we thank God for you!

We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. — Colossians 1:28

## International Updates



Berlin library

**Connections Library of Berlin Germany** – The theme of the Berlin update could be entitled "Playing our role in God's story."

Berlin is closing in on their one year anniversary on September 7th, 2008.

This year has been jam-packed with events and milestones, including: the accumulation of over 4,000 volumes, approximately 1,650 visits, weekly English classes, monthly children story hours, monthly prayer meetings for international pastors, nine workshops/seminars, seven art exhibits, six interns, an opera concert, and a partridge in a pear tree.

As if this was not enough, the staff at *Connections* has found time to concentrate on developing their vision, an effective Board structure, and continuing efforts in fundraising for future expansion and present stability.

The unique ministry at *Connections* provides opportunities for evangelism through a number of avenues. Katie Thomas, ICR staff located at *Connections* in Berlin, shared a story of a non-Christian who came to one of their art exhibits and eventually spent two hours of the afternoon discussing with Pascal, a patron of *Connections*, the legitimacy of faith and Christianity. These types of conversations saturate the events of *Connections* with God's grace providing the Spirit fertile soil to grow seeds of the Gospel of Christ.

### Prayer Items:

- Pray for the Spirit's ability to move throughout *Connections* to draw the staff closer together and non-Christians to a fuller knowledge of Christ.
- Pray for the Lord to provide clarity of vision and direction for *Connections* as they pass the one year milestone.
- Pray praises to God for the amount of progress He has made in Berlin through the ministry of *Connections*, an extension of ICR.



Prague kids

**Prague Library of Czech Republic** – The theme of the Prague update could be entitled "Praises to God for His provision."

July was a month full of visits for the Prague library with the welcoming of: Mark Moore (ICR Director) and his wife Barbara Moore, Dana Karen (member of Canyon Ridge Christian Church in Las Vegas, NV), and Janelle Clark and Joanne Karg (Central Christian Church in San Jose, CA). Each visitor brought various pieces from God that completed a puzzle of encouragement for the Barnes – from whom deep gratitude is extended to each of their guests.

In addition, God has provided the Barnes with permanent residency visas, which do not require a renewal for up to ten years. This will alleviate a lot of stress and paperwork that will allow more time and energy to be poured into their ministry.

Furthermore, the Prague library, in conjunction with the International Women's Association, hosted a Saturday morning teddy bear story hour. This event in combination with their normal outreach efforts has led to contacts with at least eight new families represented by 20 kids in the past couple of months.

### Prayer Items:

- Pray for God's continued provision monetarily in light of the weak US dollar for international financial exchange.
- Pray for sustaining momentum from a good summer to continue to develop an effective vision to reach the masses.
- Pray praises to God for the amazing progress and success of the Barnes' ministry through ICR.

## How to Read the Bible DVD Series

Biblical illiteracy is an increasingly serious challenge. The word of God is central to the spiritual vitality of families, churches, and societal ethics. As the eclipse of God's counsel darkens, individuals and families suffer the consequences of turning deaf ears to our loving Father. We must address this pandemic of Biblical illiteracy.

For this reason, ICR is pleased to announce a new resource for your church or small group study: "How to Read the Bible." This eight-part DVD series is designed to walk a person through some very clear, simple, and effective steps to read, understand, and communicate the message of the Bible. It was produced in cooperation with the Westlink Christian Church in Wichita, KS where 130 teachers, leaders, and Bible students gathered for a weekend of intense study. These eight DVD video sessions are augmented by thirty-six online lectures that go into more depth (go to [www.icrtransform.com](http://www.icrtransform.com)).



Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. — Romans 12:2