



THE POCKET TESTAMENT LEAGUE

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*Check out the forums where you can post prayer requests and share your experiences.



POCKET POWER

THE POCKET TESTAMENT LEAGUE



VOLUME 2 • ISSUE 1

Mobilizing and Equipping Christians to **READ, CARRY,** and **SHARE** the Word of God

TOMORROW IS COMING

If you have been enthusiastically Reading, Carrying, and Sharing the Gospel, then you no doubt consider your faith something very important to you. Did you know that you could leave a legacy of your faith even after you have gone home to be with the Lord? You can do this through The Pocket Testament League's Planned Gift program.

Current tax laws offer people many ways to contribute a portion of their earnings or estate to charitable organizations such as The Pocket Testament League while

receiving significant tax benefits now. The League's Planned Gift program provides individuals with several planned giving options. If you would like to explore these options, we have

prepared a booklet called *Reflecting On Tomorrow*, which will explain many of the plans available to you.

To obtain a free copy of this booklet, please call us toll-free at 800.636.8785.



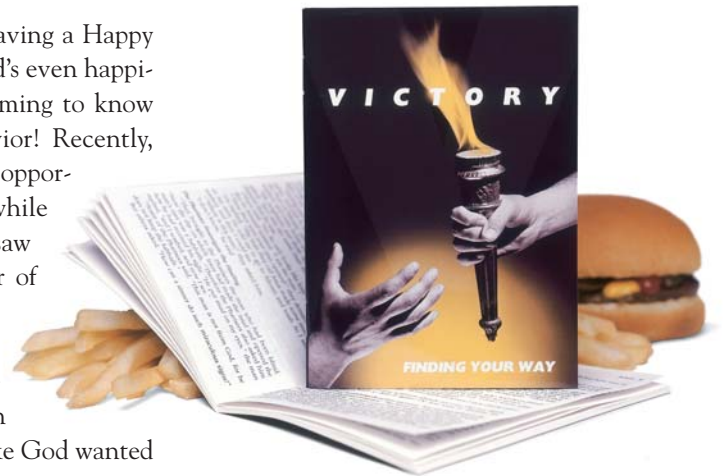
Give Me A Burger, Fries, And A New Life In Christ!

What could make having a Happy Meal at McDonald's even happier? How about coming to know Jesus as your Lord and Savior! Recently, two of our Members had the opportunity to share their faith while at McDonald's, and they saw the incredible saving power of God at work.

Marge, from Connecticut, says she was just standing in line at McDonald's in a local mall when she felt like God wanted her to hand a Gospel to a young man in line with her. She quickly struck up a conversation with the young man—a teenager named Chamberlin—and, soon enough, she was sharing her faith with him. What happened next?

"Chamberlin prayed for Jesus to be his Savior right then and there in line at McDonald's!" Marge says. "It was awesome! God was so powerfully present!"

In North Carolina, another Member, T.T., took advantage of the chance he had to Read, Carry, and then Share the Gospel while he was at a McDonald's late one Friday evening. Seeing a gentleman sitting all alone at a table in the restaurant, T.T. walked over to the man and began to talk to him. T.T. then shared his faith and a Gospel, and the man prayed to receive Christ! Even better, T.T. found out that the



man's wife and mother had been praying for him to come to church for some time!

What incredible stories of God's wonderful saving power!

This is the kind of eternal impact that comes from your involvement with The League. Sometimes, our Members may wonder just how much good is coming from their efforts to share their faith. But look at what happened to Marge and T.T.! When you share a Gospel with someone, you are making a difference in that person's life. Thanks to you, God's Word is being proclaimed in even the most unlikely of places!

If you need more Gospels to continue this great work of God, please call us toll-free at 800.636.8785, or visit us online at www.readcarryshare.org.



Keeping Up With The Times

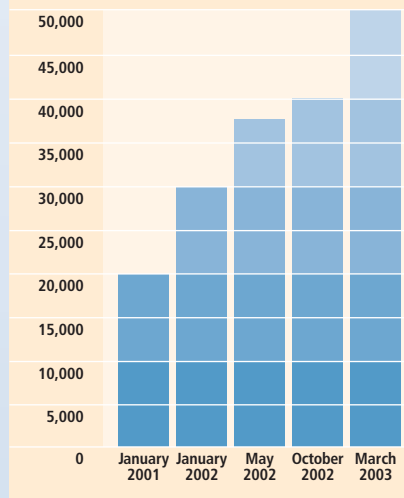
One great website feature that will offer encouragement to our Members is the new Gospel-tracking system. In coming months, Members will be given stickers imprinted with their membership number to place on the Gospels they distribute. This number will be recorded when each person joins The League. Members will then be able to go to our website and check on how many others have joined The League as a result of their efforts. Even better, Members will also be able to read stories from the people with whom they have shared Gospels!

Wouldn't it be exciting to see that people are coming to Christ and also joining The League because you took the time to Read, Carry, and Share? Think, too, about the fact that these people will be sharing their faith and adding even more Members to The League. Before long, hundreds of people will be sharing the Gospel, and it will all be because you first shared your own faith with someone!

The Pocket Testament League is currently in the process of installing a revolutionary new database to help manage the incredible growth we have been experiencing. The new database will give us a high-tech tool for future growth through its connection to a revamped website that will offer many enhanced services to Members.

Within the next few weeks, our website will have a brand new look and feel, and will begin to provide new services to our Members. As before, the website will continue to be the fastest and easiest way to order more Gospels.

MEMBER GROWTH



We're At 50,000 And Growing!

A quick look at our Member growth graph will show you that we had only a handful of Members just three years ago. But look at where we are now! In that short span of time, God has brought incredible growth to The Pocket Testament League. We are now at 50,000 Members! Our Members have been faithfully Reading, Carrying, and Sharing the Gospel every chance they get, and people's lives are being radically changed by the love of Christ. Continue to Read, Carry, and Share, and also to pray for even more Members to join us.

a brief look back

THE POCKET TESTAMENT LEAGUE began in 1893 as a way for a young girl in Britain to win her school friends to the Lord. The girl's father wanted her to have an easy way of giving her friends the Gospel, so he had small Testaments printed for her. The girl was Helen Cadbury—of the Cadbury family that is so famous for its chocolate.

“THE INCREDIBLE AND ENDURING POWER OF GOD’S WORD!”

Did you ever stop to imagine how many words have been spoken throughout history? I’m sure none of us could even begin to fathom the incredible number of words that have been uttered down through the ages. But like most of our own words, the majority of what has been said since the creation of the world has been lost and forgotten over time. But not the Word of God!

The Bible says in 1 Peter 1:23–25 that the word of God is “*living and enduring*” and that it will stand “*forever*.” And so it has throughout the years! That’s how powerful the Word of God is!

When you hand someone a Gospel, remember that you are giving them the living Word of God that will stand the test of time. The power of a single Gospel could very well be felt for generations to come. It all starts with one person Reading the Word, Carrying It, and then Sharing It with others!

WHAT PASTORS ARE SAYING:

“Our church members have embraced Read, Carry, and Share with open arms. Many of them who had never shared their faith before are now actively sharing God’s Word. How exciting this is for me! As a pastor, I have always encouraged God’s people to share

their faith, and now we have a wonderful, God-given tool to accomplish this!”

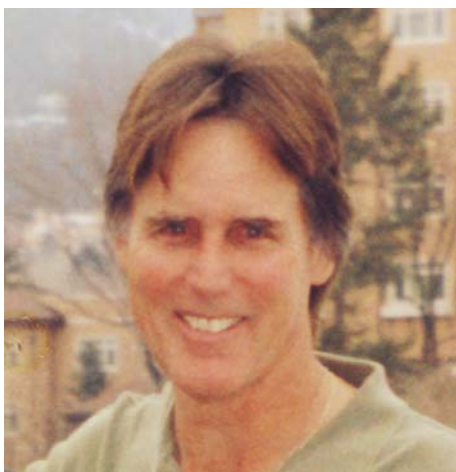
—Keith Weatherly,
Pastor, Feather River
Baptist Church,
Marysville, Pa.

GOD @ WORK

Need some encouragement in your attempt to Read, Carry, and Share the Gospel? If so, we have what you’re looking for! Each month, we send out an e-mail called “God At Work,” which relates a brief story of a Member sharing their faith. It will encourage and inspire you to share your own faith and to order more Gospels!

To sign up, just e-mail us at
membercare@readcarryshare.org.

Profile: Jim West



Southern California native Jim West has always liked to win in life. He placed or won in nine championship events in the sports of judo and wrestling, and he also won state titles while coaching wrestling

and soccer at the junior college level. Even in the work world, Jim enjoyed continued success, spending 21 years as a mortgage banker in his home state before finally retiring.

Today, Jim is more interested in another kind of winning—winning others to the Lord. As Director of Field Ministries for The Pocket Testament League, Jim heads up the effort to send Speaker Representatives into local churches to present The Read, Carry, and Share Challenge.

League President Mike Brickley introduced Jim to The League, and thanks to Jim’s involvement, the number of presentations given each year has risen dramatically. In 2001, 90 Challenge presentations were given to churches around the country. That number skyrocketed to 240 presentations in 2002! But Jim wants to see even greater numbers than that.

Jim would like to increase the

number of Speaker Reps from its current level of 22 to 30. He would also like to produce a video that pastors could show to their congregations in areas where Speaker Reps aren’t available.

For Jim, it’s all about getting the Word out. Once that happens, as Jim says, “You get hooked knowing that God has used you to motivate people to share their faith.”

That’s just what Speaker Reps for The League get to experience. Speaker Reps have the joy of seeing thousands of people become Members of The League, meaning that more Christians are mobilized to share their faith with others!

If you are interested in volunteering as a Read, Carry, Share Challenge presenter and would like more information, please contact Jim toll-free at 877.810.9100.

stories from our members

"I AM 15 years old, and I am trying my hardest to successfully share the word of Christ. When one of my teachers at school found out that I am a Christian, she gave me a Pocket Testament Gospel. I became a Member of The League, and so far, this is the best, most efficient way of achieving my goal. I now share the Word with everyone I meet!"

—B.G., *Lexington, Ind.*

"LAST YEAR, we gave away some Gospels of John to kids who live on our street after they got out of school for the summer. We asked them to read the Gospels, and we told them that at the end of summer, we would have a party for those who read them. A few days later, a little 8-year-old who had helped me pass out the Gospels in the neighborhood called and asked if she would have to turn in her book when she finished it. I told her the book was hers to keep! At the summer-end party, we had seven kids show up! The little 8-year-old girl had not only read the whole book, but she had also read it to her younger brother! May God bless your ministry!"

—W.E., *Dallas, Texas*

"GOD USED me and my brother to talk to more than 20 people last week at school in a single day!"

—E.A., *McMinnville, Tenn.*

"I WENT to Mexico via San Diego, Calif., recently for a meeting. I had three layovers in three airports during my trip, and I was able to share the Gospel of John with a number of strangers. Three or four of the people I talked to were already Christians, and they said this little book was one of the best tools they had ever seen for spreading the news about Jesus Christ. They even said they would join The League when they returned home! The majority of the people I shared with at the airports were not Christians, and all but one of them either read the Gospel or promised that they would. I gave out a lot of the little books, but God said His Word will not come back void! Please pray with me that the Holy Spirit will do a work in the hearts and minds of the people I met during my trip to Mexico."

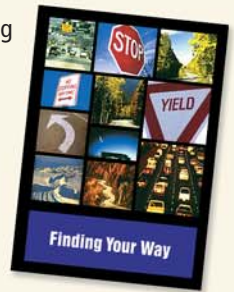
—C.T., *Bridge City, Texas*

"I WORK as a freight clerk in a food-service warehouse. I am constantly meeting truck drivers who I only see once or very rarely. I hand them copies of the Gospel of John and say to them, 'Brother, if I could give you only one book of the Bible, it would be John.' I have not yet had anyone refuse to take it! Sometimes, I even get the chance to witness to them. Thank you, and God bless you!"

—W.C., *Watha, N.C.*

TIPS FOR SHARING

Having trouble thinking of how you can share the Word with those around you? Here are some ideas to help you not only hand out Gospels, but also witness to the people you give them to. The Pocket Testament League is ready to send you the Gospels you need if you're ready to try these ideas!



- Easter is just around the corner, and many people who don't normally go to church make it a point to do so at this time of year. What better time to share a Gospel with a friend who doesn't know Jesus! Ask the person if he or she is going to go to church, and then share a little bit about the Easter story. Finally, offer them a Gospel, and encourage them to read it and find out that Easter is about more than just bunnies and colored eggs!
- Are there kids living around you that need the love of Jesus? Ask them if they'd like to hear an exciting story, and then tell them a story from the life of Jesus. When you are done, pass out Gospels, and tell the kids to take them home and read them. Let them know that if they read them, they can come back and hear another great story.
- When you go out to eat at a restaurant, take a few Gospels with you. Share a quick word about your faith with the host or hostess as they seat you, then give them a Gospel and encourage them to read it. During the course of your meal, share your faith with the waiter or waitress. When you are finished, leave your tip in a Gospel on the table.
- Hospitals are full of hurting people who often feel hopeless, and not just in the patient rooms. In addition to sharing the Word and a Gospel with some patients, you can talk to people in hospital waiting rooms. Perhaps you can even catch a nurse or doctor taking a break in the cafeteria or coffee shop. If you look hard enough, there is always someone you can share with!