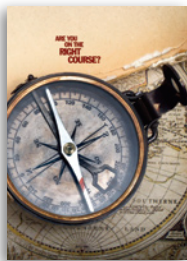


New Gospel of John for sharing with leaders



In May, the League introduced a Gospel of John cover developed in partnership with The Master's Program and The Barnabas

Group, two ministries focused on helping executives, professionals and business leaders build a solid faith within their spheres of influence. The new cover features a nautical theme on the cover, with a compass and the headline, "Are you on the right course?" The new cover will connect in a powerful way with leaders of all ages, pointing them in the right direction: straight up to Jesus.

Story of the month

Mike R. from Griffith, IN shared this story on our web site:

"My family has a ministry. My parents are disabled but they work hard to reach out to over 200 Chicagoland nursing and rehab centers. My dad lives on social security and a small pension but God pays the bills through volunteers like you as he drives over 2000 miles a month! Recently while ministering at a nursing home we witnessed to a kitchen worker who mentioned that today was his birthday. He prayed to trust Christ as Saviour and now he has TWO birthdays on the same day! He was so happy to receive

God@Work

JULY 2009



Dear Member:

The Lord called home a great man of faith on May 27, 2009, a man whose enduring influence made a difference at The Pocket Testament League and in thousands of lives around the globe.

Joseph Marden Copeland was, to those who knew him, simply "Joe." Born on November 6, 1915 as a world war raged in Europe, Joe spent his first years living in the small community of Hope, Arkansas. The youngest of 11 children, he was inspired by a spirit of adventure instilled by his father, a school teacher, who moved the family to Aberdeen, Washington when Joe was seven. Living in a Finnish community, Joe developed a love of languages and a warm personality that drew people to him.



As a young man, he heard a gospel team from Biola University and immediately knew he wanted to be in ministry. He moved to Los Angeles and attended Biola, where he met a vivacious young lady named Gene. The two were married after graduation, a union that lasted 67 years.

When World War II entered their lives, Joe enlisted in the army where he was assigned to serve in the Intelligence branch in Peking, China. Joe was discharged after a near-fatal illness and returned to the US. He continued his ministry studies at Westmont College, where Gene enjoyed the PHTS Club (Putting Hubby Through School) with other students' wives. "We lived... in the house in which my wife was born," Joe wrote about Westmont's class of 1945. "We had the joy of sharing our guest room with Professor Dr. Richard Beal, and later with various students."

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God@Work

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a beautiful gospel of John and to know that he is now God's child from John 1:12. Thank you for your support."

Great ways to share

Some ways that real members have described how they share their faith are shown below. Learn more ways by visiting [Resources > How to Share > 92 ways to share](#) on our web site.

#15 An Emergency Room nurse has countless opportunities to share them with people who are hurting and in need -- both her patients and their families.

#20 One person who cleans cabins during the summer leaves a Gospel on each bed before someone arrives.

Current ministry needs

We are developing **training materials and Bible studies** so that small groups and churches can focus on sharing their faith with others using God's Word. Many people will be saved through these initiatives.

We are preparing for **another printing of Gospels of John**. It costs us hundreds of thousands of dollars for each print run, because we need to print huge quantities to lower the per-unit price to acceptable levels.

We trust that our Lord will provide these needs.

After serving as an interim pastor, Joe and Gene joined The Pocket Testament League in 1952 and began their missionary lives. Because China's doors were now closed, the family went instead to Japan, where League members had helped fund a special initiative to ship 11 million gospels, spearheaded by General Douglas MacArthur. Thus began a nearly 40-year ministry of evangelism on five continents.

Joe and Gene influenced thousands of lives. Wherever they went, they inspired people to get involved in sharing the Word of God. League member Lloyd Turner recalls how Joe influenced his life:

"When I was a child, during the Cold War, Joe was in the mission field traveling to many countries. There was really great concern that communism would take over the world, and Joe always brought us stories of hope and encouragement.

He loved to sing a favorite hymn in church called 'The Breaking of the Bread,' a beautiful song that always touched my heart. The words of that song uniquely characterize Joe's life. Each time he sang, it called our attention to the fact that people in this world are missing the breaking of the bread. They haven't heard the good news that they've been invited to the banquet of life. The lyrics then invite the hearer to "give them the bread of life, the living water too," a direct call to share our faith by sharing the Word of God.

Joe encouraged me to join The Pocket Testament League and share God's Word. We now go out regularly to hand out Gospels of John and share Christ with people.

Joe was a real hero to me because of his long, faithful stand through all kinds of adversity. He and Gene suffered many setbacks, yet never became discouraged and never took their eyes off Jesus. Joe was a wonderful example of what real faith looks like."

To recognize Joe's long impact on the League, we've set up the "Joe Copeland Memorial Fund." You can donate to this fund to continue Joe's work of providing God's Word for the lost. When making a donation, just mark "Joe" on your donation slip or use the link below to give online. These funds will be used to fund Gospels of John.



Mike Brickley, President

Donate to the Joe Copeland fund right now at www.pocketpower.org/appeal/Joe

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