

Joy of Living

Bible Studies

Summer Newsletter
July 2010

Enriching lives
through the study of
God's Word

Visit us on the web at:
www.joyofliving.org

For pricing and ordering
information
see current order form,
check our website:
www.joyofliving.org
or call our toll free number:
800-999-2703.

NEW STUDY - JUDGES & RUTH

We are pleased to announce that an all new, 8-lesson, study of **Judges and Ruth** is now available in pre-print and digital format. The commentary is written by Nancy Collins, with study questions by Kathy Rowland. Nancy and Kathy have authored, co-authored and edited many of the *Joy of Living* studies. For additional information about Nancy and Kathy visit our website at www.joyofliving.org.

Judges covers the period in Israel's history after the death of Joshua until the establishment of the monarchy under King Saul. At that time the people were ruled by judges whom God raised up to deliver His oppressed people—oppressions brought on by their own disobedience. In **Judges** we see a continuing cycle of God's blessing, Israel's rebellion, God's disciplining, their repentance, and God's deliverance and blessing again. In the stories of people such as Deborah, Gideon and Samson, we see God's faithfulness, His patience and His grace

The book of **Ruth** is set during the time of the judges and relates the story of a young woman of Moab who became the great-grandmother of David, and an ancestress of Jesus. From **Ruth** we see that participation in God's kingdom is not decided by blood, but by obedience that comes from faith. A beautiful story of love and grace, the story

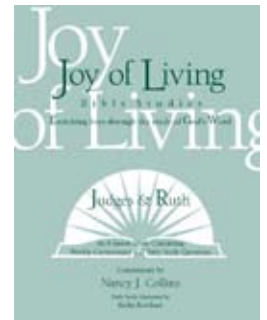
(continued on page 3)

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I recently returned from a visit to my family in West Virginia, where my husband and I had the sheer joy of boating on the Ohio River, something I hadn't done since I was a teenager. It was wonderful—huge white billowing clouds overhead, sun enveloping you with warmth, air blowing through your hair, barges sliding silently past on glassy water, occasional paddle wheel ferries filled with tourists on their way to Blennerhassett Island waving hello, loved ones near, God's presence filling my heart with joy—a perfect day!

God has used that river to teach me a number of His truths. You see, the Ohio is a very wide and seemingly slow moving river. On those long ago, hot summer days we used to go out in a boat and, after water skiing, we would sometimes turn the motor off and just enjoy the sounds and smells of God's creation. It seemed like we were sitting still in the middle of the river, but we weren't. Ever so slowly, almost imperceptibly, the current was moving us downstream. If we didn't turn the motor on and get moving

(continued on page 2)



Joy of Living

ARABIC LANGUAGE STUDIES

We are privileged to make the study of **1 Thessalonians** available in the Arabic language. As with the study of **James** in Arabic, the translation was done by a team of translators headed by Christine Dakwar. Christine and her husband, Yousef, pastor the New Covenant Church in Haifa, Israel.

It is exciting to see all that God is doing in and through this group of believers. You can visit their website at: <http://www.haifancc.org> where they have many exciting photos and videos posted. Please remember to pray for them.



GERMAN LANGUAGE STUDIES

Sabine Göllner and her team have completed translating four more *Joy of Living* studies into the German language. They are currently working on the study of **Exodus**. These studies are being used by Bible study groups in several cities in Germany and are also available from the *Joy of Living* office.

The studies currently available in German are:

- **Genesis**
- **Nehemiah**
- **Selected Psalms**
- **Gospel of John**
- **Ephesians**
- **Hall of Faith: Hebrews 11**
- **1-3 John & Jude**
- **Judges & Ruth**
- **Esther**
- **Gospel of Luke**
- **Romans**
- **Colossians**
- **James**
- **Revelation**

See the current order form or visit our website at www.joyofliving.org, for ordering information.

A NOTE FROM JOY OF LIVING IN BOLIVIA

“Hello to you all!! We are missionaries in Bolivia. We purchased the Acts study in Spanish from you last year...we were so blessed that you allowed us to share it with others, as good quality inductive material is hard to come by. The folks we work with earn between \$60-\$100 a month on average.”

Joy of Living gives permission to foreign missionaries to copy studies for use in their ministry.

FROM THE EDITOR

(continued from page 1)

again we could have drifted down the river to a place we didn't want to go. In the same way, if we aren't moving forward with the Lord, staying in fellowship with Him through prayer, reading His Word and living in obedience to Him, we will begin to drift away from Him. It will become easier to accept wrong attitudes in ourselves, and wrong attitudes lead to poor choices, which generally lead us into sin.

Perhaps you've allowed yourself to gradually drift away from joyous fellowship with the Lord. Perhaps you've drifted so far that you are actually living in ongoing sin. Now is the time to "turn the motor back on" and get moving back in the right direction. He has promised us that "if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).



DISCONTINUED STUDIES & RETURNS

Joy of Living authors and editors have nearly completed revising and updating all of our loose-leaf studies. Only **1-2 Samuel** and **1-2 Kings** are not yet complete and are still available for purchase in loose-leaf format.

We will accept returns for credit of the loose-leaf courses of **Judges** and **Ruth (Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel lessons 1-6); Acts & 2 Timothy; and Hebrews & Christ in the Old Testament** *only until December 31, 2010*. No other discontinued loose-leaf lessons will be accepted for credit.

Purchased CDs and DVDs may not be returned for credit. Reproducible materials will be credited only if unused and returned within 30 days of purchase.

For additional information on our returns policy, see the Returns Form included in each order. You may also download a Returns Form from our website: www.joyofliving.org. If you have any questions, contact us via phone or email.

DONATIONS

A special thank you to the following, who have so generously made a donation to *Joy of Living*:

Ruth Fairrington
Carol Hawkins, who gave in honor of **Jill McCurdy** and **Ann Eckelbarger**
Joy McClure
Verlie Wagoner
The class at First Congregational Church, Ossipee, NH
A class in Gering, NE
Those who gave anonymously

Unless designated otherwise, donations to *Joy of Living* are primarily used to send Bible study materials, at no charge, to prisoners and others who are unable to afford them.

If you would like to make a donation to *Joy of Living* in honor of a person, *Joy of Living* will list your name and the person's name in the next newsletter. We will also send a letter to the address you provide stating that a donation has been made in honor of that person. For further information, contact the *Joy of Living* office. All donations are tax deductible.

JUDGES & RUTH

(continued from page 1)

of Ruth reminds us that no matter how evil the time, God has His people; no matter how hopeless a situation may seem, God is greater (see Romans 5:20; 11:4-5). No matter what—God's plan and purpose will be accomplished (see Psalm 33:11).

The loose-leaf lessons covering **Judges** and **Ruth** are no longer available. Returns of these lessons (*Judges, Ruth & 1 Samuel* lessons 1-6) will be accepted through December 31, 2010.





Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Oak View, CA
Permit No.2

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER ONLINE

Just send an email to info@joyofliving.org letting us know you would prefer to receive your newsletter by email rather than a printed copy via the US Postal service.

Joy of Living Bible Studies is an evangelical, interdenominational, non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the study and teaching of the Bible, God's Word. All money not used for printing and office costs goes toward developing new Bible study courses. All contributions are tax deductible. The *Joy of Living* Newsletter is published quarterly in January, April, July and October. Newsletters may be photocopied for further distribution without prior permission.

Founder: Doris W. Greig — Director: Kathy Rowland — Newsletter Editor: N. J. Collins