

# The MasterClass Monthly

A Monthly Newsletter for CPAF Bible Study Leaders

“Sing to the LORD a new song, His praise in the assembly of the saints.”

~Psalm 149:1~

## Letter from the Editor



Well, I officially joined the ranks September 15, when I led my first Bible study at the Grace College Music Department. A whopping four people attended. You see what a difficult path I leave you to follow. ☺

As the source of my quiet time this month, Jeremiah is full of rich truths for leaders like you and I. Chapter 20:7-9 is particularly insightful:

“O LORD, You deceived me, and I was deceived; You overpowered me and prevailed. I am ridiculed all day long; everyone mocks me. Whenever I speak, I cry out proclaiming violence and destruction. So the Word of the LORD has brought me insult and reproach all day long. But if I say, ‘I will not mention Him or speak any more in His name,’ His Word is in my heart like a fire, a fire shut up in my bones. I am weary of holding it in; indeed, I cannot.”

We have been “overpowered” (another version says “persuaded”) by God--

what kind of persuasion is this? To what are we persuaded? Simply--to proclaim His Word. The task is that simple and that difficult.

“Difficult?”, you say. “I haven’t noticed any opposition.” Ah, you haven’t yet—but those committed to God’s words must proclaim what God says, not what they would like to say. Jeremiah was stuck with “violence and destruction”, even in the temple courts. (Holding truth upright in an already “upright” Christian community is often the most difficult calling!)

Well then, I give up. I refuse—I have no desire to be God’s punching bag, ridiculed by men for words not my own. Jeremiah thought this through: “But if I say, ‘I will not mention Him!!’ ...His Word is in my heart like a fire...”

My friends, it is too late—we are in the beginning stages of a dangerous and lasting virus. Jesus, the Living Word, is in our hearts like a fire. His beauty and persuasiveness are overpowering.

What an exquisite malady. Peter, a fisherman from Galilee, caught it two thousand years ago. Confused and distressed by Jesus’ harsh words, Peter still knew one thing: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)

Proclaim the Word!!

## Leader of the Month

### Scott Fearing

Stationed at: The National Symphony Orchestra

Alias: Horn player

Years of duty: 23; engaged in active service as of September 2005



*Scott, where were you born?*

“I was born in Tampa, Florida. The first 6 years I lived in Tampa, and then we basically followed my father...he got his first college job in Houston, so we lived there for four to five years, then he got another professorship up in Denton, TX. So, basically Florida and Texas. I don't have an accent, though, because I tried to lose it. My parents sent me to boarding school on the East Coast, where the students started calling me “Tex” – so I tried to smooth my voice out.”

*Where did you go to college?*

“My parents lived in Denton, Texas, so I went to music school at the University of North Texas at Denton—my hometown college. I went there thinking I was going to try music and see how it worked, (after) getting interested

in music my senior year...I discovered I did NOT want to be a doctor. All it took was one autopsy film. I tried music and it seemed to work much better.”

*Why did you want to be a Bible study leader?*

“I feel that there should be a Bible study wherever I go. If I were a car mechanic, I'd set up a car mechanic study. Its just part of working and fellowship wherever I work—it's tied into that. And if you want to have a Bible study and there isn't one, you have to lead. You (Jennifer) touched on that this past summer. At some point, you have to be like Nehemiah--the walls of Jerusalem are down—you're grieving over this, you're praying over this--and so you just have to say “Let's go”. I'm not a Nehemiah leader type, but at some point you just have to rally the forces and go.”

*When did you start working with the National Symphony?*

“I got the job in 1982 – it's funny because that's the same time I met Jim Kraft and Patrick Kavanaugh and CPAF got started. It was all part of that original bunch of people. It's neat seeing that ....

Pat's kind of a Nehemiah sort. Our church is studying Nehemiah, and it's so good—all about the leadership aspect of things. He (Nehemiah) comes into Jerusalem and just sits there for ten days.....(the question is) do you want to be a reproach? This is reproachful that the walls are down, and you're vulnerable.....you will get killed if the walls are not up and you need to do something about it. It's a reproach to God. You are in a weak spot—so let's do something about it. Pat Kavanaugh

is a lot like that-- Nehemiah and Pat Kavanaugh are one and the same person in Nehemiah chapter two—'Well, you're a musician, and there's two of you—go do it.'"

*What has been a helpful resource?*

"To me, the best resource is Scripture. Where that's helped me is in realizing that I'm not a Patrick Kavanaugh and I don't have to be a Patrick Kavanaugh. God didn't make me that way and He knew I didn't have to be that way. The best resource is the passage in I Corinthians 12—it talks about how the body isn't complete without me doing what I need to be doing, and if I don't do what I need to be doing, the body is weaker because of me."

*If you could give one word of advice to the other leaders, what would it be?*

"I was thinking and praying about this—Jenn Bennett wrote (on the group email) about Vanderbilt, and this is crucial—this is the time people are looking, and if you start it now, people will have to come. I guess the encouragement and advice would be thinking, not "Well, it's already two weeks into school and now it's too late", but that people are getting settled in, and now you've seen what needs to be done. Like Esther, maybe God has called you for this time and for this purpose. So, in other words, school's already started—if you didn't advertise the first week, or second or third, don't be discouraged—maybe now's the time to get it started."

## Announcements

Fifty new leaders have joined up with you this fall as of the Bible Study Leadership Training program, held at the MasterWorks Festival in Indiana and England. To facilitate better connections between you, we will be starting a Yahoo Groups Email list. Please look for the e-vite to that list in your inboxes in the next week or so. This is a great place to ask for advice and prayer from other leaders around the world.

Please be praying for your co-leaders. There are over 180 of you in place internationally, from Australia to Austria, and San Francisco to New York City. Praise God that you "stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel..." (Philippians 1:27)

Do you have the handbook on how to lead a Bible study for performing artists, called "Notes on the MasterClass"? This is a helpful tool containing topical Bible studies on the arts, advice for leaders, and registration forms for registering your Bible study with CPAF. We strongly encourage leaders to register with CPAF for organizational purposes. Registration forms are in the leader handbook, so if you don't have a handbook, please contact me.

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