



# THE VISION

February 2016

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them and...teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...”  
Amen. Matthew 28:19-20*

## Snow

The following article was composed by Rev. Tom Lovorn, Th.D. in his column for the Progress-Index newspaper in Petersburg, VA. He also pastors God's Storehouse Baptist Church in Petersburg, VA.

Since we have experienced God's blessing of "SNOW" this winter; I think you will discover the reason I chose to use Dr. Lovorn's article. One of his readers asked...

Q. Did it ever snow in Israel?

A. Short answer: Yes. Most people probably think of Israel as desert country, but that's because God kept his warning in Deuteronomy 11:8-17. He turned their land of milk and honey into a hard, dry land because of their rejection of him. Actually, Israel is roughly on the same latitude as our southern states of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. They do get snow but not every winter and not all over the country.

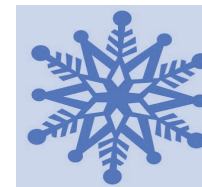
From Exodus through Revelation, snow is mentioned 24 times in the Bible. Often, as in Numbers 12:10, it's used to say a person's leprosy was "white as snow." In 2 Samuel 23:20, a brave man named Benaiah went down into a pit of snow to kill a lion. A familiar passage is Proverbs 31:21 where the "virtuous woman" kept her family well clothed in the snow. Daniel 7:9, referring to God, and Revela-

tion 1:14, referring to Jesus, speak of their garments and hair being white as snow.

References to snow in Matthew 28:3 and Mark 9:3 help us determine the true location of the high mountain where Jesus was transfigured. Constantine's mother, Queen Helena, selected many of the Biblical sites that tourists still visit today. Some of them are accurate; others are questionable. Helena had a church built on the smaller Mount Tabor to mark the Transfiguration site. But, Mt. Hermon, a few miles away is snowcapped most of the year. The references comparing the garments of Jesus being "white as snow" lead most Bible scholars to think he was probably in the snow line on Mt. Hermon.

One scripture about snow is especially precious to believers. Isaiah 1:18 records God saying, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

Dr. Lovorn concludes, when the blizzards come, remember that those who place their sins on Jesus will be as pure in God's sight as fresh fallen snow when the sun rises the next morning.



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# WMU Focus Week

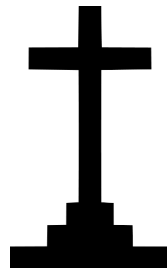
## February 8-14

Two celebrations are being planned for WMU Focus Week.

First, we invite all adults to our Valentine Banquet on Saturday, February 13th at 6:00pm. A signup sheet is posted in the Narthex. Meat, bread, and beverages will be provided.

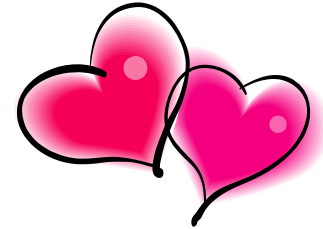
Sunday, February 14th will be Gloucester Point Baptist Women's Day. We encourage our church ladies to participate in our Women's Choir during the worship hour.

Celebrating God's love!  
Linda Breaks  
WMU Director



### Inspirational Thoughts

"I never knew how to worship until I knew how to love." — Henry Ward Beecher



"I set out to find a friend but couldn't find one; I set out to be a friend, and friends were everywhere." —Unknown

"Love me when I least deserve it, because that's when I really need it." —Swedish proverb



# New Study



**Deacon of the Week**

2/7—Bill Breeden  
2/14—Gus Saunders  
2/21—Seth Gandee  
2/28—Pauline Littell

**Nursery Workers**

2/7—Nancy Bolton  
2/14—Pauline Littell  
2/21—Tracy Williams  
2/28—Rebecca Joyce

**February Ushers:**

Barbara Mangrum  
Chris Hutson  
Keith Belvin  
Leslie Belvin

**February Tellers**

Helen Spence  
Bill Breeden

**Sun. Sch. Nursery**

Sharon/Howard Warren



## **FEBRUARY** **WORKERS**

**Older Children’s Church**

2/7—Sarah Saunders  
2/14—Jennifer/Derick Hall  
2/21—Jennifer/Craig Cannon  
2/28—Charlene/John West

**Younger Children’s Church**

2/7—Kristen Eifes/Tracy Williams  
2/14—Jennifer Podbesek/Sonya Anthony  
2/21—Denise/Mallory Gandee  
2/28—Laraine Sentz/Rachel Wells

### **Wednesday nights in February** **“The Spiritual Challenge of Islam”**

Please come join us on Wednesday nights in February as we begin a new study. We will seek to gain an understanding of “The Spiritual Challenge of Islam”.

Beginning February 3rd at 6:30pm, our discussion will follow our regularly scheduled prayer meeting. Looking forward to seeing you there. “The Spiritual Challenge of Islam”...Beliefs and Doctrines.

- ◆ February 3rd - Introduction, Doctrine, God and Sin
- ◆ February 10th - Resurrection, Judgement, and Jesus and the Ascension
- \* February 17th - The Holy Spirit and Worship
- \* February 24th - Prayer and Marriage

