



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

This year, we were challenged as members of the United Methodist Church to read the Bible in Chronological order. I have been trying to do it. But admittedly, it has not been easy. Don't get me wrong, I love to read. I read all of the time. But I enjoy a good novel, a political thriller, or a mystery. I have never been great at reading a non-novel, other than what I had to read for my history major in college. I am not a fan of poetry, or anything I have to interpret. I have been (loosely) involved with a book club, which tends to pick non-fiction books. I think I have only finished one of the books we were supposed to read (which was one of the few fiction choices!) I even wrote a novel for fun a few summers ago, and am currently working on a musical (which is MUCH harder).

But, I have been trying to at least listen to the reading each day (Thank you Bible Gateway!) and am picking up some of it. We just recently got out of the Old Testament, which was hard. Throw in the poetry of Psalms and other similar type writings (did I mention I have never really understood poetry!), and I am lost.

I do like some of the Proverbs – my favorite so far:

Proverbs 16:31 (NAS) A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness 😊

Reading the Bible has been an interesting challenge. It is not a long book, much shorter than your typical Tom Clancy novel, but it is packed full of stories. Some you know well – Adam and Eve, David and Goliath – others not so well. Some are steeped in history (pretty much anything in Kings), some are allegorical (do we really believe that Jonah was swallowed by a whale and lived?). There are those long lists of begets, how many people were killed in battle, and super detailed descriptions of the temple (when it is built, torn down, built again – I lost track of how many times reading this five pages at a time.)

But now we are in the New Testament, which is a breath of fresh air. The birth of Jesus and following his life are what makes us Christians. I wish the morals and values that are taught could be used in everyday life. I get that not everyone is Christian, but the basic virtues are something that everyone can learn. Maybe everyone should take the time to read the Bible (make sure and get to the New Testament!) to have a better understanding of our history and belief system. And we should do the same – take the challenge to learn something about another religion, another faith system, another lifestyle. We will all be better for it if we know more about each other!