



# New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

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## Pastoral Pondering

### Run Away from The Passion Translation

Brian Simmons, the sole translator of the newly released *Passion Translation* of the Bible, said, "If you're hungry for God, if you want to know him on another level than what you've been given so far, there is something waiting for you – there are some secrets that He wants to unveil to you and me" (Simmons, *The Passion Translation Teaser*). That's a bold claim and an incredibly daring endorsement from the translator. One reader of this translation said, "I've never read a translation that I sensed such a powerful anointing of God" (Simmons, *The Passion Translation Teaser*).

Wow.

But is it true? Does *The Passion Translation* have something new to offer the reader of God's Word today? Does it unlock mysteries hidden for centuries now finally revealed to us in 2018? Is it anointed by God Himself – as He anointed David to write the Psalms or Jesus to be the Holy One, the Word incarnate?

As you might guess based on the title of this article, no. And before I build a case, I'll just state it plainly – run away from *The Passion Translation*.

Now, let me share why in several points.

First, Brian Simmons is the sole translator of this new Bible. Rather than gathering a group of well-educated, linguistic-masters to take the ancient languages of Hebrew and Greek and translate them into modern English, Simmons worked alone to convey what he thought the text was saying. This is a careless practice.

Second, Brian Simmons seems to have zero regard for the ancient language in which the Scriptures were originally authored. The original text, with the original language, is the inspired text. Therefore, when translators seek to capture God's message to the world, they should endeavor to capture the intent of the original author in the original language. Andrew G. Shead, head of Old Testament and Hebrew at Moore Theological College, Sydney, and a member of the NIV Committee on Bible Translation, explained that Simmons, "seems...to be looking around in ancient sources for changes and additions that he can use as he himself changes and adds to the text" (Shead, "Burning Scripture with Passion: A Review of The Psalms (The Passion Translation)).

Third, Simmons' translation of individual words is often simply wrong. Again, Shead summarizes, "Simmons seems as uninterested in linguistic accuracy as he is in textual accuracy. He searches the dictionary, and sometimes apparently his imagination, for words to insert new ideas that happen to align with his goals, regardless of their truthfulness" (Shead).

**Continued --->**

## Ministry Directory

### Building & Grounds

#### Ministry:

Dan Peikert, 715-377-6557  
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### Children's Church Ministry:

Pastor Chandler Wiley,  
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### Children's Nursery Ministry:

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### Grief Share Ministry:

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### Missions Outreach:

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### Newsletter Administration:

Dawn Holm, 715.472.8453  
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### Sunday Meal Services:

Barb Manship, 612.804.9793  
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### Transportation Services:

Art Behr, 715.220.6882  
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### Treasurer:

Pete Manship, 715.755.3330  
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### Video Ministry

Jim Mabee, 651.470.4172  
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### Youth Group Ministry:

Pastor Chandler Wiley,  
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## Pastoral Pondering Cont.

Fourth, throughout Simmons' translation, especially of the Psalms, he adds amazing amounts of words and ideas that are totally foreign to the original language, and he constantly omits the message of the original language. He is guilty of placing his own ideas in order to try and present some passionate message to contemporary readers.

As a case study, let's examine Psalm 18. In Psalm 18:1, the NASB, an excellent word-for-word translation of the entire Bible, translates, "I love You, O Lord, my strength." That's as much as the Hebrew allows. Originally, there were three Hebrew words. Yet Simmons translates Psalm 18 according to his own mystic wisdom, Psalm 18:1, "Lord, I passionately love you and I'm bonded to you! I want to embrace you, for now you've become my power" (*TPT*). The addition to the text takes Simmons' own ideas and embeds them into God's holy Word as the inspired meaning. Basically, Simmons practices "double translation" in almost every verse in order to give his own understanding of the text. Double translation is simply taking a word that means one thing and making it mean two things. For example, "I love you," according to the *NASB* is changed to, "I passionately love you *and* I'm bonded to you," in the *PTP*.

Simply, *The Passion Translation* is terrible and dangerous to the Christian community. Simmons claims to offer something new to the church community, and that is exactly what he has done. He has offered a new text, not God's Word. There may be mysteries in it, but they are mysteries from the author, not from God. It is hailed as a translation of God's inerrant Word. Simmons says that it is a text that can "help you discover more of what God has for your life," but in reality, it will lead you away from the true Word, further from the original manuscripts, and away from a true knowledge of God (Simmons). Shead concluded, "*The Passion Translation* is not just a new translation; it is a new text, and its authority derives solely from its creator" (Shead).

Please do not purchase or read or recommend this translation. If you hear of anyone reading it, please caution them that they are not reading God's Word – they are reading the words of Brian Simmons.

Sticking to the Word with you,  
Pastor Chandler

## Announcements & Upcoming Events

**WELCOME** - If you are a visitor, welcome to New Life! We are so glad you are here. We'd love to hear from you and would love to connect with you. Please feel free to fill out the perforated welcome/prayer card in your newsletter. It would be our honor to hear from you and to be able to pray for you!

### VIDEO MINISTRY

New Life video ministry is looking for camera operators. This is an opportunity to serve those who are unable to join us in person to worship Jesus Christ and to study God's Word on Sunday morning. You can sit with one of the camera operators to see what is involved, talk to anyone on the team about the ministry, or contact Jim Mabee @ 651-470-4172. We'd love to have you on the team.

**FREE CONCERT** - The Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, Africa is coming to perform a free concert at Alliance Church of the Valley on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sunday night, at 7 p.m. We'd love to support this ministry with a strong showing. You don't want to miss this inspiring night of worship and celebration of what God has done in the lives of these wonderful children, who had been orphaned and lost, but found hope, and found Jesus.

We are also looking for a few families who would be willing to host a child and chaperone on Sunday and Monday night (June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>). If you'd be willing to host, please contact Pastor Paul at (320) 226-5581.

**HAITI MISSIONS TRIP** - Please be in prayer for the team in Haiti and for all the work they will be doing. Though you may not be going with, you are very much a part of the work. Your prayer support is much needed.

**BAPTISM SERVICE** - Make a note on your calendars for our baptism service, Sunday August 5th. If the Lord is leading you to be baptized and you are ready to make a public declaration of Faith in Jesus, please make that desire known by meeting with an elder or pastor after service or set up a time during the week.

### Check out New Life Online

[newlifechristiancommunity.org](http://newlifechristiancommunity.org)

Find Links to:

- Events • Sermons Online • Set Lists •
- New Life Connect • & More

### Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Paul Gilbertson 715.755.3517

Dale Mattson 715.566.2302

Greg Mattson 715.417.2444

Rene Milner 715.557.0185

Jim Nelson 651.283.2132

### This Week's Schedule of Events:

- 5.27 Forge @ Milner's 6-8 pm
- 5.30 Women's Bible Study @ 12:30 am
- 5.30 Nature Walks @ 6:30
- 5.31 Men's Bible study @ 6:30 am
- 5.31 GriefShare @ 6:30 pm

### Upcoming Potluck/M meal Teams:

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| June 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Potluck 2          |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup> | Meal Team 4        |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup> | Picnic in the Park |

### May Memory Verse

Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.

Acts 2:36

## Today's Passage

**JUDGES**  
Our Desperate Need for the King

Pastor Tony will be teaching from the  
Book of Judges.  
Our passage for today is Judges 7:1-8.

New Life has an Instagram account! Follow us @newlifechristiancommunity

Sign up in the entry way to be added to New Life Connect

201 State Road 35 N, Dresser, WI ~Sunday service starts at 9:30 am  
email [info@newlifechristiancommunity.org](mailto:info@newlifechristiancommunity.org)