

## MARCH 2018

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### Success

Recently I received a call from the Billy Graham Association concerning someone from Monroe that contacted them, having just made a decision for Christ. They were looking for a Bible believing church to place this individual. One of the questions they asked was, "What does your church do for discipleship?" The caller was happy to hear that we have Life Groups, Next Steps, Bible studies, and our Pipeline adult class.

Whenever the question of church disciple-making comes up, inevitably the answer is programmatic. In other words, if some program is in place, discipleship is happening. Success is measured in the number of programs and the number of people in attendance. Programs such as these are certainly valuable in helping people grow in their Christian life. However, I've never been comfortable, nor satisfied, with a purely programmatic answer.

This morning in my personal devotions I saw a reference to disciple-making success that I found instructive. In the third chapter of 2 Corinthians Paul is telling the Corinthians he doesn't need letters of commendation from others for ministry credibility. Paul describes successful ministry in terms of **product not program, power not a person, and proclamation not prescription**. Let me explain.

Paul writes, "You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; <sup>3</sup> being manifested that you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts." (2 Corinthians 3:2-3, NASB). Paul is defining the success of his ministry in terms of changed lives. The chapter closes with these words, "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18). He points out that continual change is the end product. Discipleship success isn't completion of a program, it's producing changed people.

Paul then writes, "Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as *coming* from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit;" (2 Corinthians 3:5-6). He is saying that success in his ministry is not dependent on him, but on the working of the Holy Spirit. Speaking of understanding the gospel of grace and freedom from Old Testament law keeping, he writes, "but whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty." (2 Corinthians 3:16-17)." While human relationships are very important, it is the unleashing of the Holy Spirit's power, not the wisdom or skill of a person that produces the life change of successful disciple-making.

Lives being changed is the product, and the Holy Spirit is the power. Lastly, the prescription is addressed. Paul writes, "who also made us adequate *as* servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." (2 Corinthians 3:6). The old covenant was a prescription. It was law, do this, don't do that. The new covenant is the gospel. It is God's promise of forgiveness of sin, of new and growing and eternal life by grace through faith in Christ. The message is not a prescription of rules to keep but a proclamation of grace to be received and lived in. Paul never stopped proclaiming this message. Neither should any disciple-maker.

What does this mean in terms of successful disciple-making? We should take advantage of good programs and utilize good people to teach and lead. But we **MUST** focus on the end product of changed lives in which the Holy Spirit and gospel of Christ are continually at work. We should not be satisfied with anything less, for disciple-making is our God-given mission, and success is our desire.

In Christ we are products of successful discipleship! Through Christ and the Holy Spirit, we are successful producers of disciples! Our adequacy is not in ourselves or a program. I'm grateful.

Still in Transformation,


*Pastor Dan*



# MARCH

2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Good News Club ~ 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	2	3 Men's Breakfast - 8 am, NCK
4 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106—Prayer Drive-by Event Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106 Next Steps—Step 4 (s1) ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	5 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	6	7 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102 Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr Hi/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.	8 Good News Club ~ 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	9	10 Awana Games prac- tice ~ 9:00 am- 3 pm, NC
11 <b>Easter Lily Order Deadline</b> The Lord's Table Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106 Next Steps—Step 4 (s2) ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	12 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	13	14 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102 Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr Hi/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.	15 Good News Club ~ 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	16 Primetimers 11:15 am, Pizza Hut lunch	17
18 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am Ignite ~ 4 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6 pm, LL #106	19 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Missions "Culver's Night"	20	21 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102 Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr Hi/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.	22 Good News Club Concludes ~ 3:15 pm, Parkside School NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	23	24
25 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School for all ages & Pipeline Class ~ 9 am <b>Palm Sunday Baptismal Service</b> ~ 4:00 pm, at Eighteen & 8th Facility No Ignite No Fusion	26 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	27 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Board of Deacons Mtg. ~ 6 pm, LL #106	28 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #102 Awana: 5:30 ~ Jr Hi/H.S. 6:15 ~ 3 yr.—6th Gr.	29 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	30 Good Friday Service ~ United Methodist Church, 7:00 pm 	31 Kitchen in use— Easter preparations



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

5 Ruth Joy Tuttle  
Laura White  
7 Carol Botteron  
Brandt Schout  
9 Kate Baer  
John Jordan  
Roger Krauss  
Joshua Skoumal  
11 Roxanne Geisler  
Sherry Thomas  
13 Kadin Paske  
Duane Zimmerman  
14 Karena Figi  
17 Anna Rhoe  
18 Jack Ferreri  
22 Jezaniah Beernink  
Xylia Beernink

22 Tim Thomas  
23 Heidi Rische  
24 Dorothy Jensen  
Christina Tuttle  
25 Marissa Hurlbert  
26 Regan Bartelt  
Erik Haworth  
Craig Signer  
27 Austin Zettle  
28 Asher Kuenzi  
Libby Thoman  
29 Dale Klitzke  
30 Joan Coppes  
Amanda Ohlrich  
31 Jenny LaRosh

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

6 Doug & Nancy Larson  
8 Ron & Sharon Kubly  
11 Ryan & Joni Proudfit  
Joey & Libby Thoman  
21 Jacob & Brittney Whyte  
23 Ray & Pauline Wyss  
24 Jim & Deb Hurlbert  
26 Jesse & Meranda Beernink

Have you been Baptized?  
Sign up at the Welcome Center  
if you want to be baptized!

**Palm Sunday Baptismal**  
will be on Sunday, March 25th  
at our Eighteen & 8th facility at  
4:00 PM. Light refreshments  
will be available.

**Good Friday Service**  
will be Friday, March 30th at  
7:00 pm at the  
**Monroe United Methodist Church**

**Easter Worship Service**  
will be Sunday, April 1st  
at 9:30 AM  
at the **Monroe High School  
Performing Arts Center.**

Invite family, neighbors, & friends!



We would like to extend our sympathy to Ed and Cindy Demianiuk and family at the death of Ed's Mother, Irene Demianiuk. Irene passed away Sunday, January 28th, 2018.

May God's strength and peace sustain each of you.

### Marriage Ministry Informational Meeting

The Marriage Ministry will be holding a 1-hour session for couples who are interested in learning more about the marriage mentoring program. We will explain what marriage mentor couples "are" and what they "are not". We explain the process of how we assist the Pastors to help pre-married couples prepare for a lifelong God honoring marriage, and how we meet with married couples of all ages to enrich marriages and strengthen families.

We plan to meet in early March, although the meeting date has not been finalized. If you are interested in learning more, we would like talk with you. Please call Jeff & Marie Wunschel at 329-7881.

**The Good News Club has opportunities for you to supply treats. Please—nothing with peanuts due to peanut allergies for some children! Contact Kay Bloom or sign-up at the Welcome Center if you are willing to help.**

### LIBRARY



Everywhere your daughter goes—online or in real life—our culture tells her lies about her body. This resource points tween girls like yours to the truth about God's design and takes her to the Bible as her resource, helping her meditate on its message and have fun while she does it.

In *The Body Book*, get the scoop on everything from puberty and cramps to diet and exercise. This book offers accurate up-to-date information on personal issues that pre-teen girls experience, but also shares it from a positive biblical perspective.



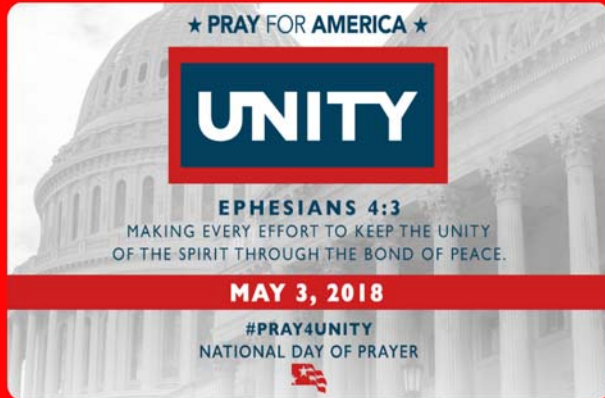
**The Five Love Languages:** for children, military, and the Alzheimer's Journey are all in stock.

New beginner chapter books are in and 7+ year old chapter books: **Chapter Books for kids.**



**Ladies! Save the date!**  
**May 11 & 12, 2018**  
**Faith Community  
Church in Davis, IL**

**2018 National Day  
of Prayer**  
Thursday, May 3rd



The 2018 theme is Pray for America – UNITY, based upon *Ephesians 4:3* which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America.

*"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere. Prayer brings UNITY.

Year after year we have seen God work through the relationships we build with community leaders who attend this event. Our outreach through prayer is making a difference, in the lives of those we pray for and in the lives of the youth who take a stand and pray. Please join us for this significant event!

Sign-up sheets for the National Day of Prayer Breakfast will be at the Welcome Center beginning Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for prayer (ages 10-20), Table Hosts, Ushers, Greeters, Breakfast Casserole Servers, Registration Table, set-up and clean-up.



**Save the date:**

**Brewers Baseball Game**  
**Tuesday, July 3rd**  
**Brewers vs Minnesota Twins**  
**Game time—3 pm**  
**Tickets will be \$10.**  
**Everyone is invited to attend!**  
**Questions? Bernie Roidt: 325-2199**

# Primetimers

Primetimers will gather for their monthly Pizza Hut lunch on Friday, March 15th. Please try to attend and you will enjoy a nice salad and pizza buffet at a nominal price. Good fellowship is thoroughly enjoyed, beginning at 11:15 am. As a reminder, this is a monthly event, always the third Friday. Any "Empty Nesters" are welcome to join us. No reservations necessary. Hope to see YOU there!

**Questions? Contact Carol Hasselmann, 815-505-3324**

# NEXT STEPS

## Step 4—"Our Equipping"

(Session 1)

Sunday, March 4th  
6:30 pm, Lower Level #102

## Step 4—"Our Equipping"

(Session 2)

Sunday, March 11th  
6:30 pm, Lower Level #102

Please sign-up at the  
Welcome Center

*\*It is recommended you attend Step 3 "Our Commitments" prior to these sessions.*

Pick up a brochure at the  
Welcome Center for a listing of  
the 2018 classes.

# prayer

Several men from MBC and myself had the privilege of going to the "No Regrets" Men's Conference in Janesville on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Plan on attending next year. It is always on the first Saturday of February.

Many of the sessions emphasized prayer. Men, do you pray with your wife and also with your whole family regularly? If not, I challenge you to make it your practice. You will be blessed by the results and so will your wife and family.

Men you can download the "No Regrets" app on your cell phone at no cost. I encourage you to do this. Turn off your TV and listen to some great speakers that will enhance your Christian walk.

I also encourage everyone to join us Monday evenings at 6:30 for prayer. This past Monday we shared prayer requests and prayer praises for about one hour. Then we took the prayer requests to the throne of grace. What a blessed time. It is worship to thank God for all the amazing things He has done. Nothing is too big or small for God. Make prayer a priority in your life.

## MARRIAGE MINISTRY

Each year, National Marriage Week USA (Feb. 7th to 14th) is a collaborative campaign to strengthen marriages, reduce the divorce rate, and build a culture that fosters strong marriages. The week culminates with the "romance" of Valentine's Day. American couples spend billions each Valentine's Day on romantic cards, candy, flowers, candlelit dinners, jewelry, etc. Are these what true romance is all about? Of course not! Gifts and dinner dates can enhance romance, but they do not define romance.

Proverbs 5:18-19 describes the true heart of romance: "Rejoice in the wife of your youth .... May you always be captivated by her love" (NLT). True romance is more about being captivated by your spouse than buying flowers or chocolate. Captivation is all about curiosity and interest — being allured by your spouse.

### Intentional connection

When first dating, getting to know our spouse was fascinating. We could spend hours talking about our feelings, thoughts, beliefs, fears, desires, hopes, and dreams. Often however, after being married for a few years, we encounter a romance buster — we became accustomed to each other. We gradually stop asking questions and start believing that we know everything about each other.

Here's the great news: Romance and passion don't have to naturally fade. Learn to nurture romance by renewing your mindset daily. Work on changing your attitude from seeking comfort in the familiar, to remaining curious. Choose to pursue staying current with your spouse's inner world. Stay connected to their feelings, needs, fears, hopes, and dreams.

### Lifelong fascination

True romance is a deep, lifelong fascination with your mate. As you renew your curiosity, your spouse will seem even more alluring. Your spouse and your marriage relationship are always changing; there's something new to discover every day. Being a lifelong student of your spouse and learning all you can about her or him is the most romantic gift you will ever give on any day of the year.

# MISSIONS

## \*\* Playground Project

On **Monday, March 19** we have our annual **Culver's Night** with proceeds going to the Playground Project. We need 3 volunteers for 1-hour shifts to help serve meals and clean. If you can help, please sign up at the Welcome Center for a shift.



We are partnering with *Kids Around the World* who "harvests" unwanted commercial grade playgrounds in the US, refurbishes, and ships them to 3rd world countries. We will then send a team to install the playground. It's a powerful way to show God's love, and provides unique opportunities to share the gospel. Thanks for your support!

\*We will be having a **Garage Sale June 14 & 15** with proceeds going to the Playground Project...so start saving your items now! Thank you.

## \*\* 2018 Guatemala Mission Team



The 2018 Guatemala Mission Trip Team includes: Jim Hurlbert, Pastor Dan Krahenbuhl, Jesse Petersen, Ashley Thomas, Christina Tuttle, Helen Tuttle, Ruth Tuttle, Wendy Westcomb, Mike Westcomb, and Crystal Zimmerman. Each team member will be sending out support letters to the congregation. Please note you will receive only 1 support letter. Support will go towards team member's food, housing, transportation, VBS supplies, translators, and work project supplies. The cost is \$1,500 per person.

## \*\* OneMeal Event

This year we will be holding our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual OneMeal Event Saturday, April 21, at 10 am in the Monroe Middle School new gym. Money is raised to purchase ingredients through Kids Around the World. The ingredients are packaged on the 21<sup>st</sup> in an assembly line style. Each meal costs 27 cents and this year KATW has a NEW minimum of 20,000 meals for an event, for a total of \$5,400 to be raised. The food we package will probably be sent to hungry children in Haiti, who will also receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a great family-friendly event where you can invite friends, neighbors, and co-workers to help pack! If not all funds are raised by April 14, Kids Around the World will hold the money and we will have the event next year. Checks are to be made PAYABLE to KIDS AROUND THE WORLD. Look for sign-ups and more information soon!



## \*\* Pastor Dan to Guatemala

Please continue to pray for Pastor Dan's Pathways Trip the week of March 12. Pray for safe travels for all the men involved in the training, good health, and effective transfer of the principles taught in Pathways.