

March 2017

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Increasing and Decreasing

There are several “big” things going on around me right now. Some are church-related, such as the search for an Associate Pastor and moving the Café service into the sanctuary. There are a couple other things equally big, and several smaller things that require time and attention as well. Another area of “big things” is missions related – my preparation for a Pathways trip in March, Pathways training here in April, and preparations for a summer mission trip to Guatemala. And some “big” things are personal, such as moving my parents into another facility, which hasn’t gone so well thus far. Jennifer tripped over the dog we were watching and dislocated a finger on each hand and sprained her wrist. She now has a splint on each hand, a wrist brace, and my “domestic” duties have suddenly grown exponentially! And a man suffering from deep depression has been calling me daily, sometimes 3-4 times a day for about a month now, to ask for prayer, and ask if there is any hope for him. I’ve tried to help him get his eyes off of himself and onto the Lord, but it seems to be fruitless. Someone said to me, “You’re being hit from all sides!” In the midst of this the Lord gently revealed to me the other day that most of my prayers, and thoughts, are centered on me. I’m in a “poor me” slump. Have you ever been there? I suspect most of us have been there from time to time. I know that we all have had stressful things like these to deal with, and some of you have had, or are still in, even more difficult situations.

I recalled a memory verse from some time ago that I thought I should meditate on. It is, “If you have run with footmen and they have tired you out, Then how can you compete with horses? If you fall down in a land of peace, how will you do in the thicket of the Jordan?” (*Jeremiah 12:5, NASB*). Jeremiah is complaining to God who basically tells him to toughen up because even worse times are coming! We don’t have to look very far in the pages of Scripture to find people who’ve endured much more difficult circumstances than we face, do we?

We should look to the Lord for help, and He encourages us to do so, (*Matthew 7:7-11; 11:28-30*). No doubt, He helps us through difficult times. And yet, there is also the reality that, to a certain extent, we have to suck it up too. Living in the balance can be a challenge. But there’s more.

I’m being challenged with self-focus in the book on worship that I’m working through with some men from our church. The author makes the point that what makes worship excellent is not the aesthetics, the liturgy, the music, or the like. It is the object of worship, God Himself. He writes, “At the heart of the Fall is the self-love that destroys our God-centeredness.” There is a great need to center on God, to delight in God, and to lose ourselves.

This takes me to one of the sweetest worship experiences I’ve had. It was in Liberia, Africa. The building was mud brick. The walls were not painted, the floor was dirt, and the only furniture was a few rickety wood benches. There were no instruments. Men just sang, they sang together. I didn’t understand one word. But I could see that they sang of the greatness of God, and they sang out of dependence on God, and they sang out of love for God. I knew I stood in the midst of true worship, it was good, and I was caught up in it, even though not one part of it was about me.

This is not to say that we should, or should not, upgrade the sanctuary. It’s just a reminder that either way, it’s our hearts that are under God’s microscope. And I’m being reminded in multiple ways – it isn’t about me – not my comfort, not my way, not my likes or dislikes, but His glory. There is a freedom, a relieving freedom, when I can let go of things, and not make them be about me, myself, and I.



Under the direction of the Holy Spirit David wrote, “Bless the LORD, O my soul, And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.” (*Psalms 103:1, NASB*). Responding to hardship isn’t always – God take it away, or suck it up, but, dare I say, it is to worship the One who was, and is, and always will be, at the center of everything. As John the Baptist aptly said, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” (*John 3:30*)

Decreasing,
Pastor Dan



Hello March!

March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Men's Study - Noon, LL #106 Awana Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study ~ 6:15 pm LL #103	2 Choir ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	3	4 Men's Breakfast ~ 8 am, NC/K Ladies Cardmaking ~ Noon-4 pm
5 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Next Steps—Step 1 (1 Session) - Noon lunch, NC Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Next Steps—Step 4 (1st Session) ~ 6:30 pm, NC Fusion ~ 7-9 pm, LL #106	6 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	7 Primitimers Lunch & Games ~ 10 am-1 pm, NC/K Missions Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	8 Men's Study - Noon, LL #106 Awana Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study ~ 6:15 pm LL #103	9 Ladies Study "Romans" resumes 9:30 am, NC Choir ~ 6:30 pm, #106 Orchestra ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	10	11 No Fiber Fellowship (we'll resume again in the fall) 
12 Daylight Savings Begins Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Next Steps—Step 4 (2nd Session) ~ 6:30 pm, NC Fusion ~ 7-9 pm, LL #106	13 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	14	15 APRIL NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE! Men's Study—Noon, LL #106 Awana: Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study ~ 6:15 pm LL #103	16 Ladies Study "Romans" 9:30 am, NC Ignite Retreat—Kallahari Choir ~ 6:30 pm, #106 Orchestra ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	17 Primitimers Pizza Hut Lunch - 11:15 am Ignite Retreat—Kallahari	18 NC/K in Use ~ 1 pm-5 pm, Bridal Shower
19 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 7-9 pm, LL #106	20 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 	21	22 Men's Study—Noon, LL #106 Awana: Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study ~ 6:15 pm LL #103	23 Ladies Study "Romans" 9:30 am, NC Choir ~ 6:30 pm, #106 Orchestra ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	24 NC in use 5 pm-8 pm	25
26 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am, Café Service: 10:30 am, NC Sunday School & ABF's - 9 am Orchestra ~ 12:30 pm, S Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 7-9 pm, LL #106	27 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Guatemala Culver's Night Fundraiser for KATW Play ground	28 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Board of Deacons ~ 6 pm, LL #106 Orchestra ~ 6 pm, S	29 Men's Study—Noon, LL #106 Awana: Trek & Journey ~ 5:30 pm, NC Clubbers 3 1/2 yrs. old -6th grade ~ 6:15 pm Ladies Study ~ 6:15 pm LL #103	30 Ladies Study "Romans" 9:30 am, NC Choir ~ 6:30 pm, #106 Orchestra ~ 6:30 pm, S NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102 Worship Team ~ 7:45 pm, S	31	

- 2 Samantha Breuscher
- 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 Kent Krueger
- Kadin Paske
- Duane Zimmerman
- 14 Karena Figi
- 18 Jack Ferreri



- 22 Jezaniah Beernink
- Xylia Beernink
- Tim Thomas
- 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



- 6 Doug & Nancy Larson
- 8 Ron & Sharon Kubly
- 11 Joey & Libby Thoman
- 16 Micah & Leslie Coppes
- 21 Jacob & Brittney Whyte
- 23 Ray & Pauline Wyss
- 24 Jim & Deb Hurlbert
- 26 Jesse & Meranda Beernink

Thursday Morning Ladies Study

Thursday Ladies Bible Study will resume March 9th at 9:30 am in the Nehemiah Center. We will complete our study of the book of Romans with the remaining eight chapters (in our study book). If there is anyone NEW who would like to join us please sign-up at the Welcome Center so a book may be ordered for you.

The cost will be \$7.00 payable on the 9th.

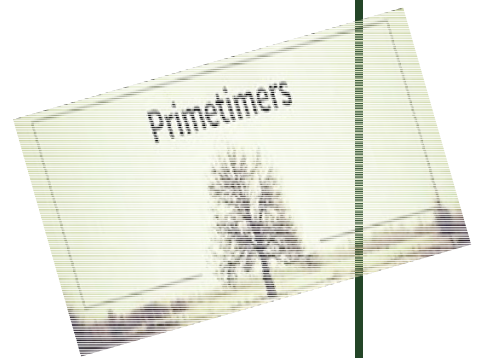
Call Carol Hasselmann at 815-505-3324 if you have any questions. We are looking forward to joining together once again.

Ross & Michelle Bisegger
welcomed
River James
Sunday, February 5th
He weighed 8 lbs. 3 oz. &
19 1/2" long



Primetimers will resume their Games and Lunch day on Tuesday, March 7th. (The first Tuesday of the month). The doors to the Nehemiah Center open at 10 am where coffee and treats will be waiting. Games and conversation will be the order of the morning with a light lunch about noon. There is no charge for the lunch but a freewill offering will be taken to help defray the costs. If you are an empty-nester please join us.

The same group will also meet for their monthly gathering at the local Pizza Hut. The date is March 17th at 11:15 am. (Always the third Friday of the month). Come join us for a time of fellowship and a buffet lunch at a nominal cost.



Next Steps:

Step 1 "Our Mission & Vision" is one session and will be offered **Sunday, March 5th** at Noon in the Nehemiah Center. Lunch is provided, so please sign-up at the Welcome Center to let us know you will be attending. You will learn what our Vision is and how you can become a part of it.

Step 4 "Our Equipping" - This is two sessions and will be offered on **Sunday, March 5th & 12th** at 6:30 pm in the Nehemiah Center. Sign-up at the Welcome Center. We recommend that you attend **Step 3 "Our Commitments"** first.

Pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center. *Don't forget to sign-up!*

NEXT STEPS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST - Thursday, May 4th



This year's theme is based on Daniel 9:19:

"Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

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. 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 26th. Volunteers are needed for prayer (ages 10-20), Table Hosts, Ushers, Greeters, Breakfast Casserole Servers, Registration Table, set-up, and clean-up.



WELCOME
New Members
Chris & Elise
Morris

Ladies, High School & Up!
Card-Making Event ~ Saturday, March 4th

Noon—4 pm, Nehemiah Center

Sign-up at the Welcome Center

Please bring a snack to share!



Ladies Knit/Crochet/Craft
On break—we'll resume again in the fall.



Choir Schedule

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm,

March: 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30

**April: 6, 13, off 20, then
practice again on the 27th.**

Becky Brown, 214-4185

MBC's first indoor Baptism

will be Sunday, April 2nd
at 11:45 AM

In the Nehemiah Center
Followed by a potluck.

If you have not been baptized
by immersion and would like to be,
sign up at the Welcome Center today!

Saturday, March 4 @ 8 am



If you have the ability to play a musical instrument, but you are not using that ability for God's glory, you may incur severe consequences. **Please join the MBC Easter Orchestra** and avoid these penalties. At the same time, you will learn the joy of teamwork within the body of Christ. Sign up today at the Welcome Center! **Rehearsals begin March 9.** See Larry Young for more information.

Save the date!

The annual **Brewers Baseball** outing will be Monday, July 3rd vs the Baltimore Orioles. Everyone is invited this year: families, men, women, and children. The game is at 1 pm and we plan to leave church at 9 am.

Tickets are only \$10.
We will tailgate before the game.



Any questions, contact
Bernie Roidt at 558-3293.



Rohke

Monroe Bible Church is looking for anyone who plays a musical instrument to join the Easter Orchestra. All ages and abilities are welcome as long as you can read music (or chord charts for rhythm players). Even if it's been a long time since you've played, dust off that old case and rediscover the joy of making music for God's pleasure! Please see Larry Young for more information. The sign-up is at the Welcome Center. Rehearsals begin Mar. 9th, so sign up today!

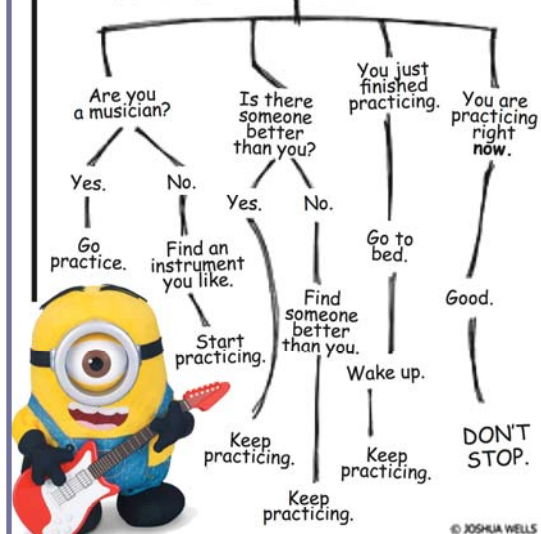
Prayer!

I recently read a devotional on Acts 1:9-14. After Jesus ascended to heaven, the disciples continually devoted themselves to prayer. The disciples prayed to prepare for the work Jesus had for them to do. They needed the Holy Spirit's power just as we do. We need to admit our helplessness to do God's work; the Holy Spirit will empower us as we pray. Are you and I devoted to prayer? When we devote ourselves to prayer, the Lord works in our heart and prepares us for serving Him. The Holy Spirit gives us boldness to proclaim God's Word. God is looking for believers who understand the importance of prayer. The only way to fulfill His calling for the church is through His supernatural power. Christ's church is grown through the humble prayers of saints who gather together in complete dependence on Him. God's power is then released and His will accomplished.

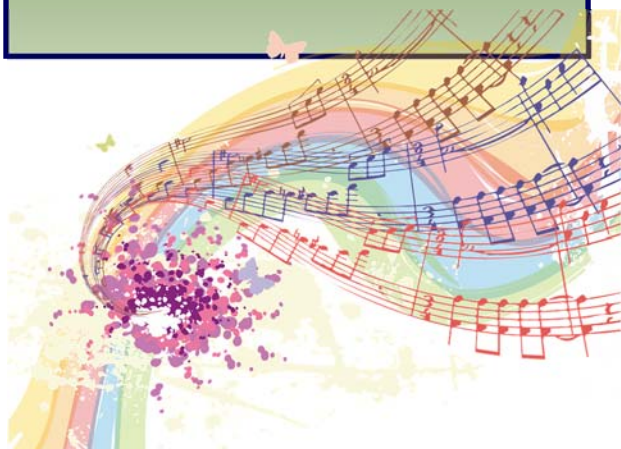
Pray with us Monday evenings, 6:30 pm,
Lower Level Room #102.
Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

Choir Singers needed
for all parts for
Easter Worship Service.
All singers welcome!
Contact Becky Brown,
214-4185.

SHOULD YOU BE PRACTICING RIGHT NOW?



Sign up for the MBC Easter Orchestra today! Rehearsals begin March 9th. (Easter is April 16th)! Please See Larry Young with any questions.



MBC LIBRARY NEWS

Make it a goal to read more in 2017. The MBC library has a large variety of books to choose from. Stop in on Sunday mornings and begin your reading journey!



...NEW FICTION SELECTIONS!

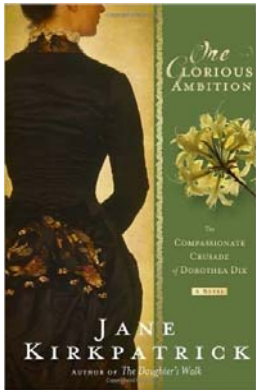
A Bride in the Bargain by Deeanne Gist

In 1860s Seattle, a man with a wife could secure himself 640 acres of timberland. But because of his wife's untimely death, Joe Denton finds himself about to lose half of his claim. Still in mourning, his best solution is to buy one of those Mercer girls arriving from the East. A woman he'll marry in name but keep around mostly as a cook. Anna Ivey's journey west with Asa Mercer's girls is an escape from the griefs of her past. She's not supposed to be a bride, though, just a cook for the girls. But when they land, she's handed to Joe Denton and the two find themselves in a knotty situation. She refuses to wed him and he's about to lose his land. With only a few months left, can Joe convince this provoking but beguiling easterner to be his bride?



A Bride in the Bargain contains enough historical insight, captivating scenes of Washington's natural beauty, humor, excitement and pathos to satisfy the pickiest of readers. And, all the while, the book stays within the cultural and moral boundaries of people who put their faith and trust in the ultimate love of God. —FaithfulReader.com

One Glorious Ambition by Jane Kirkpatrick



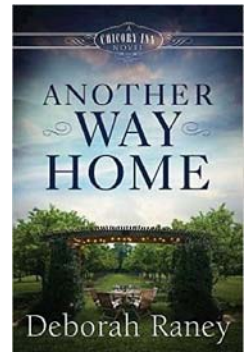
In bringing nineteenth-century, historical reformer Dorothea Dix to life, author Jane Kirkpatrick combines historical accuracy with the gripping narrative of a woman who recognized suffering when others turned away, and the call she heeded to change the world.

Jane Kirkpatrick's ability to probe the human spirit makes *One Glorious Ambition* a soaring novel of love, compassion, and duty. Born a nineteenth-century woman with few rights, Dorothea Dix nonetheless challenged the nation's most powerful men to provide humane treatment for the hopeless—the retarded and insane. In Kirkpatrick's skillful hands, *One Glorious Ambition* inspires like few other novels."

—[Sandra Dallas](#), author of *True Sisters* and *The Quilt Walk*

Another Way Home: A Chicory Inn Novel - Book 3 by Deborah Raney

Grandchildren are not in short supply for Grant and Audrey Whitman, although their middle daughter, Danae, and her husband, Dallas Brooks, after trying for years, have not been able to contribute to the growing family. Danae is open to adoption, but Dallas will not even discuss it. Her despair over never having a family of her own is so deep, it even causes her to question God's plan for her life. Knowing she must find something to do to fill her lonely days and energize her life, Danae volunteers to work at a newly opened women's shelter in town. She was only looking for a way to spend her time, but getting to know the hurting women at the shelter fills her heart and she learns to live a life of gratitude once again. But heart-wrenching events on Thanksgiving weekend threaten to pull the entire Whitman clan into turmoil— and leave them all forever changed. —Amazon



Missions Ministry

Missions is working on 3 fundraising initiatives in 2017: check under Missions on the church website for details.

1. July Guatemala Mission Trip

Spaghetti Dinner: Monday, February 27, 5-8pm

Dine-in or take-out available

Menu includes: Gluten free pasta choice, meat or meatless sauce, bread, salad, dessert and beverage

Suggested donation: \$7/adult, \$4/ages 4-12,
free for those under 4 yrs

Reservations are needed so the proper amount of food can be prepared. **Contact the office or sign-up at the Welcome Center no later than Feb. 23!**

All proceeds go to the Guatemala Fund which pays for the Mission Team's transportation, housing, food, and supplies for the work project and the Vacation Bible School.



Garage Sale in June...start saving your items now!



2. Kids Around The World (KATW)

Playground Project

March 27 -Culvers Night

May 24 -Papa Murphy's night

July or August – Car Wash

3. Kids Around The World (KATW)

One-Meal Program

This year MBC and Crossroads Church are partnering together with KATW. Our One-Meal Food Packing Event will be **Saturday, April 29**, 10 am at the Monroe Middle School new gym. Anyone can help pack, so **SAVE THE DATE** and bring some friends!

Anyone can give online at: <https://www.giveeffect.com/campaigns/2221-onemeal-event-2017-monroe-community>



Let's keep Pastor Dan in our prayers! He will be headed to Guatemala March 11-18 to help launch Pathways training with Mike Gunderson, the Pathways Latin American Director. Pastor Dan has encouraged our missionary, Oscar Chiquitó, to utilize the Pathways training in the churches he works with. When Oscar began working with a particular denomination, they revealed that good and accurate preaching was a need for their churches. When Oscar suggested Pathways, they were excited to begin. Mike Gunderson asked Pastor Dan to coordinate the training with the pastors that have been trained at MBC. Thus, we will see some of the fruit from our investment in training U.S. pastors over the next 3 years in Guatemala!



Sanctuary Renewal

Project

You may notice some things already changing here in the building.

Our goal is to raise \$40,000 in the next 6 months, watch your bulletins for more information on how you can help!



Priscilla
SHIRER
SIMULCAST

Women's Ministry:

Ladies, we will be carpooling from MBC for this simulcast.

Friday, April 28th 6:30—8:30 PM
and
Saturday, April 29th 9:00 AM—2:00 PM

\$15 per person includes both days, with lunch provided on Saturday.

Faith Community Church
212 W. McKimmy Street, Davis, IL

MBC has reserved 10 tickets. Registration Deadline is April 12th.

Sign up today at the Welcome Center!
—First Come First Served—

Learn ○ *Pray* ○ *Worship* ○ *Laugh*

Kids' Corner

PUZZLE

The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below. Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z	___
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z	___

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV