

July  
2017

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## Have I Gained Approval?



The “theme” that I’ve been challenged with lately is “sanctification” (progressive sanctification, the transforming of our daily lives to the image of Christ). The word means set apart by God, for God. It means being set apart from the things that are contrary to the will of God. It means not only separating ourselves from sinful conduct, but also separating ourselves to do the things God wants us to do. Paul writes, “For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification. (1 Thessalonians 4:7, NASB). While the context there is sexual purity, the application surely includes the many choices and activities that do or do not reflect purity to God’s desire for our lives.

Perhaps that is why; in my through the Bible reading, I was recently struck by the words, “gained approval,” in Hebrews 11:2, “For by *it* the men of old **gained approval**.” Would sanctification be gaining God’s approval? This great chapter of heroes of the faith also ends with those same words; “And all these, having **gained approval** through their faith, did not receive what was promised,” (Hebrews 11:39). The subject is faith, “Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1). Since faith is the subject of Hebrews 11, it is the necessary ingredient for *gaining* God’s approval. Hebrews 11:6 concurs, “And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

The men and women commended in Hebrews 11 did courageous things, they took risks, they gave up much, and they suffered and died for holding to their faith in God. This chapter is a long list of what was given up, held onto, and lived out. The faith being talked about was a faith of action. The apostle James defined faith as action. He writes, “For just as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.” (James 2:26).

It made me wonder if we haven’t settled for an insufficient meaning of faith. It made me wonder if we haven’t overemphasized God’s unconditional love and acceptance to the exclusion of giving thought to “gaining approval” from God. Faith is defined as an assurance, and a conviction, in Hebrews 11:1. Have we translated that into just a mental concept, perhaps an inner disposition, and left it there? I think I’ve been guilty of that at times.

But can we really “gain” God’s approval? Isn’t that earning what we already have in Christ? We are “accepted in the Beloved” (Ephesians 1:6, KJV), and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35-39). These are important truths to remember, truths that define our position with God, fully and entirely based on Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross for us.

The question however, is whether I’m failing to make the distinction between my position with God, and my conduct before God. The first is the result (God’s acceptance) of placing my faith in what Christ did; the second (God’s approval) is the result of putting my faith to action. In other words, working out my positional salvation in daily life (Philippians 2:12).

It isn’t easy. In chapter 10, the readers of Hebrews are urged, “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; (Hebrews 10:23). They are told, “For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.” (Hebrews 10:36). Our sanctification, gaining God’s approval, is a lifelong pursuit. It is the outflow of a vibrant relationship with Him. It’s encouraging to be on this journey with you. So, “let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another*; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.”! (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Walking in Faith,  
Pastor Dan



# July 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
No Sunday School, AB-F's, Ignite or Fusion—on Summer Recess						1 Men's Breakfast - 8 am, NC/K
2 <b>Lord's Table</b> Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am Café	3 MBC Office Closed Men's Ministry Brewer Baseball game (1 pm) - leaving MBC 9 am Prayer Mtg. - 6:30 pm,	4 MBC Office Closed <b>Happy 4th of July!</b>	5 Men's Study Re-sumes - Noon, LL #106 Missions Mtg. - 5:30 pm, LL #102 Women's 7 week Study Starts - "The Armor of God" - 6:30—8:30 pm, NC	6 Town Hall Meeting (Believer's Fellowship Acquisition) - 6:30 pm, NC NA - 7 pm, LL #102	7 C - 7:30 pm, East A - 8:30 pm, East B - 9:30 pm, West A Ump. - 9:30 pm, East	8 <b>Guatemala Mission Team Departs</b>
9 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am Café	10 Prayer Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Bd. Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	11 Primetimers Dinner & Fellowship - 5:30 pm/coffee & 6 pm Potluck dinner, NC/K	12 Men's Study - Noon, LL #106 Women's 7 week Study - "The Armor of God" - 6:30—8:30 pm, NC	13 Child Protection Class - 7 pm, LL #106 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	14 <b>August NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE!</b> A - 7:30 pm, East B - 8:30 pm, East C - 9:30 pm, West B Ump. - 7:30 pm East	15 <b>Next Steps—Step 1 (1 s.) - 8 am Breakfast, LL #106</b> Men's Canoe Trip - Breakfast/MBC at 8 am <b>Guatemala Mission Team Returns</b>
16 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am Canoe Trip Return - 4 pm	17 Prayer Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #102 Town Hall Meeting (Believer's Fellowship Acquisition) - 6:30 pm, NC	18	19 Men's Study - Noon, LL #106 Conclusion—Women's Study - "The Armor of God" - 6:30—8:30 pm, NC	20 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	21 Primetimers 11:15 am Pizza Hut lunch C - 8:30 pm, West A - 9:30 pm, West B - 9:30 pm, West C Ump. - 8:30 pm, West	22
23 Worship Service 9 am at MBC 10:30 am Clarno Forestry Center Service/Baptism/Potluck	24 Girls Retreat Set-up Prayer Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #102	25 Girls Retreat Set-up Pleasant View Service - 9:30 am Board of Deacon Mtg. - 6 pm, LL #106	26 Men's Study - Noon, LL #106 Girls Retreat "Daughters of the King" - 11:30 am	27 NA - 7 pm, LL #102	28 A - 7:30 pm, East B - 8:30 pm, West C - 9:30 pm, East B Ump. - 7:30, West A Ump. - 8:30 pm, East	29
30 Worship Services: 9 & 10:30 am Café Annual Congregational Meeting - 12:15 pm, NC	31 VBS "Surf's Up" - 9 am—Noon for kids K4—5th Grade					

## ★ HAPPY BIRTHDAY! ★

- 1 Caitlyn Cook  
Jeanne Hermanson  
Kristi Hudson  
Kyle Ohlrich
- 2 Erik Bisegger  
Paul Brunner  
Wendy Westcomb
- 4 Rich Peach  
Paul Ritschard
- 5 Nicole Bartelt  
Mark McNett  
Bobbi Thompson
- 6 Natalie Brunner  
Jennifer Eddy
- 9 Evan Brunner
- 13 Chris Thompson
- 14 Whitaker Holverson  
Benson Miller



- 15 Liz Meyer
- 16 Cory Bruehlman
- 17 Jeff Meyer  
Deb Wyss
- 19 Kevin Samson
- 20 Lexi Baer  
Corrine Meier
- 21 Becky Jones
- 22 Ron Faith
- 23 Randy Ringhand  
Sarah Wong
- 24 Silas Setterstrom
- 25 Kristi Bruehlman  
Heather Hayden
- 26 Shane Eddy  
Beth Roidt
- 30 Grace Brown  
Gabriel Thompson

## Happy Anniversary

- 3 Craig & Laura Roth  
Gene & Neva Schultz
- 5 Ryan & Deb Wyss
- 11 Douglas & Patricia Crooks
- 12 Jeff & Deb Meyer
- 13 Andy & Megan Thoman
- 15 Mike & Wendy Westcomb
- 23 Loren & Kristi Bruehlman
- 26 Don & Darlene Bartelt
- 30 Justin & Hilda Brunner

**July 31–August 4**  
**9 am – 12 noon for kids K4–5th Grade**



**9 am–4 pm Celebration Sunday–August 6–Twining Park**



If you work with children in any way at Monroe Bible Church  
you must be

**Child Protection Certified and then Recertified annually.**

**Our next Child Protection class is**

**July 13th at 7 pm – Lower Level #106**



### Prayer Ministry

I am privileged to be the prayer ministry leader. I have seen God answer many prayers brought to Him at the Monday night prayer meeting. I asked some of those who come to prayer meeting to write down what it means to them.

Prayer is a gift from our Loving God. Prayer is therefore, a powerful tool of communication. It is an essential part of our Christian spiritual growth. Prayer releases our fear and doubt. It strengthens us and draws us closer to our Heavenly Father. Prayer is conversing with God and listening to God.

Praying as a group grows my faith. If my faith is weak, others are strong. If mine is strong, I can encourage someone else. We can watch God answer prayer and get a sense of how God may be leading our church. Most importantly prayer group helps grow my knowledge/experience bank of who God is and how He works.

Please join us at 6:30 each Monday. If you're a ministry leader, please come to the prayer meeting, so we can specifically pray for your church

### TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Two Town Hall Meetings have been scheduled to discuss the possible acquisition of Believer's Fellowship Church Building.

Please plan to attend:

Thursday, July 6th at

6:30 pm, NC

or

Monday, July 17th at

6:30 pm, NC

### CHOIR

The Choir is on Summer Recess and will resume in the fall. We need more singers with spots for 3-4 bass, 3-4 tenors, 4-5 altos, and 3-4 sopranos. If you are interested talk with Becky Brown or one of the choir members.

Accompanist needed for piano, drums, and guitar. If you are interested - great! Contact: Becky Brown



The **Brewers Baseball** outing will be Monday, July 3rd vs the Baltimore Orioles. The game is at 1 pm and we plan to leave church at 9 am. We'll tailgate before the game. All tickets are sold.

Bernie Roidt — 558-3293

## Primetimers

Primetimers will not be meeting for the Tuesday Lunch and Games day this month, nor in the month of August. We will reconnect the day after Labor Day, September 5th.

Meantime the Pizza Hut monthly meeting will continue. That next date is July 21st. We gather after 11:15 am and by 11:30 am we will be ready to enjoy the salad and pizza bars. For a nominal price we enjoy great fellowship, celebrate the birthdays of that month, and savor a nice

## NEXT STEPS

**Step 1—"Our Missions & Vision"** (1 s.)  
Sunday, July 15th at 8 am, LL #106  
Breakfast is provided.

Please sign-up at the  
Welcome Center!

Saturday, July 1st  
8 am



### A PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION



We are so blessed to live in this beautiful country where we have the freedom to worship our one True God. On the 4<sup>th</sup> of July our nation celebrates and remembers that freedom. As Primetimers we also would like to honor both our God and our country.

On Tuesday July 11 our evening meeting will gather for a pot luck dinner and fellowship. The focus of the night will be 'Memories and Memorabilia' with a patriotic emphasis. If you have something you can bring that has a patriotic meaning to it and you can share the story surrounding it we would all enjoy seeing and hearing from you. Do you have any old election buttons, posters, war memorabilia; if so bring it along and tell the meaning behind it. Or if you have a special memory from a special 4<sup>th</sup> of July we all would like to hear that too.

We will have dinner, share, and sing some of the old songs! Please wear your RED, WHITE & BLUE.

Supper will be served at 6 pm, if you would bring a dish to share it would be appreciated. Bring a friend and together we will celebrate our wonderful country.

"Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever." Revelation 7:12

Ministry leaders, Ray & Becky Jones



### Father/Child Canoe Trip

The father/child canoe trip this year is July 15-16. We will be meeting at church for breakfast at 8 am on Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup> then we'll drive to the WI River. Bring your own lunch for Saturday. The rest of the meals are provided. For those that have attended in the past, this year will be slightly different in that all of your belongings for the trip will be kept in your canoe. We will be returning around 4 pm on Sunday. Extra canoes are available. Sign-up at the Welcome Center. Any questions contact Bernie Roidt 325-2199.

**Welcome Josie!**



**Congratulations to Micah & Leslie Coppes** who welcomed Josie Jean into their family on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>. She was 8 lbs, 9 oz. and 21" long. Josie joins Elsie at home. May God bless your family!

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

Plan now to attend on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> in the Nehemiah Center after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service.

Feel free to bring a sack lunch.

**Let's talk Worship....**

**Ladies Retreat Oct 6-8 2017**

**Save the date! Cost: \$140**



*My Father's Daughter Retreat*

MBC'S  
4<sup>TH</sup> Annual  
Young Ladies Retreat  
July 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2017



Young ladies, ages 13 and up, who are ready for the exciting adventure of knowing Christ Jesus more intimately are invited!

Begins Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30 AM. Concludes: Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 PM.

At Monroe Bible Church, 2613 8th Ave., Monroe, WI

\$45 per girl before July 5<sup>th</sup>/\$50 after July 5<sup>th</sup>. Space is limited!

Send your check (made payable to Monroe Bible Church) and completed registration form to:

Sarah Skelton; W5841 Old Argyle Rd Monroe, WI 53566

The registration form can be found online at:

<http://myfathersdaughterretreat.blogspot.com> or you can pick one up at Monroe Bible Church, or call/email and we will send one to you!

Questions? Call Amy Breuscher at 608-577-8494, or email: [breuscher@mac.com](mailto:breuscher@mac.com)

## MISSION:MONROE contact Carol Larson at larson8@gmail.com or call 588-1475.

Mission: Monroe is continuing to schedule additional events this summer. For the most current updates, please check the Mission: Monroe FB page. Information is posted in the bulletin, newsletter, and email, while sign-up is at the Welcome Center.

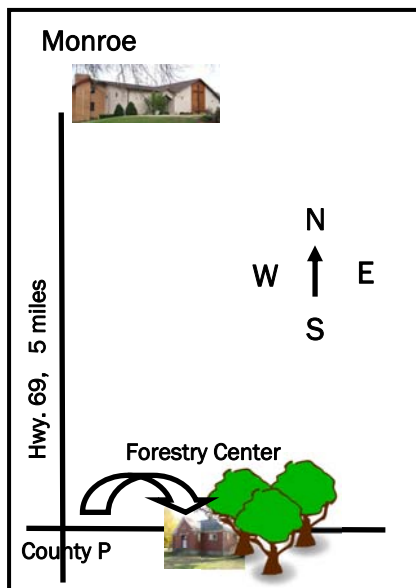
Monroe Area Community Closet (MACC) is still accepting volunteers. Our church has consistent presence in this growing ministry. Please email [monroearcommunitycloset@gmail.com](mailto:monroearcommunitycloset@gmail.com) or follow this link <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=qcmvas8s367j6d816jt9l83mis%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago> if you would like to volunteer!

Looking ahead: October 2nd, we are adopting CareNet to take over the volunteer positions, as well as providing desserts, for the Spaghetti Supper. This will be a chance for all of you to contribute. Shift schedules and duty descriptions will be available at a later date. Start your recipe search now for a scrumptious dessert you can bring.

## Have you been Baptized?

### Our Annual Worship & Baptismal & Family Picnic

will be at the Clarno Forestry Center  
on Sunday, July 23rd.



The Worship Service will begin at 10:30 AM  
followed by Baptism in the Richland Creek.

There will be an all-church family picnic following  
the Baptism at the Forestry Center.

Please bring 2 dishes to pass. Hot dogs and drinks are provided. \*Keep in mind that there is no refrigeration & minimal electricity at the Center for food. Be careful to **BRING COOLERS WITH ICE** to keep your food adequately chilled.

Dress casually and bring lawn chairs or blankets.

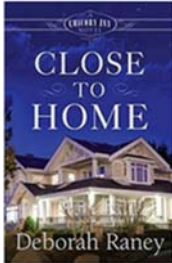
**A 9:00 AM Worship Service will be held  
at MBC in the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 23rd.**

*\*\*If you would like to be baptized in the Richland Creek  
that day, sign up at the Welcome Center.*

# M B C LIBRARY NEWS

## ADULT FICTION

We now have the final two books of the Chicory Inn series! Read all five!



More about the Whitman family is found in the 4th book in the series, **Close to Home**. Widowed Bree Whitman wants to be married again, but will it break the hearts of her late husband's family?



The final Chicory Inn series book, **Home at Last**, focuses on Link Whitman, the bachelor son of the Whitman family. When the world just sees mistakes, God sees beautiful opportunities for love and grace.

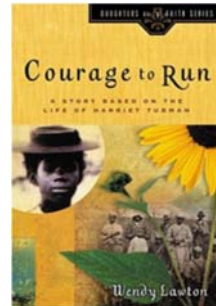
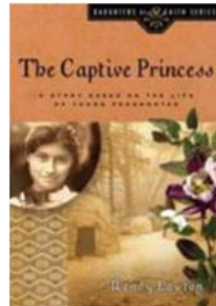
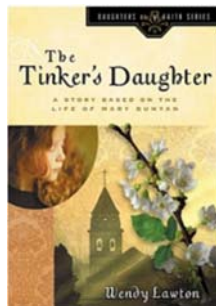
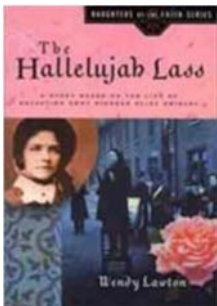
## ADULT NON-FICTION

- Ray Stedman: *Is This All There Is to Life?* - Answers from Ecclesiastes  
Erwin Lutzer: *Christ Among Other Gods* - A Defense of Christ in an Age of Tolerance  
M.A. Froehlich: *Courageous Gentleness* - Following Christ's Example of Restrained Strength  
Charles Spurgeon: *The Power of Prayer in a Believer's Life*  
David Roper: *Out of the Ordinary* - God's Hand at Work in Everyday Lives  
Tony Perkins: *No Fear* - Real Stories of a Courageous New Generation Standing for Truth

## CHILDREN

More from the **Daughters of the Faith** series by Wendy Lawton

- The Hallelujah Lass...*A Life of Salvation Army Pioneer Eliza Shirley  
*The Tinker's Daughter...*A Story Based on the Life of Mary Bunyan  
*The Captive Princess...*A Story Based on the Life of Young Pocahontas  
*Courage to Run...*A Story Based on the Life of Harriet Tubman





## GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP:

Praise God, we are fully funded for the Mission Trip! Thank you for your prayers and financial support!

### Garage Sale Fundraiser

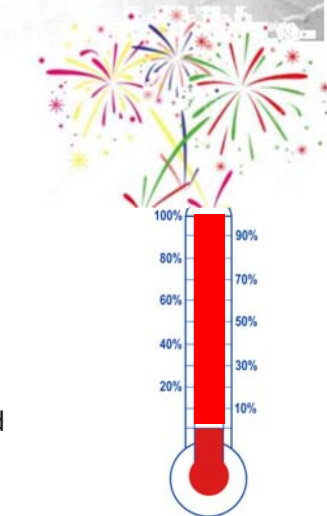
Thank you to:

- \*everyone who donated items for the garage sale fundraiser
- \* those who gave their time and energy to help set up, sort items, work the sale, and pack up afterwards
- \* Deb Hurlbert who organized and ran this fundraiser

Gospel tracts were distributed in shopper's bags, and leftover items from the sale were given to the Awana Store, Easter Seals, GreenHaven, Jamaica Mission, Monroe Public Schools, Tracy's HeArt Studio, Yellow Creek Clothes Closet, Voice of the Martyrs, and Old Time Traders. A total of \$4057.00 was raised.

### Craft Party

Thank you to those that helped prepare crafts on June 10 for the Vacation Bible School. We couldn't have done it without you! A special thanks to those who took the Gospel Book pages home to finish: Deb Hurlbert, Liz Garchie, Celia Keen, Bernie Wong, Kris Young, and Lynne Hardy.



### The Trip



This year we are partnered with Hebron Church in Itzapa City for Vacation Bible School. Our work project is installing a prefabricated wall around a piece of land where Oscar's ministry will build a training center for pastors and church leaders. The team leaves July 8 and returns July 15.

### Prayer Needed

Please pray that the children attending the VBS receive a clear Gospel message and many accept the Lord Jesus as their Savior, for relationships to be built with our new partner church, the team would hear and obey the Holy Spirit in all they do on the trip, good health, safety, building of team relationships and a deepening of their faith. Thank you!

### Trip Presentation

The team will be giving a 30-minute slide presentation on August 27 at noon (after the last service.) Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

## Pastor Dan back to Guatemala with Pathways

Pastor Dan will be with the team from MBC ministering in Guatemala July 8 -15, but stay the next week to conduct the second Pathways workshop with the Guatemalan pastors who started in March. He will be taking a new trainer with him, Pastor Rick Haworth from Hope Community Church here in Monroe. Pastor Rick has been through the trainings we've hosted here and is excited to put it into practice in Guatemala.

The Latin American Director for Pathways expressed confidence in Pastor Dan and Pastor Rick and decided not to join the team for this important second workshop! Please pray for effective leading and grasping of the concepts in this workshop, and that those concepts will be conveyed effectively by these pastors to those whom they are training. Pray for the families, church circumstances, health, and travel of the Guatemalan, and our pastors. Your prayers and support are impacting Guatemala!