

## June 2018



### Busy

Do you ever hear someone say, "I'm so busy!?" Like, everyday almost, right? I try not to say it, and I prefer people not say to me, "Oh, you're so busy...". Often it means, "You don't have time for me." Most of us are busy, and it reflects the choices we make. And I confess, having enough time to do the things I have to do and the things I want to do is a constant challenge. It's my biggest stressor.

Perhaps that's why, when reading in Psalm 90 in my own quiet time, my attention was stopped at verse 12. It says, "So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom." (*Psalm 90:12, NASB*). In this Psalm we see our perspective on time contrasted with God's perspective. Time is the one thing that many of us think we don't have enough of, even though we all have the same amount each day, each week, and each month.

God's perspective is far grander than our perspective. The Psalm begins, "Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." (*verse 2*). It continues, "For a thousand years in Your sight Are like yesterday when it passes by, Or as a watch in the night." (*verse 4*). God's perspective of time goes across all time. The perspective of mankind is then given, "For all our days have declined in Your fury; We have finished our years like a sigh. <sup>10</sup> As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years, Yet their pride is *but* labor and sorrow; For soon it is gone and we fly away." (*verses 9-10*). Our perspective tends to be, that we don't have enough, and then it's gone.

What does God, through Moses, mean by numbering our days, and what is a heart of wisdom? Well, let me give you four words that begin with the letter "s" to put the verse in its context. First, we see that mankind is *strengthless* to endure in verses 3-6 (we return to dust and are like grass that sprouts in the morning and withers in the evening). Then we see that God is ever aware of our *sinfulness* (even the secret ones) in verses 7-8. Thirdly, the *shortness* of our lives (like a sigh, and we fly away) is pointed out in verses 9-12. The fourth and fifth "s's" are in the words *satisfy* and *success*. The Psalm continues with a request for God to satisfy with His lovingkindness, verse 14, and make His people successful in work, verse 17.

Thus, if we keep in mind our strengthless, sinful, short lives, and how God is just the opposite, we would see the importance of seeking God's wisdom for how to live each day. In seeking God's help through the framework of finding our satisfaction in a relationship with Him, and success through His eyes in our works, we would learn to number our days well and be developing a heart of wisdom.

This Psalm is a reminder to not waste a day. Does that mean there should not be down time to rest, or time for recreation? Not at all. The principle of a Sabbath rest was established at creation by God's example and incorporated into His first written revelation. And in Ecclesiastes we see exhortation to enjoy life (See Ecclesiastes 3:22, 5:18, and 8:15). Neither rest nor recreation are a waste so long as they serve a need for refreshment and are not in excess.

This Psalm is also a reminder to look to God each day, and throughout the day, for direction from Him. Jesus was busy, but not rushed. He was busy but at the end of His life on earth He could say, "I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do." (*John 17:4*). Just like we can pride ourselves in not being too busy by saying no often and err in not accomplishing what God is giving us, we can also err in being very busy, yet still not accomplish what God is giving us to do. Seeking God's help to teach us to number our days, and to give us a heart of wisdom, is as relevant today as when Moses wrote it. I have a long way to grow in this. How about you?

Seeking His Wisdom for Today,


*Pastor Dan*

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# June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Deadline for Middle School Retreat Registration  C—7:30 pm, East B—Ump 7:30 pm, East B—8:30 pm, West A—9:30 pm, East	2 No Men's Breakfast  All Church in use for Wedding  Awana Sparks Camp ~ 9:30 am—4 pm, Fredonia, WI
3 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline on summer recess  Next Steps—Step 1 - Noon, NC, lunch provided Next Steps—Step 5 ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 (1st s.)	4 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	5	6 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104  18 & 8th Workday begins at 5 pm. Sign-up at the Welcome Center	7 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	8  B—7:30 pm, East A—Ump 7:30 pm, West A—8:30 pm, West C—9:30 pm, West	9
10 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline on summer recess Wild Mtn. Man ~ 1st Mtg., Noon, Josh Hardacre Home, W8163 Smock Valley Rd. Next Steps—Step 5 ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 (2nd s.)	11 Playground Benefit Garage Sale DROP-OFF & SET-UP 9 am—4 pm  Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Bd. Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	12 Playground Benefit Garage Sale DROP-OFF & SET-UP 11 am—7 pm  Equip Middle School Retreat ~ Lena, IL Meet at MBC 10:45 am	13 Playground Benefit Garage Sale SET-UP 9 am—5 pm  Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104  Equip Middle School Retreat ~ Lena, IL	14 Playground Benefit Garage Sale ~ 8 am—6:30 pm, NC  NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	15 Playground Benefit Garage Sale ~ 8 am—3:30 pm, NC. Clean-up begins at 3:30 pm Primetimers 11:15 am, Pizza Hut lunch Ministry Leader Annual Reports due! A—7:30 pm, East C—Ump 7:30 pm, West C—8:30 pm, West B—9:30 pm, East	16 Men's Shooting Event ~ 9 am—noon, N1139 Woodman Rd., Monroe  Awana Honors Camp
17 Father's Day Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline on summer recess  Awana Honors Camp	18 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102  Awana Honors Camp	19  Awana Honors Camp	20 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104  Awana Honors Camp	21 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102  Awana Honors Camp	22 Mission Monroe ~ Concerts on the Square Pizza Sales A—7:30 pm, East A—Ump 8:30 pm, East C—8:30 pm, West B—9:30 pm, East Awana Honors Camp	23 Guatemala Trip Craft Preparation ~ 8:30 am, NC  Awana Honors Camp
24 Worship Services: 9 & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline on summer recess	25 Prayer Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	26 Pleasant View Service ~ 9:30 am Board of Deacons Mtg. ~ 6 pm, LL #106	27 Men's Noon Bible study ~ LL #104	28 NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	29 A—8:30 pm, East B—8:30 pm, East C—Ump 8:30 pm, West C—9:30 pm, West B—Ump 9:30 pm, East	30 Men's Canoe Trip ~ WI River

## June Birthdays!

## HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Brenda Rossing
- 2 Joyce Coplien  
Parker Ferreri
- 3 Logan Ferreri
- 5 Kathy Krauss  
Lyla Ritschard
- 6 Alexis Elgin  
Joan Haight  
Steven McNett
- 7 Henry Morris
- 8 Rebekah Thoman
- 10 Vicki McNett
- 12 Ezra Kramer  
Tracy Petersen  
Luke Skoumal

- 13 Gloria Ringhand
- 14 Jadyn Elgin  
Chris Holverson  
Patrick White
- 16 Ashley Bruehlman  
Katie Demianiuk
- 19 Noah Eddy  
Carol Hasselmann  
Jennifer Krahenbuhl  
Lucy Whyte
- 20 Gianna Ferreri
- 21 Roger Stauffacher
- 28 Shyanna Kelley
- 30 Madelyn Thoman

- 4 Erik & Amy Haworth
- 10 Milt & Suzette Sherman
- 15 Jim & Becky Brown
- 17 Paul & Anna Ritschard
- 18 Dan & Celia Keen
- 19 Al & Colleen Ostenson
- 21 Ralph & Margie Johnson
- 25 Ron & Chris Faith
- 27 Kyle & Amanda Ohlrich
- 28 Andrew & Jennifer Boom

*We extend our sympathy to  
Larry & Pam Young &  
their family. Larry's father,  
Richard "Dick" Young  
passed away  
Wednesday, May 15th  
May God Bless you  
with His Peace!*



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



**Men/Kids**  
**ANNUAL**  
**Wi River**  
**CANOE TRIP!**  
**Saturday,**  
**June 30 &**  
**Sunday, July 1**

**Mission: Monroe**

**June:** 6th - 18 & 8th Workday, 5 pm start  
**July:** 13th - Concert on the Square pizza sales for Family Promise.  
**August:** All Monday's at the food pantry.  
**September:** Cheese Days  
Bountiful Hope Farm  
**October:** Care Net Spaghetti Supper

**Stay tuned!**  
T-shirts are still available to purchase for \$5.  
If interested, contact Carol Larson, 558-1475

**Step 1** ~ 1 session: Sunday, June 3rd at Noon in the Nehemiah Center. Lunch is provided.  
**Step 5** ~ 2 sessions: Sundays, June 3rd & 10th at 6:30 pm, Lower Level #102

**Sign up at the Welcome Center!**



The National Day of Prayer was on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Helen Tuttle organized the Prayer Breakfast at the Peppercorn. Guests were invite from law enforcement, business, education, government, church, military, and media. Each guest was prayed for by a student. It was a profitable time. A group of 15 also met at the Justice Center after the breakfast to pray for our County officials.

The Monday night prayer meeting meets in the lower level every Monday evening at 6:30 pm. Please join us.

I recently read a description of prayer. The author stated if we think of prayer as the breath in our lungs and the blood from our heart, we think rightly. The blood flows ceaselessly and breathing continues ceaselessly. Pray without ceasing. (I Thessalonians 5:17) Believers should pray consistently. Prayer is a privilege. God wants us to communicate with Him.



**\*\*Playground Project**

Starting June 11, donations will be accepted for the June 14 & 15 Garage Sale held in the Nehemiah Center. Proceeds will go to the Playground Project. We are in the 2nd of a 5-year campaign to raise \$20,000 for a playground through *Kids Around the World* and have raised \$5,057.01 to date through various events. Once the funds are raised, we will send a team to install the playground in Guatemala. Please sign up at the Welcome Center to help with this giant undertaking. If you have any questions, contact Deb Hurlbert @ 325-3430.

**Monday Donation Drop-off & Set-up, June 11, 9 am–4 pm; Tuesday Donation Drop-off & Set-up, June 12, 11 am–7 pm; Wednesday Set-up, June 13, 9 am–5 pm; Thursday SALE, June 14, 8 am–6:30 pm; Friday SALE, June 15, 8 am–3:30 pm; SALE CLEAN-UP, June 15, 3:30 pm.**

**\*\*Guatemala Mission Trip**

Praise God all the funds have come in for the 2018 trip, so we will NOT have a special offering this year! Thank you so much for your support!

The 2018 Guatemala Team consists of Jesse Petersen, Wendy Westcomb, Pastor Dan, Ashley Thomas, Mike Westcomb, Crystal Zimmerman, Jim Hurlbert, Helen Tuttle, Christina Tuttle, & Ruth Tuttle. The team leaves July 7 and returns July 15.

The team is in need of help preparing the crafts for the Vacation Bible School, mostly cutting tasks. We will hold a **Guatemala Craft Preparation Time** on Saturday, June 23 at 8:30 am in the Nehemiah Center. If you have a favorite scissors or cutting board, feel free to bring it!

**\*\*Missions Ministry** recently had 2 people step down, so we are in need of 1-2 people to join. We meet monthly to pray for MBC sponsored missionaries, manage monthly support, meet special financial needs of our missionaries and in the community, and hold our fall Harvest Weekend . If you are interested, please contact the church office or Lynne Hardy at 328-2064.

## Library News!

We will move from downstairs into the south side of the Nehemiah Center upstairs this month!

We have many new books, and old favorites (or new ones for new visitors) to look forward to, and we also have a new catalogue system that will hopefully make it easier for you to find books! This catalogue system is set up by topic for the non-fiction, fiction is still by author, and the young adult and chapter reader kids sections are separated into fiction and non-fiction; with it you will be able to come in and go straight to the topic you are wanting to look at!

We now have our full catalogue of books online! The website is <https://thembclibrary.libib.com/> and with this new system you will be able to check out books from the librarians (still use the notecards if no one is in the library to help you) and also view what books you have checked out, due dates, and put books on hold. You will first need to come into the library (or email [ohlrich316@gmail.com](mailto:ohlrich316@gmail.com)), to be put into the libib system, before you are able to utilize those aspects of the online system, but you can view what is in the library right now without being put into the system!

### *New books!*

There are many new books coming in! New complete fiction series (from suspense to romance), several new biographies, two complete children's chapter fiction series (one fantasy and the other is a group of mystery solvers), and several personal growth books.

Also an exciting new theology book titled:

*Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*  
by Phillips, Brown, & Stonestreet



**Summer!** We have summer reading lists for men, women, young adults, boys and girls chapter readers, and early readers/read-aloud! Be on the lookout for other kid's reading programs and challenges, along with weekday summer hours, that will be available!

## The Evil in Marriage We Rarely Mention

by Gary Thomas and thrivingmarriages.com

When we forget that evil exists within our own hearts; indeed, when we stop ordering our thinking and feeling around God and begin to live to please ourselves, we open the door to all kinds of evil in our marriage, especially the evil we are most likely to be unaware of or excuse: the evil of self-obsession.

We don't like to talk about this evil as it pertains to us (though we'll talk plenty about our spouse's failures in this regard), but silence and ignorance is where evil grows. If we don't recognize the existence of evil and guard against it we'll never find a cure for it. Instead, we'll just explain it away or blame others for it.

Dallas Willard talks about how "We are like farmers who diligently plant crops but cannot admit the existence of weeds and insects and can only think to pour on more fertilizer. Similarly, the only solution we know to human problems today is 'education.'" Educating an evil person without regard to evil doesn't remove the evil; it simply makes him or her cleverer in spreading their evil. If I get all kinds of marital education and knowledge but never confront the evil self-obsession that lies within my heart, I'll use that knowledge (my spouse's love language, for instance) as a weapon rather than a blessing. I'll employ her love language to get my way rather than to bless her.

**Denial** - The most popular path among Christians to deal with our evil self-obsession is to deny that it exists, or at least that it is motivating us. In his book *Renovation of the Heart*, Dallas Willard warns that "denial—usually in some form of rationalization—is the primary device that humans use to deal with their own wrongness." This is universal. Every married person reading this is in some way a bit in denial about the evil lingering in their heart that is negatively affecting their marriage. Personal evil is so painful and difficult to admit that we are tempted to transfer the evil to others. We don't think of ourselves as angry spouses; we think our spouse is wrong in lighting the spark that makes us angry. A man doesn't think of himself as lustful and unfaithful. He thinks of his wife as cold or preoccupied or neglectful. A woman doesn't think of herself as critical. She just thinks of her husband as a doofus.

**The Cure** - Evil is best confronted by ordering our minds and hearts around the presence and will of God. Evil is coddled when we forget God is God and try to set ourselves up as God. This is where self-obsession assumes its throne. It is nothing less than evil for me to try to turn my wife into a "love Gary as he likes to be loved" machine. That's narcissism. God calls her to seek His kingdom first (Matthew 6:33). Here's the question to ask if you want to know how much you are directed by God and how much you are motivated by hidden selfish evil in your marriage: do you spend more time praying for your spouse's relationship and service to God or more time praying about how they need to become a better spouse to you?

When my life isn't ordered around God, I fiercely resent being inconvenienced. I'm driven to do what I want to do, what I think is best for me, and my wife will pay the heaviest price for my evil self-obsession. According to Dallas Willard, "Self-idolatry rearranges the entire spiritual and moral landscape. It sees the whole universe with different eyes...The fundamental pride of putting oneself at the center of the universe is the hinge upon which the entire world of the ruined self turns." He quotes John Calvin, who said that "the surest source of destruction in men is to obey themselves."

Husband and wife: will you realize that self-obsession may be the biggest threat to you and your marriage's happiness? If we do not admit that this is evil, if we are not aware of and do not actively confront the evil of self-obsession, that evil will make us and our marriages miserable. It is so much easier and feels so much safer to talk about the evils of others rather than our own. Dallas Willard again: "It is common today to hear Christians talk of their 'brokenness.' But when you listen closely, you may discover that they are talking about their wounds, the things they have suffered, not about the evil that is in them." When I understand how evil I am and how evil I can yet be, and that evil begins with self-obsession, I am more determined to order my life around God's word and will and, just as importantly, release my wife to do the same. I will seek out the Scriptures to understand his heart. I will submit my thinking and actions in a way that proclaims in fact, not just in word, "You are my Lord and my God" and "You are my wife's Lord and God." One of the best gifts you can give your spouse is to be ruthless about admitting and discarding the evil in your own heart, beginning with the evil of self-obsession.

### ***Please Check the Lost & Found!***

Items left at church are collected in a container behind the Welcome Center. Those unclaimed items will be displayed in the Nehemiah Center the first Sunday of every month. Following the first Sunday, those items will be donated!

Lost and Found

## Playground\* Benefit Garage Sale

**June 14-15, 2018**  
(MBC Nehemiah Center)

Please bring only gently used items.

Test all electrical appliances.  
We are not able to take old TVs.  
Volunteers welcome & needed!

\*Garage Sale to raise funds for a  
KATW (Kids Around the World)  
Playground in Guatemala



Your help is welcome and greatly needed for set-up (Monday-Wednesday), sale (Thursday and Friday), and take-down (Friday)!

- - trucks and trailers are needed Monday/Tuesday, and especially Friday.  
- - people to sort and price items Monday — Wednesday are greatly needed.

Monday, June 11 - Donation Drop-off and set-up: 9 am — 4 pm

Tuesday, June 12 - Donation Drop-off and set-up: 11 am — 7 pm

Wednesday, June 13 - Set-up: 9 am — 5 pm

Thursday, June 14 - SALE: 8 am — 6:30 pm

Friday, June 15 - SALE: 8 am — 3:30 pm

Friday take-down & clean-up: 3:30 pm until done -- workers, trucks & trailers needed  
Contact Deb Hurlbert, 325-3430.

**PLEASE sign-up to volunteer at the Welcome Center.**  
**This is a massive undertaking – knowing there will be help available is crucial!**



# Men's Ministry

## God and Bacon

What an awesome month of May we had - Men's breakfast, fishing, Wednesday study group! It has been a blessing to see how God has been working in the lives of our men. A new study on Wednesday at noon is blooming, we will be studying the David Jeremiah book called "Escape the Coming Night". Who doesn't have questions about Revelation? I know I do!

And what better reading than with other men of God.

The men's breakfast will be cancelled for June due to a wedding (Congrats!!). During the month of June we will be putting on a small shooting event (shotguns), doing clay pigeon shooting on the 16th of June from 9—Noon-ish at the Thoman's property (N1139 Woodman Rd., Monroe). So men, oil up those rigs and bring your best shot!

June 30th is the annual canoe trip! More info to follow.