MBGNEWS

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February 2019

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Treasure

Well, we're past Christmas and Tax Day is the next big day with financial implications. Most of us would probably say we aren't wealthy. Most of us would probably say we are wealthy. Yes, you read that right. When we compare ourselves to the financially wealthy of the world, we don't see ourselves as wealthy at all. But when we compare ourselves to poverty in the world, or those without Christ, we realize we are very wealthy. It's all a matter of perspective, isn't it?



However, is it just a matter of who we compare ourselves to? I was challenged with another perspective while reading in the gospel of Matthew this morning. I had to stop, then come back again to reread verse 24. Before we consider what Jesus said there, let's take a look at the immediate context. The subject changes to "treasure" in verse 19, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (*Matthew 6:19-21*). My tendency here, is to think, "Well, I don't have much money to store up, so this isn't much of an issue for me."

However, Jesus obviously uses the word "treasure" in broader terms than money stored.
He uses it in terms of things valued and "stored" for the future, including deeds we do.
Still, I serve the Lord quite a bit, so I'm good on this too. Verse 24 is where Jesus puts His finger on the heart, "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth." (*Matthew 6:24, NASB*). What do I really value? I don't need to have a lot of money to value money and the material things it can bring. What am I really devoted to? Is it security for me and my family? Is it pleasure, property, or prestige? Again, I don't need to have easy access to any of these things to value them, and be somewhat devoted to gaining them. Jesus will go on to say not to even worry about what you need, because the Lord will provide, but to seek first His kingdom (verses 25-34).

Right between these verses are 2 verses that seem out of place, or confusing at first sight. "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! (*Matthew 6:22-23*). The "clear lamp" and "eye" word pictures speak of seeing things as they really are. "Full of light" and "darkness" depict righteousness and sinfulness. Do you suppose Jesus was challenging His followers to take a deep look inside? Are these words intended to prod us to give careful thought to what we take in and allow to occupy the inner recesses of our hearts? Jesus is always pressing the heart issue, isn't He?

What does it mean to "store up treasures in heaven"? In 1 Corinthians 3:12-15 the apostle Paul speaks of works with eternal value, works that will last through judgment day. Obviously, the works he's talking about are things done for the Lord. I'm convinced that this does not mean primarily church and missionary work. I tend to think that it is not only what we do, but equally, who it is that we are doing it for. In the goings and doings and responsibilities of everyday life, we are storing up "treasures" for someone. So, the question is, "Who?"

In February we begin a new sermon series through the book of Colossians, called "Jesus Christ: Lord of All." I think we'll all be challenged to think about our "treasures" as we work through Colossians. Are you up for the challenge?

Sojourning with You,

Pastor Dan

February '19

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Visit the Library — Each Sunday after Servicesi					1	2 No Men's Breakfast "No Regrets" Men's Conference ~ 8:15 am—4 pm Men's Study ~ 9 am,
3 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Next Steps 1 "Our Mission & Vision" ~ Noon, NC ALL CHURCH SUPERBOWL PARTY ~ 5 pm, NC No Ignite/Fusion	4 Missions—Culvers Night ~ 4 pm— 10 pm Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	5 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm Fitness Class ~ 10 am, NC Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	6 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm	7 Good News Club at Parkside School ~ 4 pm NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	8	9 Men's Study ~ 9 am, NC
10 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Next Steps 3 "Our Commit- ments" ~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6-8 pm, LL #106	11 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106	12 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm Fitness Class ~ 10 am, NC Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	13 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm	14 Good News Club at Parkside School ~ 4 pm NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	15 Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch ~ 11:15 am	16 Men's Study ~ 9 am, NC
17 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6–8 pm, LL #106	18 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	19 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm Fitness Class ~ 10 am, NC Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	20 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm	21 Blood Drive at MBC ~ 2 pm—6 pm, NC Good News Club at Parkside School ~ 4 pm NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102	22	23 Men's Study ~ 9 am, NC
24 Worship Services: Guest Speaker The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School ~ 9 am Pipeline ~ 9 am, NC Ignite ~ 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion ~ 6-8 pm, LL #106	25 Prayer Mtg.~ 6:30 pm, LL #102	26 Library Hours: 10 am- Noon & 1-3 pm Fitness Class ~ 10 am, NC Deacon Board Mtg. ~ 6:30 pm, LL #106 Women's Recovery Workshop ~ 7 - 9 pm, Monroe	27 Trek/Journey ~ 5:30 pm Awana ~ 6:15 pm	28 Good News Club at Parkside School ~ 4 pm NA ~ 7 pm, LL #102		





Ages 3 1/2 through 6th grade meet from 6:15 to 7:45 pm Wednesday evenings.

7th through 12th grade meet from 5:30 to 6:15 pm Wednesday evenings.

Contact Jim Hurlbert (325-3430) if you have any questions or if you are interested in helping.



We would like to extend our sympathy to Dale & Lynn Klitzke. Dale's mom, Delores Klitzke, passed away Monday, December 24, 2018.

Our deepest sympathies to Keith & Penny Ferreri. Keith's mom, Barbara, passed away Saturday, January 19th, 2019.

May God bless you with His peace.



PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISER

Culvers Night is Monday, February 4. Culvers will donate 10% of profits from dine-in and drive-through sales from 4-10 pm to the Guatemala Playground Fund. What a delicious way to support a great cause. Hope to see you there!



GUATEMALA MISSION TEAM

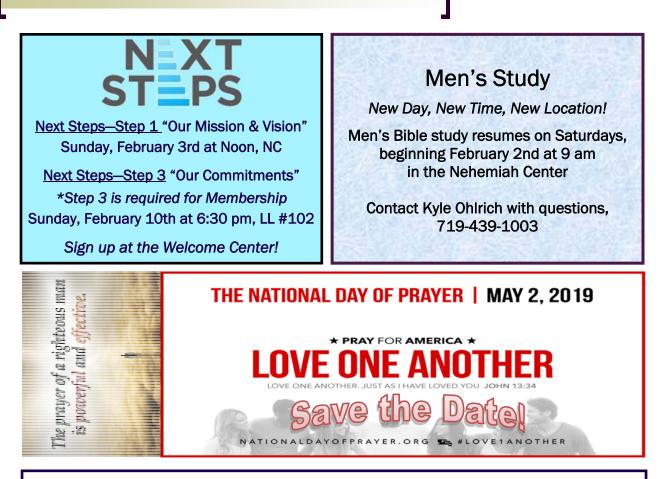
The 2019 Team includes: Bailey Gruber, Gabi Ils, Wendy Westcomb, Andrea Wilson, Jesse Petersen, Ruth Tuttle, Helen Tuttle, Kim Foesch, Ariel Foesch, Kim Markham, Adam Brunner, Jim Hurlbert, Chuck Chladil, Mike Westcomb, Rick Haworth, and Dan Krahenbuhl. The team will be leaving July 6 and returning July 13. YOU can be part of the team with your prayers and/or financial contribution. The team will be sending out support letters in February. Please note you will receive ONLY 1 support letter along with a support card. Financial donations will go towards the

team's food, housing, transportation, Vacation Bible School supplies, translators, and the training center work project.

NEW MISSIONARY

Please welcome Reuben Kawinzi as a new monthly supported Missionary by Monroe Bible Church. Reuben lives in Kenya, Africa and ministers across Africa with Y.E.S. Ministries (Yielded Evangelical Servants). He was previously supported by Believers Fellowship Church, and that is how we "met" him.

Here's a snippet from him: "I am the overseer and founder of Disciples Temple Church which I started in September 13th, 1993. The Church has grown and we have other branches across the country of Kenya. I'm pastoring one of the local Churches in Nairobi City, which is also the capital city of Kenya. I am married to Margaret and the Lord had blessed us with 2 biological boys and also we have adopted 8 other boys. Our oldest is 23 and the youngest is 14 and in high school. I got saved back in high School in 1983 and ever since the love to serve God has always been with me. I've also a burden for training Pastors and reaching Africa with the gospel. I have been doing a lot of ministry in African countries like Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi, DRC Congo, Zambia, Ghana, Northern and Southern Sudan, among others. I've also been working a lot with the village pastors and getting the bicycles for ministry. Some travel very far for ministry and so the Lord put it in my heart to purchase them bicycles to effectively do ministry. Many have planted Churches using the bicycles. I've also been involved in networking with Pastors across Africa and now I'm overseeing well over 3,000 Pastors to the glory of God. My vision is Making Disciples for Jesus (Matthew 28:19). I have also now been working with two orphanages, one in Kenya and the other one in Tanzania. The one in Kenya has over 50 kids and the one in Tanzania has over 100 kids. We try to get them food, clothing, and education by the grace of God."



FEBRUARY IS HEALTH MONTH

Health February at the Library

For the month of February, the MBC Library is focused on health! This may sound like another area of your life telling you to lose weight and get in shape, but it is so much more than physical health. We will be focusing on spiritual health, financial health, *and* physical health.

Financial Health—the Library will offer printables of budget sheets and the debt snowball (to help get out of debt), as well as other resources to help you see whether you are financially healthy, and ways to stay or get there.

Physical Health—every Tuesday in the month of February, at 10 am, there will be an exercise class. These will vary and hopefully appeal to a wide variety of fitness levels. Children are welcome to join and there will also be a children's area in the room.

February 5th—Seated Exercise for Abs, Arms, and Legs with JessicaSmithTV

February 12th—Leslie Samsone Walk at Home workout

February 19th—Low Impact Cardio Workout

February 26th—Refit (a dance-based exercise video)



Next, join us for a Sugar Fast for the entire month of February. This is open to everyone wanting to replace turning to sugars (in all its forms) to turning to God.

An excerpt: "Take a day or two to pray before you fast. Ask God to show you what your fast should look like...Seek His will for your private fast. He knows that what will work best for you...may be different from what will work for me...Ask Him to speak to you about anything in your kitchen that you're running to in a frenzied or habitual attempt to satisfy your soul's deep hunger, and then give it to Him as an offering. Perhaps He will lead you to simply stop eating donuts, drinking mochas, and grabbing your afternoon Snickers bar and late night bowl of ice cream. Or perhaps He will speak to you about the alcohol in your cupboard that not only turns to sugar, but can easily become a daily reward that you run to as soon as it's five o'clock somewhere. The trick is seeking Him first, before you fast...(Then) seek Him daily as you fast, filling yourself with more of Him and His righteousness..." ~ Wendy Speake

All the participants of the Sugar Fast will be on an email group (with others who sign up from our church). We will each share what our fast is going to look like and then continue to encourage and support each other throughout the month. More specific details are available upon request.

Spiritual Health—this will entail a variety of resources offered at the library to encourage you and support you in your personal and corporate spiritual life. We will have articles, a Scripture-based questionnaire, books, and read-ing plans. Spiritual health encompasses all aspects of your life and we will offer resources to reflect that.



Super Bowl Party For the Entire Family!



I'm guessing that some of you, living here in the heart of Packerland, like to watch football. I also know that many of you simply enjoy spending time with your church family & friends-chatting,



playing board games, cards, tailgate games, snacking and yes... watching football! **Let's do it together in the Nehemiah Center!** The Superbowl game will be on the big screen on February 3rd. Bring the entire family, snacks, and games, on **February 3rd at 5 pm** and join the church family for an afternoon together. Come when you can, leave when you must!

Last year's activities included: Ping Pong, Foosball, Cornhole, cards, boardgames, nerf guns, and the big game too. If possible, please plan to bring your games again and share an afternoon together!

Questions? Contact Mike Olmstead (608-558-5750) or Pastor Troy (316-640-9946)



Calling All Men!

This is a special invitation to attend the **Men's "No Regrets" Conference**.

This is an excellent way to have great fellowship and strengthen men in all of our churches.

Pastors from surrounding churches will lead the breakout sessions dealing with various topics.

Questions—Contact Dan Keen, 608-897-6926

Men's "No Regrets" Conference Faith Community Church, Janesville

Saturday, February 2nd

8:15 am—4 pm

\$25 pre-registration

You and Me Forever - with Francis Chan and Lisa Chan

Marriage Pipeline Class Starts Feb. 10th. Please sign up at the Welcome Center.

Marriage is great, but it's not forever. It's until death do us part. Then come eternal rewards or regrets depending on how we spent our lives. In his latest book, Francis Chan joins together with his wife Lisa to address the question many couples wonder at the altar: "How do I have a healthy marriage?" Setting aside typical topics on marriage, Francis and Lisa dive into Scripture to understand what it means to have a relationship that satisfies the deepest parts of our souls.

In the same way *Crazy Love* changed the way we saw our personal relationship with God, *You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity* will radically shift the way we see one of the most important relationships in our life. Jesus was right. We have it all backwards. The way to have a great marriage is by not focusing on marriage. Whether you are single, dating or married, *You and Me Forever* will help you discover the adventure that you were made for and learn how to thrive in it.

In recognition of National Marriage Week across the U.S. and to strengthen our marriages here at MBC, we hope you will join our discussion with

popular author and teacher Francis Chan and his wife Lisa Chan in a 6 week Pipeline study of his book You and Me Forever: Marriage in Light of Eternity. <u>Please sign up at the Welcome</u> <u>Center.</u> The cost is \$10 per couple for book & study guide.



