

February 2020

in this issue

Pastors Pen	1
Calendar Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Sympathy Next Steps Primetimers Men's Breakfast Missions	3
Pipeline—Marriage Prayer Ministry Library Israel 2020 Marriage Ministry	4
Welcome Baby Blood Drive Church Directory Men's Conference Backpack Buddies	5
Kid's Page	6



The Heart Challenge

I've been struck by the references to the heart in the gospel of Mark during my recent quiet time reading. The word heart in the Bible is generally used to refer to the physical, emotional, and spiritual center of a person's life.

In Mark chapter six Jesus came walking on the water to the disciples, who were struggling against a storm in their boat. After He got into the boat and calmed the storm, the disciples were astonished. Verse 52 says, "for they had not gained any insight from the *incident of the loaves*, but their heart was hardened." (*Mark 6:52, NASB*). They weren't grasping His deity, which was being shown by the miracles He was doing.

In Mark chapter eight, Jesus warns the disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and Herod. They think He's talking about bread, "And Jesus, aware of this, *said to them, "Why do you discuss *the fact* that you have no bread? Do you not yet see or understand? Do you have a hardened heart?" (*Mark 8:17*). Again, the rebuke reflects spiritual insensitivity, this time to what He is teaching them about the example and influence of the Pharisees and Herod.

What does it mean to have a "hard heart"? I think it is when the truth God is trying to communicate to us "bounces off" us, like the seed sown beside the road in the sower and the seed parable (*Mark 4:15*). The truth about who Jesus was, and the truth about the character of the Pharisees and Herod, wasn't being taken in. This made me wonder how often I fail to grasp a truth that the Lord is trying to convey to me, whether in something He's showing me, or something He's trying to tell me.

This also makes me wonder how a person's heart gets hardened. Notice what Jesus said about the Pharisees between the chapter six and chapter eight rebukes of the disciples, "And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.'" (*Mark 7:6*). Jesus identified the Pharisees as men who were hypocrites and whose hearts were "far away" from God. Later in the chapter He addresses legalism by telling them it isn't food that defiles a person because it doesn't go into the heart (verses 18-23). Herod would be an example of the other end of the spectrum, his indulgent, immoral, materialistic, and profane life was, in a word, worldly. Religious hypocrisy, legalism, and worldliness, surely have a heart hardening effect on our spiritual sensitivity. How many other sources pound us with messages that harden us?

When I consider the nature of my heart as revealed in God's Word, "The heart is more deceitful than all else And is desperately sick; Who can understand it?" (*Jeremiah 17:9*), I realize I need God's help! I'm thankful that ultimately it doesn't come down to reforming ourselves, but that we can go to God in humility saying, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me." (*Psalms 51:10*). I'm grateful that Jesus has provided for the forgiveness of our sins, and given us both new life, and His Word to help us see what's in our hearts.

The writer of Proverbs gave good practical advice, "Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life." (*Proverbs 4:23*). Some translations use the word "guard" for watch over. Can we help one another to be diligent to guard what we allow to come at our hearts?

Watching the Springs,
 Pastor Dan



February '20

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 No Men's Breakfast "No Regrets" Men's Conf. - 8:15am-4 pm, Janesville (No Women's Event) Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC
2 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School - 9 am Pipeline - 9 am Next Steps-Step 1 - Noon, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, 18 & 8th Family Superbowl Party - 4:30 pm, NC No Ignite or Fusion	3 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	4 Primetimers Games & Lunch - 10 am-1pm, NC Library Hours: 10 am-Noon	5 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	6 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg.- 6 pm, NC NA - 7 pm, LL #102	7 Sanctuary in use for pictures - 2:45-3:15 pm Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC	8 Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC
9 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline - 9 am Next Steps-Step 3 - 9:00 am, LL #100 Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106	10 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	11 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon	12 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	13 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg - 6 pm, NC NA - 7 pm, LL #102	14  Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC	15 Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC
16 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline - 9 am Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106	17 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	18 Library Hours: 10 am-Noon	19 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	20 Bood Drive - 12-6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg - 6 pm, LL NA - 7 pm, LL #102	21 Primetimers Pizza Hut Lunch - 11:15 am Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC	22 Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC
23 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline - 9 am Iglesia Biblica Service - 2-4 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm, LL #106 Fusion: 6-8 pm, LL #106	24 Prayer Mtg.- 6:30 pm, LL #102	25 Pleasant View Service - 9:30 am Library Hours: 10 am-Noon Board of Deacons Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	26 Awana: Trek /Journey: 5:30 pm, & 3 ^{1/2} yrs.- 6th grade: 6:15-7:50 pm	27 Backpack Buddies Family Packing Night - 6:00 pm, 18 & 8th LL Iglesia Biblica Prayer Mtg - 6 pm, NC NA - 7 pm, LL #102	28 Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC	29 Iglesia Biblica worship practice - 5:30 pm, NC

Happy Birthdays!

- 1 Abigail Proudfit
- 2 Aaron Holverson
- 4 Milt Sherman
- 6 Justin Brunner
Caleb Jenson
Julie Paske
- 7 Nate Bloom
Angela Miller
- 8 Justin Rhoe
- 10 Mark Setterstrom
Jaime Westcomb
- 11 Al Ostenson
- 12 Anita Peach
Braden Williams
- 13 Debra Hurlbert
- 14 Josiah Hauri
Jake Watson
- 15 Gabe Kuenzi
Jaclyn Miller
Jack Richardson
- 16 Felicity Eddy

- 16 Devan Schulte
Liz Schulthess
- 17 Marie Wunschel
- 19 Brigham Holverson
- 20 Randy Whyte
- 21 Darlene Bartelt
Emmalynn Brunner
James Hurlbert
Sarah Olmstead
- Lillie Rische
- 22 Lauren Baer
Joni Proudfit
- 23 Scott Larson
- 26 Betty Anderson
- 27 Beth Figi
Gloria Huffman
Harold Pieper
Oliver Ragan
Leonor Roche
- 28 Kathy Markham
Deb Westphal

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 1 Peter & Katelin Rische
- 12 Dale & Lynn Klitzke
- 13 Roger & Kathy Krauss



*We want to offer our sympathy
to these families:*

*Dan & Celia Keen. Celia's mother,
Elsie Remus, passed away
Thursday, December 19th.
Dan's sister, Linda Barney,
passed away Saturday, December 28th.*

*Curt & Colette Wyttenbach. Colette's
father, Donald Charlier, passed away
Saturday, December 28th.*

*Leonor Roche & Family. Leonor's
sister, Norma, passed away
Tuesday, December 31st.*

*John & Kristi Hudson. Kristi's brother, Jim
Ferris, passed away Sunday, January 5th.*

*Mark & Lovie Schmitz. Lovie's mom,
Jeanine DiCicco, passed away
Tuesday, January 21st*

*May God comfort each of you &
bless you with His peace.*

NEXT STEPS

Step 1 "Our Mission & Vision"

Sunday, February 2nd at 12 noon,
LL #102. Lunch provided.

Step 3 "Our Commitments" (This class is required for membership.)

Sunday, February 9th at 9 am,
LL #100

Sign up at the Welcome Center!



Games & Lunch
Tuesday, February 4th
10 AM-1 PM
Bingo, food pantry items,
Theme: Hearts

Pizza Hut Birthday Lunch:
Friday, February 21st
11:15 AM



Next Men's Breakfast
MARCH 7th
8:00 AM
Nehemiah Center




The Guatemala *Kids Around The World* (KATW) Mission Team has been determined for 2020! Leaving July 18th for playground construction at a church in Aldea Los Gonzalez, Montana Xalapan, Guatemala will be: Kim and Ariel Foesch, Wade and Braden Williams, Adam Brunner, Rylan Kelly, Gabi IIs, Katie Elgin, Duane and Crystal Zimmerman. You helped make this mission possible over the past several years by participating in fundraising to purchase that playground and have it shipped to Guatemala, where the MBC team will reconstruct it under the guidance of KATW staff. THANK YOU! Please continue to support the team through prayer as details are worked out and the team prepares. Support letters will once again be sent out in February, inviting you to be part of the team by financially contributing as the Lord leads. You will only receive one letter and all donations go toward the team's food, housing, transportation, translators, and supplies. Playgrounds provide a place for Guatemalan Christians to witness to the families who bring their children to play and to invite them to church activities. KATW has seen amazing things happen through these playground projects over the years.

Missions Ministry is pleased to have two new members--Austin Kramer and Rich Peach. The old saying "Many hands make light work" holds true and we thank you both for responding to God's prompting to serve.

If you are interested in joining the Missions Ministry, we meet once a month. Please contact Crystal Zimmerman at 608-214-6794, or searezimmerman@yahoo.com if you'd like to come to a meeting.

Update: The departure time is quickly approaching for Linda Shannon to leave for her short-term mission on Mercy Ships. Linda will be working as an admissions nurse on a ship off the shore of West Africa. Please pray for her and all those providing physical and spiritual care on the ship, as well as their patients. If God places it on your heart to partner with Linda financially, you can email Linda for a link to donate directly to her account with the mission. Her email is lds040@yahoo.com. We look forward to hearing how God uses her as she steps out in obedience to His call.



Pipeline Marriage Class

Join Us!

Join us in Pipeline at 9 am in the Nehemiah Center through March 1st, as we continue to discuss a variety of marriage and relationship related topics. Our top priority must be maintaining an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. And we will discuss how to resist the all too common marital drift toward isolation, how to maintain good communication, ideas to help with the resolution of inevitable conflict, granting forgiveness, and several more. Please plan now to join us when you can.

Jeff & Marie Wunschel,
Marriage Ministry Leaders

Pray Daily

Often people make New Years resolutions but have difficulty keeping them.

Do you have a daily quiet time? It is vital for all believers to spend time in God's Word and take time to pray daily. How can you make decisions, big or little, without having daily communion with the Lord? He is the source of all wisdom and comfort.

Compare how much time you spend with the Lord to the time you watch television, listen to the radio, or spend time on your phone. Who has the most input in your life, the Lord or the world? This will determine if you have a Biblical world view or not.

Please make it a priority to pray daily for our government leaders, our nation, our church and pastors, the military, your family and friends, our education system, your neighbors, and those who need Jesus. Read and meditate on God's Word daily. You will find great enjoyment and blessing in doing these important disciplines.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



Library news

Read Aloud Program—with a twist!

We'll have kids reading to adults. We'll need two different sets of volunteers—children volunteers to read to the adults, and adult volunteers willing to be read to. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you would like to be read to, or if you have a child who would like to read.

Contact Amanda Ohlrich with any questions: 719-339-5366.

Israel 2020

Interested in touring Israel with Pastor Dan and Jennifer?

Visit <https://www.israelbibletrips.com/monroebiblechurch> for trip details. Choose the 9 or 12 trip and click View itinerary to see what's included. From there you can sign up for either the 1 payment or monthly payment option.

Marriage Ministry—Weekend to Remember

You can save 50% off registrations through 1/27 with promo code: SAVE50

Over the years many couples from MBC have made an investment in their marriage by attending a Family Life's Weekend to Remember event. Nearly every comment we heard back from these couples was that the event speakers were very enjoyable and informative, that the couples projects were helpful, that their date night was very special, and that they were equipped and blessed by attending the Weekend to Remember.

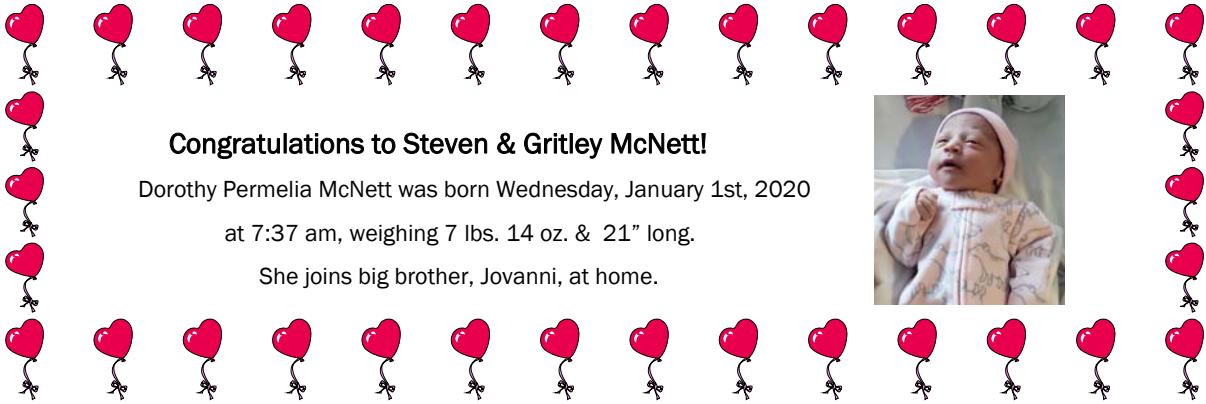
Why Attend? Couples attend Weekend to Remember because they're ready to invest in their marriage and intentionally move towards oneness. We help you understand God's blueprint for marriage so you can create a legacy of greatness. Our attendees say their relationships improved on average from a 4/10 to an 8/10 after one weekend.

Marriage is a lifelong adventure of growing together through every age and stage of life. The happiest couples are those who commit to learning skills that help them weather difficult seasons and deal confidently with relationship challenges. It's your turn to make a great marriage happen.

For more information about Weekend to Remember and to register online, go to <https://www.familylife.com/weekend-to-remember/>


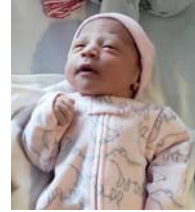
Remember to use our "Monroebiblechurch" group name when you register. Look for more information at the Welcome Center and please call us with any questions.

MBC Marriage Ministry Leaders
Jeff and Marie Wunschel, 214-3699



Congratulations to Steven & Gritley McNett!

Dorothy Permelia McNett was born Wednesday, January 1st, 2020
at 7:37 am, weighing 7 lbs. 14 oz. & 21" long.
She joins big brother, Jovanni, at home.



**American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE**

Give Blood • Give Life

Thursday, February 20th
12 pm—6 pm, NC

Helpers needed to sign people in, assist in getting water and snacks to people donating blood, people to provide food items.

Sign up at the Welcome Center to help.

New Church Directory Online!

You can download the MBC directory either to your computer or smartphone, and create your own personal, private account by following the prompts. Go to <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/> from your computer, or install the app Instant Church Directory from Google Play Store.

In order to access our new online directory, you must have included your email address in the directory! Many in our congregation have not done so. To verify that you listed an email address, or if you want to be included in the directory, please check our current photo directory at the Welcome Center or contact the church office at 325-3966 or office@monroebiblechurch.org



NO REGRETS MEN'S CONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 1, 2020

No Regrets Men's Simulcast Conference - February 1st
8:15 am to 4 pm, Janesville WI

Register online at FAITHCOMMUNITYCHURCH.net
It's a great day for men to get their spiritual batteries charged.
Contact Dan Keen (608-897-6926) or Kyle Ohlrich (719-439-1003) with questions.



JEFF MANION BRADY BOYD ALBERT TATE SKYE JETHANI CARLOS WHITTAKER GARY HAUGEN


Backpack Buddies

Thank you MBC for the generous donations of gloves. We reached our goal and provided gloves for 209 students in the Monroe School District. We could not have done it without you.

The wonderful comments from the school staff have been encouraging. They were amazed at the beautiful decorated bags. It was hard for them to imagine people spent so much time on preparing them one at a time with such care. The gloves were over the top with such a heavy, quality glove for so many students to keep their hands warm and dry. The students comments were as such: "really for me?" "they look so cool", "wow", "they are so warm", "I never had a pair of gloves like these", "thanks", "we get food too?".

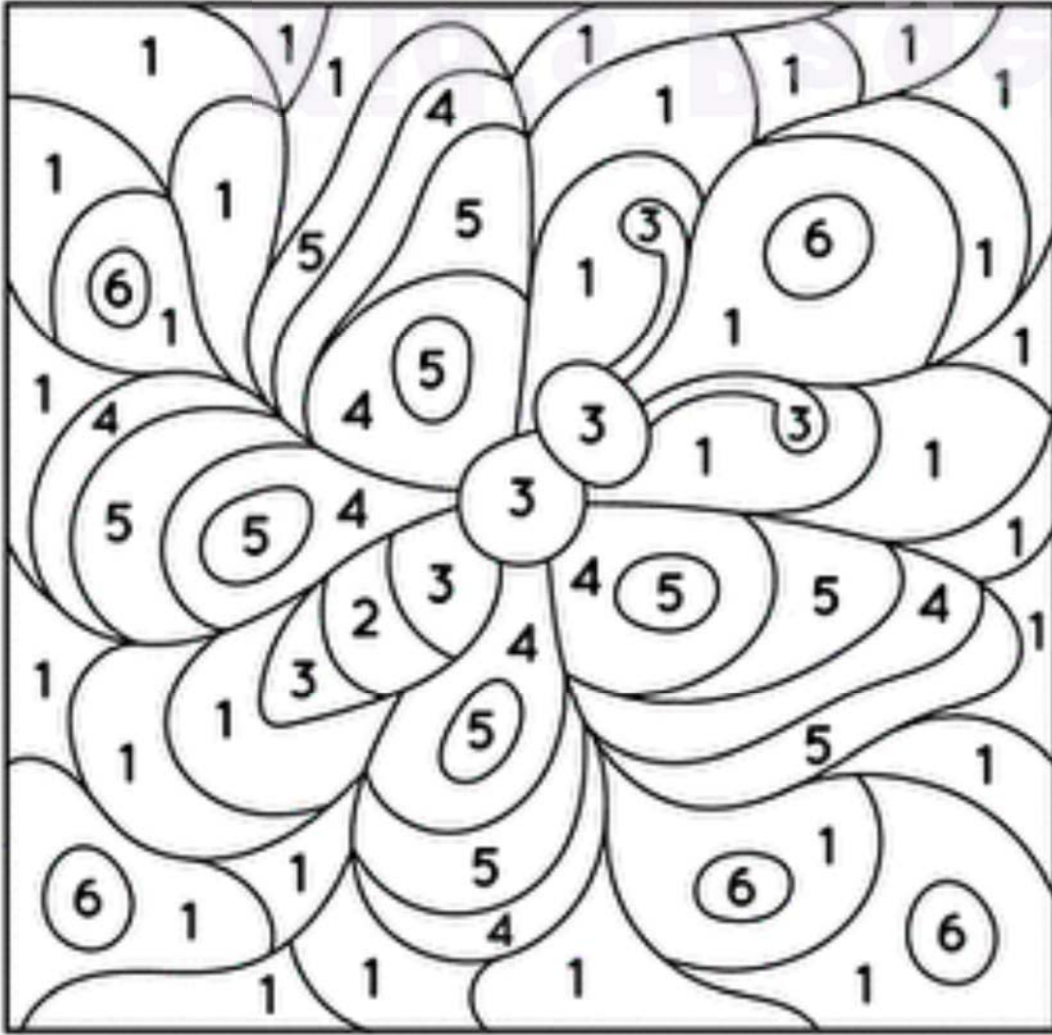
A parent called the school office with tears of JOY in her voice. She was so grateful for such a beautifully wrapped and decorated bag just for her kids. She too was moved by knowing someone spent time to decorate each bag and provide a pair of gloves. The gloves were so needed for this winter. "Now my kids will go to school and I know they will have warm and dry hands". She was so thankful. This mother brought tears to the office ladies and some staff.

Thanks everyone!



Calling all Families:
February 27th we are having Family Night for packing at 6 pm at 18 & 8th, lower level . We would like families to help pack the bags for the month. Kids of all ages are welcome; there is always a job for everyone. It's a great time for families to join in with others for mission work. Please consider this mission and sign up at the Welcome Center.

Kid's Page



Color By
Number
Butterfly

- 1—Green
- 2—Orange
- 3—Brown
- 4—Blue
- 5—Purple
- 6—Yellow

Jesus Fed the People Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle.
The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

- BREAD
- COMPASSION
- DISCIPLES
- EAT
- FISH
- HEALED
- HUNGRY
- LOAVES
- MIRACLE
- SHEPHERD
- TAUGHT
- THOUSANDS