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Newsletter—May 2020

Pastor's Pen



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God's People in the Pandemic

I'm sure that you, like me, were disappointed to hear that our "Safer at Home" order was extended another month. As we move through this new experience, two things have become very apparent: man doesn't know for sure what to do, and man doesn't know what the future will look like. Many are upset about this. But that's not really a new revelation for us, and we know God knows not only what to do, but also the future! Jesus told us long ago not to worry about tomorrow, for our Father knows what we need and He cares for us. (Matthew 6:25-34). As His children we are to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33). This should set us apart from the rest of the population that does not know Him.

The frustration and/or fear of many is turning to protest rallies, conspiracy theories are flying, and opinions (not necessarily factual) are spreading like wildfire. Some are boldly defying the social distancing orders we've been given by our governing authorities. What should our response be? I suggest we be concerned for three things: the safety of others, our testimony to outsiders, and our freedom (religious freedom in particular) should concern us. The challenge is to not neglect one of these concerns in the interest of another. While social media, like Facebook, have great potential for spreading the good news of Jesus, they also easily become the means of tarnishing the good news of Jesus, especially when those who bear His name don't represent Him well.

I once heard a wise older pastor say, "Politics divide, the gospel unites." It seems that almost everything today ends up a political issue. There is little accountability for truthfulness, and disagreement quickly becomes demonization. Beware of getting caught up in it, for it will greatly hinder your disciple-making opportunities. Ephesians 4:29 says, "Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear." 1 Peter 3:15 reminds us that our defense should be said "with gentleness and reverence," reflecting the hope that is in us. Our hope (confident expectation) is in Christ, it is the new and eternal life He has given us. Our hope is not that a temporary issue is resolved according to our liking!

Here are what I think are critical things for us to remember as we go through this: our citizenship is in heaven, Christ is our Lord, making disciples is His order, and loving God and others are our priorities.

The apostle Paul said this, "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ" (*Philippians 3:20, NASB*). We need to be careful that we don't lose sight of our first citizenship and what we really want. The fear or fighting that have become common, reflect overvaluing the passing present world. Jesus is our Lord; He is the One we listen to and follow. What does God tell us in terms of obeying the law? "Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, ²to malign no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing every consideration for all men." (*Titus 3:1-2*; see also Romans 13:1-2 and 2 Peter 2:13-17). We have a wonderful right in our country to express our disagreement, but it should always be governed by the standard of truthfulness and respect that our Lord has given us.

Jesus gave us our orders, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (*Matthew 28:19-20*). And what did Jesus tell us is most important? "AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR





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Pastor's Pen continued...

HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' ³¹ "The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (*Mark 12:30-31*). Following the social distancing and other guidelines so that we don't spread a potentially deadly virus to others is the loving thing to do. The things we say, and how we say it, ought also to reflect loving others, even those we disagree with.

Since our citizenship is in heaven, Christ is our Lord, making disciples is His order, and loving God and others are our priorities – let's be messengers of hope!

Let's follow the apostle Paul's guidelines, "Let your speech always be with grace, *as though* seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person." (*Colossians 4:6*). Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty *again*? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men." (*Matthew 5:13*). As salt we preserve what is good, promote cleansing and healing, and create thirst. He said, "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. (*Matthew 5:16*). It's our hour to shine, let's shine!

Striving to be a light,
 Pastor Dan

May Birthdays!

HAPPY
 BIRTHDAY



3 David Hurlbert
 Dan Keen
 Flaimide McNett
 4 Tracy Signer
 5 Suzette Sherman
 6 Thadeus Miller
 7 Linda Shannon
 8 Loren Bruehlman
 Luke Whyte
 9 Brewer Haworth
 10 Michael Pals
 Laura Roth
 11 Meranda Beernink
 Hope Richardson
 Maggie Setterstrom

13 Josh Kuenzi
 14 Elias Beernink
 Judah Beernink
 Ivy Eddy
 Ryan Wyss
 16 Sawyer Hardacre
 17 Sophia Rhoe
 Mike Westcomb
 19 Elaine Blue
 21 Andrew Brunner
 Lily Richardson
 22 Frank Pivonka
 24 Logan Ringhand
 26 Julie Champlin
 Hallie Signer

28 Becky Brown
 Tom Dolezel
 Justin Miller
 29 Ann Toay
 30 Haeven Kelley

HAPPY
 anniversary

5 Harold & Shirley Pieper
 7 Jeff & Vicki McNett
 16 Randy & Lucy Whyte
 18 Russell & Liz Meyer
 20 Aaron & Meghann Holoverson
 Steve & Rhonda Schwarze
 28 Bob & Deb Hauri





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*We want to offer our sympathy to
 Liz Garchie-Schulthess & her family.
 Liz's sister, Chelle, passed away
 on Tuesday, April 7th.
 May God comfort &
 bless you with His peace.*

Welcome

New Baby Boy!

*Congratulations to
 Peter & Katelin
 Rische on the birth*



*of their son, Simon Gray Rische,
 on Friday, April 24th. Simon
 weighed 9lbs., 9 oz. and was 22" long.
 He joins big sisters Lillie, Heidi,
 & Ellie at home.*

Do You Know What's Happening?

Just a reminder that part of staying connected is staying aware of what is happening. We may not be able to meet face-to-face at this time, and things may look a little different, but ministry is still going on!

Be sure to watch our **Worship Services Livestreaming** on YouTube every Sunday at 9 AM and a link on Facebook at 10:30 AM. Announcements are made during the weekly services.

Watch our **Facebook** postings for the latest happenings and updates.

Remember to go to our **Website to view our newsletters, bulletins, children's bulletins, Life Group study guides, sermon outlines, and any updates.** Our bulletins and newsletters have announcements in them that you will want to be aware of – find out what's happening with the Guatemala trip, Awana, Church League Softball.

Pastor Dan is doing a **weekly video address** to our congregation on both Facebook and our website. These are available by Friday each week.

Stay Connected and Stay Informed!

Are you in Need of Prayer or Encouragement?

Since we aren't able to have in-person church services, people aren't able to pray with someone after each Sunday service. The Prayer Ministry has compiled a list of men and women who are willing to pray with people over the phone. If you have a prayer concern of any kind, feel free to call someone on this list. If the person doesn't answer, please leave a message. The Prayer Chain is available also. Feel free to contact members of your Life Group for prayer as well.

Dan Keen, 608-897-6926

Ed Demianiuk, 608-214-6109

Larry Young, 608-329-4056

Tom Rossing, 608-214-6309

Rich Peach, 608-897-5852

Greg Dyer, 608-328-2058

Celia Keen, 608-897-4563

Cindy Demianiuk, 608-214-6117

Pam Young, 608-329-4056

Brenda Rossing, 608-214-9622

Dawn Jordan, 608-938-1068

Corrine Meier, 608-325-7142

How Are You? Volunteers are Available to Help!

We want to make sure that everyone is staying healthy and safe. If you're not feeling well, or if you're concerned about going out to pick up groceries or items you may need, our church has volunteers that can pick things up for you and deliver them to your front door.

Feel free to email the church office (office@monroebiblechurch.org) or call Kristi Bruehlman (608-214-4649), or contact your Elder and we'll make sure to put you in touch with one of our volunteers who can shop for you. Feel free to reach out to members of your Life Group for assistance as well!



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A to Z Alphabet Challenge

A	Adoration, Appealed to Jesus
B	Bible reading, Bounty, Believe
C	Communication, Celebrate, Cast my Cares, Connect
D	Discipleship, Donate
E	Encourage, Enveloped by God's love
F	Fresh air! Facts of who Jesus is
G	God's Grace, Genuine
H	Helpfulness, Hope
I	Inspiration, Invest
J	Joy, Jesus
K	King, Know his love & forgiveness, Kindness
L	Love one another, Lament
M	Meditate
N	Notice God in things around me
O	Open my heart to Jesus
P	Persevere, Pray
Q	Quit dwelling on the negative
R	Rise
S	Study, Safe in the arms of Jesus
T	Time to pray, Truth
U	Unveil
V	Vision of what God desires
W	Wisdom
X	Xtreme faith
Y	Yield to Jesus
Z	Zero tolerance for sin in my life

We asked and you responded! Here are some creative things you've been doing to stay connected and encourage others:

Car ride dates,
 Listening to nature,
 Gaither Homecoming Radio,
 Go for a walk,
 Emailed a missionary (& they wrote back),
 Connecting with family by phone & email to check in & encourage,
 YouTube and laughed at good clean humor videos,
 Looking at Live Eagle Cams on two bald eagle nests near Dec-
 orah Iowa,
 Car Art,
 Parking Lot Prayers.



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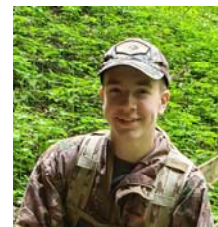
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YOU DID IT!
Congratulations



2020 Graduates

Gavin Eddy—I graduated early, on Sunday, March 15, 2020. I am undecided about future educational plans. I am currently working and enjoying this next step.



Ben Figi—I will be graduating from Argyle High School. My future plans are undecided at the moment. We will hopefully be having a graduation party on Saturday, June 13th at 1:00 pm. All are welcome to attend!

Indie Garchie—I graduated early, on Friday, March 6th, 2020. I plan to attend Blackhawk Tech. in the fall. I enjoy welding and “hands on” work.



David J. Hurlbert—I will graduate from Richland Valley Vocational Eruditional Institute on May 16, 2020. We look forward to having you join us to celebrate in June. I am currently working in Parts/Service at Freeport Honda Kawasaki.

Mike Klitzke—I plan on going to a technical college while serving in the Army Reserves as an electronics repair technician, and after that find what skills I have that are the best and pursue a career with those in mind.



The Family “Get Outdoors” Contest

Get your family outside a minimum of 3 different times and take photos or videos. Document your family on a bike ride, fishing trip, gardening, playing games, or whatever you like to do together outside. Make a 2-3 minute photo or video collage and send it to pastortroy@monroebiblechurch.org by June 1st. Prizes will be awarded to the top two submissions in June. Get creative and have fun with this! Check out the main page on our church website for more information from Pastor Troy on this contest.

Awana

Awana Club is closed for the rest of the spring 2020 club year and we will not be hosting an Awards Ceremony. The plan proposed is to have an awards recognition at the start of the next club year. We will be relying heavily on parents or guardians to help clubbers finish sections and be allowed to sign-off for them when completed. Leaders are available to answer questions by phone, Zoom, Facebook, or whatever works to encourage and help. We want to recognize all of the kids’ hard work. Contact Jim Hurlbert with any questions, 608-325-3430.



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National Day Of Prayer Goes On! Thursday, May 7th (Without the Breakfast)

The COVID 19 virus pandemic has changed and even stopped many things, but it will not stop The 2020 National Day of Prayer Event!



Due to social distancing guidelines and restrictions on large gatherings many adjustments had to be made, but in Gods perfect timing and during this very unique and challenging time, we will continue to “Pray God’s Glory Across the Earth”. Young children and youth from our MBC families have prepared special prayers for families, schools, business, ministries, media, and government. Each of our special guests will be sent an email containing a link to a pre-recorded video time of prayer for them. Our congregation will also receive an email with the youth prayer video link. We have seen God work through the relationships we build through this special event. Our outreach through prayer will go on and it is making a difference.

Monroe Bible Church, *You are Invited!*

Since we can’t gather in person due to Covid-19, the annual National Day of Prayer in Monroe will be in a different format. We are inviting everyone in our congregation to join us this year for the National Day of Prayer. Let’s fan the flame of prayer in a “Prayer Pandemic” in our local communities to *Pray God’s Glory Across the Earth!*

An email with an attachment of the National Day of Prayer **Drive-By-Prayer guide** has gone out to our congregation. Contact the church office if you haven’t received it, or look for the guide on our church website. We’re inviting you to drive around your community and Pray! You can do this individually, with your family, or coordinate with your Life Group and friends and follow each other in your cars to participate in parking lot or roadside prayers following the Drive-By-Prayer guide.

Also on May 7th at 7:00 pm Central Standard Time, the National Observance time of prayer will be aired on Daystar, God TV, Facebook Live, and the NDP website (nationaldayofprayer.org).

Join Us for the National Day of Prayer!



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Prayer Ministry

Lately I have had the opportunity to read or re-read several books on the topic of prayer. I am currently reading "Something Happens When Churches Pray". He says that prayer should be as natural as breathing to the believer.

Jesus gives us several examples in the New Testament on how to pray. Jesus usually prayed early in the morning. Make a priority of setting aside a part of the day for prayer. Continue to pray throughout the day.

Prayer can give us boldness and power to witness for Jesus. Prayer produces unity in the church. Prayer helps families. Prayer can give peace.

We are living in a situation we have never been in before in our country. The media would have us fear, but God has not given us a spirit of fear. He wants us to trust in Him. We need to pray. Our government leaders need prayer. We need to pray for America to return to God. Pray for Pastor Dan, Pastor Troy, and their families. Pray for friends, relatives, and neighbors. Call a friend and pray with them. Dwell on Jesus, His Word, and pray, pray, pray. God bless you and your families.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



Due to the coronavirus quarantine, our OneMeal packing event scheduled for May 2nd has been cancelled. Whether it will be rescheduled later this year is currently unknown. The Guatemala Mission trip to construct a *Kids Around The World* playground is currently "on hold" to see what happens with the pandemic. The playground arrived in Guatemala, but whether our team will be able to travel there in July remains to be seen. Guatemala is currently under quarantine just as we are here in the U.S. and most of the mission trips scheduled with Oscar Chiquito for this summer have already been cancelled. The support that has been donated will be available either for this July or, if the trip is cancelled, for next year's trip. More details will come as things develop.

The worldwide pandemic is affecting our missionaries in many ways and creating increased need for most. Please get out your 2019-2020 World Missions booklet and start praying for these families and ministries. Most live far from their families and some live in areas with minimal health care available. Many have had their work altered. Nate and Shannon Ackerman and Art Sommerville were asked to return to the U.S. Most of our missionaries have email addresses listed in the booklet and would be blessed to know they are remembered by us in prayer. By communicating with them via email you can receive specific prayer requests and give them encouragement. As difficult as quarantine is for all of us, it also can open doors for the gospel to be heard by unbelievers everywhere. May we all be ready, as our missionaries are, to share the hope we have within us.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader



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Kid's Page



"I AM" THE VINE

Discover the hidden words.

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

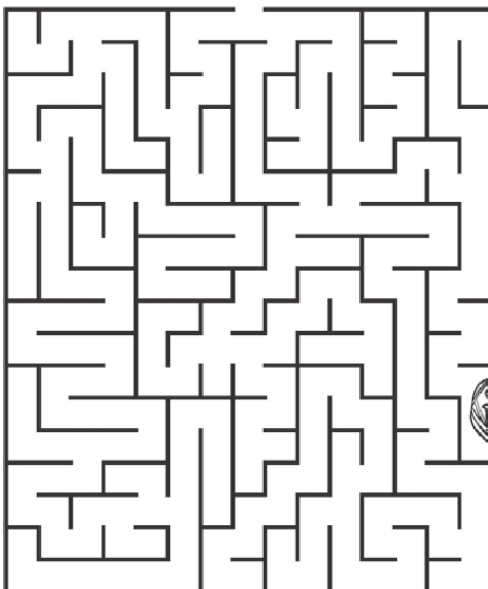
Word Bank

- PROSPER
- FRUIT
- OBEDIENCE
- FRIENDS
- SACRIFICE
- PARABLES
- JESUS
- BRANCHES
- FRUIT
- VINES
- GARDENER
- GOD

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FINISH



START



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JESUS HEALS THE SICK

Help the Centurion find Jesus so his servant can be healed.