



2613 8th Avenue
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Newsletter—July 2020



Pastor's Pen: By Faith

I was sitting with a handful of pastors and one was upset over the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that gave LGBTQ equal protection under the Civil Rights of 1964. His concern was what we are going to face as a result of this. The conversation quickly moved to the Black Lives Matter movement and the riots, Covid-19, political division, etc. People, Christ-followers and not, are concerned about what's happening in our nation and for their own safety.

Perhaps that's why the words, "By faith," stood out to me this morning. Those two words appear together almost twenty times in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews. Each time, and there are a few other references to faith that don't say "by faith," it is referenced to an action taken by people. We see people like Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and the other patriarchs, Moses, Rahab, the Israelites, and more used as examples. Verse 1 describes faith, "Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." (NASB, Hebrews 11:1). This is a confidence, a conviction, of the reality of the living God and what He will do. It is a confident expectation that God will do what He promised. It is faith because the people couldn't see the future. It is faith, as becomes apparent in several of the examples, the people won't live long enough to see what they believe come to fruition. The reader of Hebrews knows that the things the people of faith believed did eventually come true.

The value of this kind of faith is interjected in the chapter. Here are some examples: "For by it the men of old gained approval." (Hebrews 11:2). "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. (Hebrews 11:6). "But as it is, they desire a better *country*, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them." (Hebrews 11:16). The chapter ends, "And all these, having gained approval through their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ because God had provided something better for us, so that apart from us they would not be made perfect." (Hebrews 11:39-40).

Obviously, my thoughts were, "Do I have faith like this?" and, "What example can I point to?". We live in a land, and time, of safety and prosperity that most people in the world have never known. It means we don't have the issues that drive many people to look to God for help, and which become faith incubators. Perhaps we are entering a new period of time in American history that will be a faith incubator.

Shall we grieve for what's happening? Yes. Shall we pray for repentance and revival? Yes. But we must remember that God is still sovereign, even when laws and elections don't turn out the way we want. The more I sink my roots down in this world, the less I look forward to the next. Can we be excited about the prospect of seeing God powerfully work out His plan and purposes in our time? What depths of faith and fellowship might there yet be in store for us? Faith today, like it was for those mentioned in Hebrews 11, is keeping our eyes on our Lord, and the best that He is yet to bring. In the conversation with the pastors I said that I've taken the position of being excited about what God will do. The pastor most upset looked at me and said, "Thank you, that's what I needed."

Excited in the Sovereign,
 Pastor Dan

In This Issue

- Pastor's Pen 1
- Birthdays 2
- VBS
- Anniversaries 3
- Calendar
- 50th Anniversary 4
- Celebration
- Next Steps
- Child Protection 5
- Training
- Missions 6
- Get Outdoors Contest
- Congregational 7
- Meeting
- Prayer Ministry
- Senior Life Group
- Softball
- Baptism & Picnic
- Kid's Page





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Newsletter—July 2020



- 1 Jeanne Hermanson
- Kristi Hudson
- Todd Ills
- Kyle Ohlrich
- Holly Rhoe
- 2 Paul Brunner
- Wendy Westcomb
- 3 Ellie Thoman
- 4 Rich Peach
- Paul Ritschard
- 5 Nicole Bartelt
- Mark McNett
- Shirley Reed
- 6 Jennifer Eddy

- 6 Madeline Kuenzi
- Natalie Whyte
- 9 Evan Brunner
- Dawn Jordan
- Joel Miller
- Melissa Payne
- 14 Whitaker Holverson
- Benson Miller
- 15 Liz Meyer
- 16 Cory Bruehlman
- 17 Jeff Meyer
- Deb Wyss
- 19 Kevin Samson
- 20 Lexi Baer

- 20 ZoAnne Lester
- Corrine Meier
- 22 Ron Faith
- 23 Randy Ringhand
- Sarah Wong
- 24 Eliza Rhoe
- Silas Setterstrom
- 25 Kristi Bruehlman
- Heather Hayden
- 26 Shane Eddy
- Becky Richardson
- Beth Roidt
- 29 Kara Schulte

VBS

Amidst the COVID19 pandemic, a lot of questions have arisen in regards to VBS. The major two being: will there be a VBS this year, and how will it look? Therefore, without further ado...YES, there will be a VBS this year!

With the safety of our community in mind, we will be hosting a one-day VBS. Most of the event will be outside on the church property (unless weather moves it indoors). We will be running three, 1 ½-hour courses of the same program. The group size will be no larger than 50 (children) for each session. This is to ensure enough social distancing and to permit time for cleaning and sanitizing prior to the start of the next group.

Vacation Bible School is on Saturday, August 1, 2020. First group: 9-10:30 am, second group: 11:30-1 pm, and the last group: 2-3:30 pm. This year's theme will be **Full Throttle VBS – Race through the Bible**. With the theme verse being, "I am the way, and the truth, and the light. No man comes to the Father, but through me." John 14: 6

Want to be a part of the fun? Watch for the sign up!





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Newsletter—July 2020



Anniversaries

- 3 Craig & Laura Roth
Gene & Neva Schultz
- 4 Chuck & Jenn Chaldil
- 5 Ryan & Deb Wyss



- 7 Josh & Chelsea Hardacre
- 12 Jeff & Deb Meyer
- 13 Andy & Megan Thoman
- 15 Mike & Wendy Westcomb



- 23 Loren & Kristi Bruehlman
- 26 Don & Darlene Bartelt
- 30 Justin & Hilda Brunner
Curt & Colette Wyttenbach

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	2 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	3 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	4  Independence Day
5 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 4 - (s.1) 9:00 am, LL #106 Fusion at Watson's home—time TBA	6 Missions Meeting—5 pm, LL #106 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	7	8 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	9 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	10 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	11 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
12 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 4 - (s.2) 9:00 am, LL #106	13 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Mtg.—6:30 pm, LL #106	14 VBS Training 10-Noon, NC	15 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	16 VBS: hand out flyers—4-6 pm Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	17 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	18 VBS Training 10-Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
19 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am	20 VBS: hand out flyers—4-6 pm Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	21	22 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	23 VBS: hand out flyers—4-6 pm Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	24 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	25 Baptismal Service & Picnic—2 pm, Clarno Forestry Center
26 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Annual Congrega- tional Meeting—12:15 pm, S	27 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	28	29 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	30 S/NC/K—in use, Funer- al, 10 am—2 pm Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	31 VBS Set-Up Crew—8 am Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	



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50 Years!

Congratulations Ron & Joan Coppes!

Please join Ron & Joan Coppes as their family hosts a 50th Wedding Anniversary cake reception on Sunday, July 5th from 1 - 4 pm at 18 & 8th in the Lower Level. Please omit gifts.



NEXT STEPS

Step 4 "Our Equipping"

2 Sessions:
 July 5th & 12th, 2020
 9:00 am, LL #106

Learn about how God has equipped you with spiritual gifts & explore how to serve.

Sign up on our church website
 or at the Welcome Center!

Have You Completed Your Training Yet?

Child Protection Training Required (3 part process) – Don't wait! For most of you, your child protection certifications are expiring in July and August. Monroe Bible Church requires annual certification training for everyone who works with youth in any capacity, with background checks done every four years on adults.

- 1.** Now is the time to contact the church office (office@monroebiblechurch.org) with the email address you would like to use in order to complete your annual training. Once you've contacted the office, you'll receive an email from Mobilize My Ministry requesting information. *Don't wait, the email links do expire!*
- 2.** After completing the first email with your information, you'll receive a second email with a link to complete your training online. The training consists of a video followed by a quiz, and takes about 45 minutes to complete. The office is notified once you've successfully completed your training. ****Be sure to check your Spam folders if you don't see the emails you're expecting.**
- 3.** You will also need to read and sign the **MBC Policy & Rules for Child Protection Certification**. You can pick that form up from your ministry leader or the office, or the office can email it to you. Sign it and return it back to the office.



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The Guatemala/KATW Mission team is still on hold for our July playground installation. The latest update from Oscar Chiquito was that the virus was expected to peak somewhere around the first week of June and that they were still quarantined with a curfew as of June 8. The President of Guatemala has stated that he will open the country up when the number of COVID cases is in decline. Please continue to pray that those involved in decision making for the mission trip will have clear direction from God and rely on Him to lead. As difficult as it is for us to still be waiting for decisions regarding our trip, God is at work in ways we do not know. Victor and Lena Schpits, our missionaries with Slavic Gospel Association, report that many in Kazakhstan have returned to the Church and others have been eager to receive copies of the Bible in their own language as they seek for hope during the pandemic. We must not allow ourselves to become discouraged or impatient. God is in control.

It is with both sadness at his passing and praise for his eternal life, that we learned of the May 4th death from cancer of Art Sommerville, one of the very first missionaries supported by Monroe Bible Church. Art was a faithful servant for over 70 years in France! His ministry there will continue under the leadership of Steve Fowler who worked closely with Art for the past 8 years as American Director of S.E.E. Steve hopes to visit MBC in the future to share Art's faithful ministry as both encouragement and thanks for our support for so many years. If you would like to read Art's full obituary, go to www.standardfuneralcenter.com

Thank you,
 Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader

MBC Church Family,

During some of the opening days of Covid-19, I wanted to encourage families who were home to spend a little more time outdoors together. We created a "Get Outdoors" contest and invited you all to capture pictures and video of your family working, playing, and enjoying God's great outdoors. The June 1st deadline brought in 6 "Get Outdoors" videos.

I formed 2 brackets of 3 families with younger children, and 3 families with teens and/or older kids. I personally viewed each of the videos for fun activities, video creativity, and music—and boy, was this a hard decision!

The winning family videos of the 1st ever "Get outdoors" family contest are: Paul & Anna Ritschards and family (younger children bracket), and Ryan & Joni Proudfit and family (older children bracket). Prizes included some items from Vortex, water balloons, sidewalk chalk, and a variety of items to inspire the families to get outdoors again this summer. If you are interested in viewing these fun videos, check out the Monroe Bible Church Facebook page over the next 3 weeks. Thank you to all the families for helping make this unprecedented time a time your children will never forget!

Pastor Troy Watson





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Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, July 26th at 12:15 pm in the Sanctuary, following the 2nd service.

Everyone is invited to attend!

You must be a member in good standing in order to vote.

We will be voting, then affirming Elders and Deacons.

Annual Reports, Minutes from the last meeting, and the Budgets will be available at the Welcome Center prior to the meeting for everyone to pick up and review.

Senior Life Group

We're meeting each Wednesday in the Nehemiah Center at 1:00 PM.

Contact Leader Greg Dyer with questions, 608-426-4401.

PRAY

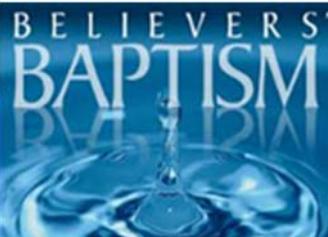
I recently acquired two books on prayer. One is "Covering Your Life In Prayer" by Erwin Lutzer. It is a 52-week guide on praying Scripture. It's a very good book. The second book is "Pray Big" by Alistar Begg. It focuses on Paul's prayers for his friends in the church at Ephesus. He was in prison, but was more concerned about his friends than himself. Colossians 4:2-4 is an example of how Paul prayed. He enjoyed prayer and was excited about it. He expected God to listen to and answer his prayers. Paul prayed because he believed God could do great things. We need to ask ourselves, do I enjoy prayer? Do I get excited about prayer? Do I believe God can do great things? God wants believers to communicate with Him. Set aside several times each day to pray.

We are living in uncertain times. The media will bombard us if we let them. Don't let that happen to you. Focus on God's Word continually. Jeremiah 17:7 says "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord". The dictionary defines blessed as to be made holy or consecrated. This happens when we repent of our sin and accept Jesus' work on the cross as an atonement for our sin. This changes one's life completely. Thank Him for His sacrifice for your sin. Live your life as one made holy by Jesus. Pray regularly.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

Church League Softball has begun!

Come support the MBC Teams on Friday nights!
Schedules are available at the Welcome Center or on Facebook at Church League Softball of Monroe Wisconsin.



The annual outdoor Baptismal Service & Picnic will be on Saturday, July 25th at 2 pm. The baptismal service will start at the Richland Creek, followed by a picnic potluck with our friends of Iglesia Biblica at the Clarno Forestry Center. Sign up at the Welcome Center or on our church website if you would like to be baptized, or see one of the Pastors.

Please bring a main dish and a salad or dessert to share. Tacos and drinks will be provided as well.

***Keep in mind that there is no refrigeration and minimal electricity at the Center for food. Bring coolers with ice to keep your food adequately chilled, and bring your lawn chairs or blankets to sit on.**

Everyone is invited to attend!



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Kid's Coloring Page

THE ADVENTURES OF PAUL MIRACLES & RIOTS

Acts 19:8

And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly,
reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God.

