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Newsletter—January 2021

In This Issue

Pastor's Pen 1

Calendar 2

Birthdays 3
 Anniversaries
 Women's Group

Church Directory 4
 Prayer

Life Groups 5
 Missions
 Next Steps
 Winter Retreat

Pipeline—Marriage 6
 Israel Trip

Kid's Page 7

Pastor's Pen:

Inventories and Reports



As 2020 came to a close it meant taking inventory and making reports at work for some people. Some of us may do this, in a way, with our personal lives as well. Something related to inventories and reports struck me as I was following our Bible reading plan.

You're probably familiar with the account of Jesus and the demoniac who lived among the tombs. Jesus and His disciples had sailed to the eastern shore of the Sea of Galilee, into the Gentile area known as the country of the Gerasenes. This man lived among the tombs, prowled about naked, and would often cut himself. He would be bound with chains and shackles and put under guard, but when a demon would seize control, he would break free and flee into the desert. As we would expect, the townspeople feared him. When Jesus came into the area and commanded the demons to leave this man, he falls down before Him, and loudly cries out, "What business do we have with each other, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me." (Luke 8:28, *NASB*). The demons ask Jesus not to send them to the abyss and beg to be sent into the swine nearby. The account then simply reads, "And He gave them permission." (verse 32). So little effort on the part of Jesus.

Someone asked me recently if I thought there were demons around since they seemed so common in Biblical times. Another expressed concern about opening ourselves up to demons. Well, I do think they are around. While I don't think new ones are coming into existence, unless they've been sent to the abyss, there's no reason to think they wouldn't be actively doing Satan's work. And, as our nation continues to turn its back on God, we are giving them more opportunity to work here. But we ought not to fear them. For though the demons in this man called themselves "Legion" because there were so many in him, Jesus had no difficulty dealing with them.

The part that struck me as I was reading was the man, after he was freed from the demons. He begged Jesus to go with Him. Jesus said no, but to go to his home and, "describe what great things God has done for you." (Luke 8:39). It's the second part of the verse that caught my attention, "So he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him." Notice that it wasn't the great thing Jesus did, as in casting out the demons, but "great things," plural. What else had Jesus done for him? Nothing is recorded. Perhaps some of the "things" were different miseries he was now set free from, or new opportunities he had for his life.

It made me ask myself, "Are there not great things the Lord has done for me that I can tell people?" It made me realize that I don't often take inventory. How about you? Peter wrote, "but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence;" (1 Peter 3:15). Notice, "always being ready" and "an account for the hope that is in you." Could you make a list of things the Lord delivered you from? Could you list some wonderful things you now have because of Him? I wonder if we wouldn't begin to see more and more opportunities to "proclaim what great things Jesus has done for us," if we were looking and ready?

The silver lining in the dark cloud of 2020 is the opportunity it has created. Many are fatigued and discouraged, but looking for hope and willing to talk about eternity. Many of us are tired and discouraged as well. Can we begin the New Year by taking an inventory, and look for opportunities to "report" it to others?

Because He Lives,
 Pastor Dan






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January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day Office Closed Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	2 Iglesia Women's Study—4-6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—6:00 pm, NC
3 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am No Pipeline or Sunday School Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC No Ignite or Fusion	4 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	5	6 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T- 6:15 pm	7 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	8 Ignite & Fusion— Winter Retreat Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	9 Ignite & Fusion—Winter Retreat Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
10 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite & Fusion Return home from Retreat	11 Women's Group—10 am, Library/NC Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Mtg.—6:30 pm, LL #106	12	13 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T- 6:15 pm	14 Church in use— Decorating for Wed- ding Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC Missions Meeting— 6:15 pm, LIL #106	15 Church in use— Decorating for Wed- ding Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary, evening	16 All Church in use— Wedding
17 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Next Steps-Step 1, Noon, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm	18 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	19 Board of Deacons Mtg—6:00 pm, LL #106	20 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T- 6:15 pm	21 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	22 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	23 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
24 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.1), 9 am, LL #100 Guatemala Team Mtg.— 12:30 pm, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm	25 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	26	27 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T- 6:15 pm	28 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC Health Team Mtg.— 6:30 pm, LL #106	29 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	30 Women's Group—10 am, Library/NC Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
31 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.2), 9 am, LL #100 Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, NC Ignite: 4-6 pm Fusion: 6-8 pm						

Do You Know Our Office Hours?

Monday—Thursday, 8:00 AM—4:00 PM
Fridays, 8:00 AM—Noon



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1 Dorothy McNett

Victor Paske

Bernie Roidt

2 Jeff Wunschel

Crystal Zimmerman

5 Shannon Ackerman

Cheryl Hartwig

Isaac Wyss

6 Annie Ranum

7 Craig Tuttle

8 Margie Johnson

Elena Wyss

10 Kevin Geiwitz

11 Deb Meyer

12 Maeve Baer

Ronald Bernhagen

Jodi Kegebein

13 Tess Nafzger

14 Kim Heinbaugh

Carson Montgomery

15 Curt Wytenbach

16 Shane Figi

18 Sarah Ragan

20 Julia Figi

Amy Haworth

Joram Hurlbert

Erich Krahenbuhl

21 Richard Thoman

Larry Young

23 Gene Schultz

24 Lynn Klitzke

Brinley Roidt

25 Angie Geiwitz

26 Deb Hendrickson

27 Avery Bartelt

28 Tyler Hartwig

29 Mike Brandenburg

Andrew Ragan

Griffin Ragan

31 Kay Bloom



6 Tom & Jill Skoumal

17 John & Nicole Bartelt

18 Kevin & Linda Samson

29 Duane & Crystal Zimmerman

31 Ron & Joan Coppes

Women's Group

Meeting twice a month at 10 AM in the
 Library & Nehemiah Center

Monday, January 11th

Saturday, January 30th

The focus for this year will be the Bible,
 we will read a passage each time and
 discuss. Contact Amanda Ohlrich with
 questions, 719-339-5366

Join Us!



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Monroe Bible Church Directory

Do you have our Church Directory? Are you in it? Our church directory is online and only people from our congregation can access our directory. You can view the directory from your computer or a smart phone, whichever you prefer. You can also print out a hard copy to use.

Many who have Instant Church Directory have commented how great it is to use. Did you know that you when you access our Instant Church Directory through the App on your phone you can call, text, or email someone in the congregation directly through the App? It's that convenient and easy to use!



Do you recognize the person sitting next to you in church? Do they recognize you? Most of us use the directory for contact information, but it can also be used for putting a name with a face.

Many of our members and regular attenders did not get their pictures included in the directory. It's easy to submit a picture into the online directory! This time of year, families often get a nice picture taken for sending out Christmas cards or while at family gatherings, so this is a great time for you to submit a picture. Remember pictures in the directory are only about 1 1/2" squared, so sit side-by-side, or make sure your family takes a "stacked" photo with young children in front and adults behind them, or adults sitting in front and older children standing behind their parents. You can upload the picture to the directory yourself, or you can send a jpeg image to the church office and we'll do it for you.

Contact the church office if you would like to be included in the directory or if you need directions to set up access.

Prayer Ministry

I heard a hymn story on the radio last week. It detailed how and why "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" was written. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow had doubts in a time of despair. Brothers were fighting over the question of slavery in America. There was trouble all over the world. Sound familiar? Read the words in this hymn. One very powerful line says "GOD IS NOT DEAD, NOR DOTH HE SLEEP". We need to remember that and live like we believe it. Isaiah states "Fear not, for I am with thee". Read Isaiah 41:10 and be very encouraged. We are living in interesting times. We, as believers, need to pray daily and regularly. This will help us to have peace in our hearts, because God is in control. Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there. Jesus triumphed over sin, death, and the grave. He is Risen! David says in Psalms that He put a new song in his mouth. Focus your thoughts on the truth of God's Word and not on current events. Pray for everything that concerns you and others. Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to the Lord. Hide God's Word in your heart and dwell on it. It will lift your spirit when you feel like the world is falling apart. Remember, GOD IS NOT DEAD, NOR DOTH HE SLEEP! Sing a prayer to Jesus. Sing a hymn to Jesus.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

Join us Monday evenings at 6:30 pm for prayer!



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Senior Life Group

We will resume meeting on
 Wednesday, January 6th at 1:00 pm
 in the Nehemiah Center.
 Contact Greg Dyer with any questions,
 608-426-4401.

Life Groups

Are you in a Life Group? You can sign up for a group on our church website. A listing of all groups is on our website and posted at the Welcome Center and on the plexi-board in the foyer. Choose a Life Group that works best with your schedule. Contact the group leader and let them know that you'd like to come to their group.

MISSIONS

Once again January begins with a flurry of activity for Missions Ministry as we begin planning our seventh mission trip to Guatemala joining together with Oscar and Karla Chiquito of CTEN--Impacting Guatemala Network.

Oscar and Karla have visited here at MBC and you can learn more about their ministry by referring to your "Church Without Walls" missions booklet. We are especially excited about this year's mission as it is the culmination of work which started in 2016 to join with *Kids Around The World* in the installation of a playground at a church in Aldea Los Gonzalez, Montana Xalapan, Guatemala. Building a playground may not seem like much of a spiritual exercise until we consider how it can be utilized by the receiving church for evangelism. KATW has found through these projects that, because they are not plentiful in many places, playgrounds attract families. As their children play, church members can talk with the adults about spiritual matters and invite new families to church, Sunday School, VBS, etc. So many of you helped this project become reality by supporting Culvers and Papa Murphy nights, garage sales, and other fundraising activities. We truly thank you! Now we need prayer to cover us as we plan, so that coronavirus (or some other issue) doesn't prevent us from carrying out the installation as it did in 2020. Will you please pray for this mission's success so many in Guatemala can be reached for Jesus? Also pray that God works in hearts to develop a team of willing workers who bring glory to Him through our attitude, motives, and love for one another. Thank you for being faithful prayer warriors!

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader

NEXT STEPS

Step 1-Our Mission & Vision

Sunday, January 17th at
 Noon, LL #106

Step 2-Our Core Beliefs (2 parts)

Sunday, January 24 (s.1) & January 31 (s.2)
 at 9:00 am, LL #100

**This step is required for membership.*

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

Fusion & Ignite

Winter Retreat
 Living Waters Bible Camp in Westby, WI

January 8-10, 2021

Leaving Friday at 4pm &
 returning Sunday afternoon.

Permissions Slips Required.
 See Pastor Troy with any questions.

Pick up a 2021 Next Steps brochure at the Welcome Center.



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Marriage Enrichment Series coming to Pipeline in February

The year 2020 was very different for everyone. The COVID virus pandemic has affected all of us in many different ways. A few of the ways many of us have been affected include: loss of personal income, lack of contact with family and friends, radical changes of daily routines and family schedules, sickness and quarantine, and even the loss of loved ones.

Another thing that has been affected in several ways is our relationship with our spouse. Because of the need to change routines and responsibilities, shifting work and school schedules, adjusting finances, decisions about health and welfare of the family, our marriages have been under a tremendous amount of stress this past year.

Our marriage relationship must always be a high priority. We sometimes get so busy and work so hard at fulfilling our other responsibilities that we neglect the ones closest and dearest to us, God's perfect gift to us, our spouse.

After this past year, more than ever, we all could use a marriage "tune up"! Please plan to join us starting **Feb 7th** for a 6-week marriage enrichment series in Pipeline. We will be using Gary Thomas' video series titled "Cherish". Look for more details in the coming weeks and mark your calendar to attend now.

Jeff & Marie Wunschel, Marriage Ministry Leaders

Israel Trip 2021

For those of you who expressed interest in going to Israel with our MBC group, you can choose between the 7-day (Nov. 22-30) or 9-day (Nov. 22-Dec.3) trip. Travelers can pay for their trip in one of two ways online at: IsraelBibleTrips.com/monroebiblechurch by making either a one-time purchase, or monthly payments. Registration closes August 15, 2021. Final payment due September 10, 2021. See Pastor Dan with any questions.





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Kid's Page

Winter Word Unscramble

ndgledsi _____

tnsmtie _____

kfwolensa _____

gntgbonoa _____

newrti _____

rfsac _____

igkins _____

iclcei _____

otosb _____

sobgwanogindr _____

lzradbzi _____

olgoi _____

atnksig _____

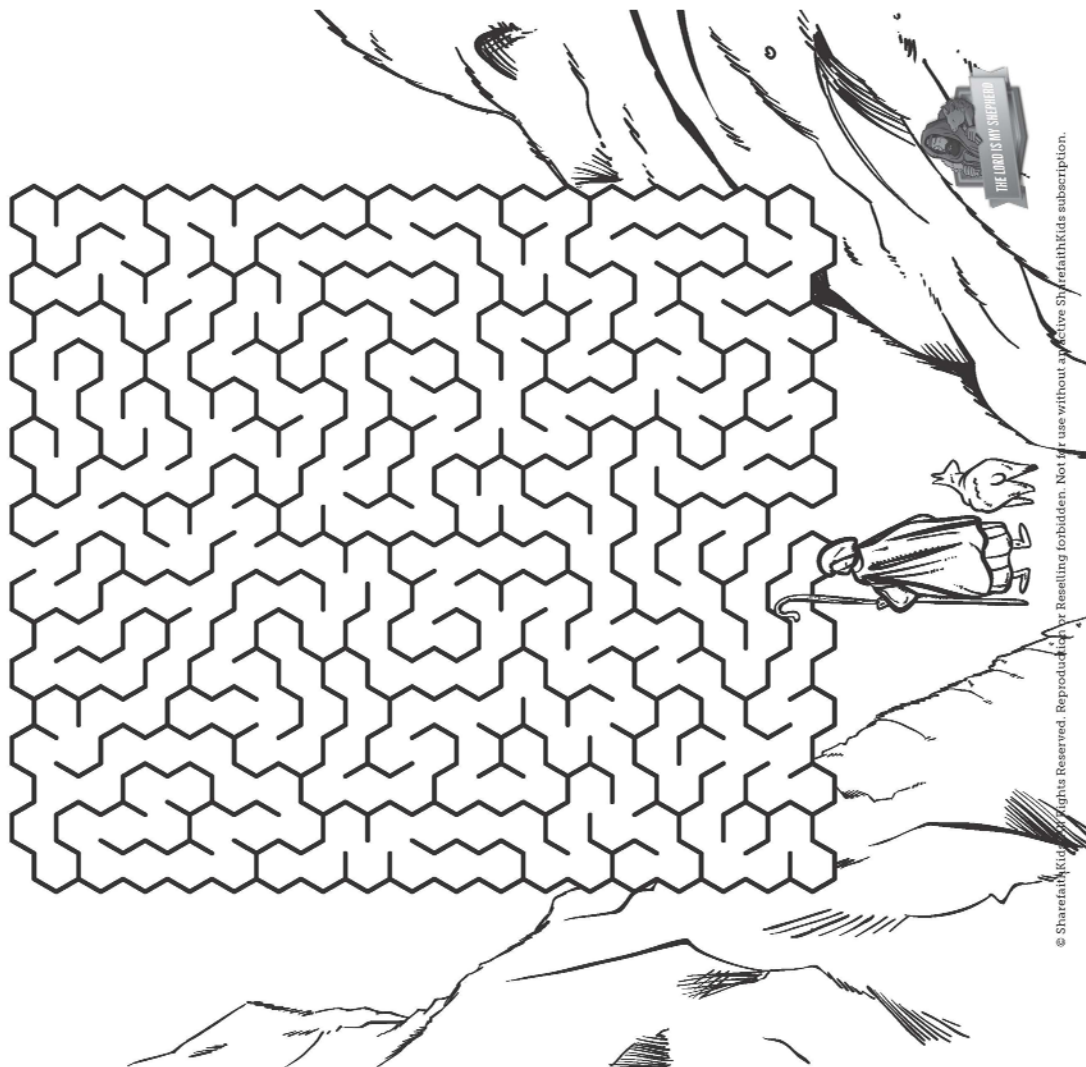
wnasmon _____

1st Row
Sledging
Snowflake
Winter
Skiing
Boots
Blizzard
Skating
2nd Row
Mittens
Toboggan
Scarf
Icicle
Snowboarding
Igloo
snowman

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

Help the shepherd guide his lamb.

FINISH



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