

# Newsletter—May 2021



MONROE  
BIBLE  
CHURCH

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## Pastor's Pen:

### Facing Fears



Years ago, we saved a little magazine clipping about worry. Since we no longer have the clipping, I looked for it online and found an article that began, "500 years ago, Michel de Montaigne said: 'My life has been filled with terrible misfortune; most of which never happened.'" (Goewey, Don Joseph, (Dec. 6, 2017), *85 Percent of What We Worry About Never Happens*. Huffpost). That's a humorous statement that actually bears a lot of truth. The article goes on to cite the results of a study showing that 85% of what those surveyed worried about, never happened, and of the 15% that did happen, 79% was either something they could handle, or taught a lesson worth learning. The article also noted, "The stress hormones that worry dumps into your brain have been linked to shrinking brain mass, lowering your IQ, being prone to heart disease, cancer and premature aging, predicting marital, family dysfunction and clinical depression, and making seniors more likely to develop dementia and Alzheimer's."

It makes me think of Jesus' words to His disciples His last night with them, knowing what would be in His and their future, "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful." (John 14:27, *NASB*). And yet, there seems to be a lot of anxiety today, and plenty to keep it stirred up. For example, think about the conflicting reports from different news sources, and friends, about things like COVID-19, the vaccines, policies and executive orders coming out of Washington, the economy, socialism, morality, rumblings of war, persecution, God's judgment, and the end of the world. Sprinkle these topics in conversations, stir it up and serve it to our minds, and, no surprise, anxiety, worry, and stress are the result. Though some of us insist we aren't worried and it doesn't bother us, we can't be human and not have all of this affect us in some way.

What do we do to guard ourselves from the unhealthy effects that fear and worry have on us? Some people have found life to be much more peaceful by leaving the news off. Not everyone wants to do that, and there is value in knowing what is going on in our world. But cutting back, significantly enough to ease our worry factor, is a good and practical place to start. For some of us, maybe most of us, to simply "not worry" seems impossible. A better path is to build our trust in God to the point that it dispels our fears. A growing confidence that He will always be with us, strengthen and sustain us, and keep us until He takes us home, IS healthy and realistic.

Here are three thoughts that come to my mind as I think about putting fearful thoughts in their place – love God more, love the world less, and love the world more. No, that's not a misprint. Let me explain. Jesus made it clear, the greatest commandment is to love the Lord with everything in us (Mark 12:30). This means we have a growing relationship with the Lord that transforms our thoughts, desires, and priorities. The apostle Paul prayed this for the Ephesian church (Ephesians 3:14-21). To love God is to be enveloped in His love!

Paul also warned the church in Rome against becoming conformed to this world (Romans 12:2). The apostle John wrote, "Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup> For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world." (1 John 2:15-16). The more we value what the world values, and desire what the world says we should, the less we will love God, and what He tells us is truly important.

What about "love the world more"? Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to love our neighbor as ourself (Mark 12:31). God loves the world enough that He sent His Son Jesus to the cross to rescue it from the evil that causes our fear and worry (John 3:16)! In this use, the world is the people in it. We must be careful not to so hate and condemn the world that we lose our priority of rescuing those caught in it.

Let's be diligent to prepare ourselves for whatever lies ahead by building spiritual strength through the right loves. Then we can let the news inform us where our battles will be, and God inform us how to face them as opportunities to speak the truth in love to rescue the lost.

Peace, (Isaiah 26:3)


Pastor Dan



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## May 2021

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed   | Thu   | Fri  | Sat   |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|   |   |  |   |   |  | 1 Gateway Training—4-6 pm, LL #102<br>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S<br>Open AA Mtg, 6-7 pm, 18 & 8th      |
| 2 Worship Services:<br>The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am<br>Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am<br>Next Steps-Step 3, 9 am, LL #102<br>Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, S<br>Ignite: 4-6 pm, NC<br>Fusion: 6-8 pm, NC                            | 3 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102<br><br>Pathways Training—6:30-8 pm, LL #106   | 4  | 5 Papa Murphy's Pizza fundraiser for Guatemala Missions Trip<br><br>Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC<br><br>Awana Leader's Meeting—6:15 pm, NC | 6 Natl. Day of Prayer Concert of Prayer—6:30-7:30pm, S<br><br>Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC | 7 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S  | 8 Iglesia Women's Study—4-6 pm, NC<br><br>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S                                   |
| 9 Mother's Day Worship Services:<br>The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am<br>Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am<br>Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, S<br>No Ignite<br>Fusion: 6-8 pm, NC  | 10 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102<br><br>Elder Board Mtg.—6:30 pm, LL #106   | 11   | 12 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  | 13 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC<br><br>Missions Ministry Mtg.—6 pm, LL #106                | 14 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S | 15 OneMeal Packing—9 am-noon, LL of 18 & 8th<br><br>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S<br>NC in use—4-10:30 pm |
| 16 Worship Services:<br>The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am<br>Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am<br>Life Group Leader Mtg.—noon-2 pm, NC<br>CPR/AED—2-4 pm, NC<br>Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, S<br>Ignite: 4-6 pm, NC<br>Fusion: 6-8 pm, NC | 17 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102<br><br>Pathways Training—6:30-8 pm, LL #106  | 18 Board of Deacons Mtg—6:00 pm, LL #106   | 19 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  | 20 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC  | 21 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S | 22 Iglesia Women's Study—4-6 pm, NC<br><br>Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S                                  |
| 23 Lord's Table Worship Services:<br>The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am<br>Last Pipeline & Sunday School, 9 am<br>Next Steps-Step 1 (1 s.), Noon, LL #106<br>Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, S<br>Ignite: 4-6 pm, NC<br>Fusion: 6-8 pm, NC  | 24 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102<br><br>Pathways Training—6:30-8 pm, LL #106  | 25   | 26 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC  | 27 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC  | 28 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S | 29 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S  |
| 30 Worship Services:<br>The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am<br>Iglesia Biblica 2 pm, S<br>No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite, or Fusion—Summer Break!  | 31 Memorial Day<br>(Office Closed)<br> | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><i>In honor &amp; memory of all the men &amp; women<br/>           who died while serving our country.<br/>           With our gratitude &amp; appreciation, Thank You.</i></p> </div> |   |   |  |   |



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3 David Hurlbert  
Dan Keen  
Flaimide McNett  
4 Tracy Signer  
5 Suzette Sherman  
6 Thadeus Miller  
8 Loren Bruehlman  
9 Brewer Haworth  
10 Michael Pals  
Laura Roth  
11 Meranda Beernink

11 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

5 Harold & Shirley Pieper  
7 Jeff & Vicki McNett  
16 Randy & Lucy Whyte



18 Russell & Liz Meyer  
20 Aaron & Meghann Holverson  
28 Bob & Deb Hauri

## Save the Date:

*Church Campout Yellowstone Park, Argyle WI  
Friday, July 9th—Sunday, July 11th.*



*Mark Your Calendars!*

*Last week before Summer Break  
for Sunday School, Pipeline,  
Ignite, & Fusion  
is Sunday, May 23rd.*



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## Newsletter—May 2021

### Baptism

*Would you like to be Baptized?*

*We will have a baptismal service on  
 Sunday, May 2nd at 2 pm at 18 & 8th.*

*See Pastor Dan or Pastor Troy!*



### CPR/AED Training

Sunday, May 16th at 2:00 pm for anyone interested.  
 Sign up on our website or use the Chromebook  
 at the Welcome Center. Ignite & Fusion training  
 will be at youth groups this night.

## NEXT STEPS

### Step 3 "Our Commitments"

We'll address the topics of eternal life,  
 spiritual growth, baptism, and  
 church membership

**Sunday, May 2** (1 session)

9:00 am, LL #102

*\*Step 3 is required for membership*

### Step 1 "Our Mission & Vision"

Learn what our vision is and how you  
 can become a part of it (1 session)

**Sunday, May 23**

Noon, LL #106—Lunch is Provided

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



### **Open AA Meetings – The Speak Easy Meeting**

Saturday, May 1st at 6:00 pm at 18 & 8<sup>th</sup> (1802 8th Street, Monroe).

A sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous will tell their story.

This is an OPEN meeting, so all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Open AA meetings will be on the first Saturday of each month.

This is an opportunity to learn about the struggles of addiction and give  
 support to people within our community who may be struggling.

6-7 pm — Open AA meeting

If you have any questions, feel free to call Carolyn at 608-345-1730 or Dale at 608-921-9360.

Be sure to check out the website at [www.greencountyaa.org](http://www.greencountyaa.org)



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## OneMeal Food Packing

Saturday, May 15th at 18 & 8th MBC will be packing meals for 20,000 hungry Third World people. The Gospel is given along with the meals to feed souls as well as stomachs. Please stop by the table near the Welcome Center for more information and to sign up as a volunteer for this fun morning. Masks will be required. You will also find the donation box there as we need to collect \$5,400 to pay for the packet ingredients and shipping cost. Checks need to be made out to KATW (Kids Around the World) with OneMeal on the memo line. This is a great opportunity for families to teach children how blessed we are in the U.S. and the Christian response to share what we have with the less fortunate. Perhaps you could have a meal of beans and rice and donate some of your grocery money to OneMeal. All donations whether a couple dollars, a couple hundred, or a thousand are honored by God when given with a generous spirit.

## Papa Murphy's Fundraiser

The Guatemala mission team has a fundraiser planned for Wednesday, May 5th. 10 % of all purchases that day will be donated to MBC Guatemala mission trip ONLY if you say when you pay at the register that you want to participate in the MBC fundraiser. Purchases of all food as well as gift cards are included so think ahead. If you purchase pizza frequently, get a gift card that you can use for later purchases and help out now with the fundraiser. You also might consider gifting a needy family with a gift card, or tuck one in a card as a birthday or graduation gift. Be creative and please plan to visit Papa Murphy's May 5th!

## Library donation

Dr. Steve Fowler from S.E.E. recently donated a copy of Dr. Art Sommerville's book FAITH in Times Like These to our library. If you were inspired by Dr. Fowler's sermon describing the long ministry of Dr. Sommerville, be sure to look for this book. If you missed Dr. Fowler's sermon on April 11th, be sure to listen online. A little trivia from the book--did you know Dr. Sommerville was originally from Oshkosh? You will be blessed reading this short book. Don't miss it!

## Missionary Updates

AWANA missionaries Tim and Sherry Thomas have retired and will be moving to Florida. Tim and Cheryl Gilley will be assuming their responsibilities. Tracy and Karen Singleton (ACTION--Zambia) will be retiring this summer, although they hope to return to Zambia when they are able to support the Zambian pastors they had been training. Currently they are providing humanitarian aid to these pastors and their families who have been devastated by COVID. Please pray for the suffering church in Zambia and for the Singletons. Nate Ackerman (CRU) will be hosting during CRU's One Miracle Night from 1-4 PM on May 8th. You can watch on the YouTube Jesus Film Projects page. Kevin and Robin Warren (Glory Reins) were given a gift towards the arena fund formed after their annual fundraiser was canceled last year due to COVID restrictions in Virginia.



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## Prayer Ministry—Dan Keen

The National Day of Prayer is quickly approaching. Life Groups will be taking one of the seven areas each month that the NDP focuses on. The groups will be praying for the people that are invited to the Prayer Breakfast which had to be cancelled due to the virus. Those in Life Groups were given a pamphlet on how to pray for our leaders. If you're not in a Life Group and would like a pamphlet, please see me at church.

I'm challenging all Dads and Moms in our church to pray for our government leaders daily. Teach your children to do this also, possibly pray as a family for our leaders. God has allowed our leaders to be elected to the positions. Many times a believer won't agree with the views of their leaders, because their views are anti-Biblical. It is vitally important for us to pray for the salvation of our government leaders. Let your leaders know you are praying for them.

I've started to read a book by Andrew Murray called "The Ministry of Intercessory Prayer". The first few chapters in the book emphasize the need to make prayer a priority in our life. We are deceived by thinking we are too busy to pray. We need to put prayer first and it will help us in all we say and do. Without prayer we're just "spinning our wheels". Prayer gets God involved in all we say and do. We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength. Without Him our work is in vain. Encourage one another with prayer.

## Concert of Prayer

***National Day of Prayer — Lord Pour Out  
 Your Love, Life, and Liberty***

*2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and  
 where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*



**Thursday evening, May 6<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30 pm we will be holding a Concert of Prayer in the Sanctuary at MBC. A leader will guide you through 7 special areas of prayer. Prayer suggestions will be projected onto the screen for Government, Church, Family, Military, Business/Work, Education, and Arts/Entertainment/Media, as we move through the hour. You can silently pray by yourself, or quietly pray with family or a friend. The event will be livestreamed for the option to participate with us from home. Let's unite our hearts together in prayer!



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Kid's Coloring Page

*For* GOD  
 SO LOVED  
*the world that*  
 He gave His ONE  
*and only* SON  
*that whoever*  
 BELIEVES  
*in* HIM  
*shall not*  
*perish but*  
 have ETERNAL  
 LIFE.

JOHN 3:16