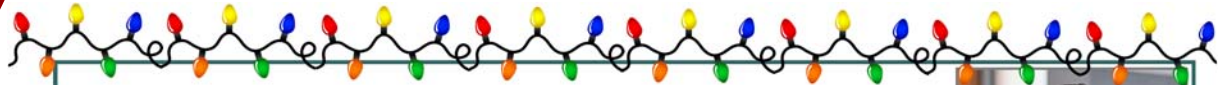




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Newsletter—December 2022



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Sent



It's usually a bit of a challenge to write a December newsletter article in November when Thanksgiving is on my mind. But then, the meaning of Christmas really should be on my mind all year, right?

A Bible verse that always comes to mind for me is 1 John 4:14, "We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world." (1 John 4:14, *NASB95*). God the Father sending Jesus the Son is called the Incarnation. Perhaps you remember looking at that one Sunday morning in our recent series on Christ. It's a mind-boggling miracle. The apostle Paul wrote, "who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied Himself, aking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men." (Philippians 2:6–7). Jesus said a lot when He said, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16). The Father had to give Jesus to the Incarnation in order to give Him to the cross. What a sacrifice, first to subject Himself to life in a human body, then for the purpose of a horrific suffering as the substitute sacrifice for our sins.

Scripture tells us there was no other way to save us. When Thomas asked Jesus the way, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me." (John 14:6). Peter told the Jewish authorities, "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:12). God was very intentional in sending Jesus, He was going to save lost sinners.

The apostle Paul reflected on God's incredible mercy and grace in saving him. In 1 Timothy 1:13-14, he called himself a blasphemer, persecutor, and violent aggressor in relation to Jesus' newly forming church. Then he wrote, "It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all." (1 Timothy 1:15). It strikes me that he never seemed to get over the fact that God would save him. I regret to say that I don't reflect on the wonder of my salvation like that. It isn't that I think I'm worthy; I just don't think of it with such gratitude like I should. How about you?

Thinking about God the Father sending Christ Jesus made me think of four responses that would be good as Christmas approaches, and really, well after that. They have to do with personalizing the Incarnation.

1) Receive Christ as Lord and Savior! Romans 10:9–10 says, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; ¹⁰ for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." This is responding to God's purpose in sending Christ, so if you haven't, do it now!

2) Humility. If the apostle Paul could continue to hold such a humble attitude after all he did for Christ, we should too. Not one of us is worthy of the salvation we've received, not one.

3) Gratitude. Salvation is worth more than all the money the wealthiest person in the world has. In fact, it is worth more than all the money in the world, or the best health, or the happiest family, or anything! Are you thankful?

4) Sent. Think about what Jesus said in John 17, near the end of the long discourse His last evening with His disciples. "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶ "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁷ "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. ¹⁸ "As You sent Me into the world, *I also have sent them* into the world. (John 17:15–18, italics added). Shouldn't those who've freely received what is worth more than anything be striving to bring others to the well to drink as well?

Now that I think about it, it really shouldn't be hard in November to think about what to write for a December newsletter article! In fact, it shouldn't be hard to think what to say to anyone all year long, right?

With grateful humility,

Pastor Dan





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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon</p>						
<p>4 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 1—Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm</p>	<p>5 Prayer Meeting—5:30 pm, LL #102 Revealing Revelation Study—6:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>6 Primitimers Games & Lunch 10 am-1 pm, NC/K</p>	<p>7 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>8 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S</p>	<p>9 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>10 Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC Vigilant Soul Christmas Concert—Doors open: 6:30 pm, Concert: 7-8 pm, 18 & 8th Event Center</p>
<p>11 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm</p>	<p>12 Prayer Meeting—5:30 pm, LL #102 Revealing Revelation Study—6:30 pm, NC Elder Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #106</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>15 Blood Drive— Noon-6:00 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #101 MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S</p>	<p>16 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>17 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC</p>
<p>18 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite Party—4-6 pm, Wheeler's home Fusion Party—6-8 pm</p>	<p>19 Prayer Meeting—5:30 pm, LL #102 Revealing Revelation Study—6:30 pm, NC</p>	<p>20 Deacon Meeting—6pm, LL #106</p>	<p>21 No Sr. Life Group Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm</p>	<p>22 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S</p>	<p>23 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S</p>	<p>24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4:00 PM </p>
<p>25 Christmas Day Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am No Sunday School, Pipeline, Ignite, or Fusion Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S</p>	<p>26 Holiday (Office Closed)  No Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 No Sr. Life Group No Awana</p>	<p>29 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S Fusion serving at Lydia Home, Chicago, IL</p>	<p>30 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Fusion serving at Lydia Home, Chicago, IL</p>	<p>31 New Year's Eve </p>



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3 Shane Schulte
 Bill Westphal
 4 Gavin Eddy
 Lauren Erdmann
 6 Michael Figi
 7 Evan Bartelt
 8 Ann Italiano
 Reuben Kawinzi
 9 Victoria Fowler
 Crystal Watson
 10 Amelia Haworth

12 Ralph Johnson
 Margarite Kawinzi
 Owen Kuenzi
 Rose Larson
 13 Betty Siedschlag
 14 Shannon Allbaugh
 Maria Burke
 Jeff Italiano
 15 Emma Hall
 16 Kaya Holverson
 18 Henry Kuenzi

19 Jonah Ohlrich
 21 John Bartelt
 22 Jacob Brunner
 Dan Krahenbuhl
 Troy Watson
 24 Joe Phillipps
 25 Chris Faith
 27 Pat Hawkinson
 29 Eli Elgin
 31 Rylie Hartwig



Happy Anniversary

1 Roy & Karie Nafzger
 7 Mark & Deb Setterstrom
 18 Michael & Corrine Webber
 20 Larry & Pam Young
 22 Bernie & Beth Roidt
 30 Carter & Sarah Rische



It's a Girl!

*Congratulations to Joey and Libby Thoman
 on the birth of their baby girl!*

*Naomi Isabel was born on
 Saturday, October 29th.*

She weighed 3lbs, 11 oz.

May God bless your family!



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2023 Bible Reading Plan

Read the entire Bible (or just the New Testament) in one year while only reading five times a week. Five readings a week gives room to catch up or take a day off to focus on other Bible reading or spiritual disciplines and makes daily Bible reading practical and easy to do.

Plans available at the Welcome Center!

American Red Cross



**Blood
DRIVE**

**Thursday
December 15
Noon-6:00 PM**

MBC Nehemiah Center



Christmas is almost here. We celebrate the birth of Jesus and all He has done for us. We should be thankful every day for Jesus and His love for us. He has given us the Word of God, our Bible, and the privilege of prayer. Many people think of Him as a Baby in the manger, but He is the Almighty God who is in control of everything that happens. It is a great time of year to tell your relatives, friends, and neighbors about Jesus. Pray for the salvation of these people and ask God for opportunities to witness to them. Jesus gave the greatest gift ever given, His life for our forgiveness of sin.

Do you think prayer is boring? It is definitely not boring, but very exciting. God has given us this privilege and we should be very thankful for it. Prayer has a great spiritual benefit and being thankful has a spiritual and physical benefit. You're invited to join us at 5:30 pm on Monday evenings for prayer meeting. See you there!

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader



“GET OUTDOORS” PHOTO CONTEST

WINNERS

NADIA STOJANOV
FALL REFLECTIONS

DARRYL & KIM WHEELER
MIST ACROSS THE COUNTRYSIDE

DUANE & CRYSTAL ZIMMERMAN
COLORFUL TREES ON THE WATER

Thank you to everyone participating in this contest and sharing your outdoor photos with us!

“But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the LORD has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”

Job 12:7-10



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Monroe Bible Church
Christmas Eve Service
4:00 PM
Christmas Day Services
9:00 & 10:30 AM



Next Steps at MBC

Next Steps are ways to learn more about and become involved at Monroe Bible Church.



Next Steps-Step 1(1s.)

“Our Commitments”

Sunday, December 4th at Noon in the Nehemiah Center. Lunch is provided.

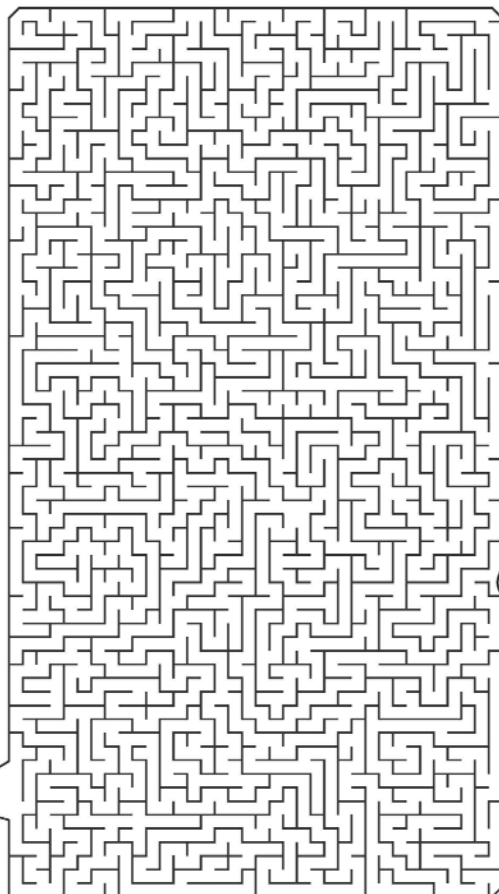
Learn what our vision is and how you can become a part of it.

Sign up for all Next Steps classes on our website, contact the office, or use the Chromebook at the Welcome Center.

MIRACLE OF CHRISTMAS

Guide Mary and Joseph to get counted in the city.

END



START





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Missions Ministry



(Harvest Weekend Men's Breakfast)

Thank you for making Harvest Weekend a warm and welcoming event for Brad Reardon and Devin and Shannon Long. The Christmas missionary offerings totalled \$2,131.08 which will be divided among those we support as a Christmas gift. If you didn't pick up a copy of the new missions booklet, look for one at the Welcome Center so that you know who we support, where they serve, what their ministry involves, and how you can pray for them. Consider sending Christmas cards and becoming friends with one or two by exchanging emails. They greatly appreciate your support and encouragement.

CareNet Pregnancy Center recently held their annual fundraising banquet. MBC sponsored a table for this event. They are currently seeking a couple nurses or ultrasound techs to train as they transition into a center offering more medical care for their clients. If you feel led to volunteer for the Center call 608-325-5051.

Very soon details for the 2023 Mission Trip will be announced. Oscar and Karla Chiquito are welcoming us back to minister in Guatemala! Be watching for dates and informational meetings. Start praying about short-term missions and whether God may be calling you. If you do not feel led to international missions, there is also an opportunity to serve right here in the U.S. with ReachGlobal Crisis Response, a ministry of EFCA. Hope Church has some individuals interested in a team serving in Florida or Kentucky and has invited anyone from MBC who might be interested to join them. This is the same ministry we served with in Corpus Christi in 2021. This ministry does physical work but with the aim to be Jesus in the flesh to someone who has never met Him. They emphasize people, not projects, and flexibility, allowing God to be in control. If you are interested in serving with ReachGlobal, contact Crystal Zimmerman at 608-325-6793 for more information.

There were requests for the recipe for the salad served at the Harvest Ladies' Luncheon, so as promised, here it is:

Harvest Salad

In a large bowl toss baby spinach, torn romaine or other salad greens of your choice, whole cashews, shredded Swiss cheese, diced red apples, diced pears, and dried cranberries or cherries. To prevent the apples and pears from turning brown, dice them into Fruit Fresh or lemon juice dissolved in water and drain well before adding to the salad.

Dressing: Combine in a jar 3/4 cup sugar, 1/3 cup white vinegar, 1 tsp dry mustard, 1 1/2 Tbsp minced onion or chives, and 1 cup oil. When thoroughly combined, add 1 1/2 Tbsp poppy seed if desired. Drizzle over the tossed salad. You may not need all of the dressing depending on how much salad you prepare. Extra will keep for another meal. This is a sweet dressing so feel free to decrease the amount of sugar and adjust the vinegar to suit your taste. I used chive blossom infused vinegar in the dressing I served at the luncheon.

Crystal Zimmerman, Missions Ministry Leader



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Nativity Coloring Page

