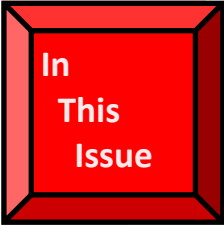




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# Newsletter—February 2023



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## Been Rescued Lately?



Ever feel like you would like to be rescued from the stresses and craziness of the world? In three different conversations that I was in yesterday the subject of busyness came up. None of those conversations concluded that busyness was good. There are times and seasons of busyness for all of us, that's life. However, I don't think it's healthy when it's long lasting. I wonder if Christ Jesus would like to rescue us from excessive busyness?

Paul introduced himself, then wrote this greeting to his readers in Galatians. "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, <sup>5</sup> to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen." (Galatians 1:3-5, *NASB95*).

Verse 4 struck me yesterday, actually, the word "rescue" is what caught my attention. It's fitting that before "rescue" is the phrase "grace and peace from God and the Lord Jesus Christ." Peace and grace sound to me like what you get when you've been rescued.

The "present evil age" that Paul refers to would have been the evil system and powers that bore a measure of authority in his time. The footnote in my Bible says age could be translated world. The evil in any age is the group of beliefs and values that exercise authority or influence over people in ways that take them away from God and His truth. These are the beliefs and values that contradict the truths God has given us. I wonder how much of what we busy ourselves in, doesn't really have a subtle lie behind it. Unfortunately, even good things can have a misbelief buried in them, buried in the why we do them.

I love the fact that we can see in verse four that it is God's will for us to be rescued. His will is good, and acceptable, and perfect for us (Romans 12:2). Thus, we can know that our God wants us to be freed from the things that hold us captive and apart from Him. Consider this, "So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, 'If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; <sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.'" (John 8:31-32). Our Lord wants us to be free from the control of wrong things.

Does rescued mean take us out of this world and into heaven? Or, does it mean rescue us from the power the evil age has to control us now? I would say yes, yes to both. Ultimately, all who have received the gift of eternal life will one day be separated from the evil of this world when they enter the holy presence of God. However, God is working His sanctification in us in the present. (John 17:17, 19; Romans 6:19; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 6:11). A good application question for each of us might be, "What does God want to rescue me from?"

The busyness of people also came up in our elder meeting this week. We discussed how detrimental it is to our need to spend unhurried time with God. Busyness can also prevent us from serving God. And, we can even be so busy serving God that we can't hear Him telling us, like Jesus had to tell Martha, you are missing the most important part of what I have for you because you are consumed with the less important (See Luke 10:38-42). It's sobering to think how easily we might be living captive to false assumptions or ideas!

How does Christ, through His substitutionary death for our sins, rescue us? Let me suggest two ways for starters.

1) Say no to temptation and trust the Lord to help you resist. When we receive Christ as Savior and Lord He breaks the power of sin over us, both to condemn us eternally, and to control us presently. Some of the things that cause excessive busyness have our Adversary and sinful beliefs or values behind them. (See Ephesians 6:10-17). See it and say no!

2) Ask God if you should or should not be doing various things. Many things that make our lives overly busy are good, but are not God's will for us. Being born again means we've been brought into a relationship with the living God. We can personally ask God, and expect to get an answer. So, ask God!

When Paul ends the statement in Galatians 1:5 by saying, "to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen," it is a way of saying, "To God goes the credit for our rescue." Is life crazy and stressful too much of the time for you? I suggest you look to the Great Rescuer and follow what He tells you.

Thanking God for being a Rescuer,  
 Pastor Dan





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# Newsletter—February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	2 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S	3 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	4 No Regrets Men's Conf. - 8 am-2 pm, Janesville or Monroe Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC Open AA Mtg.—6 pm, 18 & 8th	
5 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.1) - 9:00 am, #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	6 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 CareNet Chili Supper—4:30-7:30 pm, Hope Community Center	7 Primitimers Games & Potluck Lunch—10 am-1 pm, NC/K	8 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	9 Missions Meeting — 5:30 pm, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S	10 Awana Girls' T & T Overnighter begins at 5 pm, All church in use	11 Awana Girls' T & T Overnighter, All church in use, ends at 11 am Craft/Vendor Event - 9 am-3 pm, 18 & 8th Iglesia Biblica Birthday Party—1-8 pm, NC	
12 Lord's Table Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.2) - 9:00 am, #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Family Superbowl Party - 4:30 pm, NC No Ignite or Fusion	13 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Deacon Mtg. - 6 pm, NC Elder Mtg. - 6:30 pm, LL #106	14 	15 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	16 Blood Drive:  Noon-6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, #101 MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S	17 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	18 Awana Games - Abundant Life School, Madison Iglesia Biblica Marriage Conference—3-9 pm, all church	
19 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Next Steps-Step 3 (1s.) - 9:00 am, #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	20 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	21	22 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	23 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7pm, S	24 Fusion - Winter Retreat Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	25 Fusion - Winter Retreat Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC	
26 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline 9 am Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S No Ignite or Fusion Fusion returns home from winter retreat	27 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	28	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #f0f0f0;"> <p><b>MBC Office Hours:</b>  <b>Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM,</b>  <b>&amp; Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon</b></p> </div>				



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# Newsletter—February 2023




- 2 Aaron Holverson
- 6 Julie Paske
- 7 Nate Bloom  
Tasha Erdmann
- 8 Justin Rhoe  
Mason Rische
- 10 Liam Erdmann  
Mark Setterstrom
- 11 Al Ostenson
- 12 Timothy Kramer  
Anita Peach  
Braden Williams
- 13 Debra Hurlbert

- 14 Josiah Hauri  
Jake Watson
- 15 Jaclyn Miller  
Jack Richardson
- 16 Felicity Eddy  
Liz Garchie-Schulthess  
Devan Schulte
- 17 Eli Schmitz  
Marie Wunschel
- 19 Brigham Holverson
- 20 Randy Whyte
- 21 Darlene Bartelt  
Emmalynn Brunner

- 21 James Hurlbert  
Sarah Olmstead  
Lili Rische
- 22 Lauren Baer
- 23 Jo Figi  
Scott Larson
- 26 Betty Anderson
- 27 Beth Figi  
Gloria Huffman  
Harold Pieper  
Oliver Ragan
- 28 Kathy Markham  
Deb Westphal



- 1 Peter & Katelin Rische
- 12 Dale & Lynn Klitzke
- 13 Roger & Kathy Krauss

**HELP SAVE A LIFE +  
GIVE THE GIFT OF BLOOD**

Thursday, February 16th  
Noon-6:00 PM  
Nehemiah Center



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# Newsletter—February 2023



## Next Steps at MBC

Next Steps are ways to learn more about and become involved at Monroe Bible Church. Sign up for all Next Steps classes on our website, contact the office, or use the Chromebook at the Welcome Center.



**\*Next Steps 1, 2, and 3 are required for membership at Monroe Bible Church**

### Next Steps-Step 2 (2 sessions)

“Our Core Beliefs” - **Sunday, February 5th & 12th** at 9:00 AM, lower level room #100.  
Find out our core beliefs and biblical doctrines.

### Next Steps-Step 3 (1 session)

“Our Commitments” - **Sunday, February 19th** at 9:00 AM, lower level room #100.  
We’ll address the topics of eternal life, spiritual growth, baptism, and church membership.

## Elder & Deacon Recommendations

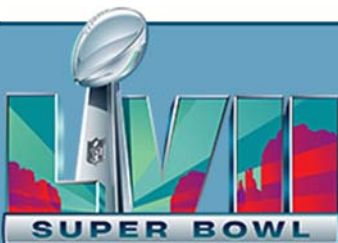
Our annual process for recommendation of Elders and Deacons is underway. If you would like to recommend someone as an Elder or Deacon, recommendations must be received in Pastor Dan’s mailbox (lower level workroom) by **Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**. Pick up a recommendation form at the Welcome Center.

## Primetimers

**Tuesday, February 7th  
Games & Potluck Lunch**

Games begin at 10 AM  
Potluck Lunch at Noon

Everyone please bring a dish to pass.  
See you there!



Sunday  
February  
12th

## *Superbowl Party for the Entire Family!*

Bring a snack and tailgate game or favorite board game to share!

Ping-Pong table, Bean Bag toss, & Lemonade provided.

In the Nehemiah Center of MBC.  
4:30 PM until game ends.



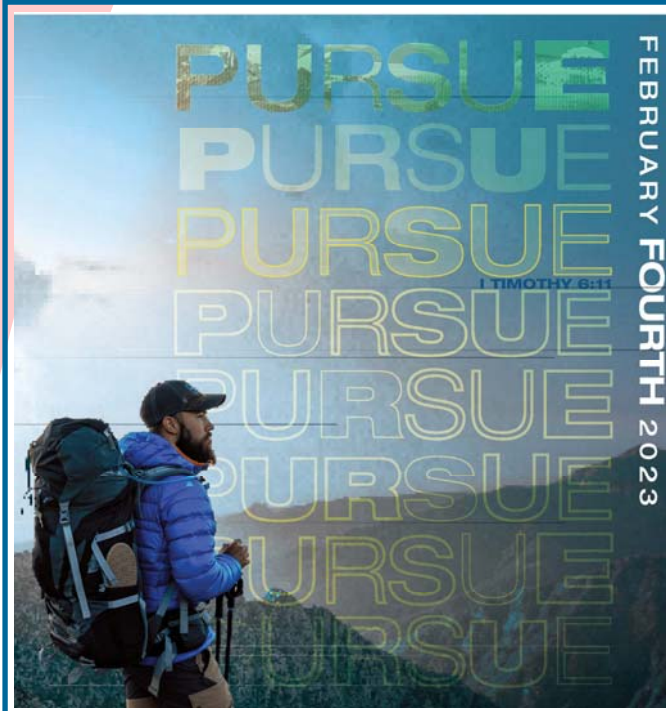
VBS  
July 24-28, 2023

**Keepers of the Kingdom:** Standing Strong in Today's Battle for Truth, the knights and fair maidens will learn how to be a part of God's kingdom and wear the armor of God. Our Royal Majesty's kingdom is under attack, and we must prepare for battle. Fair citizens, we need **YOUR** help! VBS is a church event and we need the church body to help put it together. If you are interested in leading science/craft, games, drama, decorating, or announcements/main assembly, or if you're interested in helping in any of these areas: the 4K room, snack, mission's room, or runner, please contact Amanda Ohlrich at 719-339-5366 to volunteer.



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# Newsletter—February 2023



## No Regrets Men's Conference Simulcast

**Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> – Two Options:**

**Faith Community Church in Janesville** (2931 Lucerne Drive), from 8:00 AM–2:00 PM, Tickets are \$25 online and \$30 at the door. Register online at [www.faithcommunitychurch.net/men](http://www.faithcommunitychurch.net/men)

We'll have live breakouts on topics relevant to living out our roles as Christian men in today's society. Lunch is provided.

Contact Dan Keen with questions, 608-897-6926.

**Hope E. Free Church in Monroe** (2902 13<sup>th</sup> St.), from 8:30 AM-1:30 PM. Registration from 8:00 AM-8:30 AM. Tickets are \$20. Pizza lunch is provided.

If interested, contact Denny Goldenman by Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> (608-325-6360 or [Goldenman@tds.net](mailto:Goldenman@tds.net))

## Men's Outdoor Pursuit Banquet

**March 18, 2023**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Park Hills Evangelical Free Church  
 2525 W Stephenson St, Freeport, IL 61032**



Please join us this year to hear the legendary Jimmy Houston, "Americas Favorite Fisherman", joining us as our speaker. Jimmy will be sharing about fishing and his faith! Note this year is a different format - Instead of raffles – we have an impressive list of door prizes (guns, fishing/hunting gear, & outdoor equipment) that will be given out to those in attendance. Your paid ticket (\$30/person - which includes a catered meal) is all you need be eligible to win some great prizes. Again – no raffles or 50/50 drawings this year - just attend for your chance to win.

MBC tickets are limited! First come, first served basis.

Sign up at the Welcome Center or call our MBC Office (608-325-3966).

Contact Pastor Troy (316-640-9946) or Kyle Ohlrich (719-439-1003) with questions.



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# Newsletter—February 2023



## Missions Ministry



A copy of "Chasing Faith Among Yaks and Nomads; A Memoir" has been purchased from the Missions budget and donated to the church library. Winter is a good time to catch up on some reading and you are encouraged to check this one out! The author is known by many here at MBC and writes, "This story is your church's too, significantly so, as you supported all of these efforts through prayer, finances, and love throughout the entire journey." This memoir is brutally honest about her seven years spent living among people in a foreign land and sharing Jesus among an unreached people. You can purchase your own copy at [centralpublishing.com](http://centralpublishing.com) and for Kindle on Amazon if you prefer.

MBC is planning to send a mission team to Guatemala June 10th-17th. We once again will be working with Oscar and Karla Chiquito in Sumpango on the construction of the Retreat and Training Center for pastors and church leaders. Recently a short video was shown before church highlighting the progress that has already been made. Time will also be spent doing home visits with people from one of the local churches. Team members will be announced in next month's newsletter.

February is traditionally a little quieter month so far as missions activity is concerned, but there is still plenty of planning and behind the scenes work going on. One item already on the calendar is the date for Harvest Weekend, so if you like to plan ahead, mark down September 23rd-24th. We already have one guest missionary confirmed but will make that announcement at a later date!

## Missions Ministry - Crisis Response Team

Forest Lakes District is exploring the possibility of forming a crisis response team which would be available to quickly go to an area with a crisis need. This could be a tornado, flood, major fire, etc. in our area. The team would also be made aware of crisis response activities by ReachGlobal in other parts of the U.S. in case the team would desire to help. ReachGlobal is currently helping with flood cleanup in Kentucky and hurricane damage in Florida. Last year there were teams helping with fire damage in California. If international missions are not of interest to you, but you would like to help neighbors in crisis here in the States, perhaps this could be your opportunity! The team would be made up of others in EFCA churches in our area. Interested? Contact Crystal Zimmerman for more information, 608-214-6794.



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# Newsletter—February 2023



## Prayer

I recently read a devotional which started out by saying "If your church offered a free class in prayer taught by Jesus himself, would you enroll?" The prayer is found in Matthew 6 and is called the "Lord's Prayer". February is a month which includes Valentines Day. We



We give gifts and cards to our loved ones, especially our spouse if we're married. How about showing Jesus how much we love Him by setting aside time each day to read and study God's Word and spend a good amount of time in prayer. To grow spiritually, we have to be a participant, not a spectator. That means reading and studying God's Word and praying. I heard a preacher say that some Christians are lazy. They just want God to make them grow spiritually and be closer to Him without them having to do anything. They could be called microwave Christians. By spending more time reading and studying God's Word, we will grow more spiritually. Our lives will be greatly enriched and blessed by making this an important priority in our life. It's similar to exercise. We can't sit on the couch and snack and expect to get physically fit. We can get more spiritually fit by seeking God daily in His Word and in prayer. You're welcome to join us at prayer meeting on Monday evenings at 6 PM.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

## *Pipeline Classes in February*

To highlight and in support of National Marriage Week USA, Feb. 7-14th, the Marriage Ministry will be leading marriage enrichment sessions during Pipeline in February.

You may have 30 or 40 years of marriage under your belt and feel like your marriage is on "cruise control", or you may be in the early years of marriage, trying to juggle work, schooling, and raising a family, and all the "rest". All marriages require our continued attention and effort. The marriage relationship that God established is not static. It needs to be nurtured so that it can continually grow into what God intended it to be. Please plan to join the Pipeline sessions, starting February 5th at 9:00 AM, through all the Sundays of February.

Jeff & Marie Wunschel, Marriage Ministry Leaders

National Marriage Week USA  
February 7-14th, 2023





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# Just for Kids!

## Newsletter—February 2023

### COAT OF MANY COLORS

Discover the hidden words.

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



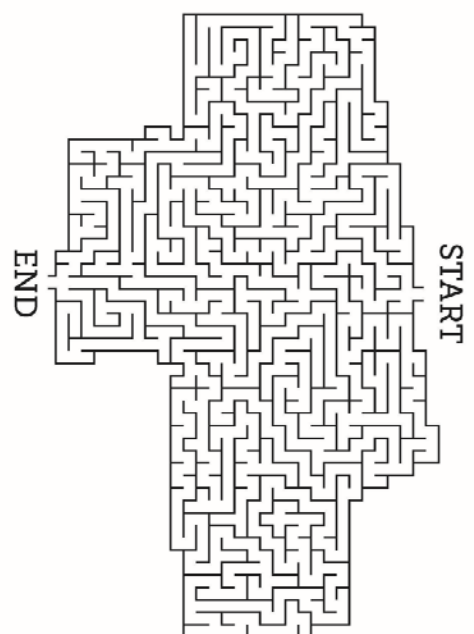
#### Word Bank

- JESUS
- JACOB
- DREAM
- COAT
- COLORS
- GRAIN
- BLOOD
- CAMELS
- TRADERS
- STARS
- CISTERN
- BROTHERS

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Read about Joseph and his coat of many colors: *Genesis 37*



Help Jacob understand Joseph's dreams.

## COAT OF MANY COLORS

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