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Newsletter—August 2023

Stick & Stones can break my bones, but names can never harm me. Wrong!



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 New Baby!
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Recently I was a victim of some untrue gossip. Let me tell you it hurts. When the information got to me, I was angry, hurt, and desiring a confrontation to right the wrong. Gossips hurt friends, divide churches, and damage reputations and relationships. The Bible labels gossips as untrustworthy and meddling (Proverbs 11, 20:19; 1 Tim. 5:13). You don't want to be one. We need to be on guard from the temptation of Gossiping. The book of Proverbs likens the words of a gossip to "delicious morsels," a tasty treat that promises delight to those who indulge (Proverbs 18:8). We get careless and want to entertain ourselves by snacking on the shameful stories of other people's lives. Or we get proud that we know something that someone else doesn't and want to show off with our inside information. Or we get mad and crave the satisfaction of character assassination from afar, biting at our enemies when they don't even know they're in danger. Gossip can be hard to resist. So, what is a gossip? The Bible often uses the word *gossip* to describe a kind of person more than just a pattern of communication. A way of summarizing the Bible's teaching on this topic is to say that *the sin of gossip is bearing bad news behind someone's back out of a bad heart*. This functional definition considers the action itself, the content of the corrupt communication, the situation in which it occurs, and perhaps most importantly, the motivations of the people involved.

Gossip can be Bad Information or Bad News about someone. You might have been taught that "if it's true, it's not gossip." Have you ever said, "I'm just sharing this truth in love?" But needlessly sharing shameful truth about someone else can be gossip. Just because someone actually did something wrong, does not mean that we need to, or get to, talk about it with others. Other times, we might spread a wicked story of what might soon happen to someone else. One time when King David was sick, his enemies acted concerned when they visited him but then secretly celebrated his projected downfall and spread the story that he was about to die (Psalm 41:5-8). That was gossip too.

So, in the back of your mind, when any conversation begins to steer toward the topic of other people, you can ask yourself, "Is this story true? How do I know?" "Is this story mine to tell? Is it his to tell me?" "Is this story bad news?" Also, we might ask ourselves, "Would I be telling this story if he were here? Why or why not?" "Am I hiding this conversation from anyone? Am I ashamed of it?" "Would I want someone else to talk this way about me if I were not in this room?"

Certainly, there are times when we can, and even must, speak about people who are not present. You are not being a gossip when you call the police about a crime you witness, when you earnestly seek counsel on how to relate to someone in your life, or when you carefully warn someone else about a dangerous person. The presence of gossip depends in large measure on how you talk about people who are not present and why you talk about them. Which brings us to the heart of gossip. The Lord Jesus taught us that all the words we speak, good and bad, flow up and out from the abundance of good or evil stored in our hearts (Matt. 12: 33-37). The same is true for why we want to listen to gossip. Therefore, the most important thoughts to have running in the back of your mind when you're talking about anybody who isn't present are the key questions of motivation and intent: "Why am I saying this?" "Are these words loving toward the person I'm talking to?" "Are these words loving toward the person we're talking about?"

Jesus said that we will give an account for every *careless* word we have spoken (Matt. 12:36), not just for the malicious ones. This has always stopped me in my tracks, unfortunately sometimes after the sweet morsel was already shared.

Christ also empowers us to speak edifying words that give grace to listeners and to redirect conversations that turn toward gossip (Eph 4:29). We can bear good news, be up-front with others, and speak and listen out of a changed heart that loves God and loves people who are made in his image. So, the good news is that you don't *have* to be a gossip. Not only can you be forgiven for having indulged in your past, but by faith, you also can be found in Christ, standing in his gossip-free righteousness. Jesus himself bore *all* of our gossip "in his body on the cross" (1 Peter 2:24). He died the death our gossip deserved.

With every temptation to gossip, God provides a way of escape through the promises of the gospel. The temptations may not go away easily — the sweet morsel may continue to make your mouth water — but as you trust in God's grace, you do not have to give in.

One small tool that you may find helpful is what we shared with our children as they grew up. I believe it is just as relevant for us adults. It was the acronym (THINK), to use when we talk about others. **T**: is it true, **H**: is it helpful, **I**: is it important, **N**: is it nice, **K**: is it kind. With God's help let us THINK the next time we are tempted to gossip.

Blessings , Elder Scott Larson





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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Primetimers Lunch & Games—10 am–1 pm, NC/K	2 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	3 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7:30 pm, S	4 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Church League Soft ball—Twining Park	5 Open AA Meeting—6 pm, 18 & 8th Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4-6 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon						
6 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 1—Noon, LL #106 Missions BBQ Lunch—Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S	7 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Men's Study—7 pm, S	8 Worship Circle Practice—7-9 pm, S	9 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	10 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	11 Missions Meeting—5 pm, LL #106 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S Church League Soft ball—Twining Park	12 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
13 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.1)—9 am, LL #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S Fusion & Ignite Campout at Governor Dodge	14 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Elder Meeting—6 pm, LL #106 Deacon Meeting—6 pm, NC Fusion & Ignite Campout at Governor Dodge	15 (NC/K in use, Noon-9 pm) Fusion & Ignite Campout at Governor Dodge	16 No Sr. Life Group Awana Leader Training—6:15 pm, NC	17 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S	18 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	19 Iglesia Biblica Women's Study—4-6 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
20 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.2)—9 am, LL #100 Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S	21 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Men's Study—7 pm, S	22 Worship Circle Practice—7-9 pm, S	23 No Sr. Life Group Awana Leader Training—6:15 pm, NC	24 Blood Drive—Noon-6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #101 MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	25 (LL/NC/K in use, 8:45 am—3:30 pm) Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	26 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
27 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 3—9 am, LL #100 All Church Potluck & Mission Trip Presentation, Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2 pm, S	28 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	29	30 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	31 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S		



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- 1 Karla Chiquito
- 2 Jan Wyss
- 3 Donna Garwell
- 6 Meghann Holverson
- 7 Rita Chambliss
William Petroski
Daniel Skoumal
Jill Skoumal
- 9 Jovani McNett
Tom Rossing
- 10 Shirley Drewel
Bernadette Wong

- 11 Lydia Setterstrom
- 14 Abby Faith
Ross Simler
- 15 Cindy Demianiuk
Katelin Rische
Clare Thoman
- 18 Eva Haworth
Laura Holverson
- 19 Marianne Hoffman
- 23 Walter Ohlrich
- 25 Chelsea Hardacre
- 26 Don Bartelt

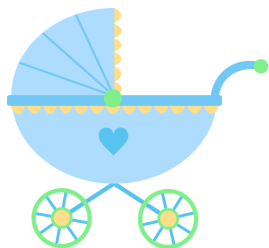
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 2 Shane & Kara Schulte
- 5 Ronald & Barbara Bernhagen
- 8 Rick & Cheryl Hartwig
- 12 Kim & Kathy Markham
- 14 Richard & Jane Thoman
- 15 Nate & Kay Bloom
Paul & Andrea Brunner
- 17 Troy & Crystal Watson
- 22 Justin & Jaclyn Miller
- 23 Michael & Beth Figi



It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Adam & Grace Anderson on the birth of their son, Seth Kuenzi Anderson, on Monday, July 3rd. Seth weighed 5 lbs. 13 oz. & was 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ long. Children are a gift from the Lord!

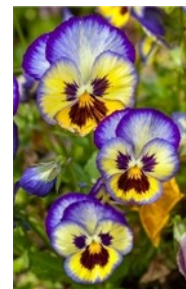


We Offer Our Sympathy to the Following Families:

Please keep Marianne Hoffman and the family of Jan Burke in prayer. Jan went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, July 2nd.

Please keep Mark Diederich & his family in prayer. Mark's mom, Shirley Diederich, passed away on Monday, May 29th.

May God comfort and bless each of you with His peace that surpasses all understanding.





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FAMILYLIFE™ presents

ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE

Have we got an exciting opportunity for you! You will want to mark your calendars for this upcoming marriage enrichment event at 18 & 8th on September 15 & 16. Grab your spouse or fiancé and your “paint brushes” (no actual paint brushes needed!) and get ready to make a masterpiece of your marriage through Family Life’s “The Art of Marriage.”

For more than four decades, Family Life has been helping couples understand God’s plan for relationships. In this fast-paced 6-session video-guided event, The Art of Marriage, they weave together expert teaching, engaging stories, man-on-the-street interviews, humorous vignettes, and much more to portray both the challenges and the beauty of God’s design.

This event will be held Friday evening, September 15th from 7-9 PM and Saturday, September 16th from 9 AM-4 PM. The cost is only \$30 per couple which includes 2 manuals and lunch on Saturday.

Contact the Wunschels for more information.
 Call Jeff at 608-214-3699 or Marie at 608-214-7845.

Register today at the link (<https://buy.stripe.com/28o9CC40e3eP6507st>) or by scanning the (QR code below)

Jeff and Marie Wunschel
 Marriage Ministry Leaders





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Prayer Ministry

I recently read a devotional written by Alistair Begg. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 says "Rejoice always, Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

We need to pray because we are in the midst of a spiritual battle. We continually wrestle against the spiritual forces as Ephesians 6:12 explains. We may pray in an organized prayer meeting or alone in silent prayer. We are reaching out to God when we pray. No matter what our circumstances, our prayer should be an important part of our lives. Prayer is not something we do when we get around to it. The fact that we are urged to pray continually shows us the importance of prayer. Don't view prayer as something to check off your daily list. Having an attitude of prayer helps us develop an intimate relationship with God. John 15:5 tell believers "apart from Christ we can do nothing". This is a very important Biblical truth. If a believer thinks he or she can make it through spiritual skirmishes in life on their own, they are in danger of spiritual defeat. Abiding in Christ through prayer can help us bear fruit and be joyful as we go through life in battle for His kingdom. Pray and give thanks in every situation you face. Rejoice that God is listening every time we pray.

Dan Keen,
 Prayer Ministry Leader

Prayer
 Warrior

1 Thessalonians 5:17
 Pray without ceasing.

**NEXT
 STEPS**

Next Steps Classes Coming Up!

Step 1 (1s.) – Sunday, August 6th
 Noon-2 PM, LL #106 (lunch provided)

Step 2 (2s.) – Sunday, August 13th & 20th
 9:00 AM, LL #100

Step 3 (1s.) – Sunday, August 27th
 9:00 AM, LL #100

***Steps 1, 2, & 3 are
 required for membership.**

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



Contact Carol
 Hasselmann
 with questions
 815-505-3324

Games & Lunch!
Tuesday, Aug. 1st

10 AM—1 PM
Nehemiah Center



**GIVE BLOOD
 SAVE LIFE**



**August 24
 Noon-6 PM
 Nehemiah Center**

**American
 Red Cross**



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What an awesome response to our recent garage sale! A huge thank you to Deb Hurlbert for heading it up and to all of you who generously brought donations, came to shop, and put in many hours doing the myriad of things that need to be done for a successful sale. The funds raised will help with the expenses of the 16 team members who traveled to Guatemala in June and possibly other needs of those we support. Be sure to attend the August 27th potluck and presentation to hear about the trip you all made possible.

August is a busy month for missions! We start off with a visit from Charles and Julie Champlin, our missionaries in Brazil who are in the U.S. for a 3 month Home Visit. Charles will be preaching that morning and Julie will meet with the children in the Nehemiah Center during the 10:30 service to read a children's book she wrote for her grandchildren. She will talk about growing up here at MBC, how she became a missionary in Brazil, and what it was like to raise their children there. There will be an "Eat and Greet" time after that for everyone to hear more about their ministry and become better acquainted. During that time David Hurlbert plans to also share about his recent short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic and Laredo, Texas. David is very grateful for the support he received and wants us to hear what he experienced. Please plan to attend this informal time with some very special people. It will encourage us all to respond when God lays something on our heart.

Occasionally someone asks if there is a missionary in need of more monthly support or a one-time gift. Several of the missionaries we support are not at 100% funding so if you feel led to help someone out financially, please contact Crystal Zimmerman for information. We also are aware of the need for a different car for Victor Schpits in Kazakhstan. His 24-year-old car frequently breaks down, making his ministry work difficult. His mechanic advises that he not spend more money to keep fixing it. The churches he works with have collected some funds but Victor still needs \$9,000-10,000 more. If God lays it on your heart to send some help his way, again contact me. Victor asks that we pray for God's provision of his need.

Recently a local couple have been added to those supported by MBC. Randy and Shirley Hagland are with CTEN (Commission to Every Nation) working fulltime with Living Beyond. Randy has led many mission trips to Africa and Eurasia working with One Hope in church planting in Benin. He recently traveled around the 10 country coastal West Africa region doing videography, recording, and photography for churches and mission outreach as needed. He may soon be going to India for some similar work projects. We look forward to sharing more about his ministry in the future.

Crystal Zimmerman,
 Missions Ministry Leader



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Scramble & Search

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SUMMER WORD SEARCH

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

Words To Find:

©Moms & Munchkins

SUN _____	BEACH _____	BBQ _____
VACATIONS _____	NO SCHOOL _____	HOLIDAYS _____
PICNIC _____	SUMMER _____	SUNSCREEN _____
BATHING SUIT _____	SPLASH _____	SWIMMING _____
ROAD TRIP _____	ICE CREAM _____	ACTIVITIES _____
LEMONADE _____	BIKING _____	BUGS _____

Word Scramble

Philippians 4:8 (ESV)

- RTEU _____
- ONHBELOA _____
- USJT _____
- EUPR _____
- VLOLYE _____
- MNEOCBEMADL _____
- CELEXENEL _____
- IRESPA _____

Write out verse 8:

“What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me – practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” Philippians 4:9 (ESV)

Answer Key: TRUE, HONORABLE, JUST, PURE, LOVELY, COMMENDABLE, EXCELLENCE, PRAISE