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Newsletter—November '23

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Three Reasons



In this article I'm urging you to get in a small group for three reasons. The reasons are: 1) For someone else; 2) For someone else; and 3) For someone else. I'm not trying to be funny. I think the main reason we get in a small group is for what we get out of it, and the main reason we don't join or stay in a group is the same thing, we aren't getting out of it what we want. Excuse me, but the last time I checked, Christianity isn't all about you, or me. My suggestion for the "someone else" is this; the first someone else is Jesus, the second might be someone we know and care about, and the third could be someone we may not know or care too much about.

I'm defining a small group like this: A group of 3-12 people who, meet regularly (preferably weekly), open God's Word together, pray together for each other, and show care for one another in tangible ways. I believe the potential for life transformation increases greatly when people meet in a small group and do these three things. I also think we can call it discipleship.

Let's think about the three practices a little more closely. First, a small group is valuable for someone else when you open Scripture together. We know that Scripture is powerful for life transformation. 2 Timothy 3:16-17, NASB95, says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." Hebrews 4:12 says God's Word is effective in getting right down to the intentions of our hearts! Your humble and eager attitude to dig into God's Word and wrestle with applications will please Jesus and can have a powerful influence in others' lives. Are we not also greatly limiting our own growth when we limit the intake of Scripture to just our own insights and application?

Secondly, a small group is valuable for someone else when you pray together. The book I'm reading right now, *A Praying Church*, cites a Barna Research study of people who prayed at least once in the last six months. The results were that 94% of these American Christians only pray by themselves. The church was born praying together (see Acts 1:14)! When they faced hardships, uncertainty, or persecution they prayed together (For example: Acts 4:31; 12:12). Why don't many Christians join others to pray? Are we selfish with our time, do we not believe prayer makes a difference, do we not care about the needs of others, are we unwilling to be open enough to share our own needs for prayer, do we think we don't need prayer? I started asking our group to pray about personal application of the Scripture we read and studied together when we pray together. I look forward to seeing what God will do.

Thirdly, a small group is valuable for someone else to be cared about by having something done for them. We live in a culture that promotes selfishness, and we can easily absorb that attitude. Sacrificing a self-interest to help others is a good way to counter this influence in our lives. The apostle Paul wrote, "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others (Philippians 2:3-4). 1 Peter 4:10 says, "As each one has received a special gift, employ it *in serving one another* as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."

Recently, I didn't think I could give up half a Saturday to help someone in our group move but I knew I needed to help. It ended up being a huge blessing to them and to me. Then, the next Saturday, another group came to help me move wood, which saved me two days of work! Isn't that what being in a Christian community should look like?

So, if you aren't in a small group, one that meets regularly to open God's Word, prays for each other, and helps one another, please get in one! It could be one of the Life Groups at MBC, a men's or women's small group, or a group you put together. Our Life Groups use the study questions on the back of the sermon notes most of the time. You can do a Bible study or just open the Bible together, pray for one another, and show you care by helping one another. If you would like help, see one of our Elders or me and we'll help you find or form a group. The apostle Paul said, "In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:35).

For Someone Else,
 Pastor Dan





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November Calendar

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—7 pm, S	3 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL/K/NC Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	4 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
5 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.1)—9 am, LL #100 Skit Rehearsal— Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Ignite & Fusion—3-7 pm, serving Primetimers—“Dinner for the Ages” at 4:30 pm, NC/K	6 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Men’s Study—7 pm, S	7 No Primetimers Lunch & Games	8 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	9 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	10 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL/K/NC Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	11 Veteran’s Day Women’s Ministry Brunch, 10 am—2 pm, NC/K/Nursery Iglesia Biblica Women’s Study—4-6 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
12 SHOEBOX DEADLINE Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 2 (s.2)—9 am, LL #100 Skit Rehearsal— Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	13 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Elder Meeting—6 pm, LL #106 Deacon Meeting—6 pm, NC Iglesia Biblica Men’s Study—7 pm, S	14 Pleasant View Birthday Party, volunteers arrive by 1:15 pm Missions Ministry Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #106	15 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	16 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—6:30 pm, S	17 Homeschool Co-op—8:45 am-3:30 pm, LL/K/NC Primetimers—11:30 am, Monroe Pizza Hut lunch Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	18 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
19 Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Next Steps-Step 3—9 am, LL #100 Skit Rehearsal— Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S Ignite—4-6 pm Fusion—6-8 pm	20 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102	21	22 No Sr. Life Group No Awana	23 MBC Offices Closed  Happy Thanksgiving!	24 No Homeschool Co-op Kitchen in Use, 8 am-2 pm Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, S	25 Iglesia Biblica Youth Group—6-7:30 pm, NC
26 LORD’S TABLE Worship Services: The Gathering 9:00 am & Café 10:30 am Sunday School & Pipeline—9 am Skit Rehearsal— Noon, NC Iglesia Biblica—2:00 pm, S No Ignite or Fusion	27 Prayer Meeting—6 pm, LL #102 Iglesia Biblica Men’s Study—7 pm, NC	28	29 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC Awana: Trek/Journey—5:30 pm Cubbies-T&T—6:15 pm	30 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC MBC Worship Practice—7 pm, S	MBC Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8:00 AM—4:00 PM, & Fridays 8:00 AM—Noon	



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Happy Birthday!

- 2 Oliver Brunner
- 4 Jora Reed
- 7 Patricia Harder
Coleen Soddy
Josh Swenson
- 8 Eric Reed
- 9 Craig Roth
- 10 Ellis Holverson
- 12 Isabella Olmstead
- 13 Iuy Borke
Kate Haworth
Christina Hunsberger
Molly Swenson
- 14 Lynne Kleven

- 15 Kim Markham
- 16 Celia Keen
Colleen Ostenson
- 19 Kaitlyn Elgin
Declan Geiwitz
Drake Geiwitz
- 21 Emily Chiquito
Mia Kelley
- 24 Kim Wheeler
- 28 Stella Grossmann
- 30 Keith Geisler
Clara Kuenzi
Carol Larson



Happy Anniversary

- 2 Tony & Cynthia Kitchell
- 6 Randy & Gloria Ringhand
- 7 Jacob & Karen Brunner
Craig & Tracy Signer
- 10 Mark & Flaimide McNett
- 12 CJ & Tasha Erdmann
- 17 Eric & Tonya Reed
- 29 Reuben & Margarite Kawinzi



*Congratulations to
Bailey Gruber and Gabi Ils
who were married
Saturday, October 14th
at Monroe Bible Church.
May God Bless your marriage!*



Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

We still have some boxes, labels, and information for Operation Christmas Child available at the Welcome Center. Pack your shoebox, make your payment online or include **\$10** with each shoebox to cover project and shipping costs (checks payable to Samaritan's Purse), and return your shoebox to MBC by **Sunday, November 12th**! If you want to track your shoebox, you need to make the \$10 payment online, not in the shoebox. Affix the QR coded label to your shoebox, make the payment online by scanning the code on your label with your smart phone, or by manually entering the 9 to 15-digit code from the label to track your shoebox. If you have any questions, contact Jaclyn Miller at 608-558-8149.



*the Power of a
Simple Gift*





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NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS AT MBC

Step 2 "Our Core Beliefs" 2 sessions:
Sunday, November 5th & November 12th at 9 am, lower level room #100.

There are so many conflicting ideas floating around that it can be difficult to know what is Biblical and what isn't. You will find out what our core beliefs are and learn some basic Bible doctrines in these two enjoyable sessions.

Step 3 "Our Commitments" 1 session: Sunday, November 19th at 9 am, lower level room #100. In this session, we will address the topics of eternal life, spiritual growth, baptism, and church membership.

***Steps 1, 2, and 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.



Pizza Hut Lunch:

(3rd Friday of the month)

Friday, November 17th

11:30 AM at Monroe Pizza Hut

Contact Carol Hasselmann

with questions at 815-505-3324

Women of MBC

You're invited to brunch on

Saturday, November 11

From 10 AM–2 PM

In the Nehemiah Center



*Women's
 Ministry
 Team*

Primetimers

You are cordially invited to

*Dinner
 For The Ages*

HOSTED BY

Ignite and Fusion

**Sunday, November 5th
 4:30 pm
 Monroe Bible Church**



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Prayer Ministry

Have you ever made a list of what you are thankful for? I believe every one of us could compile a very long list of what we should be thankful for.

First of all, we should be thankful that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. He rose again and lives today. Accepting Jesus as Savior is a life-changing event.

Believers should be thankful for the privilege and power of Prayer. Jesus gives us examples in His Word of how we should pray. Believers should make prayer a priority.

We should be thankful for God's Word and all we can learn from it. I trust you read your Bible every single day. It is vital for your spiritual growth.

Are you thankful for our church, our Pastors, Ministry Leaders, Sunday School teachers, AWANA leaders, Elders and Deacons? Remember to pray for them often.

I could list many more items, but I will let you make your own list.

I have been listening to Alistair Begg as he speaks about the book of Nehemiah. He especially challenges believers in the area of prayer. You can hear the sermons on the "Truth for Life" website or from the app.

My wife and I have listened to several excellent messages by David Gibbs Jr., who founded the Christian Law Association. They can be found at christlifemin.org. Go to audio messages and click on David Gibbs Jr. for a list of messages. You'll be blessed and challenged. It's much more profitable than watching television. Be encouraged in the Lord. Encourage each other.

Dan Keen, Prayer Ministry Leader

There's still plenty of room in the Easter Worship Choir. Sign-ups will be closing in early November, so don't wait!

More choir members are still needed to meet the minimum number of people required for a successful choir. Anyone who can carry a tune and is at least 16 years old is eligible to participate.

NEW: If you want to participate in the choir but are unable due to childcare needs, please indicate that on the sign-up form when you sign up!

Why join the choir?

- Serve Jesus in a new way
- Build and improve your musical skills and vocal confidence
- Participate in a ministry without a long-term commitment
- Meet and connect with other members of your church family
- Deepen your understanding of the value of music in worship

Sign-ups are available online on the church website and at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions, please reach out to Joshua Schwenk via email at mrjoshuaschwenk@gmail.com

WORSHIP CHOIR



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November 14th Monroe Bible Church is hosting the Birthday Party at Pleasant View Nursing Home for all residents with November birthdays. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome



Center for volunteers to help at the party. We're happy to let you know that children of all ages are welcome to attend! They ask that we be there between 1:15-1:30 pm to help get residents to the Activity Area and set up for the party. If you would like to donate cupcakes, which need to be at church by 4 pm Monday, November 13th, there is also a sign-up sheet for that. A box for Bingo prizes is in the foyer as well. Please avoid nuts, seeds, or other things that are hard to chew or swallow. The residents like individually wrapped fun-size candy bars, cookies, crackers, diabetic candy, men's and women's cologne, small bottles of lotion, lip balm, wordsearch and puzzle books, Kleenex packets, and other age appropriate items. Birthday cards with a short message can be placed in the prize box for distribution to those with November birthdays. It would be a great family project to help your children or grandchildren make cards to donate for this purpose. Thank you for helping the residents feel loved and cared for by showering them with our time, treats, and special little gifts!

Another November event is the annual Care Net Pregnancy Center fundraising banquet scheduled for November 14th at Turner Hall. MBC Missions Ministry sponsors a table for this event enabling adults to attend the banquet and program without charge. Our youth have also assisted with the banquet. If you would like further information, call 608-325-5051 or email carenetgreencounty.org. Our support makes it possible for them to provide the Gospel message, help, hope, education, and healing for people in our community who are or have struggled with difficult decisions concerning pregnancy. They serve approximately 300 families per year and 95-98% choose life for their babies with the support of Care Net.

Thank you to those who responded to the needs of Tracy Singleton's Zambian pastor/friend Joseph Malumbi, and to the car fund for Pastor Viktor Schpits in Kazakhstan. The Missions Ministry has sent funds to both on behalf of MBC. Another need from one of our supported missions, Shepherds College, has recently come to our attention. Shepherds College was informed that the U.S. Department of Education determined that the school no longer qualifies for participation in Federal Student Aid (FSA) and that federal aid previously approved will not be paid. This places a great financial burden on families who have already faced many challenges in the education of a child with intellectual and development disability (IDD). Shepherds College is serving 40 out of 150,000 possible candidates this year and now these profoundly underserved students will find it even more difficult to attend a Christian post-secondary college. One of the students who planned to attend had to drop out, while other families were scrambling last minute to find alternate funding. Shepherds College is asking us to join them in petitioning God to help all the individuals affected by this government decision, and to provide more funding for their Annual Scholarship Fund which can help families with finances. They are confident that God will meet this specific need just as He has in the past, and invite us as the body of Christ to rally around these students seeking to maximize their God-given potential.

In his recent newsletter our AWANA missionary, Tim Gilley, wrote that his mother Thelma passed away in August. He shared how she was saved as a high school senior when friends invited her to a revival. Tim accepted Jesus because of his mother's influence. Now Tim shares the Gospel with the next generation as an AWANA missionary. He is able to do so because of support from churches like MBC, so thank you church for your part in spreading the Gospel to the next generation.



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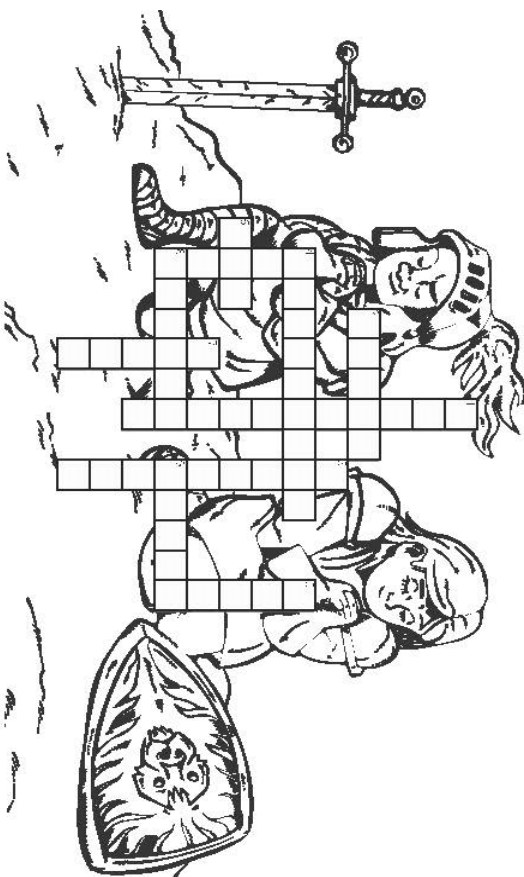
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THE ARMOR OF GOD

Ephesians 6:10-17



- Across**
- There is a word we cannot see, where battles are won and lost between God and _____.
 - Because the battles are against invisible forces of evil, _____ armor is necessary.
 - Who provides us with the armor we need?
 - The sword of the _____ is God's living and active Word.
 - The belt of _____ clears confusion, exposes lies from the enemy, and reveals the invisible world.
- Down**
- The _____ guards the heart and soul from Satan's lies, and arrows of guilt and fear.
 - Wearing the helmet of _____ will protect you from weapons of discouragement. It will bring you assurance in God's promises and confidence.
 - In order for a warrior to stand firm and grounded in truth, he or she must put on good fighting _____.
 - God's soldiers bring the shield of _____ to deflect arrows of doubt, fear, and worry.
 - All the powers of Satan cannot take down one soldier who is protected with the whole _____ of God.



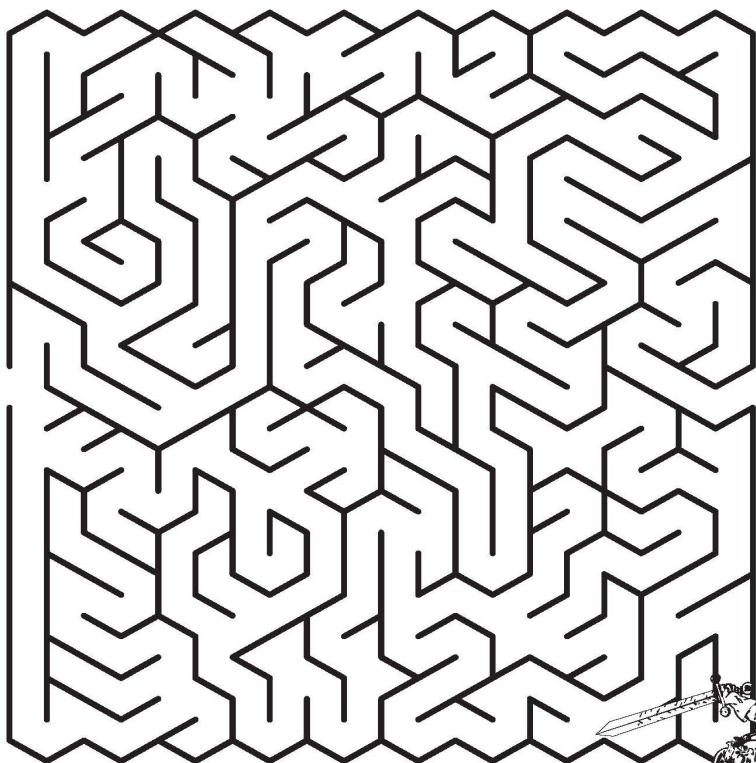
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Puzzle Page

THE ARMOR OF GOD

Find the way to the Armor of God

START



END

