

Vol. 12, Issue 1, January 2023

connect

**A FRESH START
IS POSSIBLE WITH**

Jesus

JAN.

1st

From Now On...
A Fresh Start In Christ

Begin the year with communion at 9 & 10:45 am

22nd

SANCTITY OF
Life
FEARFULLY & WONDERFULLY MADE

Lewis Memorial Baptist Church

Short-sleeve t-shirts are currently on sale for \$5 at the merch corner in the main lobby.

2023

Can't be here in-person?

Join us live Sundays at 9 & 10:45 am on Facebook, Imbc.tv, or our LMBC app.

Also this month:

11th

Missionary Filip Le Roux

- 7 pm, Worship Center

12th

Widows Luncheon

- 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

15th

Gideon Speaker: Phillip Skeens

- 6 pm, Worship Center

20th

PrimeTime Celebrates Winter

- 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Menu: Beans and cornbread will be provided. Please bring soup, salad, or a dessert to share. Sign up with Vida or Blanche, or by calling the church office (304-736-7676).

Other calendars:

Rooted (Bible) pg. 9
Ebenezer pg. 17



Visit lmbc.org/lkc or ask to join our Facebook group

*We are looking for volunteers who would like to serve in our K-3 age range once a month in the first and second services on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Rebekah Shaffer at r.shaffer@lmbc.org.

***Sunday Mornings**
WC lower level

1: Every person matters
8: Jeremiah encourages God's people
15: Daniel was faithful
22: Daniel served God
29: God is present with us

Weds @ 7pm
in the FLC

4: Bible for Life
11: Bible for Life
18: Bible for Life
25: **Trivia Game Night**

4th Thursday
from 4-5:15 pm
@ Ebenezer

26: Bible Club

2022-2023

WINTER CALENDAR

JANUARY

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- 4 FLAPJACKS & FLANNELS 6:45-8:15pm**
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING
- 11 2023 TAG KICKOFF 6:45-8:15pm**
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING
- 19-21 TAG EVENTS 6:45-8:15pm**
CHECK W/YOUR TAG LEADERS
Each TAG will be doing a different activity together. Check with your TAG leader to find out where your TAG will go and what you'll be doing!
- 25 ONE NIGHT 6:45-8:15pm**
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
[@refuelstudents](https://www.instagram.com/refuelstudents)

PEOPLE NEED PEOPLE



As we come to a New Year that holds so much promise, let's make the most of this year for reaching people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the fall of 2022, at the beginning of our new Life Group year (September-May), we introduced the "Love Where You Live" campaign. It is really very simple and asks each of you to do what the Bible commands, to love your neighbor as yourself.

During 2020, we isolated from one another to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. Some might argue whether these efforts were effective or not, but that's not the point of this article. A number of studies now show that

the isolation people experienced during the pandemic has had a noticeable psychological and physiological effect on people's lives. A lot of children fell behind in their educational pursuits and have struggled to catch up to their grade level. It will be years before we really know the full effects of the virus and the different measures we took to stop the spread. It is incontrovertible, though, that there will be plenty of opportunities to "Love Where You Live" and to show people that you care about them.

Over the coming cold months of this New Year and into the spring of 2023, let's all intentionally seek ways to love the people right

where we live. Before we can make inroads to sharing the Gospel with others, we first must get out of our proverbial “bubbles” and show an interest in the people that are already in our neighborhoods and friendly social networks. Actually, one of the best things you can do for yourself is to reach out to others to show them compassion and kindness. A friendly smile, a word of encouragement, a kind deed or a listening ear for someone else will go a long way in rehabilitating your own weary soul and spirit. There is something spiritually therapeutic that happens in you when you affect another person’s life by bringing joy, comfort, love, and encouragement to them.

I know from personal experience that for many of us the natural thing to do when life is turned upside down, as it was during the pandemic and in other life situations, is to withdraw and to isolate in hope of handling things on your own. However, what you soon discover is that the more isolated you become the more suffering you experience in your own body, soul and spirit. Even the shyest person among us needs people to walk with them along this journey we call life.

Obviously, I’m not talking about being a constant bother or making yourself unwelcome by too much togetherness or untimely contact. The love and concern of which I speak is always conscious of the appropriate time, place and length of involvement when seeking to be a blessing to others. But, as someone has said, “people need people” and there will be lots of opportunities in 2023 to be that person who makes a real difference in another person’s life.

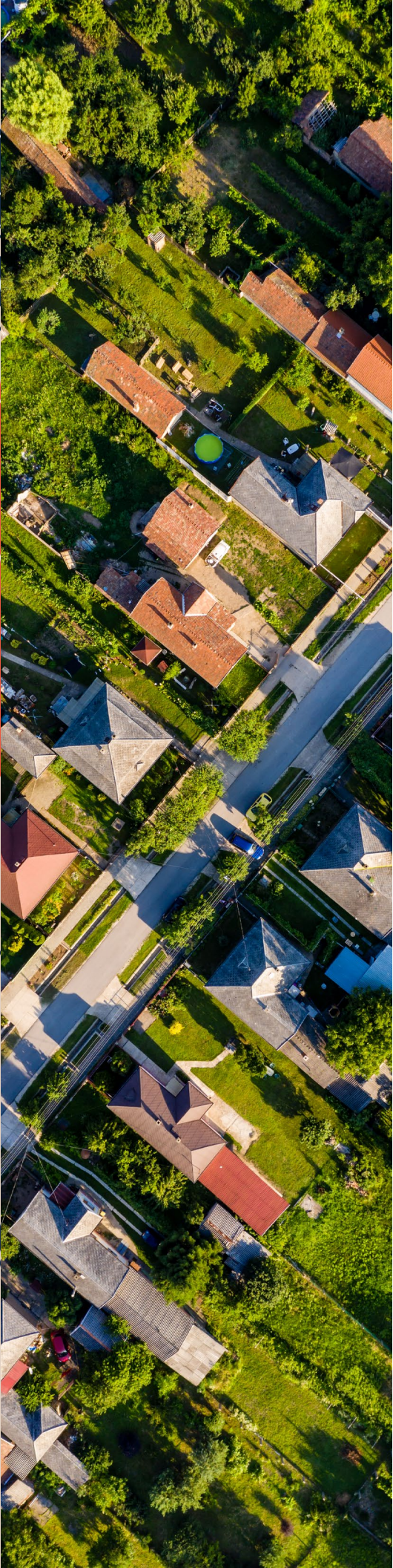
My prayer for all of you and for our church is that we might be the instruments of God’s love to others in 2023. The greatest way to live your life is in giving it away to bless others and doing it “for the cause of Christ.” Remember the words of Jesus and know they are always true: “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Matthew 10:39 ESV)

May this be a year that many of us “lose our lives” in “Loving Where We Live!”



by David Lemming

Dr. David Lemming has been the Senior Pastor of Lewis Memorial Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia, since December 1982. He was saved as a teenager and became actively involved in various phases of Christian ministry. He has a heart for people and actively seeks new ways of extending Christ’s love to those in Huntington and around the world. He and his wife, Mary, have two grown children and three grandchildren.



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE IN JANUARY

Dear Small Group Leader,

Happy New Year! I hope and pray you have the greatest year ever in 2023. Don’t forget that we will be having Small Group Training Sunday nights January 8, 15, and 22, 2023, in room L114 at 6:00 p.m. You will receive the church small group calendar and Pastor Lemming’s plan for outreach in 2023. So, whatever you do, don’t miss the training sessions.

Secondly, I want to remind you of our January Love Where You Live outreach plan. Since most of us have already broken our New Year’s resolution (diet), and you continue to grab lunch from your favorite drive-through restaurant, pay it forward. In other words, pay for the meal of people behind you and THEN hand the employee an LMBC Connect card inviting them to church. This is Love in Action and Loving Where YOU Live at its best! Also, attend every birthday party you’re invited to in the month of January. Show up. Be present. Buy a nice gift. Pray for an open door to invite them to church.

Be determined to start the year off right. Love Where YOU Live! Be intentional! Strategic! And creative! Remember if it snows...God is giving you a GREAT opportunity to serve your neighbor by shoveling or clearing their driveway. Demonstrating the love of Christ is a powerful witness to those around you. Look for opportunities to serve and look for an opportunity to share Jesus.

In closing, keep on praying for those on your Love Where You Live prayer card. January is going to be a great month, and 2023 is going to be THE best year ever. We just need to remember to Love Where You Live (LWYL).

Brother Tim Yates

FOCUS: JUST DO IT

by Bobby Hile, ABWE

Followers of Christ must listen to biblical instructions and respond to them.

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” (James 1:22 ESV)

“Just do it.”

These words have been immortalized by marketers for a sports shoe and clothing company. Preachers have seized the opportunity to use these words to encourage congregations to obey God’s Word.

James taught his readers a similar idea. He commanded, “be doers of the word and not hearers only.” He juxtaposed the terms doer and hearer to make a simple distinction. Doers do, and hearers hear. He set apart those who both hear and do from those who only hear.

But let’s not misunderstand James. He is not saying, don’t be a hearer- he already encouraged his readers to hear and “receive with meekness the implanted word” (1:21). Instead, he directed his readers to take it further. Receive God’s Word, listen to it, and then do it.

Doing what God’s Word says is important. It demonstrates obedience. James used strong words to say that those who only listen to God’s Word are deceived.

The deception lies in the fact that they assumed hearing the Word was sufficient. We do the same thing. And just like his readers, we lie to ourselves if we think listening to a sermon or a weekly podcast is all that is required to maintain our spiritual walk.

Think about where missions would be today if God’s people only listened without actions to Matthew 28:19-20, or if they only heard Acts 1:8, or only read Matthew 9:38.

If Christ-followers only listened to sermons and podcasts and heard how great the commission was, how far the gospel was supposed to expand, how urgent the need is, and how short-handed the harvest, but they didn’t do anything in response, then James would say those people have deceived themselves.



IMMUTABILITY

Theological Word of the Month

God is immutable might be something that you’ve heard a pastor say in a sermon, and all you can remember is how that five-dollar word went in one ear and out the other. When we say that God is immutable, we are referencing a theological word called immutability. This word, when applied to God, means that He does not change. Malachi 3:6 says, “I the Lord do not change.” In the New Testament, James 1:17 gives us a little more information about this word: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness nor shadow of turning.” The Greek words translated “variableness” and “turning” were often used in the ancient world in reference to astronomical phenomena. In contrast to the constant movement of the heavenly bodies, God does not change. The Bible is clear that God does not change His mind, His will, or His nature.

However, some like to debate a few verses (Exo.32:14 and 1 Sam.15:11) that seem to teach that God changes His mind, which would debunk God’s immutability. We must remember a few key thoughts: first, if something changes, it must change within the constraints of time, that is how we know there is a change that takes place, but the only problem is that God exists outside of time. Second, for a change to take place, something must be added or subtracted, however, since God is perfect, He doesn’t need any additions or subtractions. Third, when a person changes their mind, it is because new information has come to light that would cause the change. God knows everything and so when the Bible speaks of God changing His mind, it’s really the circumstances or situation that has changed, God has not.

By the way, this idea that God is always the same can be applied to Jesus as part of the Godhead. This means that Jesus has always been the Son... and redemption has always been the plan. The word should cause us to marvel at the greatness of God!

ROOTED

Grow in your faith by staying rooted in the Word of God. Your Spiritual Yearbook can be found at the merch corner in the main lobby. (\$5)

- 1st James 1:1-11
- 2nd James 1:12-27
- 3rd James 2:1-13
- 4th James 2:14-26
- 5th James 3:1-12
- 6th Psalm 11
- 7th -
- 8th James 3:1-13-18
- 9th James 4:1-10
- 10th James 4:11-17
- 11th James 5:1-12
- 12th James 5:13-20
- 13th Psalm 1
- 14th -
- 15th Philippians 1:1-11
- 16th Philippians 1:12-18
- 17th Philippians 1:19-26
- 18th Philippians 1:27-2:4
- 19th Philippians 2:5-11
- 20th Psalm 139
- 21st -
- 22nd Philippians 2:12-18
- 23rd Philippians 2:19-24
- 24th Philippians 2:25-30
- 25th Philippians 3:1-11
- 26th Philippians 3:12-4:1
- 27th Psalm 37
- 28th -
- 29th Philippians 4:2-9
- 30th Philippians 4:10-23
- 31st 2 John

GIVE ME MORE OF GOD

WHY SPIRITUAL INTIMACY CAN FEEL ELUSIVE



A new year typically brings new goals or resolutions, less or more of this or that, or perhaps trying something new. What's on your list? A diet, more exercise, certain books to read, reconnecting with friends, better budgeting, less television, a tidier house...? Or what about a closer walk with God? If that's on your list, you will want to read this article on the desire for more of God and why it can seem elusive, or just out of reach. You'll also want to check out our NEW IMPROVED "Rooted Series" for 2023. Pastor Jeremy has stepped up the yearly challenge from just reading a passage to reading and note-taking. He's also added reflection questions for each week of the year that are sure to help you grow deeper in the knowledge and strength of God - which will enhance not only your faith but your reflection of Christ to the world around you in 2023. The rest of the Connect is filled with articles, columns, and opportunities to not only be a hearer but a doer of the Word. James said it like this, "Come near to God, and He will come near to you." (James 4:8) What better time than the start of a new year to begin training for godliness, which, as Paul told Timothy, promises benefits in this life and in the life to come, (1 Timothy 4:8). - MaryEllen Black

Deep in the heart of every true disciple of Jesus is a deep longing for more of God. But what is this more we desire? We might each describe our want somewhat differently, depending on how this longing refracts through our biology, history, and theological influences. To some degree, none of us has words for it. But at the core, what we desire is to really know God — to know him in the intimate ways that only love knows.

And we have this desire because, by God's unfathomable grace toward us in Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9), he first has known and loved us (1 Corinthians 8:3; 1 John 4:19). It is his great desire, one he expresses in the promise of Jeremiah's great prophecy (quoted in full in Hebrews 8):

This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be

their God, and they shall be my people. And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. (Jeremiah 31:33-34)

At the heart of the new covenant is God's great desire that we "shall all know" him.

Known by Love

You don't need to know Hebrew (or Greek) to discern the knowing God desires. It is the knowing of relational intimacy, of deep friendship — the kind of knowing that only love knows. For to truly know God is to love God.

The role of love in intimately knowing someone is profound. On one hand, we cannot intimately love someone we do not know. So, knowledge must precede love. But on the other hand, the deep love of intimate friendship is the door to even deeper knowledge of the beloved, because intimate friends entrust themselves and so disclose more of themselves to each other. So, there is an intimate knowledge accessible only through the deep love that results from and produces even more profound trust.

We see one illustration of this dynamic in play at the end of John 6, when, as a result of hearing Jesus say offensive-sounding things, "many of his [wider group of] disciples turned back and no longer walked with him" (John 6:66). But the twelve didn't leave him. Why? Because, to use Peter's words, that they had "come to know" that he was "the Holy One of God" (John 6:69).

For eleven of them, this knowledge wasn't merely intellectual; they had come to love him and trust him, even when he confused them. And because they trusted him, Jesus disclosed to them "secrets of the kingdom" he didn't disclose to others (Luke 8:10). To really know Jesus was to really love Jesus, which was the door to knowing Jesus more. This is what Jesus is getting at when he later says to them,

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. (John 14:21)

The Way Is Simple

Notice the simplicity in those words: Jesus will manifest himself to whoever loves him. And two sentences later, he says, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him” (John 14:23). If we love Jesus, both the Father and the Son will manifest themselves to us through the “Spirit of truth” who “dwell[s] in” us (John 14:17).

These are precious and very great promises (2 Peter 1:4). The way to know the triune God intimately, to experience the relational communion promised in the new covenant, is not complex. Jesus calls us to keep his commandments, or keep his word, which is essentially what he means when he says, “Believe in God; believe also in me” (John 14:1). Jesus doesn’t give us a list of rituals, ascetic rigors, detailed prayer requirements, long pilgrimages, meditative practices, or instructions for creating special aesthetic environments to experience communion with him and the Father through the Spirit. The way is simple: “Believe in me.”

The Way Is Hard

The way may be simple to understand, but, as Jesus says elsewhere, “The way is hard that leads to life” (Matthew 7:14). The complexity and difficulty for us come not from the way itself, but from the evil we face: the internal evil of our unbelief or “little faith” (Matthew 17:20), combined with the effects of remaining sin dwelling in our members (Romans 7:21–23), and the external evil existing in a world that “lies in the power of the evil one” (1 John 5:19). Learning to overcome the obstacles presented to us by our sin-infected flesh and the devil-filled world (1 John 2:16) is very hard indeed.

But the way to more deeply knowing, loving, and trusting God is by faithfully persevering through the great difficulties, and through receiving God’s grace of forgiveness when we fail (1 John 1:9). For God uses these difficulties as opportunities to manifest more dimensions of himself to us. Through tribulations, we experience that Jesus has overcome the world (John 16:33), that his grace is sufficient in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9), and that he “is able to make all grace abound to [us], so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, [we] may abound in every good work” (2 Corinthians 9:8). We come to know more of him.

Through this hard way that leads to life, we also repeatedly encounter the reality that God is true to his “living and active” word (Hebrews 4:12). And we discover that the reality we’re encountering is not merely a set of propositions, but a Person: Jesus, who is the living Word (John 1:1). We discover, in fact, that Jesus is the way that leads to him, the life (John 14:6). And when it comes to our practical pursuit of God, we discover that the Lord most often and most profoundly reveals himself to us “by the word of the Lord” (1 Samuel 3:21).

For Those Who Want More

It’s possible that this may strike you as disappointing, as if the secret to intimacy with God is “read your Bible more.” Because what you long for is something more. You want to be near God and to encounter him more personally than you seem to experience when you read your Bible or hear God’s word preached and taught and discussed. If so, your disappointment could be resulting from one or all of the following possibilities.

First, it’s possible that your exposure to God’s word has outpaced your obedience to it. A familiar and accurate grasp of God’s word is only as good as your behavior-determining belief in it. Jesus said this to some of the most frequent Bible readers of his day: “You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life” (John 5:39–40).

Jesus discloses himself intimately only to those who keep his word. It’s worth prayerful examination.

Second, it’s possible you have a misconception of what intimacy with God should feel like, which has given rise to expectations based on a kind of fantasy, not unlike the unreal expectations we can bring to romantic love or deep human friendships. Remember, our most intimate marriages and closest friendships usually result from a few intense experiences that punctuate many ordinary times that all build trust and deepen love.

Third, it’s possible we might think that the word of the Lord is a poor substitute for the Lord’s manifest personal presence. And in a sense, of course, that’s true. But think of what makes your most intimate, manifestly present friends so meaningful. Ultimately, the words through which you disclose yourselves to each other in mutual trust, along with the promises you faithfully keep, create the intimacy you enjoy. So it is with God.

Now We Know in Part

But it’s also possible that your longing for more is your inconsolable longing to be with your Beloved, the longing all true disciples of Jesus experience. You have come to know Jesus and love him and trust him, but you are keenly and sometimes painfully aware that the wonderful disclosures God has made to you are like a splash of the ocean of joy you someday will swim in (Psalm 16:11). You’re aware that now you only “see in a mirror dimly” what he’s revealed to you, that now you know only in part, but later you will know fully, “even as [you] have been fully known” (1 Corinthians 13:12). There’s part of you that’s weary of the betrothal phase of your relationship with Jesus, and you long for the wedding, when the full marriage will at last be consummated.

For most of us, our discontent with our current level of intimacy with God comes from a mixture of the above: slowness to obey, misconceptions of what leads to our

desired intimacy, and a longing that will be realized only when we finally see our Beloved face-to-face. But all these causes are reasons for great hope because they all point to the fact that there truly is more. There is more of God to know, more of God to love, and more ways we can deepen our trust and intimacy with him through faithfully keeping his word.

Whatever the cause of our longing, the Spirit is stirring in us a desire that comes from God. Because it’s his great desire, the very heart of the new covenant, that we all really know him. And someday, perhaps sooner than we think, God will bring to pass his precious and very great promise:

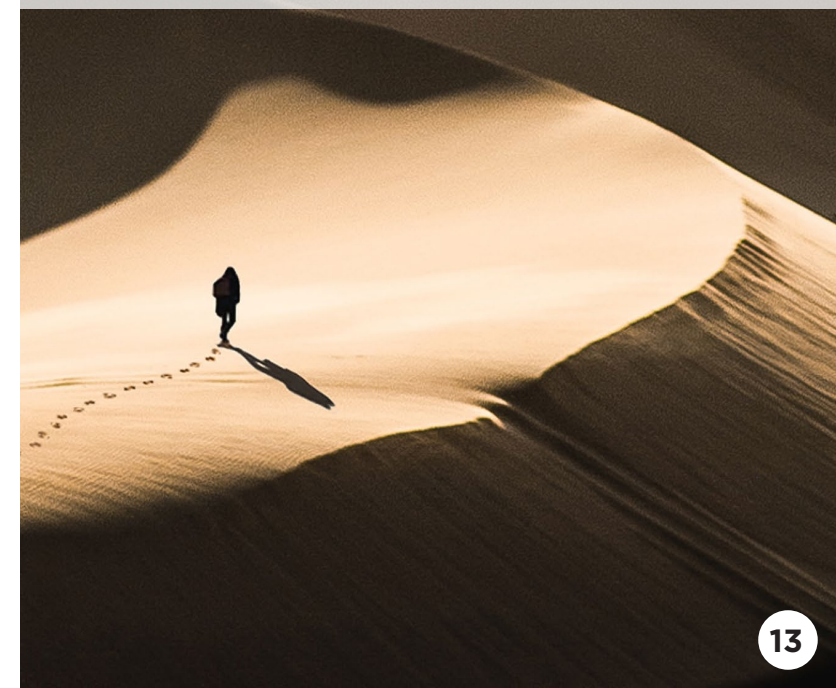
No longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. (Jeremiah 31:34)

In the meantime, “Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord” (Hosea 6:3).



by Jon Bloom

*Jon Bloom (@Bloom_Jon) serves as teacher and cofounder of Desiring God. He is author of three books, *Not by Sight*, *Things Not Seen*, and *Don’t Follow Your Heart*. He and his wife have five children and make their home in the Twin Cities.*



MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN EUROPE

Andy & Mimi Bonikowsky, Spain

Joel & Debbie Dicks, Hungary

SECURED F. Family, Bulgaria

Tony & Dawn Hess, Russia

SECURED K. Family, Ukraine

Megan Kuhn, Spain

Brent & Tammy Lowe, Portugal

Doug & Kathy McClain, Germany

Nahum & Arin O'Brien, Norway

Rick & Jen Peace, Ireland

Jason & Adele Rice, Slovakia

Amber & Doug Staley, Ireland

Joshua & Denise Steward, Ireland

SECURED W. Family, Bulgaria



For full updates, go to lmbc.org/missionary-updates

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

IN HONOR OF

NELLIE GODDARD

It is with deep regret that we share the passing of Nellie Goddard, who served the Lord for 43 years in Paraguay, South America. She passed into the presence of the Lord on November 18, 2022. Nellie and her husband Dean served the Lord together, as Dean's parents did before them, and now their children and grandchildren are following in their footsteps, making a total of four generations.

Nellie's story and legacy of faith

Borrowed, in part, from <https://homes.ethnos360.org/story/dean-and-nellie-goddard/>

Second-generation missionaries, Dean and Nellie Goddard, began serving in 1966 and chose to serve in Paraguay, where they gave the best of their years to four different people groups, where they served for forty-three years until retiring in 2009. While Dean focused on church planting and lesson preparation, Nellie worked with the medical team, prepared documents, and wrote songs for believers in the tribes. Nellie attended a mission-minded church, VBS, and summer church camps where missionaries were often presenting their work. From an early age, she was aware of the importance of sharing the Gospel with others. Nellie's outreach experiences were directed by youth group leaders with a concern for missions. She would participate in street meetings

where she would play her accordion and hand out tracts. She also worked with Child Evangelism and taught Sunday school.

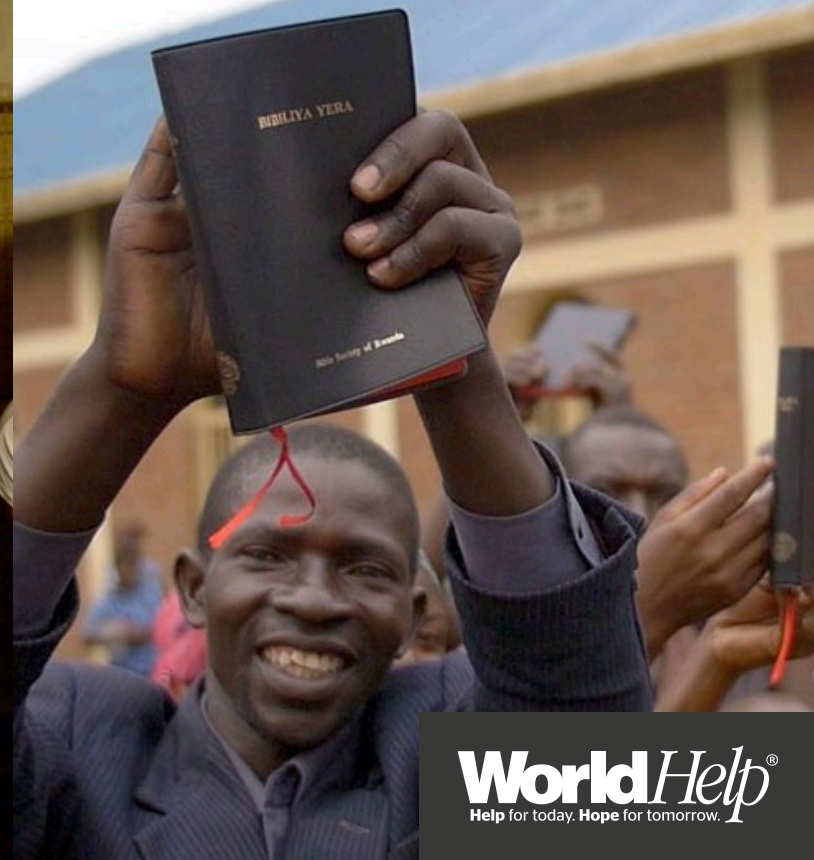
Nellie was introduced to NTM (New Tribe Missions) through an aunt and uncle who would often have missionaries in their home. She learned about their work in remote areas where tribal people had never heard the Gospel. As a result of their witness, she felt called by the Lord to go into the training. Nellie remembered wanting to be a missionary nurse from childhood. That was a goal the Lord never let her forget. She went to Bible school, which is where she met Dean.

Life was not without its challenges for Nellie and Dean. A difficult challenge came early in their ministry when a fellow Christian suggested they perhaps were not material for the field; that they should return to the States to pursue something different. They were devastated to hear this and went into earnest prayer. Together they confirmed to one another that God had definitely led them to missions, not for just a few years but until God removed them from the work. As a result, what began as a huge problem and a possible end to their ministry, God used to strengthen their faith and their commitment.

Challenges came later in their ministry as well. At thirteen, their oldest son contracted a virus that brought on a high fever, so they

administered an aspirin, unaware he was allergic. He went into convulsions, but a doctor was six hours away overland. Via the radio, they were able to make contact to get a plane into their remote area, but they had to get their son to the airstrip. Their only transportation was a tractor, and while on the machine, the convulsions returned and stopped his breathing. Dean was able to resuscitate him. He did not have another until he entered the Baptist hospital in Asuncion, where he went into a three-day coma. The staff did not know how to proceed, so they joined hands and circled the bed to pray for the Lord's mercy. When he regained consciousness, Dean and Nellie shared with him how the Lord had undertaken for him and spared his life for a reason; that he should always keep God first in his life. That son is now serving in Paraguay, along with his siblings, children, nieces and nephews.

When asked, "Looking back, would [you] do it all over again? Dean and Nellie responded, "Yes, because Jesus is worth serving for a lifetime."



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Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS

You can be a difference maker in a number of areas around the church. Visit lmbc.org/serve to find specific needs and see where you can serve here at LMBC.

EBENEZER IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REACH OUR COMMUNITY

Check here monthly or online for the times and events and upcoming opportunities to volunteer or participate and help us make a difference.

EBENEZER CALENDAR

all at Ebenezer unless otherwise stated

JAN. 10

First Responders Meals
11 am - 2 pm & 7 - 9 pm

Encouragement & Prayer
11 am - 2 pm



JAN. 26

Bible Club
4 - 5:15 pm

KIDS club



THROUGH OUR GIVING ... IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

With your gifts we hope to build 2 churches, plant 5 others, and send 1500 Bibles to people around the world. While we live in a country where Bibles are readily available, sadly, there are Christians around the world who have never even held a Bible, much less owned one. Since Bibles are often shared, each Bible brings spiritual hope to about five people, which would make our 1500 Bibles impact 7500 people.

Our goal for the physical needs would be to dig 2 deep bore wells and 2 clean water wells. We would love to rescue 20 malnourished children, provide vocational training for 10 people, free 10 girls from slavery, and provide 5 bundles of animals to families in need, as well as shoes, bikes, and sewing machines, that make an impact for more years than we can count as they provide job opportunities and more.

THANKS FOR GIVING TO THE GIFTS FOR JESUS OFFERING

We're off to a great start with \$36,854 toward our 2022 Gifts For Jesus offering. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed, this puts us well on our way to reaching or even exceeding last year's gifts of \$137,000. Our hope this year is to meet not only physical needs such as clean-water wells and feeding malnourished children but spiritual needs as well. With the amount we have already received we will be able to plant 5 churches, provide for the building of 2 churches and send more than 1500 Bibles, which have the potential to impact the lives of 7500 people. We would love to do more! Will you please help us by checking out the list on page 16 and ask God what He would have you give.

We will be receiving gifts through January 15. Please be sure and designate 'gifts for Jesus' on your check or online giving.



Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes
in the Auditorium



lmbc.org
or our App



By mail



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Births

- Weston Lee McCabe to Wyatt & Emily McCabe

Bereavements

- Vivian Gail Hewlette Chevalier, Paul Chevalier's mother
- Betty Dalton, Velvet Stepp's sister
- Thomas Dalton, Velvet Stepp's brother
- Nellie Goddard, Long time supported missionary of LMBC and Sarah Blake's sister (see pgs. 14-15)
- Tom Hartley, Nancy Coffey's brother
- Lillian Vivian Rutledge, Eric Justice's grandmother
- Charles Smith, Peggy Smith's husband

Pastoral Staff Birthdays

- Tim Yates (22nd)

LOOKING FOR A STARTING POINT?

How to join our community of faith

Are you looking for a church home?
Would you prayerfully consider whether God
may be leading you to our family of believers?
If you are ready, follow these simple steps:

1st Baptism



Trust in Christ and follow Him in believer's baptism.

2nd Register (pick 1)



In Service: scan the QR code on the pew in front of you and let us know you would like to join.
Online: lmbc.org/register
Call: 304-736-7676

3rd Discover



Check out the information in the visitor packet you received when you registered with us or visit lmbc.org/what-we-believe to learn about our core beliefs and more.

4th Experience



Come to the next Starting Point on **NEW DATE!**
Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023
at 5 pm in the HIS Way Cafe (SMB), where you'll meet with our Pastors to begin your membership experience.
Call: 304-736-7676
Pre-register: lmbc.org/

WANT TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

ADULTS (COED)

SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Through the Bible (S104) Jared Blankenship
Wall Builders (S100) Steve Bragg
Cornerstone (S102) Tim Koletka
Maranatha (Renaissance Room) Chuck Daniel

TUESDAYS @ 1 pm

Fearless (S100) Estep/Wyrick
@ 6 pm
Life Together (HIS Way Cafe) Tim Yates

WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Encouraging Friends Ministry (112) Kate McMullen
@ 6:30 pm
At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) Steve & Vicky Tardy
Broken Together (Thompson Home) Dan & Terri Thompson
It's Always Something (S100) Chuck Daniel

@ 6:45 pm

Abundant Life (L108) Gary McMullen
@ 7 pm
West Ridge Bible Study (WC Auditorium) Tim Yates
Selah (L114) Nathan McClay
Friends of God (Renaissance Room) David & Mary Lemming
Friends of God 2.0 (Backpack House) Sargent/Ball
Just Prayer (L104) Donna Nash
Rooted in Christ (F207) Jonah & MaKayla Howerton
Whosoever (Northside House) Sargent/Fry

FRIDAYS @ 5:30 pm

Believing, Belonging, & Becoming (HIS Way Cafe) Thurman Lowder

WOMEN

SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Journey with Him (L110) Hale/Tritz

MONDAYS @ 6 pm

Daughters of the King (S100) Shaffer/Lemming

TUESDAYS @ 9:30 am

Kingdom Seekers (Tardy Home) Tardy/McMullen
@ 10 am
Starts Jan. 17 At His Feet (S100) Beth Jenkins

WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm

4Ever His (L107) Leah Adkins
Knowing God's Heart (F205) Hager/Bashore
Starts Feb. 14 *Embrace Grace (L106) *for single pregnant ladies Angela Cantley

THURSDAYS @ 10 am

Women of Strength (HIS Way Cafe) Mullens/Foreman

MEN

WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Westridge Wisdom (S100) Jeremy Shaffer
@ 7 pm
Men of Truth (HIS Way Cafe) Steve Bragg
Iron Sharpeners (L110) Matheny/Miller

SENIORS

SUNDAYS @ 9 am

Willing Workers (L108) Richard Sexton
Young at Heart (L114) Bill Blankenship

FRIDAYS @ 11 am

Life Group (Victory Place Apartments) Charles Logan

Connect is the monthly news and informational publication from



Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus

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SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 & 10:45 am (watch live
at lmbc.tv)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY
7 pm

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Executive Editor,
Angie O'Dell
Content Editor,
Mary Ellen Black
Graphic Designer,
Matt Waller

Read previous editions
of Connect at
lmbc.org/connect



A FRESH START
IS POSSIBLE WITH
Jesus