

Vol. 12, Issue 3, March 2023

connect

I WILL GIVE
THANKS TO YOU,
LORD, WITH

ALL MY HEART;

I WILL TELL
OF ALL YOUR
WONDERFUL
DEEDS.

**All
My
Heart**

PSALM
9:1 NIV

MAR.

2023

**Can't be here
in-person?**

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

5th

Dinner Together
6 pm



with communion
in the FLC Gym



You won't want to miss this special event. Come early for the dinner and shop Mercy jewelry or make a bid on some of our silent auction baskets. This is a great time to shop for Easter, birthday, or Christmas gifts!! (Available 4:30-6 pm FLC Gym) All proceeds will be used to support Mercy Jewelry Ministry in the DR and the Brown Bag Ministry of LMBC.

12th

SPRINGFORWARD

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD

31st

Apr. 1st

**EASTER
EGGSTRAVAGANZA**

Friday: Hunt in the Dark @ 8 pm
Saturday: Traditional Egg Hunt @ 11 am

Also this month:

9th

Widows Luncheon

- 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

17th

PrimeTime Celebrates Spring

- 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Menu: Roast beef or turkey with potatoes and carrots, cole slaw, bread, and drinks. You bring: veggies, salad or desserts. It's a GREEN PARTY- so wear green and bring something green. Sign up with Vida or Blanche, or by calling the church office (304-736-7676).

22nd

Missionary Wendy Hinzman

- 7 pm, Worship Center

Other calendars:

Rooted (Bible)
Ebenezer

pg. 9
pg. 17

**Lewis KIDS
connection**

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**

5: Esther saved her people
12: Nehemiah rebuilt the walls
19: Ezra read the law
26: The people promised to be faithful

**Weds @ 7pm
in the FLC**



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

23: Bible Club

Other Events

31: Egg Hunt in the Dark

Apr.1 @ 11 am: Traditional Egg Hunt in the Renaissance Room

REFUEL

The Student Ministry of Lewis Memorial Baptist Church

**Wednesdays
@ 6:45 pm**

A weekly gathering for 6th-12th grade students, where they connect with each other, worship with a student-led band, hear teaching from the Bible, connect in small groups, and are challenged to grow spiritually.



Hospitality

Prince or Pauper

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God (Rom 15:7 ESV)

How do you treat guests when they visit your Church? Yes! YOU. Do you treat them like a Prince or like a pauper? James gives us a story about a rich man and a poor man visiting a local “assembly” (synagōgē). He says, “My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with partiality. 2 For if there should come into your assembly a man with gold rings, in fine apparel, and there should also come in a poor man in filthy clothes, 3 and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say to him, “You sit here in a good place,” and say to the poor man, “You stand there,” or, “Sit here at my footstool,” 4 have you not shown partiality among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you

and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called? 8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well; 9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin” (James 2:1-9). Sin? YES, SIN!

First, notice the command (v. 1). James is talking to believers in the local assembly (including greeters and the hospitality team). In verse 1, he addressed them as “My brethren.” And then in verse 5, he says, “Listen, my beloved brethren.” There’s no doubt James is addressing members of the synagogue or congregation. With that being said, what is the command? Underscore the words “do not” in verse 1. James insisted, these unfriendly members “NOT” embrace the Christian faith that showed partiality. This is a scolding command. A rebuke. A reprimand. “DO NOT” have this kind of Christian faith. What’s the

problem? They received the rich with great fan fair while degrading “the poor.” They were grouping people by socio-economical class. Like Hollywood, they determined self-worth by their net worth. They treated the rich like Princes, and they treated the poor like paupers. James commanded, “do not” show partiality (v. 1).

Second, notice the clothing (v. 2-3). Both guests were defined by their dress. The rich man had on “gold rings” and “fine apparel.” In reference to the rich man’s clothing, the word “fine” means to shine and sparkle. The attire of the rich bedazzled the crowd. On the other hand, the “poor man” had on “filthy clothes.” He was dirty, shabby, and unclean. Will the church crowd “pay attention to” the rich or the poor? Will you seat the rich man in a “good place” and make the poor man “stand” or even “sit at my footstool” (v. 3)? Unfortunately, this assembly defined people by wardrobe. Guests

who wore designer clothing were given the best seats in the house. On the other hand, the poor people didn’t receive the same attention. In fact, they were ignored. They treated the rich like Princes and mistreated the poor like paupers.

Third, notice the classification. “But you have dishonored the poor man” (v. 6). The word “dishonored” (atimazo) means to treat shamefully or to degrade. When you dishonor a guest, you degrade that guest. You place very little value on that person. That, my friend, is “partiality” or favoritism, and partiality and favoritism is SIN (v. 8). Let’s treat all people like a prince. How Can I Treat People like a prince?

Let me give you four points of action:

Action Point #1:

Value all people. If you value people, you will treat them like a prince. Even James says, “If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well;” (v. 8). Do you want to “do well?” Then, love and value people. Then you will “fulfill the royal law” and please God. Value all people.

A few months ago, I was reading through 1 Peter, and the Holy Spirit turned me inside out. Peter was sharing how to live as a believer. At the close of the paragraph, Peter gave a short, pithy statement. Yet it is a powerful pithy statement. I’ve read it many times before. Even memorized it. But this time, it was like a hammer hitting me in the head. Peter said, “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king” (1 Peter 2:17). Hermeneutically, I immediately saw the command to “honor” two times in the text. The word “honor” (timaō) means to set a price, to value. The command is to “Honor all people,” the pauper, and to “honor the king,” the prince. Both the prince and pauper are of equal value. However, in contemporary culture, we honor the prince and dishonor/ignore the pauper. A few days before reading this text, Queen Elizabeth died (September 8, 2022). Every channel on television carried the big story, “Queen Elizabeth dead at the age of 96 years old.” Then all attention turned to Prince Charles, who will accede to the British throne. News outlets showed footage of people desperate to touch Prince Charles. The multitudes thronged him.

I wondered what it would look like on Sunday morning if Prince Charles came to Lewis Memorial Baptist Church. The press, the masses of people would swarm him. By the way, Peter commanded, “honor the king” (1 Peter 2:17). But then my mind shifted to the normal everyday visitor who might visit us this coming Sunday. And I thought about the first part of 1 Peter 2:17 “Honor ALL people.” Honor the people and equally honor the king. And vice versa. Value the prince and value the pauper. This is sacred Scripture. This is the Bible. Yet, why do we show such partiality? Distinction and classification? Favoritism? I know

we would roll out the red carpet for Prince Charles. But will we roll out the red carpet for all guests? Do you value the guests who visit Lewis Memorial Baptist Church? Would you value the prince more than the pauper? Or will you “honor all men” this Sunday?

Action Point #2:

Come 30 minutes early on Sunday morning and welcome one new family to our church. Someone you don’t know. Write down their name. Pray for them each morning when you have your devotions. Next Sunday, when you see them greet them by name and let them know how glad you are to see them. Unfortunately, many church members gather in “Holy Huddles” and only talk to people they know. We talk about the Super Bowl, College Football, and maybe NASCAR. Don’t get caught up in the trap/blindness of talking only to your friends. Intentionally OPEN your spiritual eyes and look for the lost, unknown, and unloved. These are the people Jesus is looking for.

Action Point #3:

Be prepared to serve our guests. Company is in the house. Don’t ignore the very people GOD sent US. If they have children, DON’T tell them where the children’s ministry meets. TAKE THEM downstairs to where the children’s ministry meets. Introduce them to the various workers. Help them find the restroom. Help them find the member who invited them to Church. This is a BIG deal with guests. It’s a game-changer. I’ve seen their terrified face light up when they see someone they know. I understand that serving is NOT a good word in most congregations. Why? Because we want to be served. Consumerism has overtaken the church. Give ME the religious goods and services. The attitude is, “I come to BE blessed, NOT BE a blessing.” Be prepared this Sunday to serve our guests.

Action Point #4:

Memorize Romans 15:7. Ask God to help you live out this biblical truth. If you’re a “deep lifer,” take this verse deep in application (you’re spiritual DNA). Take it seriously. Paul said, “Therefore welcome one another as Christ has

welcomed you, for the glory of God” (Rom 15:7 ESV). How did Christ welcome you into the family of God? In the same way, the Father welcomed the Prodigal Son into the family of God. He pursued YOU, and He welcomed YOU with open arms (Luke 15:20-22). This Sunday, live out this verse. Don’t ignore it. Memorize it and do it.

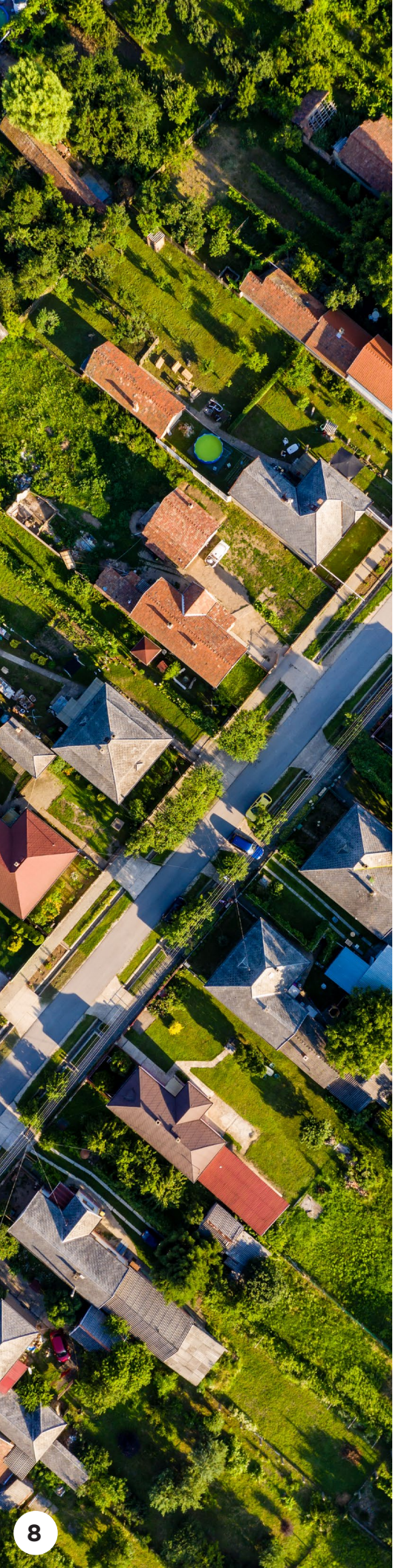
In closing, Beware! Don’t ignore the people God is sending to our church. Can I be honest? I’m afraid I see them, but I don’t think you see them. Do YOU see them? They’re walking into our church in droves. Just look around. I’ve never seen anything like this before. Please, don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to serve people. To value people. To see people, not jewelry, designer clothing, and fancy cars. Not rich, not poor. Just people. God sent people. Love them. Serve them. Welcome them. Pray for them. Roll up your sleeves and be prepared to serve them. Serve the prince and serve the pauper. They’re here. They’re coming. But the question is, “How will YOU receive them this Sunday?” Don’t let them walk past you without even acknowledging they exist. Say, “Good morning. We are so glad you’re here.” Stop and think. It wasn’t like this before covid, and I don’t know how much longer it will continue. All I can say is we better, “Seize the day.” Will you help make Lewis Memorial Baptist Church a Romans 15:7 Church? With over-the-top hospitality. Where every guest is honored, valued, and loved. Both the prince and the pauper.



by Tim Yates

Tim Yates is an assistant pastor who oversees the Life Groups at Lewis Memorial. Tim and his wife Myra grew up locally and graduated from Barbourville High School. Both Tim and Myra are multiplying small group leaders and thoroughly enjoy their role as trainers and equippers for the glory of God. They have a passion for making disciples and mentoring small group apprentices.

See pg. 8 for more ways to practice hospitality in our community



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE IN MARCH

Tim Yates

Dear Small Group Leader,

Greetings! Thank God! We have made it through the grueling, wintery months of January and February. I love March because I know the warmer weather is around the corner. Thank you for being a faithful Small Group Leader/Disciple-maker. Your impact is much greater than you can ever imagine.

What is our monthly outreach plan for the month of March (Love Where You Live)? March is hospitality month. Our “inreach strategy” is very simple yet very intentional. Each Sunday morning during the month of March meet one new family you do not know. Look around you. Do you see people you do not know? Of course, you do. Introduce yourself and jot down their names. Email me the name of the couple (t.yates@lmbc.org). You can even come and tell me their names and I will write down their names on the guest prayer list. Pray specifically for this family during the week. Next Sunday, intentionally look for that same couple and go and greet them by name. Do this each Sunday during the month of March (5, 12, 19, 26) and you will have introduced yourself and prayed for four new families.

Remember to pray for these new families. It’s impossible to reach new people without praying. In fact, Andrew Murray said, “The man who mobilizes the Christian Church to pray will make the greatest contribution to world evangelization in history.” Needless to say, Andrew Murray believed in prayer.

Also, during the month of March memorize Romans 15:7. Paul said, “Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God” (ESV). I promise you. Christ is super welcoming! And seriously attentive to the needs of others. His arms are always open wide. He’s a friend of sinners. Jesus is always about Loving Where YOU Live because He is love personified. Sometimes we forget the simple truths of Scripture. We just need a friendly reminder to help us Love Where We Live (LWYL).

THE TRINITY

Theological Word of the Month

Trinity is a word that is used in the realm of biblical Christianity to describe both the unity and diversity within the Godhead, but did you know that the word trinity does not show up in the Bible? Before the New Testament was completed (around 100 AD), heresies surrounding the deity of Christ were becoming increasingly troublesome; this caused many church fathers to take up their pens in defense of Christianity. While writing a response to a heresy about the Godhead, it was Tertullian who first coined the term trinity to describe the Godhead. He said, “these three are one substance, not one person.” Centuries later, the Athanasian Creed adds more explanation, “So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal.” In a summary fashion, Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists in three separate persons, all of whom are equal. This means that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, but they are not each other. Confused yet? Wouldn’t it be great to have an illustration or object lesson to explain this concept better? Unfortunately, no illustration exists that can aptly explain the balance of this mystery because no finite illustration can fully describe an infinite God (see Romans 11:33). So, can we truly understand something so complex with our finite minds? As his students were studying the doctrine of the Trinity, the well-known church father Augustine offered some wise advice, “lest you become discouraged, know that when you love, you know more about who God is than you could ever know with your intellect.”

***“Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!”
- Romans 11:33 ESV***



Pre-register
for the April-June
Spiritual Yearbook

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.

- 1st Joshua 8:30-35
- 2nd Joshua 9:1-15
- 3rd Joshua 9:16-27
- 4th Psalm 146
- 5th -
- 6th Joshua 10:1-15
- 7th Joshua 11:1-15
- 8th Joshua 11:16-23
- 9th Joshua 19:49-51; 21:43-45
- 10th Joshua 22:1-9
- 11th Psalm 135
- 12th -
- 13th Joshua 22:10-20
- 14th Joshua 22:21-34
- 15th Joshua 23:1-13
- 16th Joshua 24:1-13
- 17th Joshua 24:14-28
- 18th Psalm 56
- 19th -
- 20th John 4:43-54
- 21st Luke 5:1-20
- 22nd Matthew 8:5-13
- 23rd Mark 2:1-12
- 24th John 5:1-16
- 25th Psalm 103
- 26th -
- 27th John 6:1-15
- 28th Mark 7:31-37
- 29th Luke 17:11-19
- 30th John 11:32-44
- 31st Luke 18:35-43

LEAVE THE THRONE OF GUILT

Three Better Reasons to Pray



Calloused knees. Prayer closet. Answered prayers. Prayer warrior.

These four phrases don't exactly trigger me with spiritual PTSD, but they do represent markers in my journey of moving from prayer-guilt into the grace of praying. For many years, I felt more like a D-student in the school of prayer than a beloved son in the presence of God. I was afraid to not pray, but I had very little delight in actually praying.

As a young believer in the late sixties, the joy of my new life in Christ was palpable and plenteous. But pretty soon, I started to feel the pressure of a new burden to "get it right." I had consistent quiet times, underlined verses in my Bible (in three different colors), and engaged in Scripture memory. I fellowshiped, witnessed, and prayed. Unfortunately, these crucial spiritual disciplines functioned more as a means of guilt (or pride) than as a means of grace. Many of God's good gifts are misused and disused until they become

rightly used. This is certainly true of prayer.

A part of the problem — no, the biggest issue — was that I began the Christian life with a limited understanding of what happened when God gave me faith to trust Jesus and hid my life in his Son. I was certain of going to heaven when I died, but I knew little of what God thought about me while I lived.

United Forever with Christ

In Christ, all riches were already deposited into my account, but I was clueless about them. I knew Jesus died for my sins and that I was fully forgiven. But only years later did I come to understand my union with Christ, the imputation of his righteousness, and my adoption into God's family — to name a few of the glorious benefits of our life in Christ.

I don't blame anyone for not teaching me about union with Christ. I'm just eternally grateful I finally learned about it, came to rest in it, and now live out of its glorious implications. It wasn't a game changer, but an everything changer — not a new day, but a new forever.

Our union with Christ is the foundation and fountain for knowing God, and the spiritual disciplines — including prayer (when shaped and fueled by the gospel) — are the means by which we deepen our knowledge of God and learn to "glorify and enjoy him forever." Though the gospel has freed us from all earning, it certainly doesn't free us from all effort. But the effort I now invest in praying has become a delight, not a burden.

“*The effort I now invest in praying has become a delight, not a burden.*”

Moving on from guilt and fear, I now focus on three callings that have radically transformed how I engage in prayer.

Fellowship with Your Father

"Fellowship with your Father" is exactly how my spiritual father, Jack Miller, reframed prayer for me, keying off of Jesus's glorious invitation to say, "Our Father in heaven" (Matthew 6:9). How many times did I hear (and need to hear) Jack say, "Scotty, our Father wants to spend time with you more than you are even confident and comfortable in his presence. He loves you. You'll never shock him, and he'll never shame you. He knows your need is greater than you realize, and his provision for you in Jesus is exponentially more than you have yet grasped."

Indeed, the gospel frees us from thinking of prayer as a way to get God's attention — an effort to convince him of something we need or something we want him to do. Prayer is God's nonstop welcome to us — a grace-subpoena into his presence (Hebrews 4:16).

Our Father is always initiating and resourcing our communion with himself. As we spend both quality and quantity time with him, all the incomplete and wrong notions we've had about him get exposed and expelled. He also re-parents us through unrushed time in his presence. Abba is the Father we always wanted, and he alone can be to us what no human father could ever be.

The better we know God as our Father,

we more we begin to embrace how big and good his prayer-answer vocabulary actually is. Answered prayer is no longer equated with a yes to our petitions. We begin to rest in our Father's multiple wise answers, like no, not yet, and yes, but not exactly as you are asking. The burden is off our shoulders. We can ask with abandon and trust with even greater abandon. Our Father is always doing all things well, even when he doesn't do all things easy. Our Father's no is sweeter than any yes we can imagine — or demand. We start giving more yeses to him rather than “needing” yeses from him.

Jack also made it abundantly clear to me, “The more you fellowship with your Father, the more you will rejoice in his plan for the nations and live as his partner in world evangelism.” Jack could not think of prayer, the gospel, and our Father without seeing and rejoicing in the day when God's every-nation family will stream into the New Jerusalem.

Behold Jesus's Glory

The apostle Paul's words are as riveting as they are compelling: “We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit” (2 Corinthians 3:18). Many centuries earlier, King David expressed a similar heart orientation and single passion — even making it his number-one prayer request: “One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord” (Psalm 27:4).

Prayer as contemplation of Jesus's glory reorients us away from prayer as consternation about getting results. Adoration of Jesus must not be relegated to the first letter of ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. Adoration is the meaning and essence of each and every other aspect of life. Indeed, fixing our gaze on Jesus isn't a warm-up exercise to prayer; it is prayer.

As we marinate in the truth, goodness, and beauty of Jesus, we are changed — we become

more like Jesus, which is the goal of our salvation (Romans 8:28–30; 1 John 3:1–3). Our hope is fueled, because we discover more fully what the Scriptures mean when they declare Jesus to be the emphatic Yes! to every promise God has made (2 Corinthians 1:20). Our praying becomes less about claiming God's promises and more about seeing how God's promises claim us — and all of history. We think less about becoming prayer warriors, and we rest in Jesus as the prayer-warrior extraordinaire — ever living to make intercession for us and in us by the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:26).

Adoring Jesus also deepens our intimacy with him and intensifies our longing to be with him in eternity — the better-by-far-ness Paul writes about in Philippians 1:23. It also fuels our courage to go with Jesus into a life of missional living and loving. We cease thinking of doing anything merely for Jesus; rather, we begin to live as those who do everything with Jesus. Only Jesus can, and is, making all things new. Prayer frees us to find our place in his story, now that we're already in his heart.

Listen to the Spirit's Testimony

Lastly, thinking of prayer as listening to the Holy Spirit's testimony helps us include in our prayer times not only talking but hearing. In Romans 8, Paul highlights just how vital this aspect of our fellowship with God actually is: “The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs” (Romans 8:16–17). The Spirit is always preaching the gospel to us — nonstop, 24/7. As we linger over God's word, do we take time to listen?

In fact, it is by the Spirit's voice we most clearly hear God singing over us with great rejoicing (Zephaniah 3:17). How is this so? Because the Spirit is always making much of Jesus and is constantly applying his finished work to our hearts. As we experience the wonder of God's great delight in us, we move more fully into the true blessedness of the convicting voice of the Spirit, the voice that is now and forever void of any condemnation (Romans 8:1). Confession and repentance become a way of life and a

liberating joy.

Unfortunately, too much of the time we allow other noises and voices to drown out the Spirit's voice. We tune the frequency of our hearts to our fears, disappointments, and anger. We indulge the whispers, shouts, and lies of the devil. We let the siren songs of our world and our lusts mute the peace-giving, joy-fueling, hope-enlarging testimony of the Spirit. We pay to hear an out-of-tune kazoo band, while the triune God has graciously made us members of his every-nation orchestra that gets to play and enjoy the grand symphony of the gospel.

Let's get still and know that our God is God (Psalm 46:10). He does all that he pleases, all the time and everywhere (Psalm 115:3). Hallelujah, it has pleased him to make us his beloved daughters and sons through the work of Jesus.



by Scotty Smith

Scotty Smith (@ScottyWardSmith) is the founding pastor and pastor emeritus of Christ Community Church in Franklin, Tennessee.

“The gospel frees us from thinking of prayer as a way to get God's attention.”



MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN SOUTH AMERICA

Anthony & Rachelle Goddard, Brazil

Mark & Odie Goddard, Paraguay

Mike & Trisha Goddard, Paraguay

Spencer & Joanna Goddard, Brazil

John & Brenda Gossett, Trinidad

Jon & Erin Mathews, Brazil

Dwayne & Dianna Spear, Brazil

John & Barb Windler, Paraguay

What do you do when you get excited at what the Lord has done or is doing? Shout Hallelujah, clap your hands, share the news, say a prayer of thanks, or maybe dance around the room? Whatever it is, get ready because this recent update from the McCoys is definitely an exciting testimony of how specifically God is working in their lives and ministry.



PAT & LISA MCCOY

For those who haven't been following our online, missionary updates let me catch you up ... After 19 years of serving in Unalakleet Alaska they have surrendered to the Lord's leading and will be leaving Unalakleet for the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii. ... You'll find the whole story online at lmbc.org/missions

Picking up where we left off on our last letter we have continued to work in accordance with the Lords timing in our church planting endeavor to the North Shore of Oahu. Although our goal was to get started by the end of 2022 as the year progressed it became more and more clear that wasn't a possibility. Due to the strict policy concerning pets and rabies we had to wait until we were cleared so we could take our dogs to the island. Weather also played a part in slowing us down but ultimately it just wasn't the Lords timing.

In late December we purchased our tickets to fly to Oahu from California but this initial trip was not a trip we intended to make long term but to merely find a place to live on the North Shore. Prayerfully in the town of Waialua where we believed we were led to begin. When leaving for California we had tried to plan our trip so we could report to some of our midwest supporters but the weather between Kansas and the other side of Colorado presented a problem that forced us to travel southward. We arrived in California several days before

our flight to Oahu and during the days prior we looked up some listings for rentals on Craigslist. As it turned out there was a house that had just come available. Up to this point we were having a difficult time finding a place that allowed pets, big enough, but not too expensive and in the town of Waialua. I sent the renter a e-mail and he immediately called us back and as it turned out we were exactly who he wanted to rent the house, a family of 3 with one or two small dogs.

After arriving on the island we immediately picked up our rental car and drove to Waialua to look at the rentals I had called about. When we arrived, the first house really seemed to have all that we needed to begin the work. It is a modest size 3 bedroom house with a bit of yard space. Also there is a 2 car attached garage that had been used as living space with a separate entrance, which would be perfect for a Bible study or service. The only hiccup is that the house turned out to be quite a bit more than I wanted to pay starting out. So we told him we would think about it and continued to follow other leads. Every house we looked at was much smaller and wasn't much cheaper so we kept looking.

Last year while I was praying about Waialua I had called veteran Baptist Pastors in Hawaii to ask questions about a need there and the North Shore. One such Pastor had been on the island as long as anyone I could find and it was during this time looking for a place in Waialua, I called him. He said he had been trying to reach me but had an old number so had almost given up on me coming. He then told me there is a family that had been traveling 45 minutes to his

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

NEWS FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Church in Honolulu from the North Shore for over a year for services. Apparently he and his family had been praying even longer for God to send someone to Waialua where they lived. Which I am sure is by no coincidence was about the time I was being led to leave Unalakleet for Waialua. Regardless I got the young man's number, called him, introduced myself, and told him I was looking to start a church on the North Shore of Oahu and especially Waialua. I told him about the rentals I had looked at and he asked me what the addresses were. The address I gave him first was the very first house that I was avoiding because of the price for rent. It was because of his response that I realized what the Lord has been doing on my heart since late 2021. He said "that is my next door neighbor". Yes out of an area that covers over 35,000 people and a town of over 5,000 the house I looked at was the closest house to a family that had been praying for someone to come and start a church.

So even though the price is more then I wanted to spend I could not help but see Gods hand in this and we rented the house which will be ready to move in to March 1st. Since we are starting over we have many needs but I am sure the Lord will provide a way because he always has and always will provide where he leads.

Please pray for the McCoys as they prepare to move and make all of the transitions from Alaska to Hawaii. Pray also for those they will be ministering to that they might be receptive to the Word and the work of the Lord.

FOCUS: DEVOTE YOURSELF TO PRAYER

by Lynette Kittle

After dinner and hymn singing, Jesus headed out to pray. Spending time in prayer was a priority for Jesus. As stated in Luke 22:39 “Jesus went out as usual to the Mount of Olives.” Despite all that was conspiring and happening around Him, Jesus did not let the surrounding activities keep Him from spending time in prayer. If life’s busyness and distractions have been keeping you from spending time in prayer, look to Christ’s example of making it a priority, especially during this season and in times of your greatest needs.

Scripture reveals how during His time of prayer, Jesus agonized with what God was asking Him to do. Luke 22:44 states, “And being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” Mark 14:35,36 describes how, “Going a little farther, he fell to the ground and prayed that if possible, the hour might pass from Him.” Saying, “Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.” For many individuals, the days leading up to Easter are a time of giving up things. Yet when looking at Scripture, there is something even more pleasing to God than sacrifice, as stated in 1 Samuel 15:22, “To obey is better than sacrifice.”

After His time of prayer and submission to God’s will, Jesus “humbled Himself by becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross (Philippians 2:8). He was perfectly obedient to His Father’s will. Hebrews 5:8,9 describes how, “Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered, and, once made perfect, He became the source of eternal Salvation for all who obey Him.” Jesus’ life wasn’t taken from Him, He gave it up, “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us” (1 John 3:16).

In these days leading up to Easter, make a commitment to devote yourself to prayer and submitting to God’s will, by doing so you are preparing your heart for Easter.

Lynette Kittle is married with four daughters. She enjoys writing about faith, marriage, parenting, relationships, and life. Her writing has been published by Focus on the Family, Decision, Today’s Christian Woman, kirkcameron.com, Ungrind.org, and more.



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.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY PRAYING FOR OTHERS

THANK YOU: Way to go, Church! Thank you to all who gave toward our 2022 Gifts for Jesus offering. Your gifts totaled \$100,914! All praise and glory to God. Just look what He has allowed us to do for others to meet both spiritual and physical needs:

- The construction of two churches
- Planting twenty churches
- Vocational training for 20 pastors
- The distribution of 2050 Bibles to Bibleless people
- Setting 30 girls free from slavery
- Caring for 100 malnourished children
- Feeding thirty children for the year
- Digging two deep bore wells
- Digging 2 clean water wells

The Gospel is shared with each gift that is supplied. Please Help us make an even bigger difference in the lives of the people who receive these gifts now, or benefit from them in the future, by committing to pray for them to respond to the Gospel message.

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

MAR. 14

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

Encouragement & Prayer
11 am - 2 pm



MAR. 23

Bible Club
4 - 5:15 pm



Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes
in the Auditorium



Imbc.org
or our App



By mail



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST
FAMILY NEWS

Bereavements

- Jack Carpenter, Shirley Carpenter's husband
- Bob Steele, Mary Beth Steele's father
- John White, Paula Lucas' father

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 **Sunday, Apr. 30** at 4:30 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/starting-point

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 (Northside House) Sargent/Ball
Just Prayer (L104) Donna Nash
Rooted in Christ (F207) Jonah & MaKayla Howerton
Whosoever (L112) 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) Rebekah Shaffer

TUESDAYS @ 9:30 am

Kingdom Seekers (Tardy Home) Tardy/McMullen
@ 10 am
At His Feet (S100) Beth Jenkins
@ 11 am
Sewing for God's Children (L104) Barbara Keaton

WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm

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

THURSDAYS @ 10 am

Women of Strength (HIS Way Cafe) Mullens/Foreman

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

Connect is the monthly news and informational publication from



Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus

5385 W. Pea Ridge Rd.
Huntington, WV 25705
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lmbc.org

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

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY**
7 pm

CONNECT STAFF:
Senior Editor,
David Lemming
Executive Editor,
Angie O'Dell
Content Editor,
Mary Ellen Black
Graphic Designer,
Matt Waller

Read previous editions
of Connect at
lmbc.org/connect



I WILL GIVE
THANKS TO YOU,
LORD, WITH
ALL MY HEART;
I WILL TELL
OF ALL YOUR
WONDERFUL
DEEDS.

All My Heart

PSALM
9:1 NIV