

Vol. 12, Issue 5, May 2023

connect



OUR GREATEST TREASURE

MAY 2023

Can't be here in-person?

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

4th

details on pg. 9

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
UNITED IN PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

14th

- No Life Groups
- No Evening Service

HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY

Photo ops available in the upper and lower lobbies.

21st

CONGRATULATIONS
GRADUATES

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU

All recent graduates, present in the morning services, will receive a gift.

Also this month:

7th

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

- after morning services, HIS Way Cafe

Communion

- 6 pm, WC Auditorium

11th

Widows: Chat & Chew

- 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

12th

PrimeTime Celebrates Mothers

- 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Menu: Meatloaf and fried chicken, scalloped potatoes. You bring: veggie, salad and dessert. Sign up with Vida or Blanche, or by calling the church office (304-736-7676).

28th-29th

Memorial Day Weekend

- No evening service
- Offices closed May 29
- Summer break for most Life Groups

Other calendars:

Rooted (Bible)

pg. 13

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

7: Jesus called His disciples
14: Jesus came to be the sacrifice for sin
21: Jesus told Nicodemus about eternal life
28: Jesus told a woman about living water

Weds @ 7pm in the FLC

3, 10, 17: Bible Basics
24: **Game Night**
31: Bible Basics

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

25: Bible Club

VBS IS COMING SOON!

June 12-16 (6-8 pm) Watch for early registration.

Spring Calendar

@REFUELSTUDENTS

DOWNLOAD THE
REFUEL STUDENTS APP
Download on the App Store
GET IT ON Google Play

7th (after both morning services)
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
to support teen missions

in the HIS Way Cafe

Save the Dates

June 19 thru 23 - Backpack VBS
July 14 thru 20 - Mission Trip

May

3 - Walk Over Night

17 - Senior Night

24 - Color War/Summer Kickoff



A MOTHER BEAR & HER CUBS

The Necessity of a Mother's Protection

In the animal kingdom, a mother bear is known to be a powerful protector of her cubs (cf. Prov. 17:12). She will do whatever it takes to keep them safe from harm, even if it means putting her own life on the line. She serves as a powerful reminder of the bond between a mother and her children, and the lengths that a mother will go to protect and care for them.

It is not just their physical protection that a mother bear provides her cubs, but also the emotional support that she gives. She teaches them valuable life skills, such as hunting and survival techniques, and provides comfort and reassurance when they are scared or unsure. The bond between a mother bear and her cubs is unbreakable, and it is a beautiful sight to behold the affection and care that she shows her offspring.

Mothers have always been known for their strength and resilience, and in today's world, these qualities are more important than ever. With so many dangers and challenges facing our children, it is essential that mothers step up and take action to protect their precious gifts given to them by God. Whether through advocacy, education, personal example or simply being present and supportive, every mother can make a difference in the lives of her children and those around her.

It is natural for mothers to want to protect their children from harm. Sadly, there are many dangers in today's world, like drugs, alcohol, evil ideologies, and sexual perversion, to name a few, that threaten them daily. Too often in our world, our children are learning morals and values that do not align with our own biblical morals and values. To ensure that they stay safe and receive the training that aligns with God's Word, it's important to be vigilant and monitor what they are being taught, as well as be present to see the kinds of things they are exposed to regularly in their daily lives.

This certainly involves having transparent conversations with them and monitoring what they are learning in all areas where they are involved. Why? Because ultimately it should be part of a mother's nature to safeguard her children and instill the values that will guide them towards a successful and fulfilling life. Remember, though, that being a powerful protector doesn't mean being overbearing or controlling. You can strike a balance between protecting your children and allowing them to grow and learn on their own by simply being consistently present and engaged in their lives.

Not long ago our President made an audacious statement while addressing a group of teachers. He said to those in attendance about YOUR children, "They are somebody else's children...They're like yours when they are in the classroom." I wish I could believe that what he meant was that teachers should "protect and care" for our children as if they were their parents when they are with them in the classroom. However, Emile Kao, who serves as senior counsel for Alliance Defending Freedom wrote, "At younger ages than ever before, American children are being targeted... with sexual content and destructive gender ideology...the White House and Congress are poised to exacerbate these trends by infusing K-12 public schools with destructive ideology, politicizing medicine, and undermining parental rights." Is she right? Well, I have personally seen a lot of what she is talking about being discussed in our news in recent years.

This past month, we've witnessed yet another

tragic incident of children being targeted in their own schools. In an appalling act of violence, a transgender woman entered Covenant School in Nashville, TN, and took the lives of three innocent children and three members of the school staff. This senseless act of violence is an all-too-familiar reminder of the twenty children who lost their lives in the 2012 Newtown, CT, shooting.

“... it should be part of a mother's nature to safeguard her children ...

In 2018, 14 students and three staff members tragically lost their lives in a shooting at a school in Parkland, Florida. And in 2022 we saw another tragic incident, when nineteen students were killed in a school shooting in Uvalde, TX. Many of us can remember watching the news in utter disbelief in 1999 when 13 students were killed in the Columbine High School murders.

While I don't recall any such incidents like that happening before 1999, it's possible that there were some that I simply don't remember. Perhaps, due to the lack of awareness and attention to such incidents, they were not reported or were not taken as seriously as they should have been. It's distressing to think about the amount of pain and anguish that these events have caused for the loved ones of all these victims. The ripple effects of such tragedies can be felt for years and even decades afterwards. The scars left behind are not just physical, but emotional and psychological as well.

As should be obvious, our children are being targeted, and it is our responsibility to take action to protect them. We need to begin by acknowledging the reality of the situation and taking steps to prevent similar incidents from happening again. When it comes to protecting the physical safety of our children, this should include enhancing school security measures and hiring more security personnel. Additionally, it means providing counseling and support services for students who may be

struggling with mental health issues or who have been affected by the instability of their lives. Above all, we must be people who live by the Gospel, share the Gospel, and instill the Gospel in our children daily. We may be able to reform some things in our society, but only Jesus Christ can transform people into what they ought to be.

Make no mistake about it, the enemy is coming for our children. As hard as it is to believe, some people in our society are advocating for children to be exposed to things like drag queens, drag queen shows, and drag queen story hours in public or private settings, such as childcare centers and libraries. It is difficult to imagine a sane world in which it would be considered acceptable to promote such bizarre (harmful and evil) ideas to our children as “entertainment.”

Again, the current administration has defended these ideas, which is inherently wrong on so many levels. Just so everyone is clear, drag queens are men who dress in women’s clothing, often in scantily clad and provocative outfits, and perform for the entertainment of audiences. There is no “reasonable person” in his or her “right mind” who would ever consider these performances to be suitable for elementary-aged children, let alone for anyone else.

This again shows that some people seek to harm our children in any way possible. Even in some of the most perverted ways possible. While we absolutely must do everything in our power to keep our children physically safe at school, it is equally important to ensure their protection from harmful ideas, philosophies, and beliefs to which they are being exposed. We must work not only to keep killers out of our schools but also to safeguard our children’s moral and spiritual well-being.

By exposing our children to drag queen performances and similar concepts, people knowingly feed the children the lies of our demonic enemy. Therefore, it is important to be vigilant in protecting our children in all aspects of their lives, both physically, spiritually and emotionally. It is time to act and make

necessary changes in all of these areas of our children’s lives so they are safe and well-informed about the dangers around them.

At LMBC, we believe that children and youth are a vital part of our church and our community. Our children’s (LKC) and student ministries (Refuel) are designed to provide a safe and loving environment for them to learn and grow in their faith.

We understand the importance of teaching our children about God and His love for them. That’s why we want to instill in them the belief that God created them, loves them unconditionally, and has a plan for their lives. We also want our children to understand that evil exists in this world, but that Jesus Christ has already overcome it. Our goal is to encourage our children to trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior and to live for Him every day.

In addition, we recognize the importance of grounding our children in the Scripture and in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that providing a solid foundation in the Bible will prepare them for the challenges they will face today and in the future. That’s why we offer Bible-based teachings in all our ministries and from the pulpit, rather than providing short homilies that cater to those who are excessively time conscious.

We are committed as a church to helping our children and youth grow in their faith and develop a strong relationship with Jesus Christ. We believe that investing in them now will yield long-lasting benefits for our church and our community in the future.

As parents, it is our responsibility to protect our children from harm. Period! We must ensure that they are protected from the malevolent influences of the world, especially when we see clearly the enemy coming after them. It is imperative that mothers, as “mama bears”, stand up and fight for their children to shield them from Satan’s evil schemes.

In this day and age, it is not enough to rely on physical strength and weapons alone to protect our children. While we will defend

them by any means necessary if they are being physically attacked, we must also equip them with spiritual strength for the spiritual war that is raging. Prayer, church attendance, Bible reading, godly guidance, loving parents, stable families, and other similar virtues will help to preserve them from the destruction and evils of this present world. It is our duty to instill these values in our children and to lead them towards a path of righteousness. By doing so, we can ensure that they are well-equipped to face the challenges that life may bring in the future and to emerge unscathed by Satan’s attacks.

Solomon’s wisdom about the danger of robbing a mother bear of her cubs may have come from personal experience, or it may have resulted from a careful observation of nature around him. Regardless of its origin, the message is clear: meddling with a mother’s offspring can have disastrous consequences.

It is more important than ever for parents to take an active role in raising their children with strong values and a deep understanding of their faith. This means protecting them from the many dangers and evils that can harm them, both in the physical world and online, and instilling in them a sense of purpose and compassion. By nurturing and admonishing our children in the ways of the Lord, we can help prepare them to be strong, confident, and compassionate adults who are following the Lord and will go out into the world to make a positive impact in Jesus’ Name.



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.

At the 2022 Teacher of the Year ceremony hosted by the White House on Wednesday, President Biden claimed that school children don’t belong to parents “when they’re in the classroom.” “They’re all our children. And the reason you’re the teachers of the year is because you recognize that. They’re not somebody else’s children. They’re like yours when they’re in the classroom,” he said. Biden, April 27: Because you know — look, these aren’t — we always talk about “these children.” They’re not someone else’s children. They’re our children. And they are the kite strings that literally lift our national ambitions aloft in a literal sense. Think about it. If you got to do one thing to make sure the nation succeeded in the next two generations, what would you do? You’d want — I would say, literally, have the best-educated public in the world. Have our students gain confidence enough to know what they can do, to reach in. We have an obligation. We have an obligation to help them teach and reach their potential. You’ve heard me say it many times about our children, but it’s true: They’re all our children. And the reason you’re the Teachers of the Year is because you recognize that. They’re not somebody else’s children; they’re like yours when they’re in the classroom. You represent a profession that helps them gain the confidence — a confidence they believe they can do anything.
DEBUNKING VIRAL CLAIMS › FACTCHECK POSTS
Article, RNC Tweet Distort Biden’s Comments on Teachers
By Brea Jones
Posted on May 2, 2022

WHAT EVERY MOTHER WANTS MOST IS A TRUCKLOAD OF *grace...*

Grace that buries her fears that her faith wasn't enough, and that her faults were too many.

Grace that washes her dirty wounds and wounds the devil's lies.

Grace that says she doesn't have to try to measure up to anyone else
Because Jesus came down ~ and He measures her as good enough, as worthy enough,
as loved more than enough.

Grace embrace you before you prove anything ~ and after you've done everything wrong

Grace hold you when everything else falls apart
~ and whispers that everything is really falling together.

Grace loves us when we are at our darkest worst ~ and wraps us in the best light.

What happened in the past can't change it, and nothing in the future can intimidate the reality of it
~ and it's what your soul aches for the most ~ and it's the realest true:

You are always sufficient ~ because God always gives you His all sufficient grace.

You don't have to be afraid ~ because you have a Father.

You don't have to know how to do it all.
You just have to choose to be all there, right where you are.

His grace meets you in the moment
~ and you will miss it if you are worrying about future moments.

Lock your thoughts in this moment and you get to live the freest of all.
When you focus on living only in the grace of this moment ~ is exactly when you get the grace of a
momentous life.

Live in the moment ~ and you get a momentous life. That is all ...

You don't have to be awesome and do everything.
You simply have to believe that the One who is Awesome loves you through everything.

And when the mothers sat with that ...

When the mothers sat with that, when they gave themselves that,
When they opened up and unfolded all this Grace ...

When they were given it...and when they let it completely enfold them ~
all these wounds healed in a thousand places.

ANNVOSKAMP.COM

This year's

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people to pray for our nation - is coming up on Thursday, May 4th, and we're changing it up. Instead of meeting here on campus, we will meet at Barbourville Park (shelter #7) for food, fellowship, and a PRAYER WALK. What's a Prayer Walk? Simply put, it is a time spent walking and praying for the concerns of our heart - rather than sitting or standing and praying. We hope you will plan to come and spend the evening in fellowship and prayer. Trouble walking? No worries, we will be under a shelter with picnic tables, so you can sit and pray.

"When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?" —Psalms 11:3

Seasons of distress and uncertainty, and hardship call for faithful, fervent prayer by God's people and remind us of our responsibility to humble ourselves before Almighty God. We cannot expect healing to come to our nation apart from obedience to God through His Holy Word. ~ God longs for His people to humble themselves and seek forgiveness and pray for guidance. God's Word says, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). The Bible commands that we repent of our sins and turn to Almighty God. And because we are confident that we serve a God of mercy and compassion, we know that He stands ready to respond to our cries out of the abundance of His divine wisdom. ~ Pray that as a nation, we would return to God. As we call on God, let us do so by genuine faith, believing that He hears our prayers. God can heal this great land, for which our forefathers fought and died. We need spiritual renewal, we need a revival in America, and we need each and every one to pray. Lord, Hear Our Cry! —Franklin Graham

MAY 4 @ 6P

**BARBOURVILLE PARK, SHELTER #7
(LOCATED NEAR THE LAKE)**

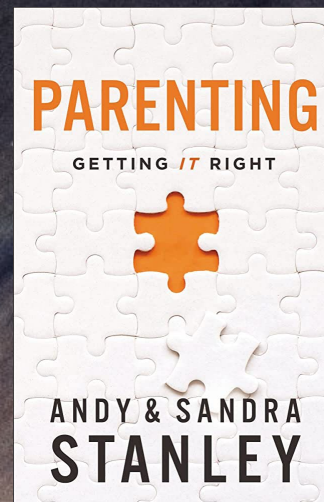


MONNICA

You might recognize the name of the church father Augustine. During his lifetime, he battled against some major heresies that were affecting the church in significant ways and wrote some great books, but you might not know that he was a prodigal son. Early in his adulthood, he left his Christian upbringing to become a member of a heretical sect; as a result, his mother closed her doors to Augustine, and he was forced to move to Italy. However, his choices did not deter the prayer life of his mother, who was relentless in praying for his salvation. Augustine spoke of his mother's weeping, "...more than mothers weep the bodily death of their children."

After years of praying for Augustine to accept Christ, she decided to plead with him in person – something only a mother would do. She got on a boat, sailed from North Africa to Italy, and begged her son to attend church. Augustine honored his mother's wishes, and under the preaching of Ambrose of Milan, he accepted Christ at the age of 32. Augustine's mother's name was Monnica. Several months later, as mother and son were planning to travel back to North Africa together, Monnica unexpectedly dies, possibly from malaria.

Although the legacy of Augustine is often measured in theological terms and well-written refutations of heretical teachings, his life was a tribute to the love of his mother, who never ceased to pray for her prodigal son. Augustine, try as he might, simply couldn't outrun his mother's prayers. Sadly, prodigal sons and daughters are a real part of the lives of many believers all over the globe. But if there is one thing Monnica exemplifies, that all godly mothers exemplify, it's the simple and powerful truth that they will not give up! No matter how long it takes, no matter how much it costs, no matter how much it hurts, they will not give up!



WHAT WE'RE READING

Contributors: Jennifer Ball, Kate McMullen, Amanda Sergent, and Amanda White

Parenting: Getting it Right is the latest Bible study and streaming video series from Andy and Sandra Stanley. As parents of three grown children and cofounders of North Point Ministries, one of the largest church networks in the country, they are well-versed on parenting from a faith-based perspective. In this six-session video study, Andy and Sandra combine their experience and wisdom to help viewers identify and embrace their "it"—their win as parents. Among other topics, the Stanleys discuss the four stages of parenting, tailoring your style of discipline to help foster positive relationships, and techniques to help your child develop a faith of their own. The study is designed to be useful to parents of all ages, but we felt that the techniques could best be applied to children who have achieved a level of independence. While we enjoyed the study, we each walked away with different applications that we felt would help us as parents. The following were some specific thoughts and takeaways we saw:

"The study helped me and my husband think about our "North Star" - what goal we're parenting toward. I appreciated that it touched on the importance of our marriages and that we must have a strong union to parent as a team.

One of the main takeaways for me was how uniquely different each stage of parenting is, and how, as a mom, I need to evolve my approach to parenting as my children develop and move from one stage to the next. The Stanleys gave real-life examples from raising their 3 kids and offered practical wisdom throughout the book."

"The main point that stuck with me from this study was "parenting/disciplining" while keeping the relationship a priority or at the forefront. Preserving that relationship with your child/children is key when parenting. I had heard, and it had stuck with me, that "discipline without the relationship equals rebellion." While we shouldn't back down from appropriately disciplining our children, when necessary, we should strive to protect our relationship with our children. This may take some extra time or conversations/discussions/explanations with our kids, but it's well worth it. So, the Stanley's emphasis on building and strengthening that relationship with your children definitely supported this concept. And fostering the relationship between siblings is also so important for the present and future. I always tell my kids, "One day, your brother or your sister will be your best friend."

"I appreciated their point about considering which parent can most effectively and appropriately deliver discipline or discuss a sensitive topic. As a parent, my first instinct is to jump in and try to fix my child's problems. But, often, it would be better received by my child if I wait and let my spouse deliver the discipline or discuss the problem. I also agreed with the Stanley's rule to stop and cool down when necessary. Events that result in discipline for your child can be emotional for you too. Frequently, you may need to acknowledge to your child that this will be addressed, but you need a moment to calm down and think before you address it."

"We enjoyed the book: Getting it Right, as it laid out a practical parenting method. The book, as well as each group session presentation, was easy to follow and understand, yet filled with applicable and powerful insights. This study will challenge you to be the best parent you can be by parenting with a goal of relationships in mind."

Parenting: Getting it Right is a study that would benefit parents of all ages; while some of the lessons could best be applied to more independent or older children, the concepts and techniques would be useful to parents of any age.

JUST KEEP PRAYING

How many decisions do you make in a given day? How do you make them? Which ones do you pray about, and which ones do you simply make? These questions came to my mind after reading a morning prayer starter back in 2020.

The prayer starter was from James chapter one, where James writes to Jewish believers concerning faith and endurance, encouraging them to consider even the testing of their faith “pure joy”.He justifies this by telling them that when they are tested, their faith has a chance to grow. After saying this, he moves on to the verses that captured my attention in 2020 concerning asking/praying to God for wisdom and emphasizing that they should ask in faith and not doubt. Then he makes the point that we must not miss - those who doubt are unstable, or as one commentary explains it - “easily swayed by the world’s influence.” (BibleRef.com)

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith without doubting. For the doubter is like the surging sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

James 1:5-6

In the Disney movie “Finding Nemo”, there’s an adorable blue fish named Dory. Dory is a bubbly, happy, but very forgetful fish who delivers perhaps the most memorable and often repeated line of the movie: “Just keep swimming”. I mention her because I have often borrowed the line when facing difficult situations as a reminder to keep going. I have also revised it many times to say, “Just keep praying”. Wisdom is needed ... as suggested in these verses from James ... pray. Someone’s sick ... pray. Someone is hurting ... pray. Someone is in need ... pray. A lost friend or a family member needs Jesus ... pray. You lack strength ... pray. Paul told the Philippians - if something is making you anxious ... pray - “Tell God what you need and thank Him for what He has already done.” Just keep praying.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Paul said it like this - “Pray continually”. This can be a daunting statement until we understand the meaning behind it, that it is God’s invitation and desire for us to walk and talk with Him throughout the day. Time with God isn’t relegated to a church pew or your ‘closet’, nor is it limited to before meals or bedtime. Prayers do not have to be limited to the “BIG things of life” either - actually, in 1 Peter 5:7, Peter said that we should “cast all our cares on God because He cares for us”. The idea isn’t that we walk around with our heads bowed or stay on our knees all day, though that’s certainly okay to do - but the idea is that we have an open line of communication with God throughout every day.

So, my encouragement is this: Pray big prayers, pray long or short prayers, pray whispered prayers, or journaled prayers. Pray believing, expecting, and pray knowing that God hears His children, cares for His children, and answers the prayers of His children.

Just keep praying. - MaryEllen Black

SANCTIFICATION

Theological Word of the Month

The word sanctification represents a fundamental concept in the Old and New Testaments. In its most basic usage, the term means “to cut off, to separate, to set apart,” but the relational aspect of the word is most significant. Sanctification, or being set apart, has always been about proximity. In the Old Testament, the priest and the vessels for service in the Tabernacle (and later Temple) were sanctified. Both were set aside for service to God; both were “closer” to God. The nearer to God something was (whether people, metals, fabrics, bread, oil, etc.), the holier it became. The point is that God desperately wanted to have close and intimate fellowship with Israel, but how could a holy God remedy this proximity problem with an unholy people? The sacrificial system in the Old Testament was explicitly designed to ensure how an unholy person could approach a holy God. In other words, it would seem God was not only a “way-maker” but also a “holy-maker.”

Transitioning the spatial nature of sanctification to the New Testament is relatively smooth; the most significant change is the location. No longer is the Temple in Jerusalem the focus of sanctification; it’s the flesh and blood temple we know as Jesus! Hebrews 10:11 says, “...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus once and for all.” Because of Christ, every person who puts their faith in His sacrifice on the cross has access to the very presence of God; and they can come boldly into His existence (Hebrew 4:16). Christ has provided direct access to God, but be warned, don’t waste that gift. Of course, we should desire to get as close to God as possible, but that also takes sacrifice and commitment to personal holiness (cf. 1 John 1:9). It’s pretty clear that the struggle to stay close to Jesus has its obstacles, but that is precisely why we have been given the Holy Spirit as our helper in this lifelong pursuit. The good news is that when our sanctification is complete, we will be in the closest proximity to Jesus ever – heaven!

There’s still time to join us for May and June. The Spiritual Yearbooks are still available at the Merch Station for \$8

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 1 John 4:7-12
- 2nd 1 John 4:13-21
- 3rd 1 John 5:1-5
- 4th 1 John 5:6-12
- 5th 1 John 5:13-21
- 6th Psalm 32
- 7th -
- 8th Nehemiah 1-11
- 9th Nehemiah 2:1-8
- 10th Nehemiah 2:9-16
- 11th Nehemiah 2:17-20
- 12th Nehemiah 3:1-14
- 13th Psalm 27
- 14th -
- 15th Nehemiah 3:15-32
- 16th Nehemiah 4:1-6
- 17th Nehemiah 4:7-14
- 18th Nehemiah 4:15-23
- 19th Nehemiah 5:1-13
- 20th Psalm 33
- 21st -
- 22nd Nehemiah 5:14-19
- 23rd Nehemiah 6:1-9
- 24th Nehemiah 6:10-14
- 25th Nehemiah 6:15-19
- 26th Nehemiah 7:1-7
- 27th Psalm 147
- 28th -
- 29th Nehemiah 7:66-73
- 30th Nehemiah 8:1-12
- 31st Nehemiah 8:13-18

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN NORTH AMERICA

Trey & Terri Bailey, USA (SCORE)
Tim & Diane Bilbrey, USA (DBMI)
Jenn Morla, Dominican Republic
A New Beginning Crisis Pregnancy Center
Daystar Baptist Missions, Inc.
Jake & Elizabeth Delich, Puerto Rico
Benji & Kerri Dryden, Haiti
Matt & Dallita Goins, Honduras
Becky Hale-Staggs, USA
Gary & Alli Hale, Dominican Republic
Doug & Paula Hodges, D.R. & Honduras
Huntington City Mission
Chris Katulka, USA (Friends of Israel)
Tom & Selva Kweder, USA
Patrick & Lisa McCoy, USA (Alaska)
Randy & Ellen Mumper, Canada
Gerald & Marguerite Pauley, Canada
Dan & Jennifer Post, Canada
Wade & Kacey Rainey, Dominican Republic
Nathan & Erin Sayre, USA (Children)
Jason & Sarah Sykes, Dominican Republic
Jerry & Sue Thomas, USA
Nathaniel & Stacy Wall, USA (Mormons)



JOHN & MIHYON
HUMPHREY

Twenty-Five Years

Our missionaries, John and Mihyon Humphrey, are celebrating their 25th year of serving the Lord on a foreign field! In a recent update, they opened their letter by saying what a blessing the past 24 years have been. They also shared the following story that we believe greatly exemplifies how the Lord has blessed them through the years and has laid the foundation to continue using their ministry in generations to come.

In Case You're Wondering

Do you ever wonder how profitable your faith promise gifts are? Are lives being saved or changed? Are missionaries being strengthened in the tasks God has called them to, and if so - how?

Well, we receive letters from our missionaries each month that answer these questions. I am blessed to receive them in the LMBC inbox,

MISSION FOCUSED

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

by Mary Ellen Black

and I have to tell you, it is one of my favorite jobs. This particular letter from John and Mihyon Humphrey is one of many examples and an absolutely beautiful example of why I love what I do.

Planted Seeds Are Yielding Fruit

Mihyon writes, "Ben, Marge, and daughter Sara have finally arrived in China to serve the Lord. You [may] remember that they are one of the fruits of 'our' ministry in New Zealand. They immigrated from China in the early 2000s for a better life in New Zealand, not knowing who Christ was. They both received Christ as their personal Savior and continued to grow in the Lord. Early on, we saw Ben's heart for the Lord and so invested 'countless' hours of Bible study with them. May the Lord bless and use them as they seek to reach their own people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please pray for them!

What better testimony of how God has been blessing your faith promise dollars, not just in the life of John and Mihyon, but in the lives of a family they ministered to years ago in New Zealand! I am struck by the beauty of how God planted seeds through John and Mihyon in the lives of Ben and Marge in the early 2000s, and now in 2023, we can see the "the fruit" of their labors, as Mihyon writes. Perhaps the deeper beauty is in the opportunity of seeing more "fruit" in the years to come as Ben and Marge continue to pour into the people of China just as John and Mihyon poured into them.

Prayers Play A Part

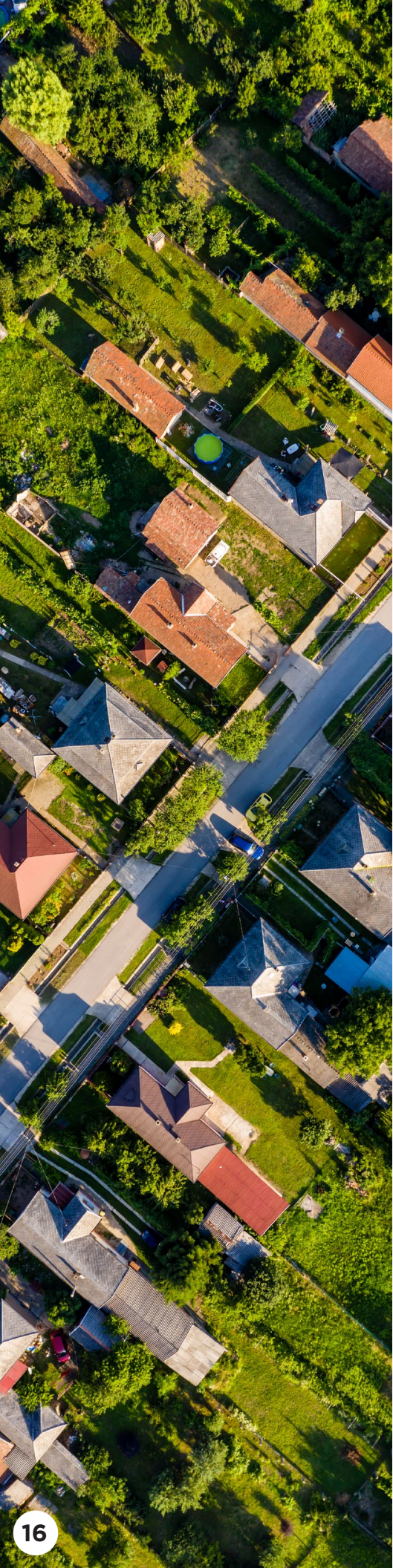
Any missionary will tell you that prayer plays a big part in their ministry, and the Humphreys need our prayers to remain strong, not just Spiritually but physically as well. Their

specific request in their April update was for Mihyon's issues with reflux and stomach aches. She writes, "My doctor has scheduled an endoscopy and colonoscopy for May 30th. We would greatly appreciate your continued prayers during this time, that the medical procedures would be successful, and that the Lord would grant us peace and comfort."

With Grateful Hearts

They closed with words of thanks, saying, "We want to thank you for your continued faithfulness in supporting us prayerfully and financially for all these years."

Thank you to those who have been helping us take the Gospel around the world. If you have never given to this work or you only participate sporadically, please consider becoming a regular financial partner in spreading the Gospel through our world mission outreach. We call it Faith Promise Giving. This is because it is something we trust God to supply each week and we commit to contribute to world missions. It is an offering we give above our regular tithes to our church for local ministry. Over the last decade our church has given more than \$3,000,000 to 68+ missionaries and mission causes. We highlight missionaries in the Connect Magazine each month and regularly post all updates we receive on our website, at lmbc.org/missions - If you keep up with any of the correspondence from these special "Ambassadors for Christ," you know that God is working in their lives and in the lives of those they seek to reach and minister to - in spite of the myriad of challenges they face in cross cultural ministry. If you are unable to give financially there is still an important part you can play - and that is prayer. Commit to praying for them weekly throughout the year. You will find specific needs on each of the updates we receive, as well as ways to communicate with and encourage them.



LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE IN MAY

Dear LMBC Family,

Thank God for the warmer weather, longer hours of daylight and the excitement of planning summer vacation. I am so thankful summertime is almost HERE! Yippee! Hooray! Let's celebrate!

So, what is our LWYL outreach plan for the month of May? Let me give you a few choices. First of all, during the month of May plan to invite all the mothers in your circle of friendship to Church on Sunday morning May 14, 2023. Apart from Easter, Mother's Day is THE most attended Church service during the calendar year. Furthermore, Momma, remember to "leverage" THE Mother's Day invite. As a son I can tell you I would do just about anything for my Momma. So intentionally invite your children, grandchildren, and even your great grandchildren. And mom, don't forget to invite your hubby. Of all people...your husband should be right there with you and the entire family to celebrate YOU. What greater way to celebrate this most special "holyday" in Church together as family. So, Mom, if you have a few family members straddling the Church attendance fence you can nudge them over with a Mother's Day invite. They WILL come for YOU on Mother's Day.

Also don't forget Graduation Sunday, May 21, 2023, in the morning services. Graduation is a big deal and a big milestone in life. Whether you're graduating from kindergarten, high school, college, or post graduate work, invite your family and friends to celebrate this monumental occasion. It took a lot of people to get you where you are. So, invite your extended family and friends to celebrate with you on Sunday morning May 21, 2023.

And last but not least, since the weather is getting much nicer, do a prayer walk in your neighborhood once a week. Stop and talk with your neighbors who might be in their yard or driveway. Intentionally pray that God would give you an opportunity to share Christ. It might begin with a simple invite to church, to small group, or even VBS. The goal is for you to reach out to people in your neighborhood, those who are closest to you. This is Loving Where You Live at its best. Let's pray for a great harvest of guests during the month of May.

God Bless You,

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

MAY 9

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

Encouragement & Prayer
11 am - 2 pm



MAY 25

Bible Club
4 - 5:15 pm



CELEBRATING HOW EASTER IMPACTED OUR COMMUNITY

We recently celebrated Easter Sunday with more than 1,400 joining us on campus and 100+ via our live stream broadcast. We had a number of people who prayed to become a Christian. What a day of rejoicing and celebration!

The Sunday prior to Easter was our 30 pieces of Silver offering. This year's offering totaled \$22,195. One hundred percent of this offering is used to support the weekly broadcasts of Pastor's messages on television.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Easter Sunday, greeting or bringing visitors, singing, and serving in the nurseries or on our parking lots. And thank you to all who participated in the 30 pieces of Silver Offering. We are greatly blessed by your participation in this ministry.

Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes
in the Auditorium



Imbc.org
or our App



By mail



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Births

- Nolan Layne Thompson to Tanner & Lydia Thompson

Bereavements

- James Bilbrey, Tim Bilbrey's father
- Don Burck, RoseMary Burck's husband
- David Hatfield, Rita Hatfield's husband
- Audrey Howerton, Jonah Howerton's grandmother
- Thomas Morgan, Malory Baker's father
- Allen Parsley, Beth Parsley's husband
- Donnie Saine, Katy Maynard's father
- Freda Sommerville, Debbie Sheils' mother

New Members/Baptisms

- Gabe Akers (baptism)
- Debbie Grzyb
- Chuck Zerkle (baptism)

Pastoral Staff Birthdays

- Debbie Blankenship (29th)

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, Aug. 20
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?

Come grow with us

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

Selah (L114) Nathan McClay
Friends of God (Renaissance Room) David & Mary Lemming
Friends of God 2.0 (Northside House) Sergeant/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

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
Sewing for God's Children (L104) Barbara Keaton

WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm

4Ever His (L107) Leah Adkins
Women of God (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

SUNDAYS @ 9 am

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

FRIDAYS @ 11 am

Life Group (Victory Place Apartments) Charles Logan

ADULTS (COED)

WOMEN

MEN

SENIORS

Connect is the monthly news and
informational publication from



Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus

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lmbc.org

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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY
7 pm

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

Read previous editions
of Connect at
lmbc.org/connect

MOM

OUR GREATEST TREASURE