

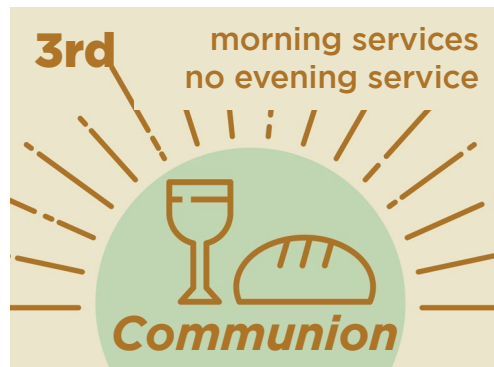
Vol. 12, Issue 9, September 2023

connect

I WILL
MAKE
YOU
FISHERS
OF MEN

SEPT 2023

Can't be here in-person?
Join us live Sundays
at 9 & 10:45 am
on Facebook, lmbc.tv,
or our LMBC app.



6th
Life Groups relaunch the
week of Sept.6.

See page 19 for more
information or call Tim
Yates, 304-736-7676

4th
Offices Closed for Labor Day

14th
**Widows Luncheon "Take Me
Out to the Ball Game"**
• 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

15th
**PrimeTime Celebrates Back to
School**
• 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Spaghetti and Chicken Alfredo,
garlic bread & drink. You bring:
Salads and desserts. Please call
Blanche or Vida to reserve your
spot!

Oct. 1st
Baptism Sunday
• morning services, WC

If you would like to follow
the Lord in believer's
baptism, register online or
call the church office.

Other calendars:

Rooted (Bible) pg. 13
Ebenezer pg. 17

10th - 17th

NETWORKING

10th

- am / Guest Speaker - Trey Bailey
- pm / Guest Speaker - Gary Hale
(celebrating DayStar Baptist Missions)

13th International Dinner

- 6 pm, FLC Gym

17th

- Guest Speaker - Jonathan Mathews

Oct. 29th

Save the Date

TRUNK OR TREAT

JOIN US



*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.

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

***Sunday Mornings**
WC lower level

**3: Jesus taught about God's
Kingdom**
**10: We are part of God's
Kingdom**
**17: Jesus knew He would be
rejected**
24: Jesus raised Lazarus

Weds @ 7pm
in the FLC

6: Bible for Life
**13: No LKC due to
International Dinner**
20: Bible for Life
27: Karaoke Night

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

28: Bible Club

FALL 2023

September

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

- 10&17 MISSIONS CELEBRATION**
LMBC WORSHIP CENTER (9:00, 10:45AM, & 6:00PM)
- 13 MISSION TRIP INFO MEETING**
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING (5:30-6:15PM)
- 13 MISSIONS EMPHASIS NIGHT**
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING
- 27 THRIFT STORE HOMECOMING**
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING

REFUEL STUDENTS

WITNESSING

The Gospel According to Stephen

Twenty-two years ago, when my wife and I were traveling to our honeymoon destination, we managed to get stuck in traffic. When we found ourselves stuck in traffic, I told her to reach under the seat, pull out the atlas, and find a route around this traffic. Little did she know that I have this “condition” (and you might have it too) wherein I will do anything to avoid sitting in traffic. If it means I can keep moving, I may take a questionable route occasionally. I share this story to say that if you are ever reading through the book of Acts, I suggest you find a biblical atlas to help navigate the landscape. Acts is a highly geographical book, demonstrating to the reader the physical progress of the Gospel as it travels from Jesus in Jerusalem to the Gentile in Rome – nearly 2,500 miles! In fact, Luke cohesively structures the book of Acts with seven progress reports that form a solid outline of the book (2:47; 6:7; 9:31; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30-31). These seven progress reports detail the progress of the Gospel into new areas. However, for the Gospel to infiltrate these new areas, people must take it there. How the Gospel message gets from Jerusalem to Rome is not the only concern of the book of Acts, the “who” that takes it there is also essential.

In the book of Acts, the “who” are called witnesses, and outside of the Apostles themselves, Stephen is one of the most significant ones we find in the book. Like the Apostles, Stephen was not a fan-favorite of the religious establishment, and his famous speech in Acts 7 (the longest one in the book of Acts) literally cost him his life.

Stephen’s martyrdom begins the widespread persecution of the early church, but that is a good thing. Persecution? A good thing? That equation might not make sense to you. Still, God’s math always seems to be different from ours: blessed are the persecuted (Mt.5:10). Here is the math: the widespread persecution of the early church forced the church to move outside of Jerusalem, and in doing so, the Gospel reached other parts of the world. Christ predicted what would happen in His conversation with His Apostles back in Acts 1:8. He told them they were to be His “witnesses” in Jerusalem first, then Judea and Samaria, and then to the rest of the world – and that order is exactly how it happens in the book of Acts.

Stephen’s ministry in the book of Acts demonstrates what it means to be a “witness;” while we live in a different time and culture, the lessons from his short ministry are universal. According to Stephen, five basic qualities describe a good witness. They will be: enamored with the person of Christ, energized by the power of the Spirit, expecting persecution to come, able to explain the plan of God, and eager to pray for their enemies.

ENAMORED

Being enamored with the person to whom they witness is a must for a good witness. Earlier, we noted the importance of Acts 1:8 for the Apostles but look closer and notice that small pronoun: “and you will be my witnesses.” Jesus must always be the center

of your witnessing! When we accept Christ’s death on the cross as payment for our sins, we automatically become part of God’s family. We absorb all we can about Jesus and His Word, and we start following our leader to the best of our abilities. We attempt to follow the examples that He set for us while He walked the earth. Unfortunately, time comes along, and through any number of life events or circumstances, we can become disenchanted with the process of following Jesus and forget that we are actually following a Person.

However, Stephen took following Jesus to a new level; he was so enamored with the Person of Christ that this incident in his life (Acts 6-7) is very similar to Christ’s. Both Stephen and Christ were: put on trial before the Sanhedrin (6:16; Mt.26:59); accused by false witnesses (6:13; Mk.14:56); and accused of being against the temple (6:14; Mt.26:61). Both of them referenced a temple made with hands (7:48; Mk.14:58); and the phrase “Son of Man” in reference to Jesus (7:56; Lk.21:27); they were: charged with blasphemy (6:11; Mt.26:65); and questioned by the High Priest (7:1; Jn.18:19); they both: committed their spirit at death (7:59; Lk.23:46); cried out with a loud shout at death (7:60; Mt.27:50); and intercede for their enemies (7:60; Lk.23:34). Our goal as witnesses is that we follow Jesus with a captivating spirit so that the world sees Him when they look squarely at us (Mt.5:14).

ENERGIZED

When Jesus gave the Apostles the task of being His witnesses, He did not leave them

“... Even though the family of God on earth is not perfect, we are guided by a perfect and loving Heavenly Father.

empty-handed. He left them and us with the power of the Holy Spirit. How hard it must have been for the Apostles to set their eyes upon the risen Christ yet be forbidden to tell anyone! Thankfully, they did not have to wait long; just ten days later, the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost, and Jesus’ witnesses began filling the air with the glorious sound of the Gospel message in a multitude of languages. The point is that the witnessing of the Apostles would have been ineffective and powerless without the power of the Spirit energizing their proclamation. Do we honestly expect to be effective and successful witnesses without asking the Spirit for help? Even though the Holy Spirit indwells each child of God, we must allow Him to control us each day – Paul tells us to be controlled (filled) with the Spirit (Eph.5:18).

The New Testament is filled with metaphors of what it looks like when a believer is filled with the Spirit, and when we apply those to Stephen, we might describe him as someone who was clothed in the full armor of God (Eph.6), or we could describe Stephen as someone who had presented his body to God as his spiritual worship (Rom.12), or we could describe Stephen as someone who denied himself and took up his cross and followed Christ (Matt.16), or we could also describe Stephen as having the character and behavior of an officer in the church (1 Tim.3). Stephen would fit the bill for all those descriptions. However, Luke abbreviates his maturity to the very minimum, “he was a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit.” When we meet Jesus face to face, many believers anticipate the

words, “Well done, good and faithful servant, but what about the here and now? Are you a witness others call “full of faith and the Holy Spirit?”

EXPECTATION

Christ was careful to warn His followers that witnessing for Him would not be without difficulty; He said to expect it. Jesus said, “They will lay hands on you and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake. But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony...for I will give you a mouth and wisdom which all your adversaries will not be able to contradict or resist. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relatives and friends; they will put some of you to death” (Lk.21:14).

Let’s remember that persecution is not simply physical, as it was in Stephen’s case, but it can have many faces. Persecution can be social. The book of Hebrews tells us about some new believers in Christ who were ostracized by their communities, family, and friends; no one would do business with them; they were treated differently. Today, we might call this behavior discrimination, which comes in many forms. Sometimes persecution can come in the way of slander; in the case of Stephen, the leaders of the synagogue were attempting to better him in debate, and when they could not, is the very moment that slander fell from their lips. They twisted his words and brought false accusations against him, with witnesses lined up to falsely accuse him. By the way, did you know that this is the first time in the book of Acts that the people inside the church are incited against one of their own? A good witness expects persecution to come in all its forms; he anticipates it, and he understands that its part of the job description.

EXPLANATION

A good witness must be ready to give an explanation, as Peter reminds us to “...always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you...” (1 Pt.3:15), and Stephen was ready!

He is brought before the Sanhedrin to answer for the false charges brought against him. However, instead of answering those charges per se, he decides to preach a sermon to his captive audience – and this sermon is hot! (Maybe in a future article, I will have the time to lay out his sermon with some of its implications, but for now, we must stay on the main point). Stephen’s main point is that these religious leaders cannot accept the change that Jesus’ death on the cross has brought; they are blind to the current transition in God’s plan of redemption. We must understand that a fundamental belief for the religious leader is that God is intricately attached to the physical Promised Land. We might hear them say, “There is only one way that God can work through the Jewish people, and it’s through the land of Israel and the temple.” Knowing this, Stephen cites the examples of Abraham, Moses, and Joseph: God appeared to Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia; God came to Moses while he was in the desert in Midian; God was with Joseph while he was in Egypt. These three men obediently accepted the changes God brought in their lifetimes, but these religious leaders will not budge.

As Stephen drops the indictment, the situation escalates quickly: Your tradition has become a god. These religious leaders are so blinded (Jesus said this very thing in Matthew 23) by their traditions that they cannot even think for themselves. God’s presence cannot be localized; He is wherever His people are, even those who live outside the land of Israel. Stephen further says they are so content with keeping their traditions that they will dispose of anyone in their way. Thankfully, Stephen had an excellent grasp of God’s plan. He knew his Old Testament well, and He was aware of the significant changes that were going on in God’s plan of redemption. So, what is our excuse today? We have the completed Word of God; we can read the New Testament authors and see how they connect the dots for us back to the Old Testament. For instance, the Jesus that came to die on the cross in the New Testament is the same Jesus that the Old Testament prophesied would come. Furthermore, when Jesus returns, both

Testaments prophesy about those future events. Therefore, we have no excuse for not knowing and not being able to clearly articulate the Gospel message to anyone who asks us. If you are nervous, and we all can be, ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to say.

EAGER

The religious leaders did not want Stephen’s words getting out into the ears of the crowd any longer. They rushed to take him outside the city and stoned him on the spot, all without a trial. As Stephen was nearing death from stoning, He prayed for his enemies – something only Jesus would do. Even though the story of Stephen ends rather abruptly with his death, we can still see God’s hand in all the chaos. Stephen’s witness is the catalyst for a new explosion of growth in the early church, and I believe that Stephen’s speech began to reach the heart of the Apostle Paul, who was an eyewitness of this entire narrative. The faithful witness of Stephen indirectly leads to the salvation of Paul, a man who would light the world on fire with the Gospel message.

The one part of Stephen’s speech that is crucial for us to comprehend is that the church is God’s idea. It has always been part of God’s plan. Have you ever stopped to consider how witnessing is intrinsically tied to the church? Sunday is the day that believers all over the globe come to church; it is the day the Person that we are witnesses for rose again from the grave, and we are enamored with Him. The church could not start witnessing to the world until the Holy Spirit had descended at Pentecost; the church then (and today) needed the energizing power of the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses. Before we leave the church and head out into the world to be faithful witnesses, we are reminded to expect persecution. As we listen to the Word of God preached in church, we are equipped, encouraged, and taught how to explain God’s redemptive plan. We spend time in corporate prayer during church services, praying even for our enemies. Lord, may

we be eager to pray for those who oppose us! Our witnessing should show others how much we value Jesus and His church.



by Jeremy Shaffer

Jeremy Shaffer is an assistant pastor who oversees the technical and administrative areas of the ministry. He regularly works alongside his wife Rebekah in the Children’s Ministry, teaches in the LMBC Bible Institute, and teaches together with his wife tackling marriage and family topics as well as general Bible studies for adults. He has been serving the Lord at LMBC since 2004. He and Rebekah have two children, Grace and Luke.

BETTER THAN ANYTHING I COULD'VE PLANNED



by Trey Bailey

Trey is the new Executive Director of Daystar Baptist Missions. He and his wife Terri grew up in LMBC where they were called to full time ministry.

THREE PRAYERS AND A SEED



by Gary Hale

Gary was called to missions out of our own church. He has served in the Dominican Republic for 20+ years and was one of the visionaries for establishing Daystar Baptist Missions, Inc.

Growing up at LMBC was more of a blessing than I could have ever imagined. It was where I heard the Gospel, accepted Christ, and got baptized at a young age. It was where I was exposed to missions while in high school and had two wonderful experiences serving in Canada and Barbados. As I was studying business at Marshall, a friend from LMBC invited me on a basketball mission trip to the Dominican Republic. That friend was Gary Hale, and he was assembling a team of guys to go to the DR and play basketball games as a platform to share the Gospel. When I said “yes” to joining that mission trip, I had no idea how the Lord would use that experience to shape the next chapter of my life.

After returning home from that trip, I knew God was working on my heart. The next summer, I spent three months in the DR doing an internship with SCORE International. God used that experience to call me into full-time ministry. How could I have known that saying “yes” to a one-week basketball mission trip would lead to a 3-month internship, which would lead to a lifetime of serving in ministry? I didn’t know any of that. I just took it one step at a time and said yes to each opportunity that the Lord placed in front of me.

After serving in full-time ministry with SCORE for the past 22 years, I was approached by Gary Hale and the Board of Daystar earlier this

year about joining them as their next Executive Director. It came as quite a surprise to me because that was not in my future plans. Just as I had scripted out my own future when I was a student at Marshall, I had a future of ministry planned out in my head, and Daystar was not in the picture. Just as God showed me with my basketball mission trip and my internship, He had a plan for me that was better than anything that I could have planned for myself. God has proven more than once that serving with Daystar is exactly where He wants me to be. It’s not what I had planned, but it is so much greater than I could have even imagined for myself.

Friend, do you find yourself journeying through life following your own plan or following God’s plan? I submit to you that nothing will satisfy you and bring you as much joy as following the Lord’s plan for your life. You might not have all of the answers, but take it one “yes” at a time and take a step of faith in obedience to what God is calling you to do.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3: 5-6

Though I live on a tropical island, there is a country road that still leads home. It brings me to a ridge outside of Huntington where my spiritual family has faithfully gathered for decades. It is a special place and people to me because it is Lewis Memorial Baptist Church, where my life was transformed by the Word of God faithfully preached from the pulpit, taught in the classroom, and lived out by other Christ-followers.

Three prayers heavily influenced my life, and the ministry of LMBC influenced each one. When I was eight, after being taught the gospel for multiple years in the children’s program, I asked Jesus to be my Savior. When I was 12, in response to a missions evangelist’s plea for people to “get in the game for God,” I knelt at the foot of my bed and prayed, “Lord, I will go wherever you want me to go, do whatever you want me to do and be whatever you want me to be.” When I was a teenager, I watched my parents go down to the altar one night of a missions conference to pray, telling God that if He called one of their children into missions, they would encourage and support that decision. Honestly, at the moment, I thought my parents were praying for my siblings but not for me, as I had misconceptions about missions and missionaries and felt content to serve Him in the Tri-State area.

Toward the end of high school, something transformative happened that set me on the course of mission service. At that time, I had an

antagonist in school who relentlessly ridiculed me for my faith. Yet, he was good at basketball, so I invited him to play on the church team. I had hoped we could win some games, and he would at least quiet his criticisms. I wasn’t prepared for him to accept the Lord! Almost overnight, he became a serious Christ-follower, and then he became a personal friend. Watching his radical transformation and spiritual growth lit a fire in me to reach others with the gospel.

I went to our youth pastor and suggested we start an evangelistic 3-on-3 basketball tournament. He was so supportive in helping organize and administrate it with me, and the LMBC church family got behind the volunteer effort for several years. At the end of my freshman year at Marshall, I finally went on my first mission trip because I thought I would be able to play baseball and use that as a platform to reach people. Though the baseball part of the trip fell through, I enjoyed my trip and came back the following year, where God planted the seed of missions in my heart, a seed that eventually bloomed into full-time missions service.

The ministry of LMBC has greatly shaped my life. The country road does lead home, but it also leads in the other direction to foreign lands where people desperately need the gospel. Thank you, church, for all your love and support, as together, we touch the world from the ridge!

Lewis Memorial Baptist Church was born out of a revival in the Russell Creek area in 1942. Since those early years of the church's inception, there have been many that have given of themselves and sacrificed to follow God and see His will accomplished through our church. We are forever in their debt for paying the price to be Christ's disciples and for having His passion for reaching our community and world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Today, we support 79 missionaries, six of whom have been sent out from our own church body and six others that serve here in our own hometown. On top of this we give untold numbers of teens the opportunity to experience the mission life each year. Clearly, the heartbeat of LMBC is missions.

The following timeline is a small sample of how we have grown as a missional church reaching around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. From foreign missions to local outreaches, we have followed our Savior's command to go and make disciples.

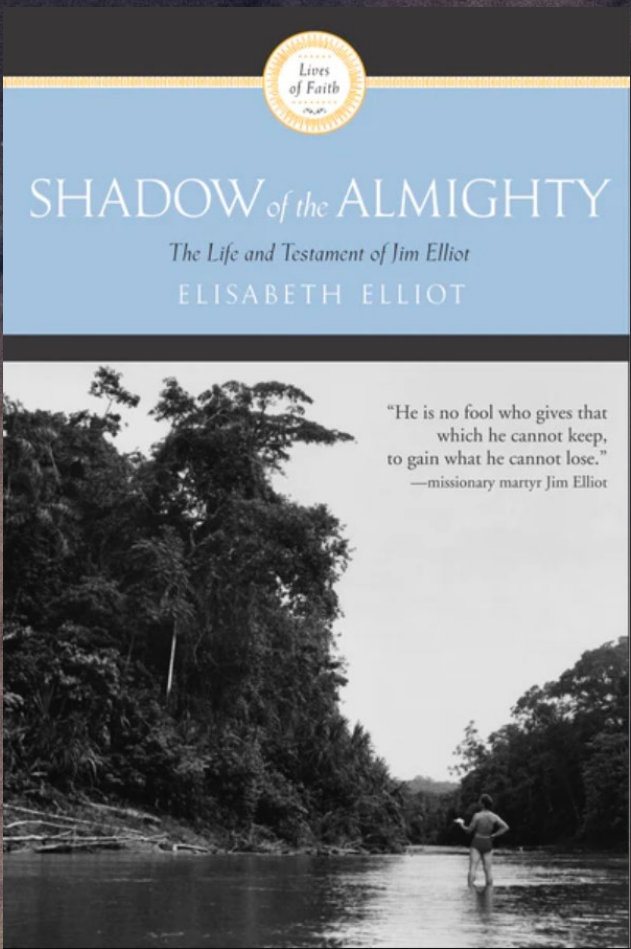
MISSIONS

Emphasis



- 1972 Faith Promise Giving began - to support world missions
- 1980 First Missions Conference with Don Sisk (BIMI) & Bill Looper (South Korea)
- 1982 Bus ministry
- 1995 Encounter Bible Ministries correspondence courses
- 1995 First church-hosted short-term missions trip to Canada
- 1997 Daily Walk Radio program
- 1999 Daily Walk ministry airs the first t.v. broadcast (Now accessible online at any time in any location)
- 2001 LifeBridge Ministry established
- 2011 LMBC became the distribution center for Operation Christmas Child
- 2012 Brown Bag Ministry started (BackPack ????)
- 2015 Backpack VBS programs organized in downtown Huntington
- 2015 CEF participation in local schools via afterschool "Good News" programs
- 2019 Ebenezer Outreach Started

What will be the next missions outreach at LMBC?



and four other missionaries at the hands of the Huaorani Indians in Ecuador. He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose. So wrote Jim Elliot at age twenty-two, sweating over Greek roots and patristics at Wheaton College. Seven years later, writes his widow, Elisabeth, he and four other young men sat together on a strip of white sand on the Curaray River, deep in Ecuador's rain forest, waiting for the arrival of a group of men whom they loved, but had never met: savage Stone Age killers, men now known to all the world as Aucas. The circumstances of the death of these men are now known as one of the great missionary adventure stories of modern times. But this is the first account of the whole life of one of them, a life revealed in some of the most poignant and moving spiritual writings of our time. Shadow of the Almighty is a tremendous biography of an adventurous and inspirational life. (as posted on secondsale.com)

WHAT WE'RE READING

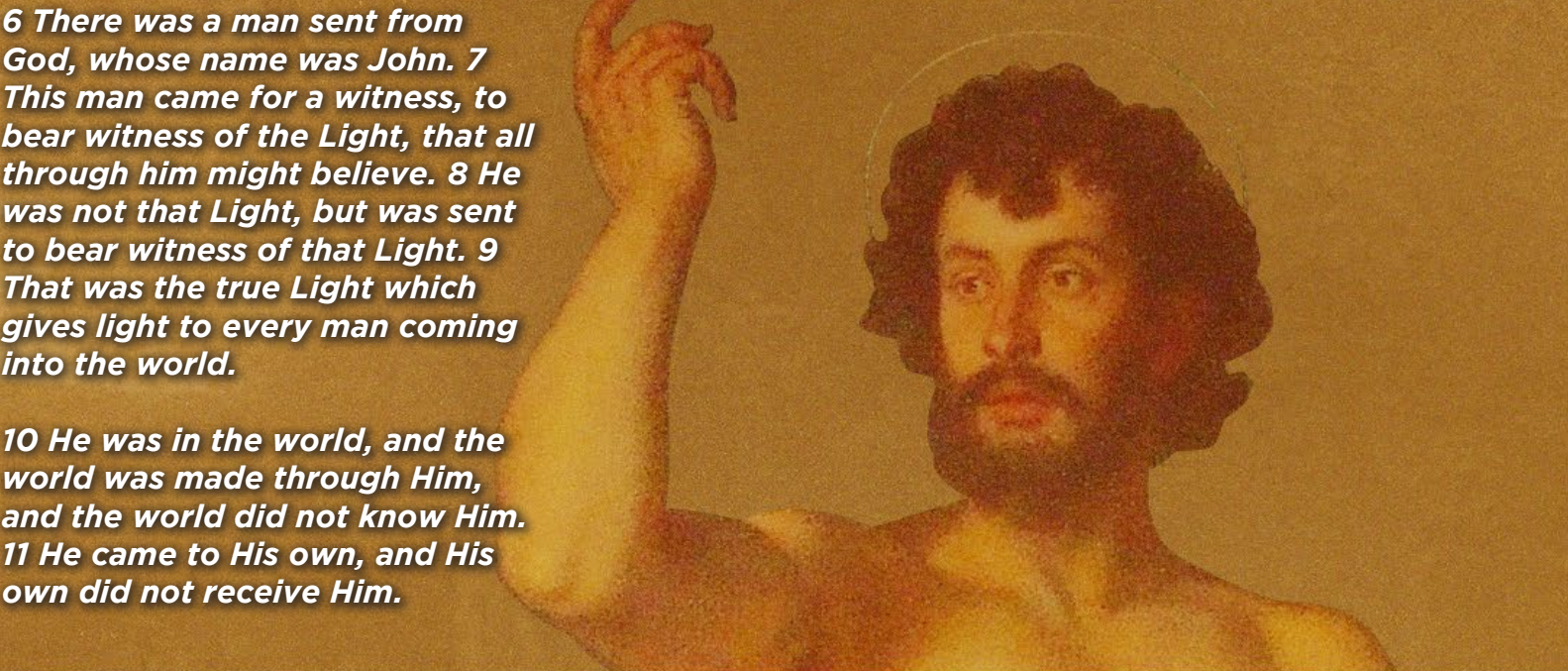
by Mary Ellen Black [all quotes are taken from the book jacket or their email invitation]

As I was contemplating what book to post in this month's Connect, knowing the theme was missions based, one title came to mind - *Shadow of the Almighty: The Life And Testament Of Jim Elliot*. You've likely heard the name Jim Elliot, perhaps you've even read his story, but it merits reading again. The book is written by Jim's widow, Elisabeth Elliot, and is available through various online resources (two of which are quoted below) as well as Books A Million.

To read this book is both heartbreaking and inspiring. To forego reading it is to miss both the beauty and the life-changing importance of a missionary's life. - Mary

Shadow of the Almighty is a modern classic story of faithfulness, obedience, and martyrdom. It is the bestselling account of the martyrdom of Jim Elliot

"Elliot's account is more than inspirational reading; it belongs to the very heartbeat of evangelical witness,"--- Christianity Today. Offering one of the great missionary biographies of the 20th century, Elisabeth Elliot draws extensively on her husband's letters and diaries to recount how he and four others were killed by Ecuador's Huaorani (Aucu) tribe in 1956. (as posted on Christianbook.com)



6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

JOHN'S WITNESS

THE TRUE LIGHT

John 1:6-8

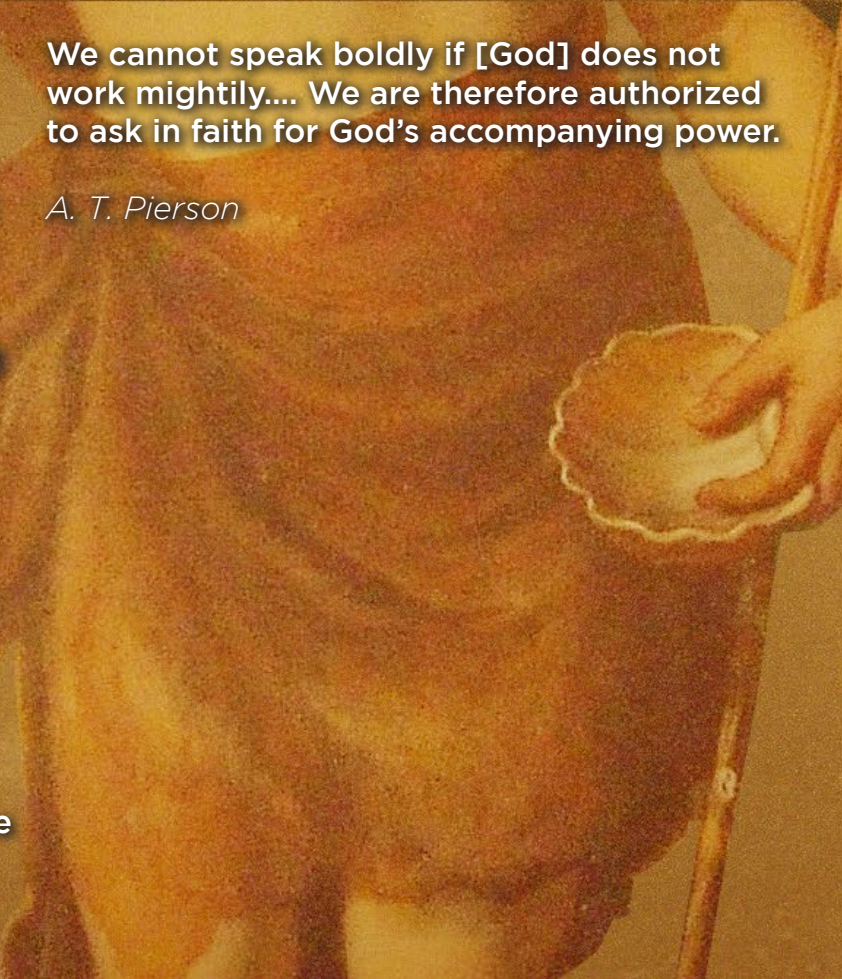
John the Baptist was the original missionary in Christian history; he preceded Christ, prepared His way, proclaimed repentance, and set the stage for our Lord's earthly ministry. God had prepared John for that very moment, even from before his birth. His mother, Elizabeth, exclaimed to the virgin Mary, "As soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy" (Luke 1:44).

John's boldness came from his sense of calling, and his calling went back to his earliest days. In the same way, God has appointed us from birth to be His servants and messengers (Jeremiah 1:5). We're not all career missionaries, but we're all called to share Christ with boldness to those to whom the Lord sends us.

Scared at the thought of witnessing? You were born to do it, so ask God for boldness!

We cannot speak boldly if [God] does not work mightily.... We are therefore authorized to ask in faith for God's accompanying power.

A. T. Pierson



SON OF MAN

Theological Word of the Month

by Jeremy Shaffer

Did you know there are over 200 different names and titles of Jesus in the Scriptures? Every name and title of Jesus is significant, but for many believers, a specific title or name of Jesus is highly meaningful for them personally. As you get to know another brother or sister in Christ, you can tell a lot about their spiritual life through the title or name that they like best for Jesus (maybe that's a good icebreaker for some small group sessions). Have you thought about what title or name Jesus liked to call himself? It may not be the one you expect. On more than 80 different occasions in the New Testament, Jesus referred to Himself as the "Son of Man;" the title/name "bridegroom" comes in second place at just nine occurrences.

The more pressing question is, why? - Why is "Son of Man" Jesus' favorite title to use for Himself? Just like many believers have a name of Jesus that is personal to them, this name was personal to Jesus. Son of Man expresses Jesus' personal qualities as a man and identifies Him with the humanity He came to redeem. So, we might say that the redemption of humankind was a personal issue to Jesus.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan usurped man's God given rulership over the earth, and that's a personal attack on Jesus. The Colossian hymn (1:15-20) tells us that Jesus is the one who created the world, and it's by Him and through Him that the world holds together. Satan went after everything that Jesus had created, and to restore everything to the original design, Jesus had to step in personally and make things right. He didn't waste time either: (Genesis 3:7), Sin opened the eyes of Adam and Eve; (Genesis 3:15), God says I have a plan to fix the sin problem. My Son will personally come and fix the problem. Jesus could not send someone else in His place, for there would be no substitute good enough or powerful enough or righteous enough. He had to do this on His own. Jesus' favorite name/title for Himself, "Son of Man," will always be personal because redemption is always personal.

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 Genesis 6:11-22
- 2nd Psalm 119:105-112
- 3rd -
- 4th John 1:1-5
- 5th John 1:6-13
- 6th John 1:14-18
- 7th John 1:19-28
- 8th John 1:29-34
- 9th Psalm 119:113-120
- 10th -
- 11th Acts 2:1-4
- 12th Acts 2:5-13
- 13th Acts 2:22-24
- 14th Acts 2:36-42
- 15th Acts 3:1-10
- 16th Psalm 119:121-128
- 17th -
- 18th Acts 3:11-16
- 19th Acts 3:17-26
- 20th Acts 4:1-12
- 21st Acts 4:13-22
- 22nd Acts 4:23-31
- 23rd Psalm 119:129-136
- 24th -
- 25th Acts 4:36-5:11
- 26th Acts 5:17-32
- 27th Acts 5:33-42
- 28th Acts 6:1-7
- 29th Acts 6:8-7:1
- 30th Psalm 119:137-144

MISSIONARIES OF THE
MONTH

IN AFRICA

JJ & Melissa Alderman, Togo
Bret & Katie Anderson, Tanzania
SECURED C. Family, Egypt
Adam & Faith Drake, Togo
Diana Ferrell, Uganda
John & Kidst Getaneh, Zambia
SECURED G. Family, Egypt
Pascal & Becky Grenade, Mauritius
Darin & Kathy Ishler, Kenya
Jim Jeremias, Kenya
SECURED W. Family, North Africa
Tom & Marilyn Wilson, South Africa

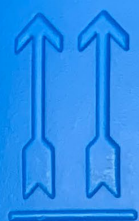
For full updates, go to lmbc.org/missionary-updates

MISSIONARY

SPOTLIGHT

Below are all the currently supported missionaries/ministries of LMBC.

JJ & Melissa Alderman	USA	John & Brenda Gossett	Trinidad	Jenn Morla	Dominican Republic
Bret & Katie Anderson	Spain	Pascal & Becky Grenade	Mauritius	Randy & Ellen Mumper	Canada
Backpack Ministry	<i>local</i>	Kyle & Abigail Guins	France	Nahum & Arin O'Brien	Norway
Trey & Terri Bailey	Daystar	Robert & Lisa Gunter	Australia (deaf)	Gerald & Marguerite Pauley	Canada
Tim & Diane Bilbrey	Daystar	Gary & Alli Hale	Dominican Republic	Rick & Jen Peace	Ireland
Paul Bock	SCORE	Becky Hale	USA	Dan & Jennifer Post	Canada
Andy & Mimi Bonikowsky	Spain	Tony & Dawn Hess	Russia	Wade & Kacey Rainey	Dominican Republic
Brown Bag Ministry	<i>local</i>	Wendy Hinzman	USA	Jason & Adele Rice	Slovakia
C. Family	Egypt	Doug & Paula Hodges	Dominican Republic	Nathan & Erin Sayre	USA/CEF (children)
A New Beginning Crisis Pregnancy Center	<i>local</i>	John & Mihyon Humphrey	New Zealand	Doug & Becky Sisson	Philippines
Dare for More	Guatemala	Huntington City Mission	<i>local</i>	Phil & Jan Smith	Papua New Guinea
D. Family	India	Darin & Kathy Ishler	Kenya	Dwayne & Dianna Spear	Brazil
Daystar Baptist Mission, Inc.	<i>international</i>	J. Family	India	Amber & Doug Staley	Ireland
Jake & Elizabeth Delich	Puerto Rico	Jim Jeremias	Kenya	Joshua & Denise Steward	Ireland
Joel & Debbie Dicks	Hungary	Chris Katulka	USA	Jason & Sarah Sykes	Dominican Republic
Adam & Faith Drake	Togo	Tom & Melissa Kendall	Togo	Jerry & Sue Thomas	USA
Benji & Kerri Dryden	Haiti	K. Family	Kazakhstan	Josh & Sarah Wager	Micronesia
D. Family	Israel	K. Family	Ukraine	Nathaniel & Stacy Wall	USA (Mormons)
Diana Ferrell	Uganda	Megan Kuhn	Spain	W. Family	North Africa
Ebenezer	<i>local</i>	Tom & Selva Kweder	USA	Tom & Marilyn Wilson	South Africa
G. Family	Middle East	L. Family	China	John & Barb Windler	Paraguay
John & Kidst Getaneh	Zambia	Filip & Amy Le Roux	South Africa	World Help	<i>international</i>
G. Family	Egypt	Brent & Tammy Lowe	Portugal		
G. Family	Brazil	Joel & Stellah Madasus	Saipan		
Mark & Odie Goddard	Paraguay	Jon & Erin Mathews	Brazil		
Mike & Trisha Goddard	Paraguay	Doug & Kathy McClain	Germany		
Spencer & Joanna Goddard	Brazil	Patrick & Lisa McCoy	USA (Hawaii)		
Matt & Dallita Goins	Honduras	Tim & Charlene Miskimen	Thailand		



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you for all of the donations for OCC during the month of August! The response has been overwhelming!

During the months of September and October, we will be collecting toys and hygiene items. Below is a list of some examples of each:

TOYS/WOW GIFTS

- Marbles
- Jacks
- Yo-Yo-s
- Bouncy Balls
- Tennis Balls
- Jump Ropes
- Small Puzzles
- Small books
- Coloring books
- Stuffed Animals
- Hot Wheels/Toy Cars
- Dolls/Barbies/Action Figures
- Flashlights (w/ batteries)
- Games (cards, dominoes, dice, etc.)
- Hair accessories/Clothing items
- Other small/fun items

HYGIENE ITEMS

- Washcloths
- Hairbrushes
- Soap (Bars only-no liquids)
- Combs
- Toothbrushes

The collection bins are located at the main entrances of the church. If you prefer to shop online, you can use the QR codes below to go directly to the LMBC Operation Christmas Child Wishlists:

Amazon



Walmart



Don't forget to join the LMBC Operation Christmas Child Facebook page if you would like to stay up to date on upcoming OCC activities and information, including packing parties and other volunteer opportunities.

QUESTIONS?

For additional information or other ways to help, contact Terri Thompson, our OCC Coordinator.

terri.hager@aol.com
304-360-0849

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS

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.

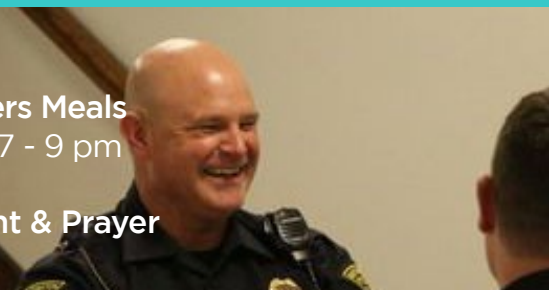
EBENEZER CALENDAR

all at Ebenezer unless otherwise stated

SEPT. 12

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

Encouragement & Prayer
11 am - 2 pm



SEPT. 28

Bible Club
4 - 5:15 pm



Be a Blessing

Missionaries around the world are away from their friends and families for months, even years at a time. They work long hours and often under uncomfortable - even harsh and sometimes dangerous conditions. Will you help us make a difference in the lives of our missionaries by sending them a note of encouragement? You will find most of them have email or Facebook, which means you don't have to worry about a stamp. However, for those so inclined, snail-mail is still a great source of encouragement to many. Check out pages 14 and 15 for a full list of our supported missionaries and missions.

OCC Collections

Check out page 16 for the current details and join us in the mission to give children the Gift of Jesus Christ along with a shoebox filled with toys and treasures that always bring a smile.



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Births

- Brooks Bohach to Chris & Lauryn Bohach
- Lillian Beth Cyrus to Paul & Bethany Cyrus

Bereavements

- Flossie Conely, Diana Murphey's aunt
- John Newberry, Jamie Garnes' brother
- Jarred Shultz, Lauren Shultz's husband

New Members/Baptisms

- Kaylee Blatt (Baptism)
- Calleigh Jordan (Baptism)
- Gabe Waller (Baptism)

Pastoral Staff Birthdays

- Jeremy Shaffer (7th)
- Bill Blankenship (30th)

Ways to Give:



Offering Boxes
in the Auditorium



Imbc.org
or our App



By mail

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: imbc.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 imbc.org/what-we-believe to learn
about our core beliefs
and more.

4th Experience



Come to the next
Starting Point on
Sunday, Oct. 22
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: imbc.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 (110) Kate McMullen

@ 6:30 pm

At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) Steve & Vicky Tardy
It's Always Something (S100) Chuck Daniel

@ 6:45 pm

Abundant Life (L108) Chelcie Gibson

@ 7 pm

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

@ 11 am

Sewing for God's Children (S104) Barbara Keaton

WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm

4Ever His (LKC) 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

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
304-736-7676
imbc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 & 10:45 am (watch live
at imbc.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
imbc.org/connect

A fishing net with wooden floats is draped over a wooden plank background. The net is made of white twine and has two round wooden floats attached to it. The background is a rustic, weathered wooden surface with vertical planks.

FISHERS OF MEN