

Vol. 12, Issue 10, October 2023

# connect

THIS IS HOW  
WE KNOW  
WHAT **LOVE** IS:

## JESUS CHRIST

LAID DOWN HIS

**LIFE** FOR US


1 JOHN 3:16 NIV





# OCT.

**1st** evening service



**Communion**

**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.

**22nd**

**startingpoint**

4:30 pm  
 In the HIS Way Cafe (SMB)

details on pg. 18

**29th** 6 pm



# 2023

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

**8th**  
**Missionary Guest: William Lyon**  
 • 6 pm, WC Auditorium

**12th**  
**Widows Luncheon "Tricks or Treats"**  
 • 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

**20th**  
**PrimeTime Celebrates Fall**  
 • 6 pm, Steve & Leah Adkins'

*The shuttle will leave the church at 5:30.* Let Vida or Blanche know if you need a seat. Menu: Beef BBQ and fried chicken will be provided; you bring salad, veggies, and dessert.

**25th**  
**Business Meeting**  
 • 8:10 pm, WC Auditorium

## Other calendars:

Rooted (Bible) pg. 17  
 Ebenezer pg. 21

# Lewis Kids connection

\*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](https://lmbc.org/lkc) or ask to join our Facebook group

## \*Sunday Mornings WC lower level

1: The World against God  
 8: People welcomed Jesus as King  
 15: Leaders wanted to trick Jesus  
 22: Jesus warned about not loving  
 29: Jesus warned about not acting

29: Trunk R' Treat @ 6 pm

## Weds @ 7pm in the FLC

4: Bible for Life  
 11: Bible for Life  
 18: Bible for Life  
 25: Bible for Life

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

26: Bible Club



**FALL 2023**

**October**

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

- 6 GUYS FALL CAMPOUT  
GIRLS CAN STOP BY FROM 7-9PM
- 18 GOURD GAMES  
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING
- 25 COSTUME NIGHT  
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING
- 26 HHS FOOTBALL TEAM DINNER  
STUDENT MINISTRY BUILDING (5:30-8PM)
- 29 TRUNK-OR-TREAT BOOTH  
LMBC PARKING LOT (6-8PM)

**REFUEL STUDENTS**





# GOD WROTE A BOOK

Many of us have favorite authors who, the moment they publish a new book, we purchase it, often sight unseen, because of the writer's reputation. In academic circles, researchers who are known to be proficient and authoritative in their field of study have no problem attracting publishers to distribute their latest groundbreaking discoveries and insights. These examples illustrate a fact we all know to be true: A book is only as good as the one who authored it.

If God wrote a book, would you read it? The Bible attests to itself as being "God-breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16).<sup>1</sup> We will never find an author with such impeccable credentials as God Himself, the very source of life and truth. From the first word in Genesis to the last word in Revelation, we have God's words in book form. Yes, God wrote a book. In this edition of the Connect Magazine, we will be considering the miracle of the Bible and how we, as believers, can connect with God through His Word on a daily basis. Whether you're a curious seeker or a seasoned believer, consider these three questions about the relevancy, importance, and reliability of the Bible.

## Who Should Read God's Book?

### Servants of God

Do you want to please God? In order for a servant to fulfill his duties, he must know what the Master expects of him. What does God expect from you? What pleases Him? What is His plan for your life? You simply won't find those answers outside the Bible. If you consider yourself a Christian – a follower of Jesus – you will definitely want to study the Bible and learn how to walk in obedience to the Lord each day.

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

*If you love me, keep my commands. (John 14:15)*

### Uneducated and Unlearned People

Consider the men with whom Jesus spent time while on earth. Were they super-smart college professors? Hardly. Many of Jesus' followers were not formally educated people. This is not a knock on education – you should learn all you can. However, it's easy to be intimidated by the Bible. It was written in three different languages, translated into English, and talks about theological and philosophical concepts that can be difficult to understand right off the bat. However, consider what God told the Israelites in Deuteronomy:

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)*

The people of Israel were on a seemingly never-ending road trip during their escape from slavery in Egypt. They didn't have a library where they could store scholarly books, and most people were illiterate and could not read at the time. But God told them to study His commands, even if it meant using unconventional methods: Talking about them everywhere, tying them as symbols on their hands, wearing them as headbands on their foreheads, and attaching them to the front doors of their houses. Education is great, but you don't need a college degree to study the Bible. God wrote the Bible for everyone.

### Both Believers and Non-Christians

Why was the Bible written? One of God's principle reasons for giving us His Word was for people to believe in Jesus and receive eternal life. Perhaps you have friends who aren't Christians and think they have no reason to study the Bible. The truth is, the Bible

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, all biblical passages referenced are in the New International Version.



contains the only message that can transform their minds and lead them to everlasting life in Jesus.

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20:30-31)

People Young and Old

There’s no minimum age requirement to study the Bible. Actually, the Bible is full of information that is absolutely essential for kids, teens, and young adults to understand. God tells teens in Psalm 119, “How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.” (Psalm 119:9)

Why Should I Read God’s Book?

The Bible is God-breathed.

All Scripture is God-breathed... (2 Timothy 3:16)

For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21)

The Bible is error-free.

Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. (Proverbs 30:5)

Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. (John 17:17)

The Bible is indestructible.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. (Mark 13:31)

The Bible tells us how to be saved.

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. (James 1:21)

From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. (2 Timothy 3:15)

The Bible is powerful.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. (Romans 1:16)

The Bible is valuable.

The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. (Psalm 19:9b-10)

The Bible is spiritual food for growing Christians.

Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. (1 Peter 2:2-3)

The Bible defends us against Satan’s attacks.

Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (Ephesians 6:17)

The Bible gives wisdom for life.

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. (Psalm 19:7)

The Bible helps believers please God.

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. (Psalm 119:9-11)

The Bible provides direction.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

The Bible brings joy to the hearts of those who read it.

The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. (Psalm 19:8)

The Bible alerts readers to danger.

By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. (Psalm 19:11)

The Bible is never a waste of time.

So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)

How Can I Trust That What I Have Today Is God’s Book?

The more confidence you have in the reliability of the Bible, the more time you will devote to studying it and sharing it with people. In other words, if the Bible really is the word of God, nothing else matters.

You may ask, “So, how do I know I can trust the Bible? How can I know it’s truly God’s Word?” Whenever you ask yourself that question, think about “M.A.P.S.”<sup>2</sup> This acrostic is a helpful reminder of four good reasons why we find the Bible reliable.

- M = Manuscripts
- A = Archaeology
- P = Prophecy
- S = Statistics

M = Manuscripts

A manuscript is a written text. If you have ever had to turn in a written report or essay at school, you are handing your teacher a manuscript. If it’s an important assignment, you probably made or saved a copy on your computer or tablet, just in case something happened to the original. The original New Testament manuscripts were written about 2,000 years ago and have long since deteriorated. Since we don’t have the original biblical manuscripts, it’s important to ask, “How good are the copies?”

Students often read classical literature in school, including works by Homer, Plato, and Aristotle. It is universally assumed that these individuals were the actual authors of those works. Yet, despite the fact that the Bible has stronger manuscript support than any other work of classical literature, some doubt it is truly from God.

Look at the following chart<sup>3</sup> and focus on two key areas: (1) The time span between when the document was written and the earliest copy we have, and (2) the number of copies available. Having a short time span and many copies is ideal. Homer’s Iliad is considered highly reliable in the world of literature. How does it fare when compared to the New Testament?

The number of New Testament manuscript copies in this chart represents only the Greek manuscripts. If you added the number of manuscripts written in other languages (such as Latin), the total number would be 24,970! Even skeptical historians have to agree that the New Testament is a remarkable historical document.

Ancient Greek writings and manuscripts

AUTHOR	BOOK	DATE WRITTEN	EARLIEST COPIES	TIME GAP	# OF COPIES
Homer	Iliad	800 B.C.	c. 400 B.C.	c. 400 years	643
Plato		400 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,300 years	7
Caesar	Gallic Wars	100-44 B.C.	c. A.D. 900	c. 1,000 years	10
Tacitus	Annals	A.D. 100	c. A.D. 1100	c. 1,000 years	20
New Testament		A.D. 50-100	114 (fragment) 200 (books) 250 (most of NT) 325 (complete NT)	+50 yrs. 100 yrs. 150 yrs. 225 yrs.	5,366*

2 Hank Handergraff, “Bible Reliability: M-A-P-S to Guide You Through Bible Reliability, Christian Research Institute, <http://www.equip.org/article/bible-reliability-m-a-p-s-to-guide-you-through-bible-reliability> (accessed May 24, 2016).  
3 Josh McDowell, Evidence for Christianity (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 2006), 66.



**A = Archaeology**

Archaeological discoveries have consistently affirmed the reliability of the Bible. Some non-Christians have attempted to disprove the truth of the Bible, only to change their opinions in light of the sheer amount of archaeological evidence corresponding with the Bible.

For years, critics dismissed the book of Daniel, partly because there was no evidence that a king named Belshazzar ruled in Babylon. Later archaeological research, however, proved that he did, indeed, rule. One of the most well-known New Testament examples in this area deals with the books of Luke and Acts. A skeptic, Sir William Ramsay, set out to disprove those books but ended up becoming a follower of Jesus, as all of the archaeological evidence overwhelmingly pointed to the truth of God’s Word.

**P = Prophecy**

Wouldn’t it be amazing if highly specific events of your life were predicted hundreds of years before you were born? You would never have to wonder what happens tomorrow, next week, or five years from now. The Bible is filled with more than 300 references to a coming Messiah, and all of these prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus Christ. These fulfilled prophecies have caused many skeptics to think twice. Listed below are examples of fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about Jesus.

*The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the Lord and His Anointed One. (Psalms 2:2)*

*Even my friend in whom I trusted, one who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.” (Psalms 41:9)*

*Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered. (Zechariah 13:7)*

*Then I said to them, ‘If it seems right to you,*

*give me my wages; but if not, keep them.’ So they weighed my wages, 30 pieces of silver. ‘Throw it to the potter,’ the Lord said to me—this magnificent price I was valued by them. So I took the 30 pieces of silver and threw it into the house of the Lord, to the potter. (Zechariah 11:12, 13)*

*They are striking the judge of Israel on the cheek with a rod. (Micah 5:1)*

*I gave My back to those who beat Me, and My cheeks to those who tore out My beard. I did not hide My face from scorn and spitting. (Isaiah 50:6)*

*My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? (Psalm 22:1)*

*They pierced my hands and my feet. (Psalm 22:16)*

All of these passages are found in the Old Testament, which was completed some four hundred years before Jesus was born. A well-known pastor, the late Dr. D. James Kennedy, said, “No critic, no atheist, no agnostic has ever once claimed that any one of those writings was written after His birth. In fact, they were translated from Hebrew into Greek in Alexandria some 150 years before He was born. If this [the Bible] is merely a book written by men, would you please explain to me how these words were written?”<sup>4</sup>

**S = Statistics**

It is virtually impossible that any or all of the Bible’s specific, detailed prophecies could have been fulfilled through random chance, good guessing, or deliberate deceit.

Think about the prophecies related to Jesus Christ that were mentioned earlier: The Old Testament contains over 300 references to the Messiah that were all fulfilled in Jesus. The odds of one man fulfilling just eight of those prophecies is 1 in 10 to the power of 17. What does that number look like?

**1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000**

If we took the same number of silver dollars and placed them across the state of Texas, it would cover the entire state 2 feet deep. Next, mark one of those silver dollars and stir the entire amount thoroughly throughout the state. Then, blindfold a person and tell him he can travel as far as he wishes, in any direction. At any time, he may bend down and pick up one coin. The odds of that person picking the marked coin are the same odds of Jesus Christ fulfilling just eight of those prophecies!

**God Wrote a Book**

After reading this brief article, I pray that you have been encouraged to learn that the Bible was written for regular people like you and me, that it’s always worth our time and devotion, and that it has stood the test of time. Yes, God wrote a book! May we cherish, read, live, and share it with others.



**by Matt McClay**

*Matt McClay oversees the student ministry at Lewis. He was raised locally in Huntington, and married his wife April in March of 2011. In May of 2012, Matt and April welcomed their daughter, Addison, into the world. Matt has a heart for student ministry, the outdoors, and redeeming technology for God’s glory.*



<sup>4</sup> D. James Kennedy, Christ: The Fulfillment of Prophecy, The Apologetics Study Bible: Real Questions, Straight Answers, Stronger Faith (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2007): 81.



# PASTOR TIM'S FAVORITE BIBLE TRANSLATION AND WHY



by Tim Yates

Over the years, people asked me, “What version of the Bible do you use? And why do you use that particular translation?” Usually, the discussion can go on for a long time. Why? Because everyone has their own preference. But normally, I prefer the New King James Version of the Bible. I also use the English Standard Version, the New Living Translation, and the Christian Standard Bible (also called the Southern Baptist Bible). In fact, I have read through each of these versions multiple times. But nonetheless, I like the New King James best for four reasons.

First, I like the New King James Version because it is true to the original manuscripts (Greek and Hebrew). Most translation committees approach Bible translation by either “formal equivalence” (word-for-word translation), “dynamic or functional equivalence” (thought-for-thought translation), or “optimal equivalence,” which is a combination of both formal and functional equivalence. Thankfully the New King James Version is a word-for-word translation true to the biblical text. First and foremost, this is very important to me because I want a translation that is true to the original text.

Second, I like the New King James Version because it is closely associated with the old King James Version. In the introduction section of the New King James Version, Thomas Nelson said, “To understand the heart behind the New King James Version, one need look no further than the stated intentions of the original King James Version scholars: Not to make a new translation... but to make a good one better.” I totally agree with the publisher. I think the New King James Version accomplishes this goal.

Third, I like the New King James Version because it updated a lot of obscure words, for instance, words like “thee, thou, thence, art, wilt, bewray” and a host of other words. Like Philip’s question to the Ethiopian eunuch, “understandeth what

thou readest?” (Acts 8:30). We just don’t talk that way. Another example is Paul telling Agrippa, “I think myself happy” (Acts 26:1-2), which are words that make little sense in contemporary English. Furthermore, the story of Elisha and the “she bears” is classic. The New King James called them “female bears” and translated the word “tare” as “mauled” (See 2 Kings 2:23-24). In fact, the last part of verse 24 (KJV) is a very awkward translation. Thankfully the New King James Version updated a lot of the obscure words/phrases. I love the readability of the New King James Version of the Bible.

Fourth, I like the New King James Version because the structure for memorization is very similar to the old King James Version. Some word-for-word translations can be awkward and difficult to memorize, for example, the New American Standard Version. Nonetheless, the New King James Version flows in the same poetic style as the old King James Version and therefore makes memorization easier.

Whatever version you choose, I highly recommend you get a hard copy of the Bible you can hold in your hand. Furthermore, I encourage you to use a Lexicon or computer program to help you look up keywords. Thankfully, there are dozens of free resources online. For instance, BlueLetterBible.com is a free resource with tons of great stuff and is very easy to use. I prefer the New King James Version because it is true to the original manuscripts, the association with the old King James Version, the readability (updated words), and the poetic structure for memorization. Which version do you prefer?

*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.*

# MY FAVORITE BIBLE TRANSLATIONS AND WHY



by Bill Blankenship

Choosing a Bible translation can be difficult and confusing. It is important to be careful in the selection process because there are several translations available and some of them have been, and are being revised for the purpose of promoting an agenda rather than the Gospel. As an example, I understand one popular translation from the 1970’s was revised in 2011 to make it more gender neutral.

Why are there so many different translations? First of all, the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew and the New Testament was written in Greek. Not many people today have knowledge of the Hebrew and Greek languages; therefore, Christians must rely on the translators to convey the meaning of the scripture and be able to trust their interpretations. The translators should, of course, be scholars in Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic languages, as well as the language they are translating. They need to avoid any personal interpretations; therefore, a reliable translation should be done. A committee or team would provide accountability and prevent any biased opinions that may lead to misunderstanding of the scriptures.

I am by no means a scholar on Bible translations; however, I understand there are basically four categories for Bible translations.

1. Word-for-Word where the translation method is from equivalence and leaves the least room for error.
2. Meaning-for-Meaning where the translation is close in its natural equivalence.
3. Thought-for-Thought where the translation is close in its functional equivalence.
4. Paraphrase where it is not really a translation, but a restating of the original Bible contents in a simplified manner, usually translated by one individual or is an opinion or personal preference.

Even though I have several translations from these

four categories that I read and refer to, I have two favorite translations. One is a Word-for-Word translation and the other is a Thought-for-Thought translation.

My favorite Word-for-Word translation is the NKJV (New King James Version). It is very close to the KJV (King James Version), only the wording is better suited for reading. Some of the antiquated words have been exchanged with modern day words that give a more clear understanding and ease of reading. I believe many of the Bible references are the same as the original KJV. I have a David Jeremiah NKJV Study Bible and a Warren Wiersbe NKJV Study Bible that I read and study from on a regular basis. Also, I do refer to my Charles Ryrie KJV Study Bible for commentary notes. I understand the NASB (New American Standard Bible) is considered the most accurate and preferred Bible in this category.

My favorite Thought-for-Thought translation is the CSB (Christian Study Bible). The CSB is not ranked as the most accurate translation. I believe the CSB translation is close to the Word-for-Word translation as far as accuracy. You might say the CSB is a mix between Word-for-Word and Thought-for-Thought. I have three of these Bibles in my library. I have a Tony Evans CSB, a Charles Spurgeon CSB, and a Holman CSB.

I believe it is beneficial to have a good Word-for-Word translation and a good Thought-for-Thought translation to read together for balance and clarity. And by all means don’t forget your KJV translation. Always pray and allow the Holy Spirit to be your guide.

I pray you will enjoy your reading and study time in God’s Word.

*Bill Blankenship oversees the visitation ministry at Lewis Memorial. He and his wife, Debbie, joined Lewis Memorial in March of 2004, after serving as a bi-vocational pastor. He has a heart for the sick, shut-in’s, widows, and widowers. Bill and Debbie married in 1974, have two grown children and four grandchildren.*



# MY BIBLE-NERD BRAIN

by Jeremy Shaffer

Several years ago, my family and I were afforded the opportunity to visit the Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. To be honest, I wasn't sure what to expect. I mean, think about it...a whole museum dedicated to preserving the written Scripture in our nation's capital of all places – I was pessimistic at best. We arrived at the entrance to the museum, which looked like the walls of a great ancient city, and all at once, my Bible-nerd brain took over. For six short hours, we visited all six floors, and it was mesmerizing. Every exhibit was designed to immerse you into the written word of Scripture; my soul within me was singing, and my spirit was at peace surrounded by Scripture. I spent the most time on the 4th floor, which was called the History of the Bible, taking you

from ancient texts to modern translations. The very last exhibit on this fourth floor was called illumiNations, a library-type room dedicated to the display of all the global Bible translations to date. I stood in the center of the room, looking at all the books labeled with the names of the languages/dialects in which the Bible had been translated. But then I turned to the other side of the room, and immediately, my spirit was grieved because the books on this side were not labeled; they were blank. These books represented the languages/dialects that still do not have a translation of the Bible into their own native tongue. I had this feeling of shame and sadness overcome me as I suddenly became keenly aware of how many Bibles I had sitting on my shelves, and yet there are people who don't have even one single copy in their native tongue.



*<sup>14</sup> How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” <sup>16</sup> But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ of God.*

Romans 10:14-17 NLT

## KEY

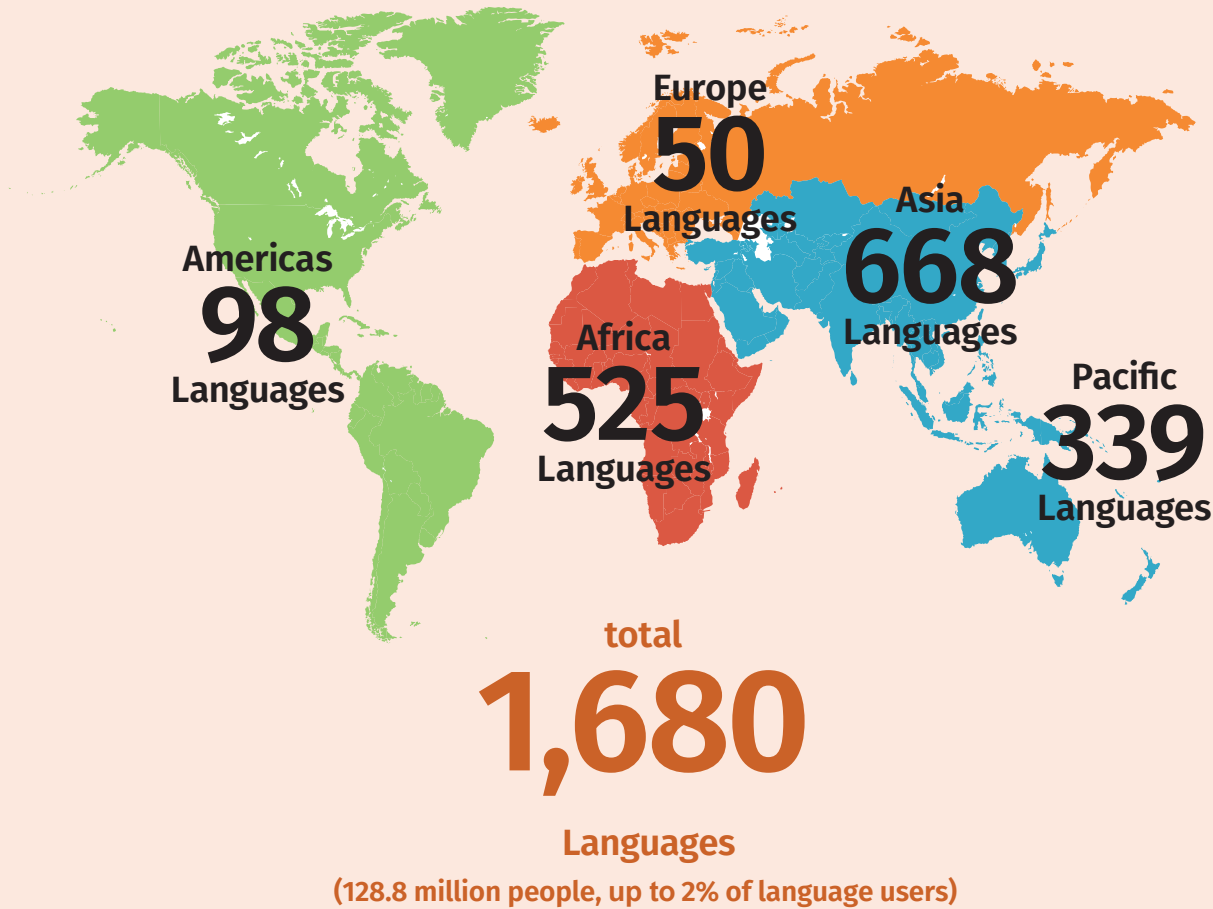
- Full Bible
- New Testament
- Portions
- Need Bible translation to start
- Initial work in progress
- No Scripture, likely no need



*\*In most cases, the people use another language which already has at least some Scripture.*

## Need Bible translation to start

*The numbers on the map refer to languages where work is already being requested or is likely to be needed.*





# THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD

I am currently studying through the book of Nehemiah in a study called, From Broken to Restored. It has been a beautiful journey of both conviction and hope and an insightful reminder of God's faithfulness and goodness to restore His people, not just once but over and over again. This of course has been a highlight, however, seeing the power that God's Word had upon the people has been awe-inspiring.

Chapter eight opens with men, women, and children gathered together to hear Ezra, the priest, reading "The Book of the Law" from dawn to noon. Trust me, the whole "dawn to noon" time frame caught my attention, but it was verses three through nine that caught my heart: Verse three says: "The people were eager to hear the book of the law." How sweet it is to hear that they were eager to hear God's Word and an added blessing to see the impact that It had on them. They responded to the Word being opened by standing, and they remained standing while they were being taught; they replied "Amen! Amen!", with lifted hands as the priest blessed the LORD. "Then," Scripture says, "they bowed down and worshiped the LORD." Nehemiah writes, "The people gained understanding from what was read, and it caused them to grieve and to weep." Why the standing, the eagerness, the shouts of amen and worship, and the weeping and mourning? Because, as the writer of Hebrews says, "The word of God is living and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, piercing even to the point of dividing soul from spirit, and joints from marrow; it is able to judge the desires and thoughts of the heart."

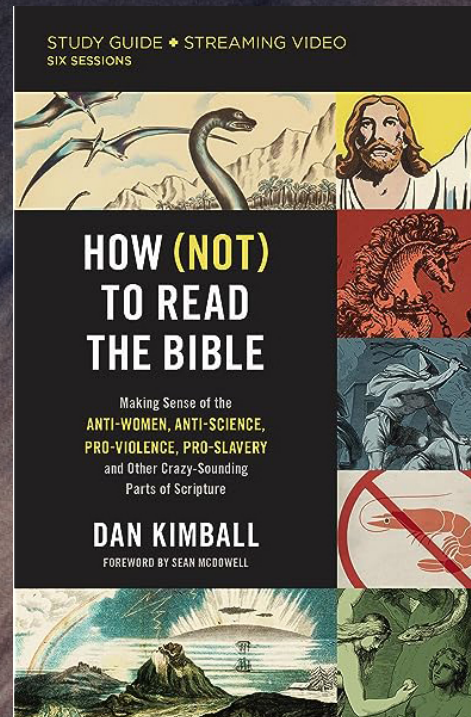
"The priests declared that day a holy day—a day of celebration and joy because of all God had done. This reminded the people that though they weren't faithful, God was faithful. Our joy and delight are in Him and all He has done for us. The joy of the Lord, as the priests declared to the people, truly is our strength as we can rely on and rest in Him."<sup>1</sup>

Oh, that we might be eager to hear God's Word and to respond to It, as we come to understand It and find ourselves transformed by Its power and His amazing love.



by Mary Ellen Black

Mary Ellen is a member of the LMBC office staff and the copy and content editor for Connect Magazine. She is the leader of the Insideout Life Group at LMBC and host of the online Bible Study, Journey Through the Word. Her mission is to encourage, equip, and empower women to have a full and vibrant relationship with God and a passion for His Word. She is the mother of two grown daughters, the Oma (grandmother) of one grandson, and the writer and creator of the blog "Me from the Insideout". (mefromthensideout.com)



is called "Jesus Riding a Dinosaur" (I know an image just popped up in your imagination). With any book, there are sections that are disappointing because they wander away from the truth of Scripture; this section is one of them. However, don't throw the baby out with the bathwater because there is definitely helpful content in this section about science and the Bible ... and yes, there are several fictional pictures of Jesus with a dinosaur. Part 5 is next, titled "My God Can Beat Up Your God." With many different religious groups and belief systems that permeate our culture, how can a person ever find the way, the truth, and the life? Many like to believe that all religions lead to God, but that is a lie from the lips of Satan. Jesus, the One presented in the Bible and not some other figment of your imagination, is the way, the truth, and the life. The final section is titled "Rated NC-17," and it speaks directly to the violent narratives in the Old Testament that critics of the Bible like to point out. These critics are quick to blame God for all the violence, but, as the author says, "much of the violence in the Bible is not approved or done by God. Human beings on their own did much of the violence recorded in Scripture, and the Bible records what happened."<sup>2</sup>

Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 3:15, "...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." This book will provide you with a gamut of apologetic-style arguments and statements to accomplish that lifelong pursuit, but rebutting someone's argument ought to be done with... 'let's finish quoting the verse; for instance, 1 Peter 3:15, which ends with, "Yet do it with gentleness and respect." As you read this book, you will find the author comments on the need to treat others gently when discussing your faith (or their faith) and that disposition can speak more clearly than your best one-line rebuttal. From Genesis to Revelation, the Bible points us to the life and death and resurrection of Jesus; and yes, there are many strange things that happen along the way, but don't lose out on a deep relationship with Jesus because you can't make sense of a particular passage. Jesus says it best in John 5:39, "You search the Scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the Scriptures point to me!"

## WHAT WE'RE READING

by Jeremy Shaffer

If you are looking for an up-to-date, practical-style apologetic book that faithfully handles some of the challenging (and rough) biblical questions people ask of the Bible, read on with delight. Part 1, titled "Never Read a Bible Verse," should catch your attention. The author explains, "The majority of Bible verses that are pointed out today as disturbing or crazy are ones taken out of context and have reasonable explanations for them."<sup>1</sup> Part 2 is called "Stranger Things," and here, the author jumps into the Old Testament laws. Every law God gave Old Testament Israel served a purpose and has an underlying principle behind it (sometimes we have to dig deep for these) for us today, but many of those laws seem foreign and, yes, strange. Part 3 is called "Boy's Club Christianity," and chapter 9 in that section, titled "Making Sense of Inequality in the Bible," is an excellent and balanced treatment of this hot topic. Part 4

**"...an up-to-date, practical-style apologetic book that faithfully handles some of the challenging (and rough) biblical questions people ask of the Bible ..."**

<sup>1</sup> Page 57

<sup>2</sup> Page 291





**by Nathan McClay**

*Nathan McClay is an assistant pastor and oversees the music and worship ministry of LMBC. He has been serving God at Lewis since 1991. Nathan and his wife, Audrey, have four children and two grandchildren.*

***“What a way to learn great theology! That’s what comes to mind whenever I sing one of those old hymns. “And Can It Be” is like putting the doctrine of salvation to music. “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing” is a melodic lesson in grace. No wonder good hymns make for strong faith!”***  
***- Joni Eareckson Tada***

**S**ome of our earliest theological training comes from the singing of hymns. The rhyming lines and easy to learn melodies keep biblical truth locked securely in our memories from our childhood day to our final breath on earth. Robert Dick Wilson, while addressing seminary students made this statement, “Young men, there are many mysteries in this life that I do not pretend to understand, many things hard to explain. But I can tell you this morning with the fullest assurance that- ‘Jesus loves me this I know for the Bible tells me so.’”

Sometimes in our church services, we will sing lyrics that are Biblical passages, and other times we will come across obscure references from the Bible, such as the breaking of the “silver cord” in the hymn “Saved by Grace,” which found in Ecclesiastes 12:6 refers to death. Another use of obscure Biblical language is the raising of an “Ebenezer” in “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing,” which is taken from I Samuel 7:12 and means “stone of help.”

Some of our most beloved hymns have segments of scripture sprinkled throughout their lyrics, and “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” is a prime example. The line, “There is no shadow of turning with Thee,” is taken from James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow or turning.” The main thrust of the song and its title come from Lamentations 3:22 and 23, “Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is your faithfulness.”

In the first verse of the hymn, “How Firm a Foundation,” we are told of those “who for refuge to Jesus have fled,” which mirrors the message of Hebrews 6:18. The second verse is almost a direct quote from Isaiah 41:10. Another verse reflects the words of Isaiah 43:2, when it talks how God will bless our troubles when we go through deep waters.

So, next time you sing a hymn and remember a line that inspires you, check and see if you can find a scriptural background for those lyrics. Soon you will discover that we have quite a firm scriptural foundation in many of the hymns that we sing.

## CREEDS

### Theological Word of the Month

by Jeremy Shaffer

The word creed comes from the Latin word credo, and it simply means “I believe.” Throughout church history, Christian leaders have created/written anything from brief affirmations to detailed statements to define their belief system clearly. In biblical terminology, a creed is defined as a formal system of Christian beliefs, and there are two famous ones that you might be familiar with: the Apostle’s Creed and the Nicene Creed. The Apostles Creed, which was likely composed during the second century AD, defines core Christian beliefs about God, Jesus, the Church, and salvation. A beautiful summary of the Christian faith in just a few sentences, this creed played an essential role in baptism in the early church. When an individual was about to be baptized, the creed was read, and upon their agreement to it, he/she was baptized.

As Christianity began to spread all across the Roman world, more and more discussion and debate about the nature of Jesus began to get out of hand. Emperor Constantine, a recent convert to Christianity, called for a meeting of church leaders in Nicea to resolve and eliminate the confusion surrounding the deity of Christ. This famous meeting of church leaders in 325 AD would later be known as the Council of Nicea. The council wrestled with questions about Christ: Is He more human than divine? Was He created or eternally existent? Is He lower in status than the Father? Was He always the Son, or did He become the Son? A priest named Arius presented his argument that Jesus was not an eternal being, while Athanasius argued the opposite. In the end, the church leaders at Nicea voted to reject Arius’s heresy and uphold the position of Christ’s true divinity as espoused by Athanasius. Subsequently, from this council meeting, the Nicene Creed was born, and this creed gives a detailed definition of the deity of Christ. It is important to remember that the church and its leaders did not invent the doctrine of Christ’s true divinity; instead, the council recognized what the Bible already taught about Christ.

Remember, the purpose behind any creed is to help a person clarify their faith and to help them distinguish truth from error. However, a creed should never become a substitute for the complete revelation of God’s Word that has been written down and put into a book we affectionately call The Bible.

## 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** -
- 2nd** Acts 7:1-8
- 3rd** Acts 7:9-16
- 4th** Acts 7:17-29
- 5th** Acts 7:30-43
- 6th** Acts 7:44-60
- 7th** Psalm 119:145-152
- 8th** -
- 9th** Acts 8:1-8
- 10th** Acts 8:9-13
- 11th** Acts 8:14-25
- 12th** Acts 8:26-40
- 13th** Acts 9:1-9
- 14th** Psalm 119:153-160
- 15th** -
- 16th** Acts 9:10-19
- 17th** Acts 9:20-25
- 18th** Acts 9:26-31
- 19th** Acts 9:32-35
- 20th** Acts 9:36-42
- 21st** Psalm 119:161-168
- 22nd** -
- 23rd** Deuteronomy 6:1-9
- 24th** Deuteronomy 6:10-19
- 25th** Deuteronomy 8:1-10
- 26th** Deuteronomy 9:1-6
- 27th** Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 28th** Psalm 119:169-176
- 29th** -
- 30th** Job 37:1-13
- 31st** Job 37:14-24



# MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN NORTH AMERICA

JJ & Melissa Alderman (Timothy Initiative)  
Trey & Terri Bailey, USA (DBMI)  
Tim & Diane Bilbrey, USA (DBMI)  
Jenn Morla, Dominican Republic  
A New Beginning Crisis Pregnancy Center  
Backpack Ministry  
Brown Bags Ministry  
Daystar Baptist Missions, Inc.  
Jake & Elizabeth Delich, Puerto Rico  
Benji & Kerri Dryden, Haiti  
Ebenezer  
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 (Hawaii)  
Randy & Ellen Mumper, Canada  
Nahum & Arin O'Brien, USA  
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)

For full updates, go to [Imbc.org/missionary-updates](http://Imbc.org/missionary-updates)

# THE BIBLE & MISSIONS

“*So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*  
- Romans 10:17

“*The word gospel literally means “good news” and occurs 93 times in the Bible, exclusively in the New Testament. In Greek, it is the word euangelion, from which we get our English words evangelist, evangel, and evangelical. The gospel is, broadly speaking, the whole of Scripture; more narrowly, the gospel is the good news concerning Christ and the way of salvation.*  
- Gotquestions.org



JJ & MELISSA  
ALDERMAN

We have peace knowing we are exactly where the Lord has led us. The Timothy Initiative (TTI) is headquartered in Raleigh, which makes it much easier to focus on the work of our ACHIEVE Strategy. We want to see **A Church In Every Village Everywhere**.

Togo, as one of the initial four ACHIEVE nations for TTI, is gaining great traction as a nationwide church planting saturation strategy. In the last few months, TTI and four partnering organizations, including the 6° Initiative team, have started a survey process in Togo to discover where the church is and where it is not... yet.

Within Togo, there are about 15,000 towns and villages where people live. Our first step is to identify unreached places, then cast vision and deploy church planters to target each one of those areas and share the Gospel. Areas

“*We believe Jesus’ command to ‘go and make disciples of all nations’ was for all followers of Christ. Locally, each of us should be goers, living and proclaiming the Gospel where God has placed us. Globally, some go while others send.*  
- Jonathan Mathews

with churches are displayed on a heatmap of the country which drops down to the village level. This map allows the church to more strategically stretch towards these unreached villages. While this is a challenging task, we are trying to plant 50% of our churches among those who are yet to hear. This will result in the Gospel going to every people group - which is the call on every follower of Christ

We’re excited about the work in Togo and are preparing to expand this strategy to 50 nations in the coming years. Thank you for partnering with us, not just in Togo, but in some of the hardest-to-reach-places.





# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Shoebox packing time! Please watch for upcoming announcements on the LMBC Operation Christmas Child and LMBC Church Family Facebook Groups regarding upcoming packing parties.

There will be shoeboxes in the church entrances available to take home and fill, beginning Sunday, October 1st. There will be a pamphlet in each box with tips for packing the boxes, along with instructions on how to pay to ship your box. You can write a check and place it inside the top of the box or use the "follow your box" link on your label to pay, track, and see where your shoebox goes. Please return your shoeboxes to the church no later than Sunday, November 12th.

Last year, individuals packed 246 shoeboxes, and the church packed 1904, making a grand total of 2150 gospel opportunities! We hope to do even more this year, which is super exciting. Each shoebox costs \$10 to ship, so if you would like to donate money toward shipping to offset the cost of shoeboxes filled at the packing parties, it would be greatly appreciated! You can write a check to the church with a note in the memo line, or donate online or through the app by clicking the dropdown option "OCC Shoebox Ministry".

We are still in need of toys and hygiene items. Some examples are listed below but are not limited to these items. No liquids or camo/military-related items are allowed. Use your imagination and have fun shopping!

## TOYS/WOW GIFTS

- Hot Wheels, Matchbox cars
- Jump Ropes
- Dolls/Barbies/Action Figures
- Coloring books
- Marbles
- Jacks
- Yo-Yo-s
- Bouncy Balls
- Play-Dough
- Tennis Balls
- Stuffed Animals
- Flashlights (with batteries), or Crank Flashlights
- Small Puzzles
- Small Books
- Games (cards, dominoes, dice, etc.)
- Any other small, fun items

## HYGIENE ITEMS

- Washcloths
- Hairbrushes
- Combs
- Toothbrushes
- Hats, Toboggans
- Hair accessories (headbands, scrunchies, etc.)
- Gloves
- Socks
- Flip Flops
- Soap (Bars only-no liquids)

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.

# DIFFERENCE MAKERS

## SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS

Visit [lmbc.org/serve](http://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

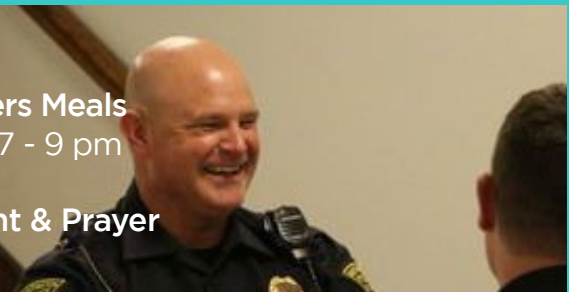
### OCT. 10

**First Responders Meals**

11 am - 2 pm & 7 - 9 pm

**Encouragement & Prayer**

11 am - 2 pm



### OCT. 27

**Bible Club**

4 - 5:15 pm



## Participation or a Donation - Help Needed

We will be hosting the annual Trunk or Treat on October 29. If you would like to help with this outreach event, we are in need of candy donations. There will be bins in our lobby areas, or you can drop donations by the church office 9-12 and 1-4, M-F. If you would like to participate in the event, please register online at [lmbc.org/trunkortreat](http://lmbc.org/trunkortreat)

## OCC Collections

Check out page 20 for the current details and join us in the mission to give children, and their families, 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

### Bereavements

- Ernestine Blake, mother of Stella Black
- Eric Dennison, brother of Angie Heffner
- Darlene Egan, wife of Ken Egan
- Richard Hodge, husband of Cheryl Hodge
- Mike Ross, Jr., son of Mike & Nancy Ross
- George 'Robby' Sergent III, brother of Matt Sergent
- Roger Lewis Thornton, father of Vicki Hayes

### New Members/Baptisms

- Jon & Meredith Bentley
- Michele Carter
- Trey Carter (Baptism)
- Dwight Hensley (Baptism)
- Tracey King
- Mackenzie Moir
- Ashley Nelson
- Brian & Carol Porter
- Ronna Scholl
- Missy Shores (Baptism)

### 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](https://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](https://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](https://imbc.org/starting-point)

# WANT TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

Come grow with us

ADULTS (COED)	<b>SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am</b> Through the Bible (S104) ..... Jared Blankenship Wall Builders (S100) ..... Steve Bragg Cornerstone (S102) ..... Tim Koletka Maranatha (Renaissance Room) ..... Chuck Daniel
	<b>TUESDAYS @ 1 pm</b> Fearless (S100) ..... Estep/Wyrick
	<b>@ 6 pm</b> Life Together (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Tim Yates
	<b>WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am</b> Encouraging Friends Ministry (110) ..... Kate McMullen
	<b>@ 6:30 pm</b> At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) ..... Steve & Vicky Tardy It's Always Something (S100) ..... Chuck Daniel
WOMEN	<b>@ 6:45 pm</b> Abundant Life (L108) ..... Chelcie Gibson
	<b>@ 7 pm</b> 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
	<b>FRIDAYS @ 5:30 pm</b> Believing, Belonging, & Becoming (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Thurman Lowder
	<b>SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am</b> Journey with Him (L110) ..... Hale/Tritz
	<b>MONDAYS @ 6 pm</b> Daughters of the King (S100) ..... Rebekah Shaffer
MEN	<b>TUESDAYS @ 9:30 am</b> Kingdom Seekers (Tardy Home) ..... Tardy/McMullen
	<b>@ 10 am</b> At His Feet (S100) ..... Beth Jenkins
	<b>@ 11 am</b> Sewing for God's Children (S104) ..... Barbara Keaton
	<b>WEDNESDAYS @ 7 pm</b> 4Ever His (LKC) ..... Leah Adkins Women of God (F205) ..... Hager/Bashore *Embrace Grace (L106) *for single pregnant ladies ..... Angela Cantley
	<b>THURSDAYS @ 10 am</b> Women of Strength (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Mullens/Foreman
SENIORS	<b>WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am</b> Westridge Wisdom (S100) ..... Jeremy Shaffer
	<b>@ 7 pm</b> Men of Truth (HIS Way Cafe) ..... Steve Bragg Iron Sharpeners (L110) ..... Matheny/Miller
	<b>SUNDAYS @ 9 am</b> Willing Workers (L108) ..... Richard Sexton Young at Heart (L114) ..... Bill Blankenship
	<b>FRIDAYS @ 11 am</b> Life Group (Victory Place Apartments) ..... Charles Logan

Connect is the monthly news and  
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Making disciples who  
live and love like Jesus

5385 W. Pea Ridge Rd.  
Huntington, WV 25705  
304-736-7676  
[Imbc.org](https://imbc.org)

SUNDAY WORSHIP  
9 & 10:45 am (watch live  
at [imbc.tv](https://imbc.tv))

WEDNESDAY BIBLE  
STUDY  
7 pm

CONNECT STAFF:  
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**Angie O'Dell**  
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**Mary Ellen Black**  
Graphic Designer,  
**Matt Waller**

Read previous editions  
of Connect at  
[imbc.org/connect](https://imbc.org/connect)



THIS IS HOW  
WE KNOW  
WHAT **LOVE** IS:

# JESUS CHRIST

LAID DOWN HIS

**LIFE** FOR US

1 JOHN 3:16 NIV

