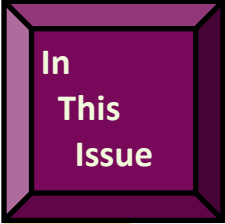




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Newsletter—August 2020



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Pastor's Pen:

The World is Upset!



The world is upset. People are fearful for their lives and their futures, and angry. For us, it is opportunity. But we must see it, and seize it.

I must confess, my heart is heavy. The "safer at home" mandate that began as a necessary step for a few weeks, has turned into months, and there is no certain end in sight. It has resulted in some separation in our church body. While separation from others may seem like no big deal to those who are more task than people oriented, separation makes us vulnerable to the enemy's subtle schemes. A common lie that he uses is, "I don't need the church, I can do fine on my own." The scriptures make it clear that we do need each other; a study of the "one another's," shows it well.

Perhaps the hardest part of body life is living with differences. I believe that it is learning to love and work with those who are different, or who hold different convictions from me, that most matures me. When differences come to the surface inevitably there is conflict, hurt, and anger. Oh, I can find Scriptures to support my side, but really, Scriptures can be pulled forth for the other side as well. Most often, in a church that holds to sound Biblical teaching and doctrine, the differences are really personal preferences. It is in learning to surrender my personal preferences for the good of another, or the whole, that I am best molded and shaped and matured by God. Please read Romans 14. Surrender is recognizing that I'm really fighting for my own preference. Surrender requires that my pride, selfishness, and independence be laid on the altar. When those things are laid down there is room for the humility, sacrifice, and dependence that God wants to instill in me. This takes me to the foot of the cross where the only place to look is up.

When differences come to the surface, we must learn to fight separation and not one another. Separation is the enemy, not the brother or sister. Here are three suggestions that I think can help us fight separation. 1) Grace. Grace is not judging those who have a different conviction; it's clear, that is wrong! James writes, "There is *only* one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and to destroy; but who are you who judge your neighbor? (James 4:12, NASB). Grace is also *not* assuming we are being judged. Making such assumptions equally divides the body. Grace is living with and loving those who have different convictions and preferences. It matures us. 2) Forgiveness. Asking someone that I know I've offended to forgive me, is God's remedy for the separation I cause in my relationships with others. Accepting that forgiveness completes the loop. Remembering the undeserved forgiveness God grants me helps. "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32). There is another aspect of forgiveness that is often overlooked. When we live amidst differences, others unintentionally, and often unknowingly, hurt us. I have to learn to resist holding resentment toward them because it adds to separation. I need to forgive them within myself because it fosters unity. 3) Reach out. It is essential that we reach out to those we are separated from. Any act, as simple as a note or phone call, saying I miss you, does wonders. Doing nothing leaves one wondering if I care. However, grace needs to be present when I reach out, lest I imply I am judging their different conviction.

It is not the church in which everyone is in agreement on every issue that bears the powerful testimony in the community. It is when there is love and unity, with differences, that the world outside the church is made to stop and notice. The early church was made up of many differences, significant differences – rich and poor, slave and master, Jew and Gentile – and yet, learned to find unity. Today we must learn to find unity, masked and not masked, meeting together and not meeting together, for this time. Unity is the will of our Lord (John 17:23) and found when we focus on Christ. The different convictions about corona virus are causing fear, anger, and division in our nation. However, it is giving the Lord's church an opportunity. Let's seize it! Let's work to encourage and build up one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11) for the cause of Christ!

Pastor Dan





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Anniversaries



2 Jonathan & Sarah Ragan
 2 Shane & Kara Schulte
 5 Ron & Barb Bernhagen
 5 Kim & Yvonne Heinbaugh
 7 Jon & Becky Richardson



8 Rick & Cheryl Hartwig
 9 Pat & Angie Miller
 12 Kim & Kathy Markham
 14 Richard & Jane Thoman
 15 Nate & Kay Bloom



15 Paul & Andrea Brunner
 17 Troy & Crystal Watson
 22 Justin & Jaclyn Miller
 23 Mike & Beth Figi
 30 Roger & Mary Ann Stauffacher

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 VBS: 9am-3:30 pm Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
2 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am Outdoor Service, Picnic, & Games— 10:30 am	3 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	4	5 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	6 Blood Drive: 12:30—6 pm Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, 103	7 Sanctuary & NC in use for wedding	8 Church in use for wedding, 10 am –4 pm Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
9 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 1 – 9:00 am, LL #102 Next Steps-Step 2 – (s.1) 9:00 am, LL #106	10 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102 Elder Board Mtg.—6:30 pm, LL #106	11	12 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	13 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	14 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	15 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
16 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am Next Steps-Step 2 – (s.2) 9:00 am, LL #106 Ignite Camping Leave at 2 pm	17 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102 Ignite Camping, Gover- nor Dodge State Park	18 Ignite Camping Return around 1 pm	19 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	20 Blood Drive: 12:30—6 pm Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, 103	21 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	22 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
23 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am	24 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102	25	26 Sr. Life Group—1 pm, NC	27 Iglesia Biblica Prayer Meeting—6 pm, NC	28 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC	29 Iglesia Biblica Worship Practice—5:30 pm, NC
30 Worship Services: The Gathering 9 am & Café 10:30 am	31 Prayer Meeting—6:30 pm, LL #102					



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3 Donna Garwell
3 Sharon Johnson
5 Carrah Jenson
6 Meghann Holverson
7 Rita Chambliss
7 Daniel Skoumal
7 Jill Skoumal
9 Natalie Kuenzi
9 Jovani McNett
9 Tom Rossing

10 Bernadette Wong
11 Lydia Setterstrom
13 Jon Richardson
14 Abby Faith
15 Mariana Beernink
15 Cindy Demianiuk
15 Katelin Rische
15 Clare Thoman
17 Rhonda Schwarze
17 Jake Wartenweiler

18 Eva Haworth
18 Laura Holverson
19 Marianne Hoffman
21 Callee Jenson
23 Walter Ohlrich
25 Chelsea Hardacre
26 Don Bartelt
26 Hilda Brunner
31 Sarah Harder

Outdoor Community Celebration Service At Monroe Bible Church

Sunday, August 2nd at 10:30 AM

“The Gathering” Service will be indoors at 9 AM

You are invited! Outdoor Worship Service begins at 10:30 AM on the north lawn of Monroe Bible Church

We’ll be serving a picnic lunch after the service, followed by games.

All food & drinks are provided.

Bring lawn chairs or blankets.

Join us & Invite a Friend!



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FULL THROTTLE

One-Day Vacation Bible School

For students entering Kindergarten – 5th grade.

Join us on Saturday, August 1st.

Choose 1 of the 3 Session Times to attend.

Session 1: 9 am-10:30 am

Session 2: 11:30 am-1 pm

Session 3: 2 pm-3:30 pm

Register kids upon arrival.

Free refreshments for parents while kids attend.

Contact Hallie Signer with any questions, 214-7976.

NEXT STEPS

Step 1

"Our Mission & Vision"

August 9th

9:00 am, LL #102

Step 2

"Our Core Beliefs"

**This step is required for membership
 (2 sessions/parts)*

August 9th & 16th

9:00 am, LL #106

Sign up on our church website
 or at the Welcome Center!

Did You Complete Your Training?

Child Protection Training Required (3 part process) – Monroe Bible Church requires annual certification training for everyone who works with youth in any capacity, with background checks done every four years on adults.

***Please Note:** when your annual certification date expires, you won't be allowed to work with the youth until you get re-certified.

1. Contact the church office (office@monroebiblechurch.org) with the email address you would like to use in order to complete your annual training. Once you've contacted the office, you'll receive an email from Mobilize My Ministry requesting information. *Don't wait, the email links do expire!*

2. After completing the first email with your information, you'll receive a second email with a link to complete your training online. The training consists of a video followed by a quiz, and takes about 45 minutes to complete. The office is notified once you've successfully completed your training. ****Be sure to check your Spam folders if you don't see the emails you're expecting.**

3. You will also need to read and sign the **MBC Policy & Rules for Child Protection Certification**. You can pick that form up from your ministry leader or the office, or the office can email it to you. Sign it and return it back to the office.



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Healthy Relationships Women's Recovery Workshop

Find Freedom, Hope, & New Beginnings

- ◆ Do you feel like you are trapped cycles of painful relationships?
- ◆ Do you feel it's your part in relationships to hold things together?
- ◆ Have you ever wondered why you always felt "not good enough"?
- ◆ Are you a people pleaser?
- ◆ Do you ever feel if you don't do it yourself, things will never get done?
- ◆ Do you put others' needs and desires before your own?
- ◆ Do you want to experience more from life, but you don't know how to access intimacy with God and others?
- ◆ Do you feel like you struggle setting healthy boundaries?

We all grew up with families and experiences that helped us develop our sense of identities, and set "rules" to life which carried with us throughout adulthood. Messages and belief systems began to be imprinted upon us that taught us about ourselves, what to expect from people, how to live our lives, what roles to play, and how to care about the people around us. We also developed our concept of God or our lack of belief in Him. As we approached adulthood, our lives played out on the basis of those acquired beliefs. **The Christian Codependence Recovery Workbook: From Surviving to Significance** by Stephanie Tucker is designed to help you find who God created you to be.

**Come and learn the Biblical solutions to find freedom
 and hope in healthy relationships!**



**On-Going Group Workshops are
 formed throughout the year.**

**Groups are anonymous
 and confidential &
 follow Celebrate Recovery
 Guidelines.**

**To find out more & when the next group
 starts, contact Tracy Signer: 214-4976 or
tracysnhy7@gmail.com**



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Congratulations Joan Coppes Retired after 30 Years serving in the Monroe Bible Church Office!

There will be a card box/basket in the
 foyer next to the Welcome Center
 during the month of August.

Let's show Joan our appreciation for her
 service and bless her with cards of
 congratulations. Please include:
 notes to Joan, Positive A's (Positive
 Affirmations), a memory you have with her,
 a funny story over the years, or a picture.



Military Memorial Plaque

We have a Memorial Plaque that will carry the
 names of past and present Military Personnel.
 The stipulations are: 1) They must be a past or
 present Member of Monroe Bible Church, or
 2) A past or present Regular Attender of
 Monroe Bible Church. Please contact Mike
 Westcomb, 608-576-4046, so we can gather
 the proper information that will be engraved
 on a plate for the plaque.

Thank you for your service!



American Red Cross

**Blood Drives
 MBC Nehemiah Center
 12:30-6 pm**

**Thursday, August 6th
 Thursday, August 20th**



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Prayer Ministry

Do you realize God wants to have fellowship with believers? This happens through reading God's Word and through prayer.

God also wants believers to have fellowship with each other. The virus has complicated fellowship, but it is not impossible. We can talk to and pray with each other over the phone. We can text each other. We can sit in a backyard and fellowship. Get creative.

Satan wants to isolate and discourage believers. Don't let this happen to you. Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. Cultivate fellowship with fellow believers. Encourage your fellow believers and it will also encourage you. Uphold fellow believers in prayer regularly. Bear each others burdens. Galatians 6:2. Christ's church is a team effort. There are no superstars or unnecessary members. Everyone is important to the body of Christ.

Join us in the Prayer Initiatives. Prayer is vital in the believer's life. Make prayer a priority. Be encouraged.

Dan Keen, Ministry Leader



The Guatemala mission trip to construct a *Kids Around The World* playground was officially cancelled for 2020 as Guatemala's borders were still closed in July due to the coronavirus. The playground was shipped to Guatemala before

the pandemic struck and remains there. The Missions Ministry team is now determining what our options may be for the future of this project keeping in mind the unknowns presented by the pandemic. We certainly had no idea how the world would change when the fundraising began several years ago! Thank you to those who gave funds to support this summer's trip. Support money will be held in an account and used for a future missions trip. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these funds please contact one of the missions ministry team (Austin Kramer, Rich Peach, Bernie Roidt, Bernadette Wong, or Crystal Zimmerman).

Harvest Weekend is scheduled for October 3rd-4th this year. Our missionary guests will be representatives from Shepherds College in Union Grove, Wisconsin, and Aleksandr Pashkovets of Slavic Gospel Association. Alex visited Viktor and Lena Schpits last summer and was very encouraged to witness the ministry they have in Kazakhstan. Monroe Bible Church is their sole support and he is excited for us to hear how our support is being used to further the gospel and change people's lives in a mighty way. MBC has also helped change lives through our 24 years of support for Shepherds Ministries, now known as Shepherds College. Don't miss this opportunity to hear how God has led every step of the way as this ministry started with a need in a Milwaukee family with a developmentally delayed child. Their Sunday school class realized God had mighty plans for them and as the saying goes, the rest is history! Both these ministries show how much God can do when willing servants answer His call. Not all are called to go, but we all are called to support those who do. Mark these dates on your calendar and be prepared to be blessed!

Crystal Zimmerman, Ministry Leader



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Ignite Campout at Governor Dodge State Park

Leaving church at 2 pm Sunday, August 16th and returning around 1 pm Tuesday, August 18th. This is for all students going into 6th-8th grades. Sign up on our church website or at the Welcome Center. Permission slips are required and available at the Welcome Center. Deadline to sign up is August 9th. Contact Chris & Elise Morris with questions, 608-968-1318.



For GOD
 so LOVED
 the world that
 He gave His ONE
 and only SON
 that whoever
 BELIEVES
 in HIM
 shall not
 perish but
 have ETERNAL
 LIFE.

JOHN 3:16