

connect



#LMBCatHOME

Separate but not alone

MAY

Due to the continued National State of Emergency ...

all in-person calendar events have been postponed or canceled until further notice. We are working hard to keep lmbc.org and our LMBC app updated with any current information available.



Lessons on **Sundays & Wednesdays**

You can find them on our LKC Facebook page, lmbc.org, and our LMBC app.

REFUEL

Join us Live **Monday-Friday @ 11:30am** and **Wednesday @ 7pm** at youtube.com/c/refuelstudents

20/20 BIBLE READING

Follow this month's daily Bible reading plan below to refocus in 2020.

1st 1 Chronicles 6:31-7:40

2nd 1 Chronicles 8-9

3rd 1 Chronicles 10-12

4th 1 Chronicles 13-16:36

5th 1 Chronicles 16:37-20:8

6th 1 Chronicles 21-23

7th 1 Chronicles 24-26

8th 1 Chronicles 27-29

9th OFF

10th 2 Chronicles 1-5

11th 2 Chronicles 6-9:12

12th 2 Chronicles 9:13-13:22

13th 2 Chronicles 14-17

14th 2 Chronicles 18-20

15th 2 Chronicles 21-24

16th 2 Chronicles 25-28

17th 2 Chronicles 29-31

18th 2 Chronicles 32-34

19th 2 Chronicles 35-36

20th Ezra 1-3

21st Ezra 4-7

22nd Ezra 8-10

23rd Nehemiah 1-4

24th Nehemiah 5-7

25th Nehemiah 8-10

26th Nehemiah 11-13

27th Esther 1-3

28th Esther 4-7

29th Esther 8-10

30th Job 1-4

31st Job 5-8

Thanks to all who contributed to #LMBCatHome

Please continue to send us pics of how you are staying connected with us. It's great to see your faces again.

7th

PRAY
GOD'S GLORY
Across the Earth

Prayer is needed more than ever in these times. Join with the rest of the nation as we pray for the country and its leaders during this crisis. We will have a live-streamed service at noon.

Please register your email at lmbc.org/ndop to receive reminders throughout the day telling you how to pray. You can also visit the same page to see our prayer schedule.

10th



This year, for Mother's Day, we're asking you to send us thank-you videos for your moms for a special tribute. Please keep them to about 10-15 seconds. You can email them to moms@lmbc.org.

Sunday evening service schedule:

May 3: Missionary Check-In

Pastor and our Dominican Republic missionaries discuss the impact of Covid-19 in their part of the world.

May 10

There will be no evening service to give you an opportunity to spend time with your mothers.

May 17: Ask the Pastor

*See pg 3

May 24

There will be no evening service in honor of Memorial Day.

May 31: Worship Night

An evening of worship music featuring the talented musicians of LMBC.

Continue to join us live ...

Sundays at 9 am, 6 pm, and Wednesdays at 7 pm on Facebook, lmbc.tv, or our LMBC app.

If you need to contact us ...

We have a staff member in the office Monday - Friday from 9 am to noon and 1 to 4 pm.



Daily Devotions ...

are posted by our pastoral staff on Facebook, lmbc.org, and on our LMBC app. Be sure to take advantage of this daily wisdom from God's Word.

17th

Our "Ask the Pastor" night was so well received we have scheduled an additional night on Sunday, May 17 at 6 pm. Send any question you may want answered to ask@lmbc.org or visit lmbc.org and fill out the available form.

ASK THE PASTOR

GOD OF THE HILLS ... AND THE PLAINS AND VALLEYS ...

“ *God isn’t just with us when we’re on top of the world, nor is He just with us when we are in a low place ...*

God of the hills and valleys has been popularized through song in recent years; if you listen to Christian radio then you will likely know the songs. But the expression God of the hills and the valleys originates in the Old Testament. In 1 Kings 20, the king of Aram, Ben-Hadad, is attacking the city of Samaria in Israel. He demands that Israel surrender everything to him; its wealth, wives, and even children. The king of Israel at that time, King Ahab, agrees to the terms, but when Ben-Hadad expands the conditions of surrender to include anything that the enemy touches they will keep, King Ahab flatly refuses. His refusal to comply aggravates King Ben-Hadad, who sends King Ahab a threatening remark. He says that if Israel does not comply then he will annihilate the city so methodically that there will not be enough dust for each of his soldiers to take a handful home.

As the enemy is getting ready to attack Israel, an unnamed prophet approaches King Ahab with a message from God, “thus says the Lord: Have you seen all this great multitude? Behold, I will deliver it into your hand today, and you shall know that I am the Lord” (1 Kings 20:13). This supernatural act on God’s part was directed at King Ahab, because it was King Ahab who enjoyed worshipping other gods rather than the one true God. True to God’s promise, the enemy is driven back, and the siege is brought to an end.

When King Ben-Hadad questions his men as to why they lost a battle that was clearly in their favor to win, they replied, “their gods are gods of the hills...they were stronger than we; but if we fight against them in the plain, surely we will be stronger than they” (1 Kings 20:23). Because Samaria was in the hill country of Israel, the enemy mistakenly believed that the God of Israel is only the god of the hills and nowhere else. It was common for ancient nations to perceive their gods as having a specific territory or sphere of power on earth. Baal, the god that King Ahab enjoyed worshipping, was the god of fertility and weather. There were other gods for the forests, crops, mountains, seas, rivers, etc. The idea that one God was supreme over all the earth was a truth that many ancient nations did not believe. Well, this ancient nation of Aram (Syria) is radically educated that their theology is completely wrong.

After being driven back the first time, the enemy comes back at Israel with a new strategy. They begin to regroup and focus the battle on the lower plains and valleys. Once again, this unnamed prophet comes to King Ahab with a message, “...thus says the Lord: ‘Because the Syrians have said, “The Lord is the God of the hills, but He is not God of the valleys,” therefore I will deliver this great multitude into your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”’ The enemy quickly discovers that the one true God knows no

boundaries. God gave Israel victory both in the hills of Samaria and in the valleys of Aphek to show that He is sovereign over all the earth. However, did you notice that not only does God demonstrate to the enemy that He is sovereign, but He also demonstrates to King Ahab and all Israel that He is sovereign?

Figuratively speaking, the hills represent our high points in our lives, mountaintop experiences, times when we’ve seen God move in miraculous ways. Clearly, Scripture also notes the importance of mountains: Moses received the law on Mt. Sinai; Elijah defeated the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel; Jesus’ most glorious moment of transfiguration took place on a mountaintop; and Jesus even ascended into heaven from the Mount of Olives. Mountaintop experiences are landmarks and milestones in our lives as they were in the lives of many of God’s people, but valleys are also commonplace in the lives of God’s people. We all know what the valleys represent. They represent the low times in our lives, the hard times, the struggles and challenges that we face. But it’s in these lowest points of our lives that God is still with us. Psalm 23:4 says, “yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me.” Not only is God the God of the valley, but He is also the God who goes with you through the valley.

God isn’t just with us when we’re on top of the

world, nor is He just with us when we are in a low place; He is also God of the plains.

Author Richard Foster said it best, “The discovery of God lies in the daily and routine, not in the spectacular and the heroic. If we cannot find God in the routines of home and shop, then we will not find Him at all.” The fact of the matter is that God is just as interested in the plains of our lives as He is in the hills or valleys. King Ahab and all of Israel needed to be reminded that the one true God is the God of the hills and valleys... and the plains. Sometimes we need to be reminded of this truth too – God is not just walking with us during the high points and low points of life; He is walking beside us every step of the way.



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.

LET GO & SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER

“... let go of the things that do not last and bear the weight of each other through love.”



by Rebekah Shaffer

Rebekah is the wife of Pastor Jeremy Shaffer and the mother of Grace and Luke. She is the Children's Ministry Director and leads the Daughters of the King Life Group.

Motherhood is a tough job even in the best of times. And even the strongest of moms find that they grow weary as the days turn into weeks in this worldwide pandemic. Certainly, many are feeling very worn down and barely hanging on. There is a simple truth we should practice to overcome: Let go of what fails and support one another in love.

A few weeks ago, our family took a hiking trip and deep into the woods we found a very large boulder blanketed with moss except for one little sapling near the top. Of course, our first instinct was to find a way to climb to the top. The slippery moss and steep facing made the ascent to the top quite a challenge. Close to the top of the boulder was this small sapling that obviously had fallen from a larger tree, taken root in the shallow soil and had begun to grow. At first, in our efforts to reach the top we inevitably grabbed that little tree. But because of the lack of strong roots, we found out quickly that that was the wrong thing to hold for climbing. After learning the hard way, we searched for another way to get to the top. We found that if each of us took a turn standing under the other and supporting the other's foot it gave the strength needed to crest the top. One by one each of us made it to the top with the support of the others. Letting go of the little tree that offered no help, we supported each other and right there in those woods God laid out a simple truth: let go of the things that do not last and bear the weight of each other through love.

Peter writes about this truth in his first book.

1 Peter 1:22-25

²² Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart,
²³ since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God;
²⁴ for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls,
²⁵ but the word of the Lord remains forever."

Temporal things will fail. What we hold on to must be things that are rooted in God. His Word, His redemption, His love, His promises, and more. If what is in our hands does not fall into those categories, then we should let it go. There is peace that comes in the letting go, like the relaxation of a muscle releasing a long-held tight grip. So often our strength is wasted in holding on to what cannot hold us. The things rooted in God will never give way; they last forever and are deeper than any earthly roots. This passage in 1 Peter also talks about brotherly love. It is in this way that we support each other. Every day we should offer support through love to each other. The only way my family could reach the top of that rock was through supporting one another. None of us could have accomplished that climb alone. Imagine the outcome if we had refused to help one another or if we had criticized each other's ascent. Peter says to love one another "earnestly." That means to love intensely or fervently. When it was my turn to ascend the rock, I can say my family supported me "intensely" and we all had a good laugh.

Are you weary? Ask for loving support from other believers, and be a support for others as well. Then, holding onto Him, we will get through this together.





in May

we'll learn from the **life of Christ.**

Since we can't meet in-person for a while, we are using our online tools to continue teaching your kids valuable lessons from the Bible. Please be sure to follow our LKC page on Facebook where we'll be posting regularly with lessons and activities.

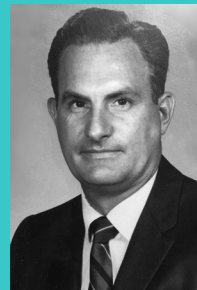
April quarantine brings... May quarantine?! LKC is continuing our online lessons twice a week, Sunday and Wednesday, for your kids to keep learning. On Sundays in May we are walking with Jesus, following His ministry and learning from His time spent physically on this earth.

On Wednesdays this 19-20 school year we set out to study the "Big Three of the Old Testament: Moses, Joshua, and David." In the month of May we move to the final person in this group, David, the shepherd King. Be sure to check our website each Sunday and Wednesday for new lessons for your kids to watch.



LESSONS ON SUNDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

You can find lessons on lmbc.org and on our LMBC app each Sunday and Wednesday while we are stuck at home. We invite you to send us videos of what your kids are learning each week so we can continue to be encouraged by their growth!



IN MEMORY OF A TRUE DIFFERENCE MAKER

Don McMellon was the pastor of Lewis Memorial from Aug. 1969 - June 1, 1977. Reverend McMellon or Preacher, as he was called by the congregation, was

a true servant of the Lord and of the Word. Being a pastor was not a job to him but rather a privilege that he cherished. During his years at LMBC he performed all three of his children's wedding ceremonies, two of his grandchildren's, and many who still attend Lewis today. He knew the importance of the youth to the church and made a point not only to be involved with them himself but to begin a children's ministry - which to this day

his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren have taken part. It is clear from talking to those who knew him that he had an impact on his family, on the church, on the stranger on the street, and in doctor's offices and businesses throughout the community. He was unashamed of the Gospel and never in too big of a hurry to stop and share it wherever the Lord led; and, as a true servant of the Lord, he was excited about that impact. Shortly after he learned he was terminally ill he made the statement that he was ready to go, and said one of the first things he was going to do when he got to heaven was walk up and down the streets looking for those he had led to the Lord. He truly was a difference maker.



JOIN OTHERS WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE DIFFERENCE MAKERS



MAKING THE MOST OF OUR SITUATION BY ...

REACHING OUT

- Email, text, call, or snail mail another member of the church.
- Sign up with FoodFair and Kroger to be part of their Community Rewards Program where a percentage of your shopping dollars goes towards Brown Bags and Backpack or OCC Ministries. Call the church office for instructions.



We want to thank everyone who faithfully donates to the LifeBridge, however, due to the Coronavirus we are unable to receive donations at this time. We will alert you here and online when we are able to resume this process of the ministry.



SOUTH AMERICA

ANTHONY GODDARD

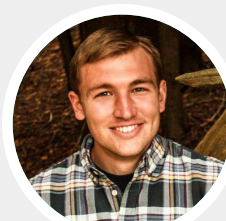
Here is the latest from missionary...



Maicol & Mandy Venter
Brazil



Jon & Erin Mathews
Brazil



Anthony Goddard
Paraguay



Dwayne & Dianna Spear
Brazil



Mark & Odie Goddard
Paraguay



Mike & Trisha Goddard
Paraguay



John & Barb Windler
Paraguay

First, I'm sure you all know what's happening in this world right now with Coronavirus. It's affecting the lives of many here as well. The school here has decided to put classes on hold for the time being until this situation is better under control, which makes sense. My classes will continue via video chat, and I can continue to learn Portuguese, which I am very thankful for!

This whole situation keeps confirming a thought I've had for a long time. Life can change so quickly and so unexpectedly, and we really don't have as much control as we think. It can be summarized in three words: **IN ALL THINGS...**

In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. Phil 4:6

The first "in all things" is "IN ALL THINGS PRAY". If you're like me, maybe you panicked a little when all of a sudden plans were changed, meetings were cancelled, borders were closing, and people were losing their jobs, many around the world are getting sick and many have died.

Many of us are stuck at home and probably most of us are struggling with things that are out of our control. We wonder, "What next? I can't do anything. I'm stuck at home." But what if, at this particular moment, you're exactly where God wants you to be? If all you can do right now is pray, that is enough.

In all things give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you all. 1 Thess 5:18

"Giving God thanks" is a lot more rare than we'd like to admit, even in the good times. However, I really believe that God wants us as believers to shine as lights in this world. What better way

to do that than to ask God to teach us to be thankful, even in this situation?

*For by **Him** all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before **all things**, and in Him all things hold together. Col 1:16-17*

The last "In all things" is "IN ALL THINGS, KEEPING OUR EYES ON JESUS". Have you ever thought about the first Christmas, and what took place there? People's worlds were turned upside-down, people in panic, decrees, huge empires ... but while the story contains those things ... it was never about those things. It was about a seemingly insignificant little baby. A little baby who would grow up, be despised and rejected, and nailed to a cross, seemingly ending His powerful earthly ministry. Instead, He got even more glory, and God used all that happened to crush the Serpent's head and put **all things** under Jesus' feet (Eph 1:20-23).

My prayer for each one of you is that, in the midst of all that's going on in all things, our eyes would be less and less on the circumstance and more and more on Jesus. He's still in control, isn't He? He still works **ALL THINGS** together for good.

Be an encouragement! Here's how you can contact this missionary family:

Anthony Goddard
Caixa Postal, 07
Vianópolis-GO
75265-000
Brazil
dailygrace@outlook.com



REMEMBERING MISSIONS IN LIGHT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

**“² Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
³ Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who heals all your diseases,
Psalm 103:2-3**

While Covid-19 has affected our world from travel to meetings - to schools and gatherings, thankfully, it has not affected technology. Perhaps, it has even enhanced it and made us appreciate it even more. With its help many have had the ability to work from home, allowing them to keep their jobs and financial support. It also gives us a safe way to stay in touch with our friends and family and is allowing our children, from pre-school to college and beyond, the opportunity to learn at home. As a church we certainly have learned to value it as a method for our congregation and even life groups to meet and stay connected in spite of the pandemic restrictions. It has also been a method and blessing for our missionaries - both in keeping us posted on their safety and concerns and in connecting with us for prayer support. We have received video updates, invitations to meet with them via zoom and of course the standard emails - all of which make us even more thankful for technology in these unprecedented times.

As you can imagine, most if not all of our missionaries have been affected in some way by the Coronavirus. Because many write from secured locations or out of concern for the things they share we have chosen to not share specific names and locations but to give you an overall view of how they are being affected. Despite the fact that each of the letters represented a different country, each one different from the next and many vastly different from our own - the videos, letters, and emails all held similarities to what we are dealing with here such as empty store shelves, quarantines, restrictions on gatherings, and the cancelation of events including church services and school. However, they also spoke of things we haven't faced - such as evacuations, closed borders, and the

possibilities of not being able to get back to their home when the shutdowns first occurred. While some have been able to use social media to keep in touch with those they minister to and with, others wrote of difficulties with online platforms which means the spread of the Gospel has been greatly hindered, if not stopped altogether. This concern was by far the overwhelming concern represented in each of the letters. Like us, they sought prayer for safety and healing for those infected with the virus and those gravely affected by the shut-down but their greatest pleas were for the lost, each of them looking for ways and opportunities to be “salt and light” in such a time as this.

Specific Requests ...

- Pray for good health and that if I contract the virus that my body would be able to fight it off successfully.
- Pray that I would grow closer to the Lord during this time of forced rest.
- Pray for new ways to minister during this challenging time.
- Please lift up Kathy and Ella with their asthma.
- We want to glorify God in the way we respond to Covid-19.
- Please be in prayer for us that God would guard us despite the evil happenings in our country. About 50 people were killed by mob justice indiscriminately and some schools were gassed by chemicals for unknown reasons.
- My dear friend is battling the virus and his wife is now showing symptoms.
- Pray that the appeal for our work permit would be accepted.



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Births

- **Tucker Michael Blankenship, to Dakota & Alyssa Blankenship**

Bereavements

- **Phyllis Brace**
- **Woodrow Byrd, Butch Peyton's brother**
- **Berta Hansen**
- **Kie Lawrence, Lana Conner's father**
- **Don McMellon, Ann Newberry's father**
- **Wilma Williams, Joyce Barnett's and Kristi Hawthorne's mother**

Salvations & Spiritual Decisions

A total of 16 salvations or spiritual decisions were reported via social media during our live streams during the month of April!

HOW TO JOIN OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

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 Contact



Complete an
information card
during a service or
contact us so we can
ask you a few simple
questions.

3rd Meet



Meet the pastors for
Starting Point
in L112 (WC)
and find out what
is expected of a
member of LMBC.



Life Groups are vital to a believer's spiritual growth. That's why groups are still meeting as they are able even during this crisis. For help getting connected, contact Tim Yates at 304-736-7676 *209 or t.yates@lmbc.org

OUR PASTORS

¹⁷ Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say.
Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are
accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with
joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for
your benefit. **Hebrews 13:17 NIV**

David Lemming *Senior Pastor*

Dr. David Lemming has been the Senior Pastor of Lewis Memorial Baptist Church in Huntington, West Virginia, since December 1982. He was saved as a teenager and early on became actively involved in various phases of Christian ministry. He has a heart for people and actively seeks new ways of extending Christ's love to those in Huntington and around the world. He and his wife, Mary, have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Tim Yates *Life Group & Outreach Pastor*

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 Barboursville 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.

Nathan McClay *Worship Pastor*

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.

Jeremy Shaffer *Executive Pastor*

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 Lewis since 2004. He and Rebekah have two children, Grace and Luke.

Matt McClay *Student Pastor*

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.

Phil Newberry *Membership Pastor*

Phil and Ann Newberry have been faithfully serving the Lord at Lewis Memorial Baptist Church since 1972. They prepared for service at Tennessee Temple University. Over the years, their service has focused on reaching the young people of the area. Phil and Ann have served as the youth leaders for junior high and high school students, directed the children's church ministries and led the college department. Phil has also been active in the music ministry and is an ordained deacon.

Bill Blankenship *Hospital Visitation Pastor*

Bill Blankenship oversees the hospital and nursing home visitation program at Lewis Memorial. Bill and his wife, Debbie, have a loving and caring heart for the sick, shut-ins, widows and widowers. Bill and Debbie married in 1974 and have two grown children and are proud grandparents of Grace, Olivia, Jaxon, and Christian.

Connect is the monthly news and
informational publication from



*Making disciples who
live and love like Jesus*

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304-691-0633

***TEMPORARY
SUNDAY WORSHIP
(via Live Stream)
9 am & 6 pm**

***WEDNESDAY BIBLE
STUDY
(via Live Stream)
7 pm**

**for as long as the stay-
at-home order persists*

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*Read previous editions of
Connect at lmbc.org.*



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