

# connect



**SIMPLY  
JESUS**

# JANUARY

**3rd**  
9 & 10:45 am

## COMMUNION

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME



**10th**  
6 pm

## SUNDAY EVENINGS AT LMBC

Catch our second Sunday of the month live stream at 6 pm on lmbc.tv, Facebook, or our LMBC app.

**17th**

## SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Due to the ongoing battle of Covid-19, we are still observing the socially-distanced seating of every other pew and 4-6 ft between each 'family' unit. We are also asking all who attend any of our services, out of consideration for the high-risk and elderly and due to the Governor's recent mandate that you keep a mask on while in the church buildings.

Our office is fully staffed Monday - Friday from 9 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm. In case of emergency you can reach us on the emergency pager at 304-691-0633.

### Can't be here in person?

Continue to join us live Sundays at 9 and 10:45 am on Facebook, lmbc.tv, or our LMBC app.

## D Life Groups

If you would like to know more about what groups are meeting and how to get connected, please contact the church office at 304-736-7676.

### Simply Jesus '21

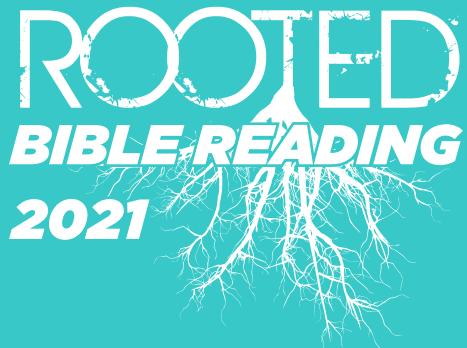
The church-wide Bible reading for 2021 will be focused simply on Jesus. The first week of readings for each month will focus on a different aspect of the character and life of Christ.

For example, in January you will read about Christ the Creator; other months you will read about the Controversial Christ, Christ the Coming King, and Christ the Sacrificial Lamb. Starting each month out with a week of readings from Jesus is sure to keep you rooted in Him. The rest of the readings for each month will be topically and/or thematically based.

But wait, there's more. We will continue to produce a weekly podcast, this time, however, the podcast will be video-based with a team of two pastors. Each week a different dynamic duo will be hosting the podcast with encouragement and instruction about what to look for in your weekly reading.

Each month's reading will be published here, on our LMBC website, and in our LMBC church app, per our usual practice.

Questions? You know what to do, send them to [biblereading@lmbc.org](mailto:biblereading@lmbc.org).



**1st** Genesis 1:2-4

**2nd** Genesis 2:5-25

**3rd** OFF

**4th** Psalms 19

**5th** Job 38

**6th** Colossians 1:1-23

**7th** Hebrews 1:1-14

**8th** Revelation 21-22:7

**9th** John 1:1-14

**10th** OFF

**11th** John 1:18-2:25

**12th** John 3:1-36

**13th** John 4:1-54

**14th** John 5:1-47

**15th** John 6:1-71

**16th** John 7:1-53

**17th** OFF

**18th** John 8:1-59

**19th** John 9:1-41

**20th** John 10:1-42

**21st** John 11:1-57

**22nd** John 12:1-50

**23rd** John 13:1-38

**24th** OFF

**25th** John 14:1-31

**26th** John 15-16:15

**27th** John 16:16-17:26

**28th** John 18-19:16

**29th** John 19:17-20:10

**30th** John 20:11-21:25

**31st** OFF

# SHAPED BY COMMUNITY

SPIRITUAL GROWTH & THE LOCAL CHURCH



One of the greatest tools to shape your spiritual life is the local church. In fact, the very purpose of the local church is to move you toward Christlikeness (discipleship). There are still many good, Bible-believing churches that preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and promote the global mission of Jesus. Since every congregation is different, I encourage believers to look for a church that teaches the Word of God, employs the spiritual disciplines, and compels them to participate in the redemptive mission of Jesus. This kind of church will shape your soul, move you toward spiritual maturity, and personally engage you in the mission of Jesus. But why should a believer participate in the local church? Can the local church really shape my soul? Let me share with you three basic ways the local church can shape you into a Christlike disciple.

## Biblical Preaching

Biblical preaching is essential for soul shape. The Apostle Paul told the believers in Rome, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God" (Rom. 10:17). In other words, faith is produced when I hear the teaching and preaching of the Word. Constantly hearing Bible preaching will build a strong faith. Jesus used this same process when He trained the disciples. Matthew said, "When Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in their cities." Jesus shared His life with the Twelve. The process included personal observation, instruction, and they heard Him teach and preach in "their cities."<sup>1</sup> The

early church also placed a priority on biblical preaching (Acts 5:42; 8:4, 12; 15:35; 1 Cor. 1:17, 21, 23; 9:16, 18, 27; 1 Tim. 5:17; 2 Tim. 4:2). Nevertheless, many believers are reluctant to join a local church and disconnect themselves from the teaching and preaching of Scripture. This is a huge mistake. Let me say that again. You are making a huge mistake if you disconnect yourself from the local church. The consequences can be devastating since spiritual formation is hindered. Therefore, I urge you to sink your roots deep into the local church and faithfully apply the preaching of the Word of God to your daily life. What are some other ways biblical preaching shapes the soul?

First, biblical preaching causes me to encounter the "unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8). In Ephesians chapter 3, Paul described the church as a mystery concealed in the Old Testament but revealed in the New Testament (v. 2-7). He insisted God's revelation (Bible) fully explains this mystery, how God united Jew and Gentile, becoming "fellow heirs" of the same body (church) through the gospel of Jesus Christ (vv. 3-6). Paul insisted he was given the unique responsibility to "preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ" and to share the message that had been hidden in ages past but is now revealed in Christ (vv. 8-9). The word "unsearchable" is also translated unfathomable. In other words, biblical preaching should uncover the immeasurable riches of Christ. Needless to say, you and I need this kind of in-depth preaching to help us grow in faith. Biblical preaching is one of the primary tools God uses to shape us in the image of Christ.

Second, biblical preaching has the potential to produce godly wisdom and thus move me toward spiritual maturity (Col. 1:26-28). Paul said, "Him we preach" and his preaching involved "warning" and "teaching" in order to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus" (v. 28). The theme of our preaching must be "Him." The Christological themes presented in the book of Colossians are awesome. In fact, He is presented as "the image of the invisible God" that "created" all things, and "in Him all things consist" (Col. 1:15-17). Furthermore, "He is the head of the body, the church" and therefore "in all things He should have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18).

In other words, He should have "first place" in every area of our life. Paul further declared, "It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell." In other words, Jesus is God in a body.... all the fullness of God "dwells" in Jesus (Col 1:19). In Him "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge" (Col. 2:3). Thank God for biblical preaching centered on Him. Preaching that digs beyond the surface of "feel-good speeches" and uncovers the hidden treasure/truth in the Word that always produces godly wisdom and knowledge. Paul argued the results of Christocentric preaching would be believers who are "rooted," "built up in Him," and firmly "established in the faith" because we "have been taught" the riches of Christ Jesus (Col. 2:7). It is nearly impossible to exaggerate the importance of hearing and applying Christ-centered preaching in the local church. When we hear Christ preached and apply the teachings of Scripture to everyday life, the process of transformation begins to occur. Slowly but surely, a Christ-shaped life is being formed.

Yet, I can already hear some of you challenge me about attending a local church just to hear biblical preaching. I hear all kinds of silly excuses. Some actually say, "I can just stay home and listen to Charles Stanley on television. I don't need to join a local church just to hear Bible preaching. I can listen to a podcast or even watch live streaming." Yet the New Testament presents a strong case for association and participation in a local fellowship. Many have forgotten most of the New Testament was written to individual local congregations. Paul confronted carnality at Corinth, legalism at Galatia and division at Philippi (just to name a few). These were local churches with real people and real problems. Furthermore, even Jesus wrote/corrected the seven local churches in Asia Minor (Rev. 2-3). I can say with great conviction, "Every believer needs to participate in a local church." In fact, you need a Pastor, a spiritual leader, to teach you the Word of God. Paul commanded Titus "to ordain elders (pastors) in every city" (Titus 1:5) because "every city" needs a local church with a Pastor. Nevertheless, many contemporary Christians want to escape the accountability factor. While many want Jesus as a "fire escape from Hell," very few want to be held accountable. The process of developing a Christ-shaped

<sup>1</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Standard Bible Society, 2011).

life involves accountability. Thankfully, God appointed authority and accountability in the local church (Heb. 13:7, 17). God has placed you in the local church for accountability. This is soul shape at its best. Yet, there is another reason to be faithfully engaged in the local church.

### Small Groups

The missiologist tells us the best tool to make robust disciples in the local church is small groups. Many preachers call this the “greenhouse effect.”<sup>2</sup> In other words, when you combine the Word of God with like-minded people in a small group setting, life change can take place.<sup>3</sup> In the same way it takes two wings for a bird to fly, it also takes two wings for a church to develop healthy disciples. This simplified process encourages you to participate in the Sunday worship services and join a small group Bible study during the week. This particular system goes back to the early church in the book of Acts. Luke claimed, “Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple complex, and broke bread from house to house” (Acts 2:46). Notice the two settings where these believers met. They gathered for worship in the temple courts, and they met in homes in smaller groups. Concerning this text, Thom Rainer said, “The health of the early church was intricately tied to both the larger meeting and the smaller meeting context. It was not either/or. It was both/and.”<sup>4</sup> Rainer goes on to explain, “It has been a constant theme throughout most of the history of the church. Those in churches gathered in both larger and smaller groups.”<sup>5</sup> But how can a small group Bible study help shape my soul? Let me share a few ways a life group can form your soul.

First, a life group encourages participation, and participation will always grow disciples. For instance, a small group study is discussion-based. Throughout the week, you will study a particular Bible text, and you will prepare to participate in a group discussion led by a facilitator. Unlike

the traditional, lecture-based Sunday school model, the small group setting encourages group involvement during the Bible study. As we wrestle with the biblical text together, we make a deep application that leads to transformation. Participation that demands application will always lead to transformation. In reality, this is soul shape on steroids.

Second, a life group is a place of accountability. By the way, we need a group of people to hold our feet to the fire more than ever. For example, the church dropout rate is off the charts. All of us know people who once attended a Bible preaching church, but for one reason or another dropped out of church altogether. The problem was so bad, Rainer decided to conduct a survey to discover why. His research was eye-opening. He discovered church members who faithfully attended the Sunday worship service and a small group Bible study were five times more likely to be active in the church five years later compared to the worship only attenders. The numbers were staggering. He said, “More than 83 percent of those who joined and were involved in a small group were still active in the churches. But only 16 percent of those who attended worship services only remained in the church five years later.”<sup>6</sup> It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to understand the need to connect church members into smaller groups if you want to close the back door. Group accountability is imperative for soul shape.

Third, a small group is a great place to develop deep relationships with other believers. As you grow in your faith, you will discover each member of the body of Christ is interdependent of each other. Consequently, we need people in our lives. Good people, godly people, Bible people who see life from God’s point of view (Prov. 13:20). However, the western mindset tends to forget soul shape (life change) happens in groups of people and not in isolation away from people. For example, Julie Gorman said, “Life-shaping occurs when we come to know and allow ourselves

to be known. Chat rooms, texting, and even emails permit us to communicate in selective anonymity today. You can’t fax a handshake, mail a hug, or have a family reunion by email.”<sup>7</sup> While some relationships can survive at a distance, real, authentic life change occurs up close and personal. This is soul shape at its finest.

Connecting with a small group will certainly deepen your relationships in the church and will emphatically deepen your relationship with God. As you grow and mature in your faith, the mission of Jesus becomes front and center. Soul shape happens, and you will progressively become more like Him. Small groups are more than a glorified “social day care” in the local church.<sup>8</sup> The small group is a tight-knit community rooted in participation, accountability, and authentic relationships unified around the mission of Jesus. Let me share one final way the local church can shape you into a Christlike disciple.

### Discipleship and Equipping

The very purpose of the local church is to shape Christlike believers. Thankfully there has been a renewed interest in the spiritual disciplines. For years the average church member has been content to be a “pew potato.” The philosophy has been, “Lay people are supposed to pay, pray, and get out of the way,” so the professional clergy can do ministry.<sup>9</sup> Reluctantly church members merely sit, soak, and sour on the church pew and never engage in the mission of Jesus. While analyzing this problem, Ed Stetzer surmised,

The greatest travesty in the contemporary church is we pile hundreds of Christians into our churches and stack them on padded pews very similar to products stacked on shelves in the grocery store. We let them come and go and do absolutely nothing, and we let them think they’re okay. The greatest sin in most churches is that we have made it alright to do nothing and call ourselves a follower of Jesus.<sup>10</sup>

Fortunately, there has been a “disciple-shift” mentality in the local church as a whole. In fact,

discipleship has become the new buzzword. But what is real discipleship? I like to explain it this way. A disciple is a person while discipleship is a process. Discipleship is the intentional process of moving a disciple toward Christlikeness. Jeffrey Arnold concluded,

The word discipleship is a catchphrase in the church today, often without meaning. As a result, some people think of discipleship when they think of Bible study workbooks or adult Sunday school. What they forget is that the process of discipleship is a dynamic relationship between fellow Christians and their Lord and that it is marked by continued progress.<sup>11</sup>

While Arnold says the word discipleship is often without meaning in the church, he also argued that discipleship is a process that is marked by continued progress. In other words, the discipleship process is movement toward spiritual maturity that can be measured. Make no mistake. The Great Commission insists we “make disciples” of all ethnic groups of the world. The text further explains the process (discipleship) of making disciples by “baptizing them” and “teaching them” to observe all the things I have commanded you (Matt. 28:19-20). The process involves baptizing, teaching, and obeying all the commands of Jesus. So, discipleship is the process of moving the believer toward Christlikeness through teaching and modeling the Word of God. Needless to say, the local church must develop an intentional plan for discipleship. How do you move the believer from idle membership to active ministry? Perhaps the Ephesians 4 model can help us with soul shape (strategic plan).

In Ephesians 4, Paul claimed that God gave gifted men to the church, “He gave some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers” (v. 11). He further argued that God gave these gifted men to the church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (v. 12). In other words, training, shaping, and equipping are the primary functions of

<sup>2</sup> I have heard and read this expression many times over the years.

<sup>3</sup> A “homogenous group” is a group of believers who have some things in common. For instance, they are typically the same age and experience the same struggles in life.

<sup>4</sup> Thom S. Rainer, *I Will, Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian* (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2015), 36.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 36.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 37.

<sup>7</sup> Gorman made these comments in the endorsement section of a book by Joel Comiskey, *The Relational Disciple* (Moreno Valley, CA: CCS Publishing, 2010).

<sup>8</sup> Brad House, *Community, Taking Your Small Group Off Life Support* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Publications, 2011), 47.

<sup>9</sup> I have heard Ed Stetzer make this statement many times in his sermons.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.vergenetwork.org/2010/10/02/ed-stetzer-missional-disciple-making-movements-video/>.

<sup>11</sup> Jeffrey Arnold, *The Big Book on Small Groups* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2004), 23.

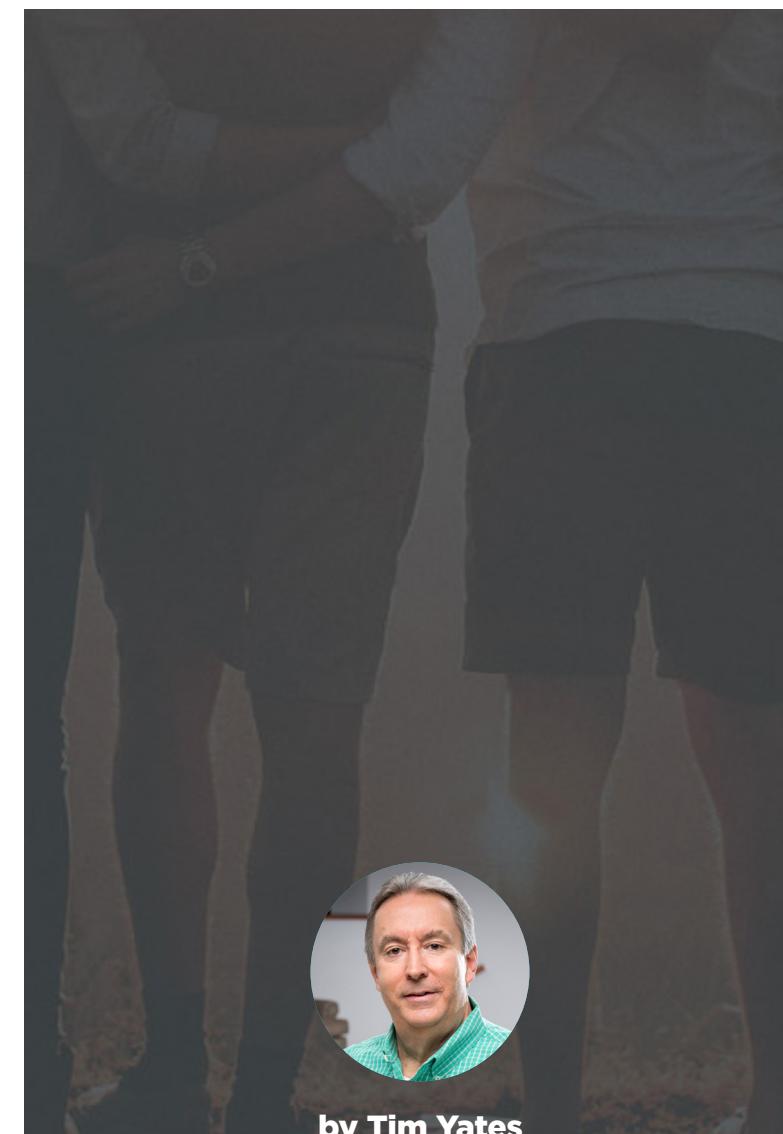
the pastor/teacher because the work of the ministry belongs to the saints. Bill Hull says the word katartismon (equipping) means to set a broken bone, to mend a frayed net, to furnish an empty house, or to restore to mint condition. The medical process of setting a bone suggests putting people back together again (shaping). Mending a net communicates the process of restoration. Furnishing a house implies equipping a believer for service. Restoring to mint condition could refer to helping people get well from spiritual injuries inflicted by the fall. Nonetheless, the nuance of the word communicates the restoration of God's people to ministry.<sup>12</sup> Paul further claimed when gifted leaders shape/prepare members "to do" ministry, the body will be oikodome (edified) or built-up (v. 12). Spiritual and numerical growth will take place in the body. Furthermore, as the discipling-equipping process continues, the "serving" believers will mature in their faith and become more like Christ (v. 13). In fact, they will no longer be spiritual infants tossed around by every popular teaching, but will spiritually auxano (grow up) "into Him in all things" (vv. 14-15). The text clearly demands the "the whole body," even "every joint" and "every part" should "do its share" (v. 16). The Ephesians 4 developmental model of discipleship provides a process of mobilization for the everyday church member toward maturity and soul shape. When every member does ministry, the body will grow and be edified. Soul shape organically happens.

### **Conclusion**

The local church is extremely important. Discipleship and soul shape can't happen when you sever yourself from the local church. Christ is the Head of the church, and the church is His body. They are one. Thus, you can't become a Christ-shaped disciple when you cut yourself off from His body. The very purpose of the local church is to move the believer toward Christlikeness. A place to receive a steady diet of biblical preaching that grows our faith, expands our knowledge, and shapes our service. We need a Pastor/Teacher to hold us accountable. Someone who can Shepherd us, feed us, nurture us and lead us. We need in-depth, weighty preaching. Preaching of substance. Preaching

<sup>12</sup> Bill Hull, The Disciple-Making Church, 162-163.

that transforms. Practical preaching that equips a believer, spouse, parent, and employee. Furthermore, we need a biblical community, a small group of believers we journey with through life - people, who hold us accountable, pray for us, love us, and show up in times of crisis. A close-knit group of believers centered on Christ and His church. We also need discipleship and equipping. A place for on-the-job training, equipping, and works of service. A place to discover my spiritual gift and serve others within the context of the local body. Is the local church important? You better believe it. The local church is one of the greatest tools to shape your spiritual life. Be shaped in His image in 2021. Get connected to a local church.



**by Tim Yates**

**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.**

# HOPE

This year has, at times, felt hopeless. The things we knew as normal ceased to be normal, and there seems to be no end in sight. Medical professionals have worked around the clock, putting themselves in harm's way, parents have become teachers, teachers have had to start from scratch, business owners have closed their doors, churches have sat empty. Loved ones fought illnesses alone in hospitals and countless people lost their jobs. It is as if the life we once knew ended and a new one began, one that was much harder. Nothing about this last year has been easy and almost everything has had to be relearned.

But there are a group of believers, God's people, who lived, about 2,400 years ago, through something much worse than Covid and lockdowns. These people, who walked before us, were taken/torn from their homes and relocated to a foreign and pagan land. They were forced to learn a new language, eat new foods, work day and night, be separated from their loved ones, and give up everything they knew as normal. And yet, all these hardships were part of God's plan. He planned for His people to endure a time of hopelessness for His purpose. The Jews were forcibly taken in groups from Israel to Babylon, and in these groups of captives, we find familiar and important characters like Daniel or Jeremiah the prophet.

Nestled into the book of Jeremiah, there is a message to these exiles. What did God want the people who had no hope to know? Instead of a lecture or a long list of grievances, He surprises them with the following call:

#### **Jeremiah 29**

4 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: 5 Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. 6 Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. 7 But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. 8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are

among you deceive you, and do not listen to the dreams that they dream, 9 for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them," declares the LORD.

God calls the hopeless people to live with hope. "Taking wives, having children, and planting gardens" are all actions that take time and would not take place without a hope for the future. So, He called them to live in action of hope regardless of their feelings. Why, because they were not without hope. No one who knows the Lord is without hope regardless of the circumstances. God's view of their condition was outside of their condition. He saw how it all fit into His plan, and He did have plans for them, even if it did not feel that way. He called them to do happy things, to live like joyful people, not like people in despair even though they really were in despair. He goes on to say,

10 "For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Why be happy? Why make plans? Because God has plans. God's plans are always for a "future and a hope." Because even in the darkest of times, we have the hope of eternal life, the hope of redemption, and that is simply enough.

This year has been challenging, seemingly hopeless. No one would disagree with that. But we have a Savior, who sees outside of time, and He is in control; therefore, we do have hope. "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord." Because of this, we can live as those who have hope. We can have times of happiness, times of joy, even in a pandemic. In this new year, 2021, we should plant a garden, marry and have children, but most of all, we should manifest the hope that only comes through the Lord.



**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.**

# MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH



**C. Family & G. Family**  
Egypt

**W. Family**  
North Africa

**F. Family & W. Family**  
Bulgaria

**K. Family**  
Ukraine

**K. Family**  
Kazakhstan

**D. Family**  
Israel

**G. Family**  
Middle East

**D. Family & J. Family**  
India

**C. Family**  
Cambodia

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



SECURED

# COUNTRIES

These pages usually play host to letters, names, and pictures of missionaries and their families. The letters are typically filled with information about their mission field and the people they are serving.

However, this month there are no pictures and there are no names because, as is easy to forget in our imperfect but blessedly privileged country of religious freedoms, some missionaries serve in countries where being a Christian is dangerous.

Words like missionary, prayer, church, Bible, and

The Gospel can't be spoken, written in a letter, or received in an email without imposing harm or jeopardizing their ministry. Even when these words are painstakingly eliminated or disguised

the missionaries can still fall under governmental scrutiny that challenges their work of spreading the message of Christ. This month's letter is an example and, I believe, a fitting reminder for the new year - to

pray for those who have gone into 'all' the world - despite hardship and dangers of various kinds. May it also be a catalyst for us to use and not squander the religious freedoms we still enjoy in America

today.

Mary Ellen Black

2020 has definitely been a year to remember and I think will go down in the history books as a year of unexpected twists and turns. But we can take real comfort in the fact that He is the same yesterday, today, and forever - and we just need to keep our mind on Him.

One of the things that we keep reminding each other since the beginning of this year is that this is not His Plan B. Many times, throughout this year we have had a plan, and then something comes up to radically change our Plan A to Plan B or maybe even Plan C or D. We need to remind ourselves that all of this is His Plan A. We had many plans for the things we were going to be able to do in the Work this year, and as the year unfolded it has constantly had to change. The summer camps, the teaching in various cities throughout China, and even planned local group studies have all had to be canceled or changed.

In the midst of the virus outbreak and all the disruption from that, one of our local friends got a visit from some Officials asking particularly about who we are and what we do here. They had information on classes that I have taught and cities that I had been to, and they asked questions of our friend for the entire day in a secluded location. Afterward, our friend advised us that we are being actively monitored and should stop all plans for traveling (even personal travel) and any teaching for the time being. Let me say we are safe, but this has again changed many of our thoughts for Plan A, and really, we are still not 100% sure of which Plan we need to try and execute next. We would ask that you \*think\* about these things with us so we can make wise decisions.

In light of this tighter scrutiny, we ask that you please contact the main office if you have



A letter from the

# L. FAMILY

questions regarding any of this. Please do not contact us personally. We know some of you have reached out and I would love to respond but we are not responding to any emails that have organizations or group names on them as this brings additional scrutiny. Also because of the stance our country has taken in recent months, there are additional concerns for those here and what we might be doing. We are asking that you please do not send us emails mentioning "M" in them.

Unfortunately, our correspondence at this time will continue to be very sparse. Please know we are still working here. We recently started a new study group in the North of our city and are doing some things virtually but cannot really elaborate more about these things as you understand the dangers of doing so would put many at risk.

We do appreciate your thoughts and concern for us and would appreciate your continued \*remembering\* of us to the Father during these transitioning times in the Work. We \*remember\* you all to the Father often. We know that these times are not just challenging to us, but for the world also. Be encouraged! 2 Peter 1:3 assures us that He has given us everything that we need today, to do the Work that He has called us to do because He has equipped us!

In Him,  
S & P

For security reasons, we cannot provide a direct contact to this missionary family. If you would like to send encouragement, please contact the main office at 304-736-7676 and we will pass along your sentiments in as safe a way as possible.

**Lewis KIDS connection**

**Sundays @ 9 am (only)**  
Preschool - 5th grade meet in the Gym  
(Drop off at the FLC)  
Socially distanced, sanitized, safe!

**Wednesday, Jan. 13**  
**Glow in the Dark Night**  
Glow bracelets and glow activities.

**Wednesday, Jan. 20**  
**Art Party night**  
Come and have fun with our directed painting night! Wear clothes that can get messy!

Visit [Imbc.org/lkc](http://Imbc.org/lkc) for more info or ask to join our Facebook group.

**REFUEL**

**Connect**

To learn more about upcoming events, watch Refuel-related videos, or learn more about our student ministry, download the Refuel Students app from the App Store, or follow our Instagram account @refuelstudents.

**Wednesdays**

Refuel, our student ministry meets every Wednesday night from 6:45-8:15pm in the Student Ministry Building. Students grades 6-12 are invited to join us weekly for an evening of friends, music, small groups, and Bible teaching. To read more about our COVID-19 precautions, please visit our website at [Imbc.org](http://Imbc.org).

**Parents**

Sign-up to receive our weekly "ParentConnect" email! Our bi-weekly email to parents contains notes from each week's lesson, along with information about upcoming activities and events. Sign-up to receive ParentConnect emails at [Imbc.org](http://Imbc.org).

# JOIN OTHERS WHO ARE STRIVING TO BE DIFFERENCE MAKERS

God called us to be salt and light to the world. This page is dedicated to efforts that help illuminate the darkness by shining the light of Christ. Will you be a difference maker?

WE WANT TO SAY ...

## THANK YOU!

- To all who contributed to our "Gifts for Jesus" Offering this year. We are excited to announce that your generous gifts, at the time of printing, total **\$78,555!** Thank you for helping us to make such an impact across the world.



KEEP SOMEONE WARM WITH OUR ...

## COAT DRIVE

- The cold winter months are here and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** LifeBridge, our food and clothing pantry, is collecting new or gently used COATS to distribute to those who are in need. If you would like to donate a coat, you can leave it in one of the bins behind the LifeBridge house, beside the SMB.



If you've watched the news lately, you've probably seen the long lines of cars at food banks around **our country**. Will you help us make a difference in the lives of people right here in **our community**? When you go to the store for your groceries or add your items to a click-list please consider adding items from the following list:

- Pinto Beans (15oz.) & Cut Green Beans (14.5oz)
- Whole Kernel Corn (15.25oz)
- Sliced Peaches (15.25oz)
- Beef Stew (20oz) & Whitney's Pink Salmon (14.25oz)
- Applesauce (24oz JAR)
- Hunt's Spaghetti Meat Sauce (24oz)
- Mueller's Spaghetti Noodle (16oz)
- Au Gratin or Scalloped Potatoes (4.7oz)
- Creamy Peanut Butter (16.3oz)
- Smuckers Grape Jelly (32oz)
- Jiffy Cornbread Mix (8.5oz)
- Frosted Flakes/any Sugar Coated Cereal (15oz)
- Mac & Cheese (7.5oz)
- Ramen Noodles (Chicken or Beef)
- Tuna Helper (5.3oz) & Can Tuna in Water (5oz)
- Toilet Paper (4 roll packages)
- Toiletries & Laundry and Dishwashing Liquid

Then, simply place them in a separate bag and drop them on the front porch or in the bin on the lower level of the LifeBridge House. If you prefer, we can do the shopping for you - simply make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry and we will take it from there. Donations can be made online at [Imbc.org](http://Imbc.org) or by cash/check, designated "Food Pantry".



## TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

### Births

- Sadie Anne Howerton, Jonah and Makayla Howerton

### Bereavements

- Anagene Boyd
- Eric McComas, Kevin McComas' brother
- LeRoy McKinney, Toriano Brown's father
- Flem O'Dell, David O'Dell's father

### New Members

- Darla Bowden
- Herbert & Phyllis Carson
- Kristi Ann Donahoe
- Shawn, Jan, & Addison Russell

### Pastoral Staff Birthdays

- Tim Yates (22nd)

### Curb-side service

The following items are available online or for curb-side pick-up:

- Our Daily Bread Magazine (also available online at [ourdailybread.org/read/](http://ourdailybread.org/read/))
- Word For You Today Devotional Book (also available on mobile)
- Printed copies of Connect Magazine

To receive your items, visit the appropriate link, or call the church office at 304-736-7676.

# A NEW STARTING POINT

## How to join our community of faith

Are you looking for a church home? Would you prayerfully consider whether God may be leading you to our family of believers? If you are ready, follow these simple steps:

### 1st Baptism



Trust in Christ and follow Him in believer's baptism.

### 2nd Register (pick 1)



**In Service:** scan the QR code on the pew in front of you and let us know you would like to join.  
**Online:** [lmbc.org/register](http://lmbc.org/register)  
**Call:** 304-736-7676

### 3rd Discover



Check out the information in the visitor packet you received when you registered with us or visit [lmbc.org/what-we-believe](http://lmbc.org/what-we-believe) to learn about our core beliefs and more.

### 4th Experience



Meet with our Pastors to begin your membership experience.  
**Call:** 304-736-7676

# OUR PASTORS

<sup>17</sup> 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 NLT**

#### 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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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
9 & 10:45 am (watch live at [lmbc.tv](http://lmbc.tv))  
6 pm (live stream, 2nd Sunday of the month)

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**  
7 pm

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Read previous editions of Connect at [lmbc.org/connect-magazine](http://lmbc.org/connect-magazine)



# SIMPLY JESUS