

Vol. 11, Issue 1, January 2022

connect

**NEW
YEAR**

**SAME
JESUS**

HEBREWS 13:8

JANUARY

2022

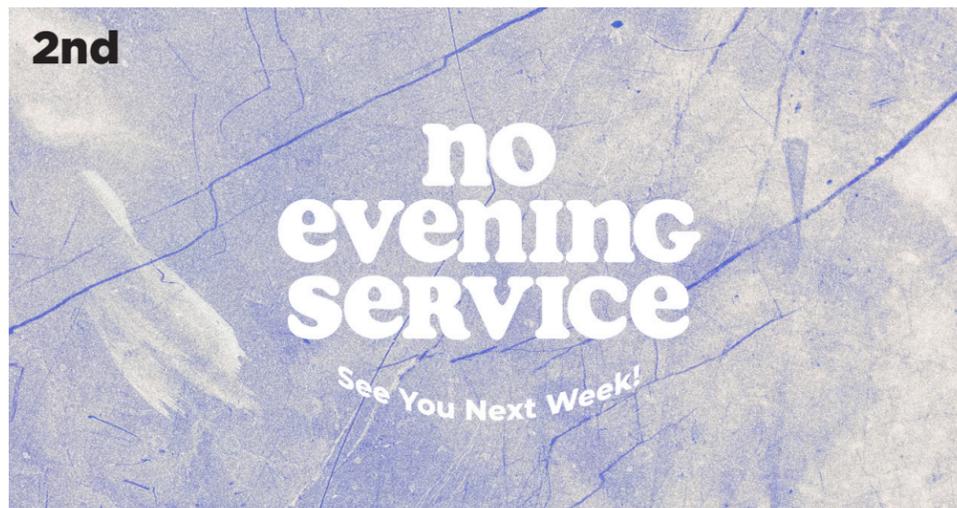
ROOTED

Read about the 2022 Reading plan(s) on pg. 9

Can't be here in-person?

Join us live Sundays at 9 & 10:45 am on Facebook, lmbc.tv, or our LMBC app.

Kick off the new year by developing a regular Bible reading habit. Our Rooted Bible reading plan will guide you as you become rooted in the Word.



2nd

no evening service

See You Next Week!



16th

startingpoint

Want to join LMBC? Pre-register for Starting Point at lmbc.org



Revelation

Sunday Nights @ 6 pm

Watch previous studies and see a full schedule at lmbc.org/sundaynight

Also this month:

13th

Widow's Luncheon

- 12:30 pm, Renaissance Room

14th

PrimeTime Covered Dish Dinner

- 6 pm, Renaissance Room

Join us for a covered dish dinner of soup, salad, and bread along with speaker Amy Marcum who will share healthy tips for seniors and information on medical power of attorney. Let Vida or Blanche know you're coming and what you plan to bring. You can also call the church office (304-736-7676).

27th

Widow's Fellowship Day

- 11 am - 2 pm, Ren. Room

Other calendars:

LKC (kids)	pg. 8
Refuel (teens)	pg. 8
Rooted (Bible)	pg. 9
Sun. Night Seminary	pg. 16
Ebenezer	pg. 17

Mark Your Calendar:

Feb. 18-19

DNow Teen weekend

Mar. 12-13

Prophecy with Chris Katulka

Mar. 21-25

Spring Break (some Life Groups on break)

Apr. 10

Easter Musical (6 pm)

Apr. 15

Good Friday (Offices Closed)

Apr. 17

Easter Celebration (No Life Groups or evening services)

May 8

Mother's Day (No Life Groups or evening services)

May 23

Summer Break (for most Life Groups)

June 6-10

Back Pack VBS @ Ebenezer

June 13-17

VBS



Be a Beacon of Hope in Your Neighborhood

We will be showing the love of Christ to those in our local communities in 2022. This year, we want to take practical steps to get to know those nearby so we will have opportunities to share the message of hope.



With your help, LMBC is becoming a beacon of hope around the world, not only through your Faith Promise giving but now through your Gifts for Jesus. We have received gifts totaling more than \$123,000 allowing for multiple hospitals and so much more. Thank you so much for your generosity in loving people as Christ loves the church and helping us spread the Gospel around the world.

4

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH



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.

Do you have a personal growth plan for 2022? Peter commanded the believer to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:18). The word “grow” (auxanō) is translated increase, spread, and cause to grow. Theologically, spiritual growth is called progressive sanctification. Experientially, spiritual growth is simply moving toward Christlikeness. We need a strategic plan to move us from spiritual infancy to full spiritual maturity (Christlikeness). We need a growth plan. Why? Because personal growth is your only hope for a better tomorrow. In fact, if you’re not growing, you’re dying. Incidentally, there’s no such thing as accidental growth. You need a plan. You need to be intentional. You need to grow on purpose. I’m not talking about goals but growth. I’m not criticizing goals, but goals focus on a destination, whereas growth seems to focus more on the journey, the process. Goals are seasonal, yet growth is lifelong. So many times, people reach their goals, and they stop growing...they plateau. I want to encourage you to grow. Keep getting better because when you get better the people around you get better. Let me share with you four disciplines to help you grow.

The first discipline I need in my personal growth plan is the Bible. Luke tells us, the Berean believers “searched the Scriptures daily” (Acts 17:11). Read the Word daily. Every single day. Some would contend the Bible is a big book. True, but start in Genesis and read one page at a time. If you read 3.3 pages every day you can read a 1,200 page Bible in one year. Hey, BIG things happen in small bites. Great things happen over time. Just keep doing the small things every day and God will do BIG things in your life. Read your Bible every day and you will begin to grow in Christ (1 Peter 2:2). We need a steady diet of the Word. The nutrients for spiritual growth are hidden within the Words of Scripture. Therefore, we need to eat the Word every day.

The second discipline I need in my personal growth plan is prayer. David said, “Evening (intentional) and morning (discipline) and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice” (Ps. 55:17). I firmly believe the secret sauce to spiritual growth is the Word of God and prayer. There is no growth or fruitfulness apart from the Scripture and genuine prayer. For instance, John 15 gives five levels of fruitfulness in the life of a believer:

- “no fruit” (v. 2),
- “fruit” (v. 2b),
- “more fruit” (v. 2c),
- “much fruit” (v. 5, v. 8),
- “and fruit that remains” (v. 16).

If you carefully review the five levels of fruitfulness in John 15, you see progress, growth, and increase. Fruit is produced because of connectivity to the life of the Vine.

Ten times Jesus commanded the disciples to “abide in me” (John 15:4-10). The word abide (meno) means to remain, continue, and stay. We need to stay connected to Christ. Why? Because all fruitfulness is connected to the LIFE of the VINE (the Word of God and Prayer). Jesus said, “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you” (John 15:7).

What happens when you disconnect from the life of the Vine/Jesus? You will be unproductive and fruitless. The Vine/Jesus is the source of power. If you unplug your toaster, you can’t make toast. Why? It’s unplugged or disconnected. Likewise, nothing of spiritual significance can happen apart from Jesus. He even told the disciples, “For without

Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5). Plug into the source of Power. Abide in Christ. Stay connected to the Word and prayer (John 6:63, 68).

The third discipline I need in my personal growth plan is participation in the local church. Public worship with the people of God is extremely important. I need a Pastor, biblical preaching, other believers, and a place to exercise my spiritual gift. In fact, the local church is so important church attendance should be my excuse to miss everything else. Can I get an amen? The more I read and study the Bible my love for the local church increases exponentially. Why?

- I love the local church because Jesus loved the local church so much “He gave Himself for it” (Eph. 5:25).
- I love the local church because of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). Believer’s baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the ordinances of the local church. A parachurch ministry is not authorized to baptize.
- I love the local church because the local church is the place where I am to exercise my spiritual gift. The purpose of spiritual gifts is “for the edification of the church” (1 Cor. 14:12; Eph. 4:11-16).
- I love the local church because I’m commanded to maintain the unity of the

Spirit (Eph. 6:1-6) and practice the biblical “one another’s” within the context of biblical community (59 of them). Andy Stanley said, “The primary activity of the church was one-anothering one another.” Stanley is right on target.

- I love the local church because I’m going to spend eternity in heaven with Christ and His Church (John 14:1-3).

The more I journey through the Bible and wrap my mind around the whole story of Scripture my love for the local church increases deeply. I love Christ and His Body (the church).

The final discipline I need in my personal growth plan is Missionary movement. As I grow and move toward Christlikeness the mission of Jesus becomes front and center. And centeredness is very, very important. Centeredness is what you see first. What you value most. People become a priority and not just a project. Centeredness will cause you to move toward gospel relationships. Why? Because eternity is too long for people to be wrong. When Jesus is the center of your world you will long for people to get the gospel right. You will fervently pray for the unsaved and gospel witness becomes important. The deeper you go into the Bible, the deeper you go into prayer, and the deeper you go into the local church, the closer you get to centeredness...the heartbeat of God

and the mission of Jesus. His mission becomes your mission (John 17:18, 20:21). When you get the mission of Jesus front and centered everything else in Scripture becomes clearer. Such growth produces fresh clarity, renewed vision, and fresh centeredness. Missionary movement is Christlikeness.

Do you have a personal growth plan? 2022 can be the greatest year of your life. Get back into the Word until the Word gets in you. Connect to the life of the Vine/Jesus through prayer. Make the local church a priority. Use your spiritual gift and serve the body of Christ. Spontaneously, missionary movement will surface front and center in your life. Gospel clarity will occur. People will get saved and baptized. Joy and significance will be renewed. Just keep doing the little things (spiritual disciplines) consistently and faithfully, and God will do the rest. 2022 could be your best year ever. Just don’t forget. You need a personal growth plan to get you there.

“2022 could be your best year ever.”



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

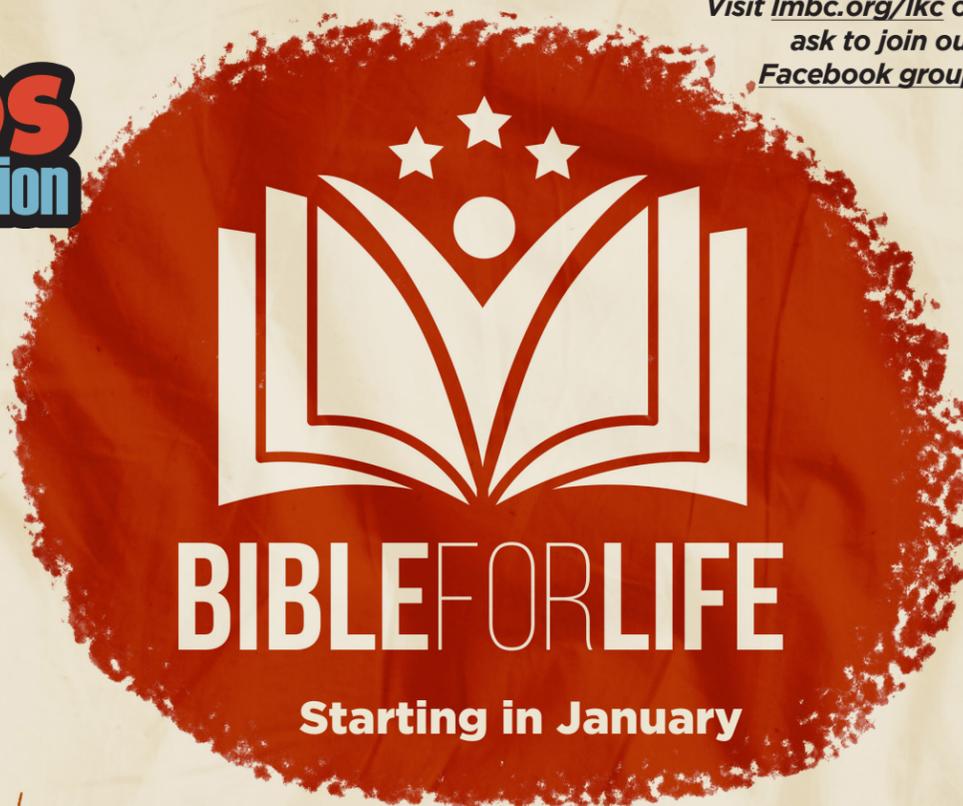
Sunday Mornings
WC lower level

- 2: God Controls Everything
- 9: God Calls Moses
- 16: God Delivered His People
- 23: God Parted the Red Sea
- 30: God Keeps His Promises

Weds @ 7pm
in the FLC

- 5: Bible for Life
- 12: Bible for Life
- 19: Bible for Life
- 26: Paint night

Mark Your Calendars
Feb. 19: D-NOW for Kids



BIBLE FOR LIFE

Starting in January

2022

THE YEAR OF CHOICES

It's always a fun experience when I get a chance to sit down to a meal at a new restaurant, and you might share that same excitement! The server hands you the menu and your eyes begin to feast (before your belly) on the menu selection. Most of the selections have elaborate descriptions wherein you can almost taste the food before you even order. Ultimately, you will have to decide what to order for that visit, but in that process, you are likely to say those magic words: there are so many choices! In a similar fashion, the Bible reading plan for 2022 has multiple choices. Keep reading below, and I'll explain.

The Bible reading plan for 2022 has three different tracks or choices. This gives you the ability to choose which of the three you'd like to follow for the year. Track 1 is the New Testament and Psalms track. Maybe this year you would like to slow down a bit, reading less but spending more time meditating and studying what you're reading. If that is you, then track 1 is designed specifically for that purpose. Track 2 is the Old Testament track. Because three-quarters of the Bible is the Old Testament, this track will require a little bit more reading each day, but not more than a few chapters each day. Track 3 is the one that will require the most time, and it is simply a combination of tracks 1 and 2, allowing you to read through the entire Bible in one year. Two other notes: the tracks are set in a chronological framework, giving you some better context as you read; and every Sunday you will read from the Psalms, no matter what track you are following. Each month, the reading plan will be listed in the Connect Magazine, on the church website, and in the church app.

Those of you who have completed your Bible reading for 2021, some gift options will be available in the back lobby of the sanctuary starting in January 2022. If you have any questions about the reading plans, send them to biblereading@lmbc.org.

ROOTED

	<u>OT Pathway</u>	<u>NT Pathway</u>
1st	Genesis 1-3	John 1
2nd	Psalms 1-5	Psalms 1-5
3rd	Genesis 4-6	John 2
4th	Genesis 7-9	John 3
5th	Genesis 10-12	John 4
6th	Job 1-2	John 5
7th	Job 3-4	John 6
8th	Job 5-7	John 7
9th	Psalms 6-9	Psalms 6-9
10th	Job 8-10	John 8
11th	Job 11-13	John 9
12th	Job 14-16	John 10
13th	Job 17-19	John 11
14th	Job 20-21	John 12
15th	Job 22-24	John 13
16th	Psalms 10-13	Psalms 10-13
17th	Job 25-27	John 14
18th	Job 28-29	John 15
19th	Job 30-31	John 16
20th	Job 32-33	John 17
21st	Job 34-35	John 18
22nd	Job 36-37	John 19
23rd	Psalms 14-17	Psalms 14-17
24th	Job 38-40	John 20
25th	Job 41-42	John 21
26th	Genesis 13-15	Mark 1
27th	Genesis 16-17	Mark 2
28th	Genesis 18-19	Mark 3
29th	Genesis 20-22	Mark 4:1-25
30th	Psalms 18-19	Psalms 18-19
31st	Genesis 23-24	Mark 4:26-41

January

- 5 | REFUEL RETURNS
- 7 | BACKPACK KIDS SCANVEGER HUNT
- 19 | BUFFALO WING ROULETTE

Middle - High School
Grades 6-12
youtube.com/c/refuelstudents

Wednesdays @
6:45pm

February

- 2 | D-NOW WEEKEND REGISTRATION OPENS
- 9 | FLAPJACKS & FLANNELS NITE
- 18-20 | D-NOW WEEKEND

Instagram: @REFUELSTUDENTS
YouTube: @REFUELSTUDENTS

DOWNLOAD THE REFUEL STUDENTS APP
Available on the App Store and Google Play



ROOTED
PODCAST

2021 plan is now at lmbc.org/rooted21

WHEN DARKNESS VEILS HIS LOVELY FACE

“*Into this darkness of destruction, death, and despair comes light, and in this light hope revives.*”

In 587 BC, after an agonizing two-and-half-year siege, the great pagan king Nebuchadnezzar finally breached the walls of Jerusalem. Babylon’s chokehold on Jerusalem for those couple of years had devastated the city, driving its starvation-crazed inhabitants to the unimaginable point of cannibalism.

But now, the foreign military unleashed its full fury, reducing to ruins much of the holy city, “the perfection of beauty” and “the joy of all the earth” (Psalm 50:2; 48:2). And it thrust a spear into its spiritual heart by destroying the great temple Solomon had built nearly four centuries earlier (Jeremiah 52:4–14). The conquest is still felt among observant Jews, who commemorate it annually with fasting and laments on the ninth of Av, the fifth month of the Hebrew calendar (Jeremiah, Lamentations, 441).

The Bible preserves the inspired record of one saint who managed to survive the carnage. We know it in our English Bibles as Lamentations, a collection of five beautifully composed, honest, raw poems, in which the anonymous poet gives an inspired collective voice to the grieving nation of Israel.

He captures in verse the devastating and disorienting psychological, emotional, and spiritual distress suffered by those who lived and died during the darkest, most tragic chapter in Israel’s old-covenant history, when the Lord, in judgment, had “become like an

enemy” to his own people (Lamentations 2:5). It is the saddest book in all of Scripture.

Which is why it is remarkable that smack-dab in the middle of this book of tears is, arguably, the Bible’s most well-known, most beloved declaration of God’s love, mercy, and faithfulness:

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22–23)*

Driven into Darkness

To truly appreciate this beautiful, beloved declaration, we need to keep in mind the kinds of shock this author and his people had experienced.

They had seen Jerusalem’s beloved walls, strongholds, and palaces — the structures that for centuries had been symbols of God’s strength and protection for the Jewish people (Psalm 48:12–14) — turned to rubble (Lamentations 2:5, 8–9). They had seen priests massacred in the temple and the sacred building burned to the ground (Lamentations 2:6–7, 20). They had seen infants die of starvation in the arms of their mothers (Lamentations 2:11–12), parents eat the remains of their children (Lamentations 4:10), young women brutally raped, and once-free men

enslaved and humiliated (Lamentations 5:11–13). They had seen bodies of young and old, common and noble, lying in the streets where they had been slaughtered, left to become shriveled horrors (Lamentations 2:21, 4:7–8).

And they knew this was God’s doing: “The Lord has done what he has purposed; he has carried out his word, which he commanded long ago” (Lamentations 2:17). After centuries of prophetic warnings issued to his stiff-necked, disobedient people (Isaiah 1:7–9; Amos 2:4–5), God at last brought upon Israel the dreadful covenant curses Moses described in Deuteronomy 28:47–57.

The sovereignty of God over this human anguish pours out through the poet’s pen as he writes,

*[The Lord] has driven and brought me
into darkness without any light;
surely against me he turns his hand
again and again the whole day long.*

*He has made my flesh and my skin waste
away;
he has broken my bones;
he has besieged and enveloped me
with bitterness and tribulation;
he has made me dwell in darkness
like the dead of long ago.*

*He has walled me about so that I cannot
escape;*

*he has made my chains heavy;
though I call and cry for help,
he shuts out my prayer;
he has blocked my ways with blocks of
stones;
he has made my paths crooked.
(Lamentations 3:2–9)*

Therefore,

*my soul is bereft of peace;
I have forgotten what happiness is;
so I say, “My endurance has perished;
so has my hope from the Lord.”
(Lamentations 3:17–18)*

We can barely fathom such multilayered darkness and suffering: afflicted by God, decimated by man, alone, with no light, no peace, no happiness, no hope.

And then.

Light in Deep Despair

Suddenly, we come to one of the most unexpected, jarring literary pivots in all of Scripture — one might even call it a resurrection of one who had been “like the dead” (Lamentations 3:6).

Nothing about the horrific circumstances of the city, the nation, or the author gives any reason for hope. By all appearances, all has been lost. God, in his righteous wrath,

administered through a foreign superpower, has slain his “firstborn son” (Exodus 4:22). The tomb has effectively been sealed. All one can do now is weep beside the grave — or hide from those who had done the killing.

Then into this darkness of destruction, death, and despair comes light, and in this light hope revives. For suddenly, unexpectedly, the lamenting author breaks into this beautiful, and now beloved, declaration:

*But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.” . . .*

*For the Lord will not
cast off forever,
but, though he cause grief, he will have
compassion
according to the abundance of his
steadfast love. (Lamentations 3:21–24, 31–32)*

What revives the author’s dead hope? Answer: not what, but who. The very sovereign God who had brought the darkness and anguish.

‘This I Call to Mind’

Specifically, his hope revives by the word of this sovereign God that the author has stored in his heart (Psalm 119:11). And he has stored a lot of it in his heart. Read Lamentations carefully and you’ll notice many allusions to passages found throughout the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms — especially the Psalms. For example, read these excerpts from Psalm 103 and listen for their echoes in that beloved Lamentations text:

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and
mercy. . . .*

*The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast
love.
He will not always chide,
nor will he keep his anger forever.
He does not deal with us according to our
sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.
For as high as the heavens are above the
earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward
those who fear him;
as far as the east is from the west,
so far does he remove our transgressions
from us.
As a father shows compassion to his
children,
so the Lord shows compassion to those
who fear him. . . .*

*The steadfast love of the Lord is from
everlasting to everlasting on those who fear
him,
and his righteousness to children’s
children (Psalm 103:2–4, 8–13, 17)*

God’s word revives this grieving author’s hope. He calls Scripture to mind in this dark, desperate moment. He recalls the Lord’s promises that his steadfast love will never cease toward those who fear him, and neither will his mercies. And he remembers that God’s great faithfulness is inextricably connected to his unceasing steadfast love (Psalm 57:10).

For the author (and the saints he speaks for), passages like this become “a lamp to [his] feet and a light to [his] path” (Psalm 119:105). Even here in the darkest pit, even now when all seems lost, as he and his nation suffer the terrible consequences of sin, in God’s light, he sees light (Psalm 36:9). And this light resurrects his hope.

Darkness Will Not Overcome the Light

The anguished poet of Lamentations, recording his hope amidst grief, reminds us of God’s power to unexpectedly resurrect dead hope. And the horrific nature of his circumstances, an expression of God’s righteous judgment on Israel, remains a potent reminder that we are

never in a pit so deep, and we never endure tragedies so severe, that God cannot, with a word, bring light to our path that overcomes our darkness with hope.

I doubt this poet realized that these words — the words of “a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3) — would so powerfully foreshadow Christ. Jesus knows tragic carnage and destruction, and all the darkness we experience, from the inside. That’s why he is for us the “light that shines in the darkness” (John 1:5).

It’s also why, when we are in our most hopeless pits, when our “soul is bereft of peace,” when we “have forgotten what happiness is,” when it feels like our “endurance has perished” and “so has [our] hope from the Lord” (Lamentations 3:17–18), Jesus, through his Spirit, loves to resurrect our hope by helping us call to mind God’s “living and active” word (Hebrews 4:12). And when his light shines in our darkness, “the darkness [will] not overcome it” (John 1:5).

“**Jesus knows tragic carnage and destruction, and all the darkness we experience, from the inside.**”



by Jon Bloom

*Jon Bloom (@Bloom_Jon) serves as teacher and co-founder of Desiring God. He is author of three books, *Not by Sight*, *Things Not Seen*, and *Don’t Follow Your Heart*. He and his wife have five children and make their home in the Twin Cities.*

MISSIONARIES OF THE MONTH

IN NORTH AMERICA

- Trey & Terri Bailey, USA (SCORE)
- Tim & Diane Bilbrey, USA (DBMI)
- Harry & Lydia Boekell, USA (Children)
- Jenn Morla, Dominican Republic
- A New Beginning Crisis Pregnancy Center
- Daystar Baptist Mission, Inc.
- Jake & Elizabeth Delich, Puerto Rico
- Benji & Kerri Dryden, Haiti
- Matt & Dallita Goins, Honduras
- Becky Hale, USA (South Dakota)
- Gary & Alli Hale, Dominican Republic
- Ruth Hale, USA (DBMI)
- Doug & Paula Hodges, D.R. & Honduras
- Huntington City Mission
- Chris Katulka, USA (Friends of Israel)
- Tom & Selva Kweder, USA
- Patrick & Lisa McCoy, USA (Alaska)
- Miguel & Noemi Mercedes, Dominican Republic
- Randy & Ellen Mumper, Canada
- Gerald & Marguerite Pauley, Canada
- Dan & Jennifer Post, Canada
- Nathan & Erin Sayre, USA (Children)
- Jason & Sarah Sykes, Dominican Republic
- Jerry & Sue Thomas, USA
- Nathaniel & Stacy Wall, USA (Mormons)

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



NEWS FROM THE

MISSION FIELD



JUSTIN & RACHEL
HOY

PRaises & PRAYER REQUESTS

The Hoy Family - (Senegal) shared exciting news concerning the Tree of life discipleship training. They shared that a missionary couple in Togo, who works with an association of 25 Christian schools, wanted to hear more about TOL and then invited the Hoy's team to come and train their teachers. Now, Tree of Life Discipleship Training will be starting in Togo and possibly Benin, a country just east of Togo! They are praising God for these new fields. Please pray that God will provide funds for travel and training expenses for Togo in 2022.

They also shared an update on the training center project, which is progressing nicely. The storage building is nearing completion and the brick-makers are now making blocks that will be cured by the time the ground is dry enough to dig and set the foundation. Please continue to pray for the TOL leadership team & the training center building process.



W. FAMILY IN
BULGARIA

PRAYER REQUESTS

The "W" Family - (Bulgaria) recently wrote, At the beginning of November, Covid numbers in Bulgaria rose once again in to the "red zone" which is the highest level of restriction, causing us once again to suspend our in-person Sunday services. We trust we will be able to resume regular services before the Christmas season, which affords us some of our best opportunities for ministry. Most every season we are asked to speak in schools and organize activities for children, which in turn gives us contact with parents. Pray with us for open doors this holiday season.

They would also like us to pray for two of their elderly people, Peter and Valya, who are residents at a home for the elderly. Pray especially for Peter who claims to have trusted Christ, but has given them reason to wonder. He is quite frail now and they are concerned that he may be nearing eternity unsaved. They have done their best to give him the Truth - and ask that we pray that he will make sure of his eternal destiny in the time he has left.



ADAM & FAITH
DRAKE

PRAYER REQUESTS

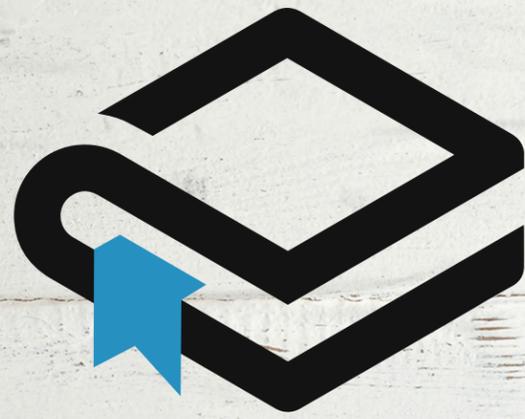
The Drake Family - (Togo) sent more news on Le Bon Berger, the Christian school project. They now have the land and more construction is underway. The school exists to show the love of Christ, share the gospel, and provide high-quality education in order to bring long-term, life-changing impact in the lives of students and their families. They would love to build a wall around the property and bring city water and electricity out to the land but there aren't funds available. They currently use tanks of water that they have to fill up elsewhere and cart in. They ask that we please pray for funds to come in for this building and they send their thanks to those who have already donated. They also shared praise for a \$10,000 gift they've received from one of their supporting churches.



TOM & MELISSA
KENDALL

PRAYER REQUEST

The Kendall Family (Togo) shared a special prayer request with us for their neighbors and ministry partners, the Mallay family, whose oldest daughter, Arwen, is suffering from cancer. They have witnessed a significant decline in her health recently but they are holding fast to truth, to the sure promises of God. Even as they suffer much grief, they are experiencing grace, and they are a testimony to so many. May their example encourage us all to meditate on and cling to the finished work of Jesus Christ on behalf of sinners, a work made possible when He became a man! This whole world groans under a curse. In the face of all of it, we can sing that Jesus "comes to make His blessings flow, as far as the curse is found!" Joy to the World -



SUNDAY NIGHT SEMINARY

Sunday Night Seminary is your opportunity to learn and train so you can grow in faith and service at Lewis Memorial. Classes are each Sunday at 6 pm. Take a look at the current and upcoming offerings below: >

JAN. 23 - FEB. 27

SMALL GROUP & DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

by Tim Yates

A six-week intensive on how to lead a Life Group that grows and multiplies. You will learn how to effectively shepherd a small group of believers to not only develop in their own faith, but to then share that faith with others.

APR. 17 - MAY 22

EQUIPPING YOUTH LEADERS

by Matt McClay

Learn how to engage and disciple the next generation. Teenagers come with unique challenges. See how to overcome the hurdles that come with youth ministry.

MAR. 6 - APR. 10

HOW TO READ YOUR BIBLE BETTER

by Jeremy Shaffer

Get more out of your Bible reading with techniques and resources that will improve your attention and retention. Develop a passion for the Word that will lead to a changed life and a readiness to serve.

JUNE 5 - JULY 17

VISITING THE SICK & SHUT-IN

by Bill Blankenship

It is a special mission to visit those in hospitals and nursing homes. Discover what it requires to minister to those that have lost their freedom.

DIFFERENCE MAKERS

SERVE GOD SERVE OTHERS



You can be a difference maker in a number of areas around the church. Visit lmbc.org/serve to find specific needs and see where you can serve here at LMBC.

EBENEZER IS AN OPPORTUNITY

REACH OUR COMMUNITY

LMBC is working on making more of a difference in our community. We have reinstated the First Responder Meals and adding Bible devotions, a children's Bible Club, and more is in the works. 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

JAN. 6

Prayer and planning meeting for LKC@Ebenezer workers
5-6 pm

JAN. 11

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

Encouragement & Prayer
1 pm

JAN. 27

First LKC@Ebenezer Bible Club
4 - 6 pm

THANK YOU FOR YOUR

GENEROUS GIFTS

Operation Christmas Child was another resounding success with gifts (and the Gospel) going to new countries such as Namibia, Honduras, Madagascar, and Cote d'Ivoire. Pray the recipients see the love of Jesus through them.

If you missed the exciting details about our Gifts for Jesus Offering see page 3, you won't want to miss what we're able to do ... and it's not too late to contribute. Simply mark any offering as "Gifts for Jesus".

THANK YOU TO THE

MUSIC & MEDIA TEAMS

We want to thank all of those who contributed to the recent Christmas musicals; from the musicians who lent their talents and time ... to the media team that coordinated and enhanced it all. The Lord was glorified through these performances!



TAKE A LOOK AT THE LATEST FAMILY NEWS

Bereavements

- Loveda Bachtel, Joyce Asbury's mother
- David Baumgardner, Mary Ellen Black's father
- Clyde Dobey, Robyn Holman's father
- Christine Dunfee, Lee Dunfee's mother
- Kirt Gothard, Julia Gothard's husband
- Betty Hollis, Kim Fowler's mother
- Robert and Susan Luther, Bobby Luther's father and mother
- Larry Parsons, Martha Parsons' husband
- Tom Phillips, Dave Phillips' brother
- Pat Simmons, Linda Cole's sister
- Norman Towler, Jean Castle's and Joan Steigerwalt's brother

New Members/Baptisms

- Lonnie and Becky Garrett
- Linda Moore

Pastoral Staff Birthdays

- Tim Yates (22nd)

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: 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 to learn about our core beliefs and more.

4th Experience



Come to the next Starting Point on **Jan. 16 @ 5 pm** in the SMB Cafe, where you'll meet with our Pastors to begin your membership experience.
Call: 304-736-7676
Pre-register: lmbc.org/starting-point

WANT TO JOIN A LIFEGROUP?

All groups on break until Jan. 5

ADULTS (COED)

SUNDAYS @ 10:45 am

Through the Bible (S104) Jared Blankenship
Wall Builders (S100) Steve Bragg
Cornerstone (S102) Tim Koletka
Maranatha (Renaissance Room [FLC]) Chuck Daniel

TUESDAYS @ 1 pm

Fearless (S100) Estep/Wyrick
@ 6 pm
Life Together (HIS Way Cafe) Tim Yates

WEDNESDAYS @ 10:30 am

Encouraging Friends Ministry (109) Kate McMullen
@ 6:30 pm
At Home with the Word (Tardy Home) Steve & Vicki Tardy
@ 6:45 pm
Broken Together (Thompson Home) Dan & Terri Thompson
Abundant Life (L108) Gary McMullen
@ 7 pm
West Ridge Bible Study (WC Auditorium) Tim Yates
Selah (L109) Nathan McClay
Friends of God (Renaissance Room) David & Mary Lemming
It's Always Something (L107) Chuck Daniel
Prophecy and Current Events (L113) Roger Blackburn

THURSDAYS @ 5:30 pm

Believing, Belonging, & Becoming (HIS Way Cafe) Thurman Lowder

SATURDAYS @ 10 am

At the Grove (Chateau Grove) Juile Tritz

WOMEN

MONDAYS @ 6 pm

Daughters of the King (S100) Rebekah Shaffer

TUESDAYS @ 10 am

At His Feet (S100) Beth Jenkins

WEDNESDAYS @ 6:45 pm

Inside-Out (L106) Mary Ellen Black
@ 7 pm
4Ever His (L112) Leah Adkins

MEN

WEDNESDAYS @ 10 am

Westridge Wisdom (S100) Jeremy Shaffer
@ 7 pm
Men of Truth (HIS Way Cafe [SMB]) Steve Bragg
Iron Sharpeners (Northside House) Matheny/Miller

SENIOR ADULTS

SUNDAYS @ 9 am

Willing Workers (L112) Richard Sexton
Young at Heart (L113) Bill Blankenship

Connect is the monthly news and informational publication from



Making disciples who live and love like Jesus

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lmbc.org
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304-691-0633

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 & 10:45 am (watch live at lmbc.tv)

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY
7 pm

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Angie O'Dell
Content Editor,
Mary Ellen Black
Graphic Designer,
Matt Waller

Read previous editions of Connect at lmbc.org/connect.

**NEW
YEAR**

**SAME
JESUS**

HEBREWS 13:8