

AUGUST LAMPLIGHTER

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PASTOR MARK'S MINUTE:

This verse really spoke to me this week. “But you, dear friends, *build yourselves up* in your most Holy faith...” Jude 20

So I took some time and did some study to come up with some things to think and to say that will help you build your most holy faith.

We often ask ourselves, as a Christian, as a person, ‘Am I enough.’ Whenever I have a hard day, reading Bibles verses helps me out and gives me strength and motivation. Those verses also continue to remind me that I am enough. It’s all too easy to feel the opposite. It’s natural to get caught up in comparisons to others that make you feel like you’re not enough or you’re not good enough or you haven’t done enough.

We often believe our differences are an impediment to our success when, in truth, they can help propel us to success. The only comparison you can make that’s actually relevant is between who you are today and who you were yesterday. The only question that’s truly important is whether or not you’re growing.

If this is you, God is speaking to you when He says, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” 2 Corinthians 12:9

To help begin the process of building up your faith, ask, ‘Why has God created me?’

What is my life God-given dream? We’ve got a humongous God...give yourself permission to think big and ask God to help you. It’s not as easy as it sounds. Most of us are overloaded with our daily tasks, priorities and distractions. Who has time to dream big? And we often convince ourselves, “Big things happen to other people, not people like me.” You need to believe you’re created to dream big, that big things can happen to people like you. You serve a really big God! “For nothing is impossible with God.” Luke 1:37

Next take action. Do something. Even if it is a little thing. If you do not, you might want to consider, ‘What’s the cost of indecision?’ Indecision is a killer. It kills your hope and your forward momentum. With God, there is no indecision. He has a plan, He’s working it out, and He wants you to be part of it. Don’t get hung up on your past or on mistakes you’ve made. Refocus on God and His Word and let Him build your confidence and go for it. To not decide is still a decision.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

Then ask yourself, ‘Am doing what I can with what I have?’ You’re thrown off your path to growth and moving forward when you pay undue attention to things you can’t control along the way. Learn to let some things go that you really can’t change anyway. Remember, ‘I don’t have to do this; I get to do this.’ (continued on the next page)

This mental reframing unlocks your gratitude, making you feel re-energized when the duties of your job or life might be wearing you down.

For example, when we have a loss in the church family, I can think to myself, 'I have to do another funeral.' Take my word for it, funerals are difficult for pastors too. So, when we have a loss, what I actually think is, 'I get to help this family that I care about through a difficult time.' 'I get to love them.' 'I get to encourage them.' 'I get to honor their loved one.' I remind myself of all the good parts of being a pastor.

"But you, dear friends, **build yourselves up** in your most Holy faith."

Keep building up! I believe in you! I love you and can't wait to see you on Sunday!

"The devil wouldn't be attacking you so hard if there wasn't something valuable in you. Thieves don't break into empty houses." –Matthew McConaughey

Voting

On August 6th we will have the opportunity to stand up and be counted by voting for our civic leaders. Please pray for our candidates, pray for our country, pray God's will be done and then show up and vote.



'Shoe us the love!'

Men's Group

Our Men's Bible Study Group meets each Sunday evening at 6:30pm. Men, join us!

On Sunday, September 15th, the men will be preparing a cookout lunch for the church family in the Fellowship Hall. We'll also have a cornhole contest with prizes. Better start practicing!

Awana

Awana is where kids gather together for Bible teaching, verse memorization, announcements, snacks, games, and awards. This is a tremendous opportunity for kids to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ, learn with their friends, and have some fun. Our Fall kick-off will be Wednesday night, September 18th @ 6:00pm.

If you would like to work with our kids on Wednesday nights from 6:00-7:30, contact Pastor Mark to sign up.

Meals-on-Wheels

Once again we are blessed with the privilege of delivering meals to our local shut-ins during the week of August 12th - 16th. If you are able to spare an hour to an hour and a half any day that week, please sign up on the clipboard in the church foyer.

Children's Church

Our Children's Church Ministry is a great time to teach our kids the Bible at a level they can understand. We have an easy curriculum in place for you and video lessons are available. What we need is a person or couple who are willing to lead Children's Church one Sunday morning a month during the message time. A GIANT 'Thank You' goes out to Teresa Bowers and Marlea James for volunteering and doing a great job!

Youth Group

Youth Group will begin on August 28th @ 6:00pm with a bowling party at Tuxes Bowling Alley. If you are in Junior or Senior High School, bring your friends and join us!

The Youth Garage Sale will be part of the Highway 36 Sale on September 20th & 21st in the Fellowship Hall. If you'd like to help set up or donate, contact Sister Pam.



'Shoe us the Love!'



Barefoot Sunday will be September 8th. On that Sunday, we will wear our shoes to church and then donate them to the shoe drive. A \$50.00 gift card will be awarded to the top two families or individuals who collect the most shoes between August 12th and September 30th.

This opportunity is so exciting! I just know, with your help, we're going to knock this out of the ball park! It's going to be a WIN-WIN-WIN! My friends, 'Shoe Us the Love!' Did you know that over 300 million pairs of shoes end up in landfills each year? Our Youth Group is conducting a shoe drive that will redirect foot-ware from outcast to opportunity, from waste to wallet and from trash to treasure.

When you donate your gently worn, new and used shoes, they find new life and benefit our local youth as well as micro-entrepreneurs around the world.

Due to a lack of jobs available in developing countries, micro-enterprises add value to the economy and to lives by creating small business opportunities, improving income and promoting commerce. Your gently worn, used and new shoes are collected locally by the Youth of BWC, they are then transferred to an organization called: funds2orgs and they in turn distribute them to micro-enterprises around the globe.

Our Youth Group receives a check for their time and effort, micro-entrepreneurs in 3rd world countries receive valuable merchandise with which to open a small business and support their families and you receive more space in your closet. It's a WIN-WIN-WIN! Our shoes drive will run from August 12th to September 30th.

But don't wait, donate your shoes today! Ask your friends and family and neighbors to donate their shoes. Drop them in our collection box at church this Sunday or at one of our drop boxes located at Melby's Home Center in Scandia, Tuxes Bowling Alley or the Dollar General Store in Belleville. It's going to be awesome!

"I will lift my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?

My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

Birthdays and Anniversaries

If you are new to BWC, we would love to be able to celebrate your anniversaries and birthdays with you. Please place that information on a Connection Card on Sunday or email it to Pastor Mark at markwesley@nckcn.com. Thank you!

"Wanna be happy for an hour, eat a steak. Wanna be happy for a day, play golf. Wanna be happy for a week, go on a cruise. Wanna be happy for a lifetime, put your faith in Jesus Christ." -Coach Lou Holtz

*Celebrating 25 years at
Belleville Wesleyan
Church*

Please join us for a card shower and
potluck celebration in honor of Pastor
Mark and Pam McGregor serving
Belleville Wesleyan Church for 25 years.

August 11, 2024

Following Sunday Morning Worship

Hosted by: The McGregor Children



**Communion
will be on
Sunday,
August 25th.**

“We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.”

– Madeleine L’Engle

Welcome our New Missionaries: Kyle & Melodee Webb

As you might remember, our longstanding missionaries, Randall and Kay Freeman have retired from the missions’ field and no longer need our support. After much prayer, time and discussion, your LBA voted unanimously to offer our support to Kyle and Melodee Webb. They have three children: Juliana, Levi and Isabella. They are living and ministering in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Melodee is the granddaughter of the late Wilbert and Jean Crouse.

Belleville Wesleyan Church

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“Because we care...for you!”