



Moniteau Evangelical Advent Church

Worship service—9:00 am
Sunday School—10:15 am

Volume 4, Issue 1

April 2020

From Pastor Steve's Desk

Getting ready for Easter

We are living in an unusual time. The Coronavirus has impacted our lives, our businesses, our social experiences and our worship. Recently, I read an article about the importance of 'distancing' because we might be 'carriers' or we might be exposed to 'carriers' of the virus. If you don't come in contact with the virus, you cannot catch the virus.

The concept is simple and yet profound. Infections are spread by some form of contact—but not only infections. The Christian is to be a 'carrier' of the truth and of the hope that we have in the LORD Jesus. We are to, in a good sense, 'infect' those around us with the truth in such a way that it invades the lives of others and transforms them. Just as a virus infects and does its work in the inner, unseen parts of the body, so we are to pass along the truth of God's Word in such a way that those around us 'catch' real Christianity.

To be a carrier of the virus means, however, that we have the disease—perhaps not all the symptoms are apparent, but the disease has invaded our bodies. To be a carrier of the truth and the hope that we have in the LORD Jesus means that the truth (and hope) must penetrate and become a part of our soul/spirit and heart/mind.

Unfortunately, a person can be infected with the virus and not show any significant symptoms. He can be a carrier and not know it. Spreading the truth is different, the symptoms are what attracts others to want to 'catch' Christianity. When the truth of the Word of God 'infects' a life, that life is transformed to be more loving, more gracious, more kind. When the truth transforms a life, making life better, others (not all, for some love their sin) become interested and open to listening to the truth about Jesus as Savior, Redeemer.

We live in a world where people do not want to catch COVID and if someone has it, they don't want to spread it—but what if we as Christians want to catch more of Jesus and want to spread it to those around. Our world would be changed for spiritual health rather than what we see today in physical illness.

Take time to make sure you have an active case of Christianity and then spread it around.

Memory Verse for April

If you abide in Me and My words abide in You, ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you. John 15:7

*He's
Risen!*

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Evangelical Churches of Moniteau County

Pastor Steve's office hours:

Monday morning at St. Paul's

Tuesday afternoon at St. Paul's

Please call to share a need, set up an appointment or request a visit.

Notes from Mary Kay
—continued from last month

This next story is the second story from me about our experiences in raising teenagers. The theme behind these stories is that the teen years are preparatory to launching a productive, self-disciplined young adult who is able to make choices and be responsible for the choices they make...remembering that teen years are most probably much harder on the teen than on the parents. It is not my purpose to betray confidences nor embarrass my grown children with tales of their past. I've chosen to use "the Child" to identify the teen...our kids will probably know who the story is about...but my purpose is to demonstrate a very alive, involved and interested God who has given us promises we can boldly claim as parents to raise our children "in the way he should go", because God knows who He has created them to become and He has promised us wisdom if we ask for it!

We had two children out of our five who seemed to have more difficulty verbalizing what was going on within them during certain stages of growth. When that happens, I believe it is a parent's job to provide the needed tools to help their child navigate these times. In these times, I found that fervent prayer for wisdom from the Lord specific to the stage and child was always given...and both Steve and I were more than a little awestruck at how God worked. This particular Child struggled with feelings of anger...I sensed it...prayed much about it and for the Child...it was clear the Child could NOT verbalize the feelings...they were suppressed...but clearly, my Child was very angry inside and suffering! I believe my observation was that at age 14 this child quite desperately needed tools to deal with and express the anger constructively to HELP. Things seemed to come to a bit of a head in my book and I took this Child apart and privately to instruct the Child to write out the feelings...in whatever manner allowed the anger to be

expressed. Leave the "note" on our bed for me to find and read. There would be no negative repercussions to anything written. I just wanted this Child to begin to learn it was safe to let the anger out...to express it in whatever terms necessary...to help me understand where this anger was from and needed to be directed in order for our Child not to be smothered by it. I think that very night when I prepared for bed I found the "note". It was fairly lengthy, it certainly expressed A LOT of anger, and it was perfectly clear from where the anger came! When Steve got home some time later, I had him read it...and his response was exactly what mine was: it certainly is clear where the anger is from! I reminded Steve that I had promised NO negative repercussions to what was written. As we prayerfully moved forward from that day with our Child, God provided tools we needed as parents to communicate better with that Child, to acknowledge the struggle this Child was having, to make ways to alleviate the frustration which lead to the anger, to help our Child deal with, control, channel the feelings, express them well and appropriately. Today that particularly child of ours is probably one of the most compassionate people I know. This child-grown-to-adult feels deeply and cares for people in their world...generously. Trust NOT in your own understanding, lean not on your own insight, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your path...if any of you lack wisdom, ask of God and it will be given you...train up a child in the way he should go and in the end he will not depart from it.



Who & What We've Been Praying For

Heather Sullard
Norma & Dwayne Wood
John & Bev Ernst
Dettman Family
Paul & Shirley Baer
Paul Fennwald – recovering from knee surgery
Jamestown Community Youth Groups
Chris Schoenthal
Bentley Heiland
Emergency, Medical and Law Enforcement Personnel during the COVID-19 outbreak

Sermon Series

We have had an interruption in the planned series because the Coronavirus. I had originally intended to finish the "I AMs" of John before Easter and have a message on Palm Sunday and then of course an Easter message—but things have changed. After Easter, I will be finishing the "I AMs" of John with John 15—"I AM the Vine." It is such a rich passage that it will be divided into two sermons. Read, in preparation, John 15:1-10.

After that, I will be preaching about the "Ordinary Christian Life." There are heroes of the faith, but there are faithful ordinary people. What does God expect of us?

Becoming—

A Middle School Spiritual Journey

Using a resource, "The One Minute Bible for Students" we are developing a habit of daily Bible reading. We have had to cancel several Wednesday evenings because of weather, but look forward to returning to the routine. We have five core values:

Honor the LORD Jesus

Grow in our spiritual lives

Connect with other believers

Share the Good News of Salvation with others

Shine by serving in the name of Jesus

use (and pray for) others to have a heart for teens, praying and perhaps becoming involved. Come and see what we do on Wednesdays. We have discontinued meeting because of the Coronavirus, but want to get together in April and have a parent's night April 29. All parents will be welcome, we will eat together and share the high points for the year

World Day of Prayer Report

World Day of Prayer 2020 was hosted by Moniteau Advent on March 6. There were approximately 31 people attending from a group of seven different churches. The country it was recognized this year was Zimbabwe.

We think the world day prayer Zimbabwe committee and our local committee for their work in organizing and contributing directly or indirectly in the preparation this service. Following the service a brunch was served courtesy of the Moniteau women



*I Am",
A poem by Helen Mallicoat*

*I was regretting the past,
and fearing the future.
Suddenly my Lord was speaking:
"My name is I Am".*

*He paused. I waited.
He continued...
"When you live in the past,
with its mistakes and regrets,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WAS.*

*When you live in the future,
with its problems and fears,
it is hard. I am not there.
My name is not I WILL BE.*

*When you live in this moment
it is not hard. I am here.
My name is I AM."*

From the Dettman's—our missionaries

Hello family and friends,
We pray you're doing well and staying safe during this time. We wanted to write and give you an update on how COVID-19 has affected our country and work here in Southwinds. Like many of you, our lives have been drastically altered by governmental measures aimed at slowing the spread of the virus. The government enacted a country-wide lockdown yesterday, lasting at least 2 weeks. Land and sea borders are closed, as are all flights. Currently there are 75 confirmed cases in-country, and there have been 3 deaths. We praise God that stores are still stocked and we have everything we need, and that technology gives us lots of options to stay connected and stay busy. We were able to still fellowship Sunday morning via Zoom, a free video conferencing program, and are using the same program to continue our language classes. We've also been taking advantage of some free things people have been putting online to help keep the kids busy and active, such as art classes, animal shows, and kids yoga shows.

Due to the limits on face-to-face interactions, we've had to be creative in how we interact with students. We're working on different strategies for connecting with students through different online platforms like Facebook and Instagram, as well as

spending extra time as a team in prayer. This situation provides a unique opportunity for us to show the love of Christ and share the hope that we have, and God's Spirit is moving. Our local staff have already seen three people decide to follow Jesus through online interactions! Praise God that He is still moving and working! Please pray with us that we would see opportunities we have in our community to help those that need it, whether it's delivering groceries to those that can't leave their house or offering support in other ways.

It can be easy in the midst of this global crisis to feel fearful of what's ahead, but we rejoice that our hope does not rest in our circumstances and is not dependent on our health, finances, or location. Our hope is not found in this world, where diseases run rampant and pain and suffering are inevitable. Our hope is found in God, who entered into the world of human suffering in the person of Jesus Christ in order to save us; not by giving us immediate relief

from all suffering, but by guaranteeing for those who follow Him a future world where there will be no more pain or sickness or death.

We'd love to use this time to connect with you, as well. We'd love to know how you're doing, and how we can be praying for you. We'd also love to hear how you've seen God move in this time, or opportunities He's given you to love those around you, together for His glory, the Dettmans

Take time to email Nick and let him know you are praying for him and the ministry. Send email to nwdettman@gmail.com



READ: Matthew 27:33-38

Jesus had to die on the cross and shed His blood for us, so we could be brought back into relationship with God. He was the final sacrifice. Through Jesus blood being shed for us, our sins have been forgiven (washed away). Then, through His resurrection (coming back to life) we, too, can be raised to new life in Him. When we come to the Lord, He makes us new creations. We have Jesus' resurrected life in us.

Easter isn't all about Easter bunnies and Easter eggs as such, though these things are nice to have at Easter time. I've heard it said that the Easter egg represents 'new life' – as a chicken hatches from an egg. It is okay to enjoy chocolate bunnies and Easter eggs at Easter time, but let us not forget the real meaning of Easter.