



Muncy Baptist Church Newsletter



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Just before Holy Week and Easter, we spent several weeks studying the opening words of the Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes reveal who the good life belongs to, and throughout our study, we quickly found that none of us could live up to the standards that God set to be part of His Kingdom without the help of Jesus Christ. We need the righteousness that only Jesus can offer us. We can't have a pure heart, show others mercy, make peace, or endure persecution without Him living in and through us.

As I reflected on that truth, I was reminded of one of the statements that Jesus made about His Kingdom after His resurrection, which is known familiarly as the Great Commission: "Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

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This is the call that Jesus gives to the disciples and to each of us. It is a call to build the Kingdom and to call people to be part of the work that God is doing. But much like the actions and attitudes that Jesus says are required to be part of His Kingdom, this work cannot be accomplished without the help of Jesus Christ. If we attempt to build the Kingdom on our own, we will surely fail, but Jesus doesn't expect us to do any of this alone. His promise to us is that He will be with us always!

Interestingly, Matthew chooses to close the Gospel on this note, because it is much like how he begins the Gospel. When speaking of the coming Savior, one of the names of Jesus that Matthew highlights is Immanuel, which means "God with us." Matthew highlights this truth at the beginning and end of His Gospel in part to remind us of a powerful truth that we often overlook: God is with us always.

That truth changes our lives and should empower us to live as citizens of the Kingdom, who hold fast to the decrees of our King, Jesus Christ. Just as we hold onto Him to make us righteous, let us hold onto Him, as we hear His call to go and make disciples! And let us live knowing all things are possible, because He has empowered us, and remains with us, now and always!



Since April showers bring May flowers, here's some Bible Verses to read since we have so much rain this month!

Deuteronomy 11:14

I will send rain on your land in its season, both autumn and spring rains, so that you may gather in your grain, new wine and olive oil.

Psalms 51:10

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

1 Kings 18:41

Now Elijah said to Ahab, "Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower."

Job 5:10

"He gives rain on the earth And sends water on the fields,

Psalms 147:8

Who covers the heavens with clouds, Who provides rain for the earth, Who makes grass to grow on the mountains.



A Willing Witness

with Rev. Dr. Don Edwards, Associate
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What is Prayer?

At its base, prayer is talking with God. We can pray alone or in a group; silently or aloud; using a written prayer or a spontaneous one. But to be in prayer is more than just speaking words. Scripture portrays a life of continual prayer, meaning a kind of openness toward God in all we do (1 Thess. 5:17). Our entire lives should be prayers to God, exhibiting the praise and love of our Creator and Savior.



What the Bible Says about Prayer —

Prayer is a vital and important part of how we relate to God. Many religions recognize the need for prayer, but what does the Bible say about it? Does God hear all of our prayers? Do some people get special access to God? Is there a prayer technique that will get you what you want? God's Word answers these questions, and gives us a guidance as we struggle with tougher questions such as, "Why didn't God answer my prayer? Why should I pray at all?"

Three Things to Know Before You Pray —

- 1) **God cares for you** — Because of God's unfailing love for us, we can bring anything and everything in our hearts to God in prayer. Prayer is a safe place of trust.
- 2) 1 Peter 5:7 — Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.
- 3) Psalm 52:8 — I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.

(Next Month — Prayer # 2 — Take time to pray this month.)

God at Work

News from our Missionaries to the Congo, Wayne and Katherine Niles

Dear Muncy Baptist Church Family,

Thank you for your recent gift toward our support of \$125.00.

“Where do you see yourself in eight years,” I asked Dr. Dikizeiko. He answered, “I will be taking my best care of patients in any hospital to where God will lead me.” Dr. Mukendi replied, “My studies will enable me to provide excellent care to my patients, and to work with Congo’s youth in my free time. So many don’t know Jesus!” After a lengthy recruitment process, we recruited these two young doctors into the 2027 class of the family medicine residency program.

When Congo gained independence in 1960, there were almost no Congolese doctors. The existing medical schools focused on training nurse practitioners. In the decades after independence, schools opened to train doctors. Thus in 1978, my father, American Baptist medical missionary Dr. Daniel Fountain, met Dr. Makwanga, fresh out of medical school, assigned by the Government Ministry of Health to be director of the Baptist hospital at Moanza. Dr. Makwanga, knowing he was ill-prepared to function as a solo doctor, wanted to abandon his post even before beginning.



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The number of graduating physicians grew; yet students only learned from books with no practical experience so, with other physician colleagues, Dr. Fountain progressively organized a two, and then a three-year residency program. The program included not only medicine and surgery, but also community health, management, and the Biblical Foundations of health and healing. This program initially received accreditation in 1995, through a medical school in South Africa and continues today, accredited by the Protestant University of Congo medical school. Doctors Dikizeiko and Mukende are this year's enthusiastic recruits.

My father's conviction continues through this program - to equip Congolese doctors to serve God in rural Congo, among the underserved and the poor. These men and women will be key actors in providing sustainable, holistic, Christ-centered, health care throughout Congo.

Most of the fourteen Baptist hospitals I coordinate are staffed by graduates from this program. Patients flock to these hospitals. The

quality of care and the Christ-centered welcome are palpable. That 38 young doctors applied for the residency program this year, reflects how unique and valued this training remains in Congo. Finding laborers with hearts to serve in God's fields is challenging. Hence the need for tests, interviews, and prayerful guidance in choosing candidates. Thank you for 'sharing the load' by supporting this work through your prayers and gifts so that many more committed Congolese can share Good News with the poor.

Prayerfully submitted,

Katherine Niles



Anniversaries & Birthdays

Anniversaries in April

<i>Kyle & Melissa Woodruff</i>	04/04
<i>Andy & Angie Frontz</i>	04/07
<i>Gary & Kelly Truckenmiller</i>	04/17

Birthdays in April

<i>Nathan Kitchen</i>	04/02
<i>Shaun Bartlow</i>	04/02
<i>Doris Morrison</i>	04/08
<i>Michelle McKibben</i>	04/10
<i>Danny Rose</i>	04/11
<i>Barbara McPheron</i>	04/11
<i>Michael Johnson</i>	04/12
<i>Lynn Vermilya</i>	04/12
<i>Sarah Vermilya</i>	04/12
<i>Kevin Mowrey</i>	04/15
<i>Kevin Rogers</i>	04/16
<i>Melissa Woodruff</i>	04/18
<i>Matt Breneisen</i>	04/19
<i>Nicole Flick</i>	04/20
<i>Joshua Reese</i>	04/21
<i>Ed Smith</i>	04/24
<i>David Eshenaur</i>	04/26
<i>Karen Yeagle</i>	04/26
<i>Ethan Bartlow</i>	04/27
<i>Bobbie Jo Burke</i>	04/27
<i>Anna Elser</i>	04/29



**Don't see your anniversary or birthday?
Please let us know, so we can celebrate with you!**