



Missionary Messenger

North Manchester Missionary Church
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Guarding Our Heart

Proverbs 4:23 Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow springs of life. BSB

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. BSB

I am finishing up our series on the book of Proverbs. I have enjoyed this journey of discovery as we highlighted what this important book in the Old Testament says about our hearts. One of the important truths that we learned was that our heart, according to the OT, is made up of three parts. These parts are: our mind, our emotions, and our will. We play a roll in the condition of our hearts. What we put into our mind, what condition our emotions are in, and what we direct our will toward all combine to form our heart.

This verse makes it clear that we must guard our heart with all diligence. This means that we must choose to put healthy information into our mind. This also means that we must deal with past trauma to keep our emotions healthy. This also means that we must use personal discipline in making godly choices. When we do all these things we will have springs of life flowing from our heart.

These truths have a lot of practical value. We may begin to make changes to our heart by making small, but godly changes in what we put into our heart. In Matthew 5:8 we learn a little more about the fruit of guarding our heart. We learn that the pure in heart will experience God in a full, powerful way. We will see God!

May we all endeavor to steer our heart toward purity! Our country, our families, and our own lives will be strengthened if we seek God with a pure heart.

In Christ, Pastor Ken



Memory Verse of the Month!

Jesus declared, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."

Matthew 22:37 (BSB)



CONNECTION NOTES:

“Prayer, Love, and Urgency”

Are you concerned about the spiritual state of family members, friends, or neighbors? I am. I truly wish I could make spiritual decisions for them. But then I guess it wouldn't be free will- right?

I appreciated the message Ken taught today (7/28/24). The lesson was about a father's missed calling. Failure to prioritize spiritual lessons had created a problem. This same failure plays out in the lives of those I care about. I also wonder how I may have failed. I look back and realize that my priorities were not always eternally focused.

Pastor Ken noted 2 Chronicles 7:14-16 in his message. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

I considered previous applications of this verse in my life. I can think of several times prayer was THE solution in lives of those I cared about. I was so aware of the need for Christ to redeem a situation that I constantly prayed for Him to work. I prayed at all times of day and night. I prayed because I had absolutely no control over the situation but I knew He was in ultimate control of all things. I knew He loved them even more than I did. I was in agony! People who were on the verge of drifting, ones who had already drifted, and ones who were wrecking their lives, were all touched by the mighty hand of God.

Maybe it is time we get serious about the spiritual state of our loved ones. Maybe it is time we confess to God that we haven't always had our priorities right. Maybe it is time we humbly admit we are powerless to change others. Maybe.... No! It IS time we vehemently seek the Holy Trinity to save those we love! IT IS TIME...

Let's seek the mighty and loving face of God,

Sue

CONNECTION ACTIVITIES:

University Care Packs:

Please help send our 4 university students off on a good note. We are collecting things to help get them through the first days of school. Microwave foods, snacks, chips, home-baked cookies, and things like this. Help us to let these students know we are thinking of them. **Items needed by Sunday, August 11th.** We will distribute them at 5:15 before Gather @ the Fire.

Gather@the Fire

Invite someone to join us. Good food, relaxing fire, and time with friends.



August 11 @ 5:30p (east side of church)
Quesadillas in the Fire.

August 25 @ 5:30p (Sue's backyard)
Fire and Ice

Bring a side dish and a lawn chair for an evening on the West side of town!!!
Something in the Fire and ice cream for dessert. Yum!

Making a Difference!

Springfield Plastics is building a warehouse in Manchester. They like to give back to the community and asked the schools if there was a church that they could go through to donate backpacks. The school immediately



thought of us. They gave us 5 boxes of filled backpacks to distribute to the schools. We are making a difference in our schools.

Who Are We?

Pastor: Ken Sistrunk 260-229-5949 (cell)

PastorKenNMMC@gmail.com

Elders: Dave Jackson (vice-chairman),

Tim Baker, Jon Gnagy

Directors:

Outreach: Sue Howard

Stewardship: Tim Baker

Worship: Jon Gnagy

Secretary: Joanne Sistrunk

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It's Back to School Time. We had our teacher breakfast this week with a red carpet theme. The teachers felt loved and appreciated. We also want to support our teachers throughout the year by lifting them up in prayer starting with our own that work in the schools: Sue G and Jesse S. Also, Pastor Ken substitutes on occasion.

As you see students going to and from school lift them up in prayer. If you know a teacher or someone who works at the school, lift them up in prayer. Lift our 4 university students up in prayer: Caleb, Josh, Anna, and Zaine. As you go by the school buildings, pray for them. Pray for LifeWise Academy who is starting Bible education for the Manchester Intermediate students.

We have "I Can Pray Every Day" calendars. We have them for 5 days, 7 days, or monthly. Each day says "Pray For:" and you can put the name or place you want to specifically pray for regularly. Put the paper with your Bible, on your fridge, or any place that will remind you to pray.

Pray for protection, pray for wisdom, pray that those that are Christians would continue to hear the Spirit speak, and that the unreached would come to Christ. Pray for revival in our schools. If you know of someone who accepted Christ, let Jon G know so he can ring the bell on Sunday morning!

Just keep Praying!

~Joanne



LifeWise Academy provides Bible education to public school students during school hours. This is allowed as long as the classes are off school property, privately funded, and with the parents permission.

The first school to do this is in Van Wert, Ohio. Because they have had so much success, it has been spreading to other communities.

This school year North Manchester is starting LifeWise Academy at the Intermediate school. They have obtained use of a building across the street from the school.

Next year, they want to include the elementary school and then the high school after that.

They could use another teacher this year and some helpers. The classes are 50 minutes in length and they have 3 classes (4th, 5th, and 6th grades) on Friday afternoon.

Since this is all privately funded, they need people to sponsor a student. Sponsorship for one child is \$30 per month for 10 months a year.

For more information contact Sue Roesner at randsoesner@gmail.com. The webpage is <https://lifewise.org/district/1806270-inwabash-county-manchester-community-schools/>. They also have several YouTube videos at <https://www.youtube.com/@lifewiseacademy>.



July in Review

Gather @ the Fire



The men spent an evening at the Izaak Walton League shooting guns and eating brats.



**Red Carpet
Back to School
Teacher's / Staff Breakfast
From Set Up to VIP Pics**

