



North Manchester First Brethren Church
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Connect With Us:



FEBRUARY 2020

A Memorable Word

by Pastor Kurt

Recently I heard someone share their “word for the year.” Perhaps you’re among those who have a word that inspires, challenges, or encourages you through a season of life or the journey of a calendar year. Some examples are “Joy”, “Intentional”, “Light”, “Dare”, “Kindness”, “Dream”, “Believe”, and “Brave.” Or perhaps you’ve never thought of or heard of such an idea/concept.

Sometimes people pick a word. Sometimes it seems like a word picks you or it’s given to you in the midst of a crisis, experience, or remembered moment in time. Such was the case for me last spring. I won’t go into the details of the circumstances surrounding this moment, but I will tell you the word – “Sustain.” God whispered into my soul that He would sustain me in that moment and beyond. I’ve carried that word with me ever since.

When I feel depleted, I am reminded of God’s sustaining power and presence. When I feel like giving up, I am reminded of His enduring strength and hope. When I feel overwhelmed, I am reminded of Christ’s relentless pursuit and patience.

I did a study on the word “sustain” and found several scripture references. My favorites are below:

Psalm 55:22 “*Cast your cares¹ on the LORD and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.*”

Nehemiah 9:21 “*For forty years You sustained them in the wilderness²*”

Psalm 54:4 “*Surely God is my help³; the Lord is the One who sustains me.*”

Psalm 146:9 “*The LORD watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow⁴*”

Isaiah 46:4 “*Even to your old age and gray hairs⁵ I am He, I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*”

Sometimes we look for something to satisfy and sustain us – money, health, extravagance, vacation, relationships, food, escapism. But it’s Someone, the Lord Himself, that can only truly satisfy and sustain us in the midst of our cares¹, wildernesses², needs³, losses⁴, and in our growing older⁵ (see all these above). What are you in the midst of? Which need or crisis is downing you? What brokenness or concern is weighing on you? The Lord is our sustaining Force. I like what Hebrews 1:3 declares “*The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word.*” Let the very Word of God sustain you for everything and through everything, so that there is no mistaking Who is at work in you and for you.

So, if you’re looking for a word for this year, I’ll share mine with you – let the word “SUSTAIN” carry you through the remainder of 2020 and beyond. For it’s true, “He will sustain you!”

RUMINATIONS FROM PASTOR RON

"Everyone has a source of authority, whether they realize it or not."

Our Source of Authority

I used to play a lot of baseball. Baseball, like any sport, has rules. If a question came up as to what the rule was on a certain play, we went to the rule book (although usually nobody had one!). The rule book was our authority. Imagine playing a game where there are no rules; it would be a free-for-all, with everyone doing what they wanted. This was the situation in the Old Testament book of Judges. Judges describes a dismal period in the history of Israel when *Everyone did what was right in his own eyes* (Judges 17:6; 21:25). Strange things happen in Judges that would be at least "R" rated if they weren't in the Bible. They happened because the Israelites didn't play by the "rulebook," God's Word. They rejected what should have been their source of authority.

Everyone has a source of authority, whether they realize it or not. People who don't believe the Bible have other authorities as their source. For example, people who believe in evolution have Charles Darwin as an authority, and supposed scientific "proof" for that theory. People who believe in what some call "alternative life styles" have their own preferences as their authority. According to Answers magazine (from the Answers in Genesis ministry), last September the Mattel toy company launched a line of gender-inclusive dolls called Creatable World. Each doll kit comes with one doll and

clothing options, accessories and wigs that allow the children to make the doll male or female. Mattel consulted with pediatricians and other experts to ensure the doll was truly gender inclusive.

If you didn't have the Bible as your source of authority, you might think that there is nothing wrong with a doll like this. After all, why should a child not be able to make the doll whatever he or she wants it to be? Why should people, in fact, not be able to choose their own gender? When we don't have the Bible as our source of authority, we are like a ship without a rudder in a hurricane, blown about by the culture, the media, other people's opinions, and our own feelings. But when God's Word is our source of authority, we stand boldly and confidently on the truth. In the case mentioned, God's Word says, *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.* Genesis 1:27. We know that our gender is given to us by God at conception, and it cannot be changed (while acknowledging that in rare cases there can be congenital abnormalities).

2 Timothy 3:16 says, *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness...* In Jesus' prayer for His disciples in John 17, He said to the Father, *Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth* (v. 17). May we be careful to base our thoughts and opinions on the truth; may our source of authority be the Word of God.

Ron Burns, Discipleship Coordinator
All Scripture references are NASB



DIACONATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (DLC) REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

January 2020

Subject to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the DLC is to provide Spirit-led vision, leadership, guidance and wisdom for policy-making and practices affecting our local First Brethren Church. DLC members serve as representatives of the congregation, and provide support and oversight to the various FBC ministries.

After our DLC retreat last July, we asked the congregation to hold us up in prayer as the DLC committed to 60 days of prayer and fasting for our church and God's direction. A key focus was for guidance about our facilities and the use of our spaces for ministry. Late last fall, we reflected on the 60 days by sharing what we felt we heard from the Lord. We want to update you on our discussions.

It seems that every time the DLC discusses building issues, we almost always end up discussing discipleship. How are we as a church body growing as committed disciples (not fair weather fans) of Jesus? The church building is not "the church", its people are. Therefore, the most important aspects of church life that we should focus on are growing in our commitment to God and His Word, devoting ourselves to prayer, reaching out to the lost, and caring for one another in Christ-like love.

Although certainly important, a church building is merely one of many possible ministry tools. As we shared with one another, no one heard the Lord saying that we should build a new church building on either our current site or another one at the present time. This is consistent with similar discussions in recent years. Rather, until we hear the Lord saying differently, we should take care of the church facility with which we have been blessed, and be more proactive in preparing for the future - whatever that might look like. We also reaffirmed the decision made after digesting the 2003 Living Stones consultation, to seriously consider the purchase of any adjoining properties should they become available.

The DLC also sensed the Lord calling us to reaffirm our church's mission / vision statement which reads as follows:

We are committed to leading the people of the North Manchester area community into a growing, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. God has gifted our congregation to help families at their point of need, primarily through children and youth.

Therefore, a key issue for the DLC in 2020 will be the exploration of ministry models. This is important because a church's ministry model will dictate the tools needed (such as facilities) to most effectively carry out its mission of growing disciples. For example, if a ministry model focused on small groups or house churches, facility needs could look a lot different than what we have now.

As we enter a New Year and decade, we ask for your continued prayers as we seek God's direction. We would be more than happy to hear from you about what's been shared here or anything else that is on your mind. May God's power, peace and grace be upon you in 2020.

The DLC

Our 2020 DLC members are: Garen Bushong (*Vice-Moderator*), Andy Cook, Donna McKee (*Secretary*), Brett Miller, Mike Pyle, Steve Searles (*Moderator*), Chris Walters, Matt Webb and Pastor Kurt Stout.

Fundraiser for Colombia & 3rd Sunday Luncheon

Imagine for a moment that while we are worshiping in the sanctuary, our children are having Sunday School in the balcony. What would that be like? Well, that is what the Brethren in Medellin are doing because they don't have any other space for their children's ministries. For the past five years they have been praying that the Lord would open the opportunity for them to purchase the building next door to the church, but the owner refused to sell to them believing he could make more money from another buyer. The church continued to pray, and during that time they were also collecting money for whatever God had in mind. Last summer the man decided nothing else was opening up, so he said he would sell the building to the Medellin Brethren, but their bank will not give them a loan until they can come up with \$12,000 for the down payment. They have saved more than half of that, and with our help they can reach that goal by "Fall" (April).

The W.M.S. would like to raise \$1,000 this month to help them, and we are asking you to partner with us in two different ways. 1) You can pick up a pill bottle at church and fill it with "CASH for Colombia". Filled with quarters would be \$10 or more, or filled with bills would be even better. 2) We will also sponsor the Third Sunday Luncheon on February 16th, and invite you to join us for a Summer Picnic (it's summer in Colombia). The menu will include cold meat sandwiches, chips, carrot & celery sticks, an apple or orange, cookies and lemonade. We will start serving at 10:30 for those attending first service. Please join us and be a blessing to the Brethren in Colombia.

First Brethren Church
Learn From Me ... Matt. 11:29
Reading Plan Bookmark
2020

February **Genesis**

3	<input type="checkbox"/> 41-42
4	<input type="checkbox"/> 43-44
5	<input type="checkbox"/> 45-46
6	<input type="checkbox"/> 47-48
7	<input type="checkbox"/> 49-50

Matthew

10	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
11	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-4
12	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-6
13	<input type="checkbox"/> 7-8
14	<input type="checkbox"/> 9-10
17	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-12
18	<input type="checkbox"/> 13-14
19	<input type="checkbox"/> 15-16
20	<input type="checkbox"/> 17-18
21	<input type="checkbox"/> 19-20

24	<input type="checkbox"/> 21-22
25	<input type="checkbox"/> 23-24
26	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-26
27	<input type="checkbox"/> 27-28

Exodus

28	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-2
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FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1 – Carol Collett	Kendall Troyer
2 – Cody Holmes	10 – Beletu Stout
Jason McIntyre	Elijah Harting
Mac Yarnelle	11 – Nicole McKee
4 – Jerry Holmes	13 – Randy Moore
5 – Dave McIntyre	15 – Donna Beaver
6 – Joyce Walters	Ed Egner
Kamden Martin	16 – Annette Clifton
7 – Linda Immel	Dane Simcoe
Isaiah Burlingame	17 – Kent Coble
8 – Heather Lauer	Janessa Martin
9 – Terry Sites	18 – Robin Shepherd
	19 – Ava Simcoe
	Ehlana Brock

22 – Bev Renz
23 – Darren Callaway
25 – Cara Blocher
27 – Ainsley Duffy
28 – Myrl Frantz
Sarah Longanecker
Dominic Lincoln
29 – Steve Kennedy

Anniversaries

14 – Martin & Rhonda Hernandez '04
Bob & Sue Craig '76
25 – Shaun & Estella Callaway '12

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Service Changes: In the event of weather related situations, changes to our services will be posted on the church Facebook page, WANE TV (Channel 15) or on the WBCL radio station (90.3 FM).

Parking Lots: If you are coming to the church for meetings/gatherings and the parking lots have not yet been cleared, please utilize street parking as much as possible. This will allow snow removal crews to clear the lots when needed. Have a larger event scheduled? Make sure it's on the church calendar so we can schedule snow removal if needed. The Ministry of Property thanks you for taking this into consideration!

BRETHREN WAY OF CHRIST WEEKENDS

I knew that my lifestyle did not reflect Christ in my life and I felt that He had left me decades ago. Going to the BWOC retreat helped me to find Christ again and to realize that He did not leave me, but it was I who had left Him. It is so wonderful to have Him in my life again, to feel free, and to know that it was Him who helped me break free of my addiction and to know that He has forgiven my sins.

Are you ready for an encounter with God? Devote three days to spending time with Jesus—learning more of His love and truth, seeking His will for your life in a very encouraging atmosphere, and making new Christian friends along the way. Spring Brethren Way of Christ weekends will be held in March for men, women, and teens. If you are interested or would like more information, please see Mark Hill, Steve Searles, Cindy Pyle, Heather Winger or a pastor. Informational brochures and applications are in the foyer and gathering area, or visit brethrenway.wordpress.com.

JOIN OUR MEDIA TEAM



TRAINING PROVIDED. CONTACT THE OFFICE OR A MEMBER OF THE WORSHIP MINISTRY.

MEDIA TEAM

Serve during the worship services by helping with projection or sound. If you have an interest and a knack with technology, or would be willing to learn to do one or both of these once a month, please contact Drew

Bowles, Worship Coordinator, or the church office.

Join the Welcome Team

Contact the church office or Deb Thompson to serve

GREETERS

Do you like to shake people's hands or give out hugs? If you're a "people person" with a friendly and welcoming nature, we need you as a greeter! If you would be willing to serve in this area once a month please contact Deb Thompson (982-4254) or the church office.



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9:15-10:15 AM

The JH class meets in Room 101.
HS meets in the back of the Fellowship Hall.

WEDNESDAY YOUTH GROUP, 6:15-7:45 PM

For all students in 7th-12th grades
in the Fellowship Hall.

Includes a meal, games, Bible lesson and discussion



WINTER BLAST

FEBRUARY 14-16

Summer 2019 was a long time ago
Summer 2020 is far far away.
Missin' your camp friends?
Come to Camp Shipshewana for Winter Blast.

Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
Find registration information at brethrenretreat.org



WINTER JAM 2020

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. and return around midnight. Space may be limited by how many drivers we have. Reserve your spot now by paying the \$15 fee to Pastor Dylan. Deadline to register is Feb. 12



WEEKEND CONNECT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

@ NAPPANEE FIRST BRETHREN CHURCH

Meet at our church at 7:30 a.m. and return at 10 p.m.
A FREE conference for Jr. & Sr. high students.
Must sign up by contacting Pastor Dylan by Feb. 12

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

CHILDREN'S DISCIPLESHIP



Children's Discipleship

We have a few spots open for volunteers in either the LOFT elementary age or Garden 0-K ages classes. Please see Lisa if you are interested in completing a background check and finding the place God has prepared for you to serve and meet this need. Thanks!

February in the 2's class (10:30): We will be learning that "God takes Care of Me" from the story of Jesus calming the storm. Each week we will play, explore, and listen to help us remember to trust God. As you pray together as a family, thank God for taking care of you.

Garden 3-K's: Yippee Ti Yi Yo! - Jesus Can Do Anything!

Is our theme for this month. We will be learning Proverbs 3:5 with our verse song and kids will hear miraculous stories from Jesus' life that show He can do anything!



LOFT and elementary Sunday School



Our "Bee-attitudes" theme will continue this month in LOFT and elementary classes as we learn how Jesus taught and showed us how to live. We will be focusing on the Beatitudes (our memory challenge) and Matthew 5:16 (our memory verse) to change our hearts and let the light of Jesus shine through us. Ask your kids "How did you shine today?"

Elementary kids can say their memory verse/s the last 2 Sundays of February for prizes.

KFC (4th, 5th and 6th grade Kids for Christ) Be watching for information about our February **LEAP!** event just for 4th, 5th and 6th graders later this month!



Online Parenting Video: This month's parenting video talks about how you, as a parent, can create discipleship moments on the go. With just a little bit of strategic planning, you can bring Jesus into the normal flow of life. When you choose to be strategic, you don't try to do everything, but rather, you try to do a few things with purpose and focus. Imagine what you want for your kids spiritually. Let that be the fuel to find discipleship moments on the go this month.

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/368771014/dae5688bb7>