



MISSION COVENANT CHURCH

# CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2020

## “Truth is in Trouble”

Os Guinness a well-known English author who was born in China to missionary parents in 1941. After returning to England and being educated there and heading up some ministries in Europe for a while, he came to America where he has resided for nearly four decades. His recent observation of the American culture is the title of this article, “Truth is in Trouble: Truth in any objective or absolute sense, truth that is independent of the mind of the knower, he says, no longer exists.”

Three years ago, in the March 2017 edition of Time magazine the cover questioned, “Is Truth Dead?” Of course, it was intended to mimic a famous Time magazine cover from a half-century before that raised the question, “Is God Dead?”

Brett McCracken referencing these two magazine covers made the following observations: “These two covers, fifty years apart, tell an important story. Without God as an ultimate standard of truth, without ‘objective’ truth that is the same for everyone, all we have are ‘truths’ as interpreted by individuals.”

In other words what McCracken is highlighting is that truth isn’t there to be discovered; in our culture it is there for us to create ourselves.

If you wonder why things can be so uncivilized in our society right now, why there can be so much political and social unrest it all comes back to citizens individually being arbitrators of the truth. When there is no objective truth, no absolute truth, no belief in God who is the way, the truth and the life. Then what are we left with – people’s personal opinions on what is true and what is not.

Throw into that pot all kinds of denials of the truth or at best misrepresentations of the truth by media source and social media sites and you can easily see how truth is in trouble in our society.

The truth is our world is moving further and further away from God. Meanwhile, God is the embodiment of truth, when Jesus the incarnate Son of God came to earth it says of Him in John 1:14 that He is “full of Grace and Truth!” Jesus is along with the Father and the Spirit the origin and proclaimer of truth. Jesus himself said, John 14:6, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Truth is not a system to be adhered to or a philosophy; it is a person. If you want to know the truth of God, you must come to know Christ, because He alone is truth. Truth is not some nebulous, flexible, theoretical concept that is open to reevaluation or redefinition. It resides in the triune God of the universe.

Any other concept or pursuit of truth misses the mark. Jesus said in John 8:32, “You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

In Christ Love,  
Pastor Darrell L. Nelson

## I Love it when a Plan Comes Together!

Well, I do, but I'm not really a good planner/organizer. My wife is good at that and keeps me in line most days! But my daughter seems to have taken it to the next level! I happened across a recent Instagram post from her and was blessed and encouraged big time! What she wrote is below:

*"Don't out-plan God in your life."*

*"I've always been a planner, always had my next calculated step in life carefully mapped out. I hate taking risks, and always want to know exactly what I'm walking into.*

*All of the uncertainty in the world has helped me begin to rest in the fact that the perfect planner, the only one who can line my life up perfectly according to His will, needs me to just have Faith in what He has already said He will do.*

*In Exodus 16, God specifically told the Israelites to only gather enough manna and quail for the day- He would provide them with just enough for each morning! And yet, they worried they would need to gather more just in case. Even though they already had the promise they needed for tomorrow, they put their Faith in themselves rather than God's promise to care for them.*

*I don't know about anyone else, but I am just like the Israelites. I plan so meticulously that I leave little to no room for God to come into my plans and direct my steps to where He needs me to be. I place my faith in my planning abilities- I gather as much manna and quail as I possibly can just in case something were to go wrong in my plan.*

*So God wreck my plans until there is only room for yours. Give me manna for the day only, and Faith in your promise for whatever may come after."*

Laryssa Vik

Great wisdom from a young lady who has had her plans messed up a few times in her life but is thankfully remaining connected to the Vine! "Thank you Laryssa for letting me share this and thank you for the encouragement of your faith in our Savior!"

One of my favorite verses:

[Proverbs 16:3](#)

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your **plans.**"

And:

[Proverbs 19:21](#)

"Many are the **plans** in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

Seek Ye first!

Bananas for God's plans,

Pastor Carey (and Laryssa)



# the WORD

In verse 1 of the Book of John, we read that the “Word was God”. This raises an interesting question, what does John mean when he uses the term “Word”? This was a controversial statement that John made. To the Jewish readers, “the Word was God” would have been considered blasphemy. To the Greek readers, “the Word became flesh” (John 1:14) was unthinkable. To a Jewish audience, the “Word” would have been understood to be God’s Law, the source of God’s message to his people through the prophets (Hosea 4:1), and God’s standard of holiness. The Greek audience’s concept of “the Word” was reasoning that governed the world...But John tells us “the Word” is describing Jesus who is the creator and sustainer of all things yet was a human being that he knew and loved. John 1:14 tells us, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God, the living picture of God’s holiness. Jesus is “the Word”!

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan

# Mission Kidz!

## Mission Statement:

“Partnering with families to help children discover Jesus and learn how to live for Him”

For more details, go to [missioncovenantchurch.org](http://missioncovenantchurch.org)  
(Mission Kidz! webpage)

## Mission Kidz!

Is a ministry for children  
6 weeks through 4th grade.



**Operation  
Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

We will begin collecting shoe boxes on Sunday, October 18 with a goal of 150 boxes to be collected. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Every gift-filled shoe box is a powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship-transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus.

Go to [www.samaritans.org/occ](http://www.samaritans.org/occ) for more information.

*Shoe boxes will be available and collection will take place at both church entrances.*

Mission Kidz! will continue the same until further notice for children ages 3 years old through the 4th grade. Two year old children are welcome to attend at parents discretion. Our Large Group Leader will be meeting the children by the MMC doors to walk them down to the classrooms and will return them to the MMC at the end of the service.

One side of the nursery will be open during all of the services for parents to bring and watch their own children. Video of the services will be livestreamed into the Mom's room.



## Mission Project

In 2020, our children are once again collecting an offering to support Deyling Lisbeth from Nicaragua. Yearly Goal: \$550

Offering total so far for 2020: **\$324.00**

These monies are used to assist World Vision, a global Christian humanitarian organization. They partner with children (including Deyling), their families, and communities to help them reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Jesus' love is always at the center of their mission.

## Prayer Requests:

May our Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes help to bring the love of Jesus to many children around the globe  
Amen!



## Star Of The Month



**Tracy gaffke**

**Mission Kidz! is so blessed and grateful for all of the time and countless ways in which you have invested in the lives of the children in Mission Kidz! Your volunteer service with VBS crafts, nursery, Operation Christmas Child, Family Treasure Hunt and many ways behind the scene are so appreciated!!! Thank you!**

# Financial Update

General Fund Actual Income through **Aug:** \$360,089  
General Fund Budgeted Income through **Aug:** \$362,446

General Fund Actual Expenses through **Aug:** \$337,327  
General Fund Budgeted Exp. through **Aug:** \$3596,905

General Fund Actual Surplus through **Aug:** \$22,762  
General Fund Budgeted Surplus through **Aug:** 2,541

Missions Fund Actual Income through **Aug:** \$81,980  
Missions Fund Budgeted Income through **Aug:** \$76,396



All men are invited to join us for an hour of Bible study and Christ centered fellowship every Wednesday from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



## Adult Bible Class

Want to learn more?

Join us this Fall on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. for our adult **Quest** Class taught by Pastor James.

Sign up by calling the church office#



## Wednesday September 30, Youth Group Kick-off at MCC

Elevate & Vertical, Grades 6-12: 6-8:00 p.m.

## Wednesdays Starting October 7

Elevate, Grades 6-8: 3:30-5:00 p.m.

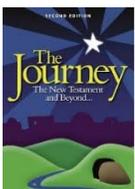
Vertical, Grades 9-12: 6:15-8:15 p.m.



Wednesday, October 7 3:30-5:00 p.m.

OR

Sunday, October 4 at 10:00 a.m.



Church Contact Information:

Phone: 715-364-2738

Email: [info@missioncovenantchurch.org](mailto:info@missioncovenantchurch.org)



**Good News Club** is in your area! Child Evangelism Fellowship of Douglas County would

like you to know about the Good News Club that is in your area. The Good News Club meets at Northwestern Elementary School. We will TENTATIVELY begin on October 14 right after school until 5:00 p.m. We will have more information as we are seeking guidance from the CEF Leadership team and must follow what the school allows. If you would like more information, please contact Jennifer Vik at 218-340-9059.



Join us for **PICKLEBALL** at Mission Covenant Church. This is an extension of our SAM Ministry, but all adults are invited to play. We have the equipment – so come out join the fun and bring a friend!

We will play Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

**Starting Monday, October 5**



**Walk & Maps**  
**Video#Trax#**

Let's get moving and fellowship while doing so! Kids are welcome, dress for the weather, we will plan to walk approximately 1.5 miles around church area then head back to play on playground. A light snack will be provided. Bring water or coffee. On rainy or really cold days we will meet indoors in the Mission Kidz! area. Held **Fridays starting Oct 9th until Nov 20th from 8:30 am to 10 am**. Sign up via Mission Covenant Church website/or Contact Tracy Gaffke with questions 218-640-0381 or email [tlgaffke@gmail.com](mailto:tlgaffke@gmail.com).



**Operation Christmas Child**  
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

We will begin collecting our boxes on **Sunday, October 18** with a goal of 150 boxes! Every gift-filled shoebox is a Powerful tool for evangelism and discipleship – transforming the lives of children and their families around the world through the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Everyone is encouraged to participate!

Go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ) for more details.

**Collection will be at both entrances of the Church boxes are due by November 22.**

Shop at **AmazonSmile**

And Amazon will make a donation to: **Mission Covenant Church**



AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and log in using the same log in information as your amazon account. After signing in, underneath the Search box place your cursor over the word **Supporting**: and then to the right of the default charitable organization click on the word **change**. Click in the search bar below the spotlight charities box where it says, "Or pick your own charitable organization", type Mission Covenant Church in the box, click on the search button to the right, then select Mission Covenant Church Poplar WI. You are done! Amazon Smile will donate to MCC every time you shop! (Be sure you ALWAYS log in to Smile.Amazon.com for this donation to occur.) Feel free to contact the church office or stop in and we will be happy to help you set this up!



**Quarterly Membership Meeting**

**Sunday, October 25**  
**6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

To date we have received

**2019: \$180.57**

**2020: \$135.41**

**T: \$315.98**

**We thank you for your donations!**

# October Events Rescheduled for 2021



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Perhaps in these crazy times you have found it hard to concentrate. Even your librarian has had a hard time reading serious books, except The Bible. Here are a couple things that have helped me out a lot:

Libby is an app for all smartphones or devices that lets you borrow audio books from the public library. I was pleasantly surprised to see they have a lot of Max Lucado and other good authors.

If you have a little flex in your budget, check out [chirp.com](http://chirp.com). They have lots of good deals on digital audiobooks. Watch for the specials, and you can play them on different devices with their app.



# Sharing One's Surplus

## Saturday, October 10



We will continue our SOS Foodshare distribution the same as we have the past 3 months with **ONLINE PURCHASES- see link below** and it will be a **DRIVE THRU ONLY service**, where guests will stay in their vehicles and shares will be brought out and loaded into your vehicle by our volunteers.

This process will be as follows:

- **DRIVE THRU ONLY** format so **PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR VEHICLES.**
- You will be directed where to line up your vehicle.
- Please **ONLY** arrive 10 mins before your online registration time slot.
- Registration will begin at 10:00am and will end when all shares have been distributed.
- While you are waiting in line, our volunteers will come to your vehicle to confirm your online registration and put a 1/2 or full sign under your windshield wiper.
- When prompted you will pull your vehicle up the side church doors and volunteers will bring your share(s) to your car and load it into your vehicle.
- **PLEASE HAVE YOUR TRUNK EMPTY AND READY TO RECEIVE THE BOXES** CONTAINING YOUR SHARE. Some things may be boxed, but you should also have an extra empty tub or two in your trunk.
- **THE CHURCH BUILDING WILL NOT BE OPEN**, however, you may use the restroom.

In light of the current situation, we will be carrying out this distribution with considerably fewer volunteers. Please be patient with this process as we strive to follow CDC guidelines while we help our community to stretch their food budget during this critical time. We are hopeful that with a little patience and understanding we can make this a safe and successful distribution for those that participate.

***Link for online purchases which will only stay open until 12pm Friday!***

<https://eventsframe.com/e/tZ94lrs7C/mission-covenant-church-sos-food-share/>

Blessings,

Your SOS Foodshare Volunteers

Dear Church Family,

Several months ago, the Church Council approved the creation of an electronic directory for our parishioners. The new electronic directory is hosted by, “The Instant Church Directory Online.” This program allows us to access our churches directory online via phone app and home computers. We can also print hard copies for those who would so desire. The site is secure, password protected, and only authorized directory participants of Mission Covenant Church can access it. You can share as little or much information as you want about yourself/family.

**Information you can share;**

**Name(s)**

**Home address**

**Email address**

**Phone number**

**Photo** (you will need to email photo the Church office)

**Birth and anniversary dates**



The advantage of an electronic directory is you can update your information instantly. If something changes it can be updated quickly so the directory stays current.

We understand that some people may want to be included in the directory and others are not interested. So, we are asking that you let the church office know your participation preference & information from above that you want shared. Please contact us via email at, [info@missioncovenantchurch.org](mailto:info@missioncovenantchurch.org) or call the office 715-364-2738

The administrative team is working hard to be accurate with all the information entered into the directory, but it will require you in phase two of this rollout, to check **your profile** for accuracy and make necessary updates.

**What is next??** Please contact church office with your participation preference and the information you would like shared in the directory as listed above in bold.

Thank you, MCC Electronic Directory Team



# MISSIONS

I want to thank you for missions giving this year. As of the end of 3rd quarter we are on track for our budget! Please help us end the year strong and able to support our missionaries as you can. Below are two letter updates from missions we support.

Dan Diamon, Missions Chair

Dear friends at Mission Covenant,

I hope that this letter finds you well and enjoying the fellowship in worshipping the Lord regularly. The only good thing about Covid has been the opportunity to worship with you via the internet. You don't know it, but I have tuned in to your service nearly every week since April. Now the church I attend in Pretoria is starting up their evening service again, so I might miss yours since they fall at the same hour, but I'll join you when I can.

Last week marked five months since the lockdown began in South Africa because of the Covid pandemic. The first eight weeks were particularly painful since I rarely had an opportunity to speak to a living person. Days went by without using my voice. In June the restrictions in South Africa began to ease, and I found that if I can have a face to face conversation with someone at least once a week I can maintain my emotional equilibrium. Of course, I am thankful for the internet and for Zoom calls, but it's not the same as being able to visit. All international travel in or out of S.Africa ended, other than to regain one's passport country. If I leave South Africa, I can't get back in. The government is not saying what they are thinking, but I don't expect the lockdown will change very soon. I am hoping that I can travel again in 2021.

As with global businesses around the world, I am finding that much can be accomplished over Zoom. My training program for my leaders in Africa scheduled for September has been shifted to Zoom. Going virtual actually opened the door for broader participation. But the spiritual input, the fellowship, and team building exercise is lost to us. I'm able to keep up on my administrative responsibilities but cultivating contacts and exploring new opportunities hit the ditch.

But at the end of the day, I have to believe that the hand of God is in this. This morning I listened to a pastor from Chicago, Colin Smith, speaking from Isaiah 40 about those of us who are weary in waiting for the Lord to fulfill his promises. Pastor Smith reminded me to lean into God, to trust what I know to be true about my God, his strength and sovereignty, and what I know about myself, my frailty. I hear others joke about 2020 being a very bad year and we'll all be glad when it is over. But no, God is busy doing something wonderful among us if only we look for him and recognize the opportunities before us.

I'll list a few prayer points to catch you up on what I'm thinking:

Praise the Lord:

- After 5 months of lockdown because of the Covid pandemic, South Africa is finally beginning to loosen some of the restrictions. As of last week, we are allowed to travel between provinces.
- With the lockdown and the shuttering of many businesses came improved electricity service and internet. I've been able to carry on my administrative work via the internet and Zoom meetings.
- Although three local friends came down with Covid, they recovered. I have remained healthy for which I am very thankful
- Three colleagues lost elderly parents due to Covid; one in Canada, one in North Carolina, and one here in South Africa. I'm thankful that my mother was able to make her move from Minnesota to South Dakota in May, adjusted well, and remains in good health in these recent months.
- In August Chad opened its borders to international flights into N'Djamena. We have a number of missionaries from Europe and the States who will be returning to the field in September after their Home Assignments and medical leave.
- I mentioned my sagging support in a letter in March, and also announced my retirement in September of next year, 2021. I am so thankful that the Lord stirred his people and my support has strengthened.

Pray:

- The lockdown had a devastating effect on the majority population of South Africa. Entire communities were left destitute with no jobs, and no social systems to assist families. Churches and NGOs have tried to serve the squatter camps, but the crime rate has escalated as people prey on one another in an effort to survive.
- All my TEAMmates found ways to continue their various ministries in their respective locations. The team in Chad carried on with their work with minimal interference. Some travel plans home to the US or Europe were delayed. It was easier to travel home to the US than it was to return from the US to Africa. TEAM has about 50 missionaries from around the world stuck in the States. I have only a handful in the US waiting to fly back to Africa. Pray that the Lord will open the way for them to return to their ministry areas soon.
- Mark Vanderkooi in Chad came down with Covid in April and had a hard go of it. Now four months later he is still experiencing health issues. He traveled to the capital recently for a checkup and testing. Pray that the Lord will restore his strength.
- In South Africa most of my TEAMmates are involved in pastoral and leadership training. They struggled with the lockdown, tried to shift to teaching over the internet and on social media platforms, but with limited success. Many of their students had little or no access to the internet. Everyone has made a good effort to soldier on, but the effect is wearisome and discouraging. The pastoral students are eager to get back into the classroom. If nothing else, they have learned to value their classroom experience. Pray that the Word of God will dig deep into their hearts.
- Zimbabwe continues to slide into chaos because of political and economic dysfunction. Every prayer letter I mention Zimbabwe. The Christians have prayed for years for relief from government forces bent on destroying their economy and communities with corruption and oppression. All efforts to express opposition are met with violence by the military and injustice in the courts. Pray for pastors and missionaries who are trying to offer counsel and comfort to the oppressed and despairing.
- Pray for me and for my supporters that we will remain strong in our service together for the Gospel. I oversee about 70 missionaries in Africa. A training program for key leaders will begin in September conducted over the internet. Although much is lost with the lack of personal contact, doing the training virtually means that it can be offered to a broader audience. Pray that the training will encourage, inspire, and challenge my leaders in the 3 ministry areas where TEAM works in Africa.

Thank you for your gifts in April, May, June, July, and August for my support, totaling \$3150. My support lagged behind in 2019 until I wondered if I'd make it to the end of my career. I felt paralysed to even mention it, but since March it has taken an uptick and looks strong with a couple new supporters, a church that joined my team, others who increased their giving, and some who gave a one time gift. Rejoice with me. I mentioned my need only once in a prayer letter and received an immediate response for which I am so thankful. All glory to the God who hears our prayers and answers.

TEAM recently changed their mailing address when they closed the Texas office. You should have received notice of the change. If you give on-line or through a bank transfer then the change won't affect you. But if you mail a check then you'll want to take note that the new address is: TEAM, PO Box 1683, Carol Stream, IL 60132-1683.

There has been no postal service in or out of South Africa since the lockdown in March. Please don't try to post cards or notes. Sorry.

I want to send my warmest greetings and assurance that I appreciate your love and concern for me as evidenced by your continued support. I look forward to seeing you in 2021. Blessings,

**Lorraine Green**





Mission Covenant Church has come along side FCA financially, with prayer and programming. I feel the FCA Huddle at Northwestern is an extension of Mission Covenant Church's Ministry to our community's youth.

Covid has had an impact on our ministry. I'm not sure it has hurt us but has given us opportunities to minister in other ways and has really opened doors because there are so many youth and coaches hurting.

There has been some great discussion with coaches about 3D coaching because covid has taken away most of the first dimension this last spring so the only way they could coach was through the first and second dimensions. One school we have spent the entire summer looking at their football program and developed mission statements in each of their coaching areas and made sure they were aligned with their Marks of Excellence which are basically the Fruits of the Spirit. The discussion between the coaches talking about things like love was awesome.

The protesting has really spurred us on to look at our ministry and racism/diversity. Our staff has worked at looking at ways we can improve our ministry in that area. Our team has worked hard reading books, watching online presentations, and looked inside personally to see what our own beliefs are or where God might be is guiding us to better prepare in the area of becoming more diverse thinkers.

This spring will be a challenging spring. I was asked to have a Northwest Wisconsin FCA Fund Raiser Banquet, so I will be contacting the Church for the use of their facility, maybe helping me with some of the programming and logistics. I am just in the brainstorming stage but as I move forward, I will be reaching out to the Church. Please pray for this event.

I have definitely seen God at work this last 6 months in the lives of athletes, coaches, FCA Staff and myself. Yes, all the struggles, ever changing, and unknown events in our world today has been a challenge but it has forced us to really rethink our ministry and provide some great opportunities. We need pain and times like this to grow stronger and really depend upon God to see us through this.

Thank you so much for your support, your friendship, and for Mission Covenant Church coming along side FCA as a partner in this ministry.

Bob Coleman  
FCA NW Wisconsin Area Representative