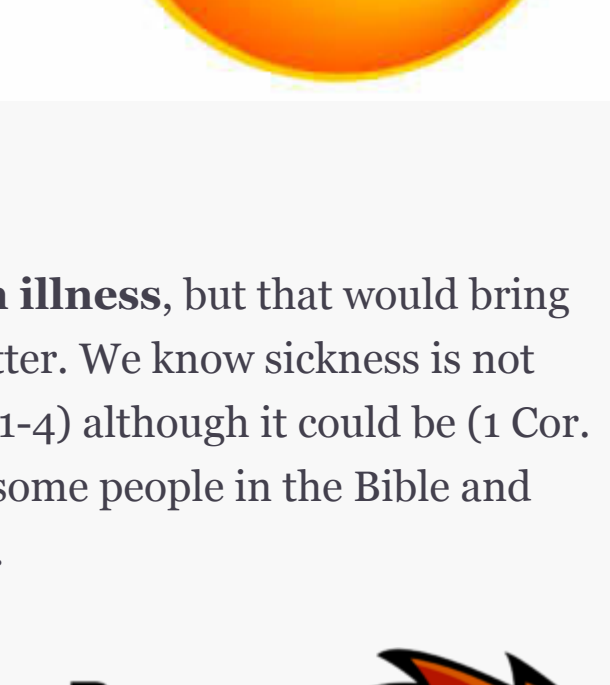


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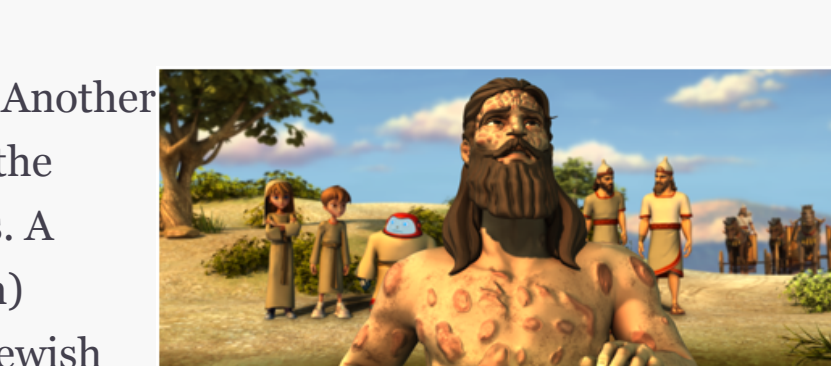
EDITOR'S NOTE

As I write this, I am recovering from the latest plague which is making the rounds. FBBC's Refresh Conference was hit hard last week with people having a deep cough, head congestion, weariness and body aches. Many who attended came home with "the crud" (me included). I am one who seems to get sick every year in the winter months.

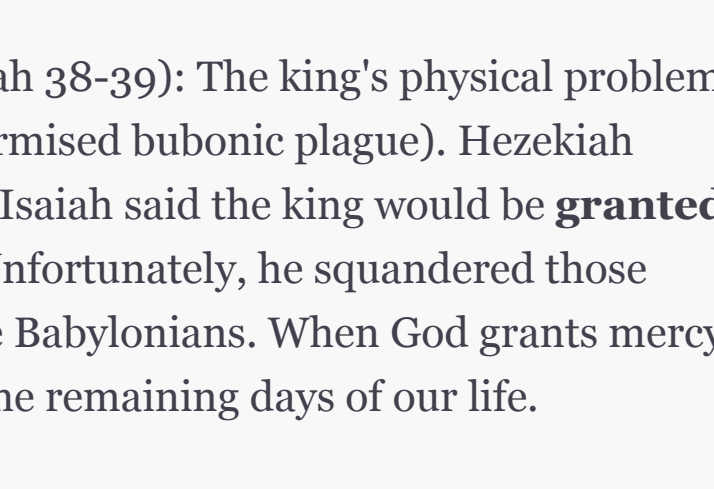


It would be good to write a theology on illness, but that would bring about a volume too large for this newsletter. We know sickness is not necessarily because of one's sin (John 9:1-4) although it could be (1 Cor. 11:30; 1 John 5:16-17). Listed below are some people in the Bible and lessons we can learn from their sickness.

Miriam (Numbers 12:10-15): Moses' sister was struck with leprosy for her criticism (and probable jealousy) of her brother. Moses interceded for her and she was healed. Some criticize long lists of health needs at prayer meetings as not being true "spiritual" needs. Yet here is a good illustration of the impact of intercessory prayer for physical needs.

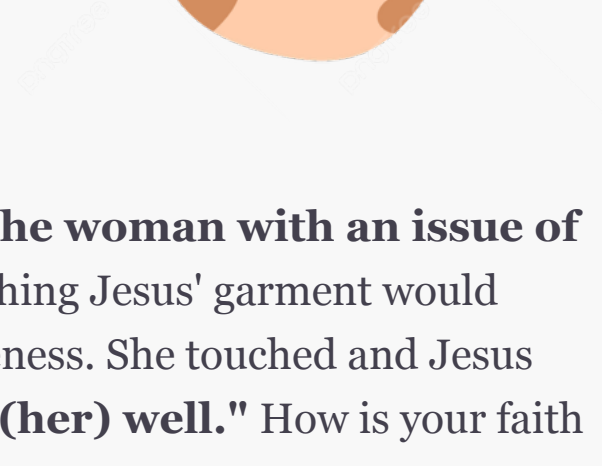


Naaman (2 Kings 5:13-14): Another story of leprosy which was the most despised of all illnesses. A Syrian commander (Naaman) experiences the disease. A Jewish servant girl gets word to Naaman that he should see God's prophet in Israel. The prophet Elisha doesn't even come out to meet Naaman, but simply gives instruction for him to go immerse himself seven times in the Jordan River. There are lessons here about obedience, God's healing power and that the cleansing (which pictured spiritual cleansing) must be done God's way, no matter how ridiculous it may seem.



King Hezekiah (2 Kings 20; Isaiah 38-39): The king's physical problem was a painful boil (some have surmised bubonic plague). Hezekiah prayed for mercy and the prophet Isaiah said the king would be granted an additional 15 years to live. Unfortunately, he squandered those years and revealed his riches to the Babylonians. When God grants mercy may we be quick to serve Him all the remaining days of our life.

New Testament Lepers (Matthew 8:1-3): Matthew's account of a leper asking Jesus for healing reminds us we can come boldly to Him to request physical needs. In the story of the ten lepers who were healed (Luke 17:11-19), only one returned to offer thanks. This rebukes me for the times I haven't been quick to show my gratitude for physical recovering.



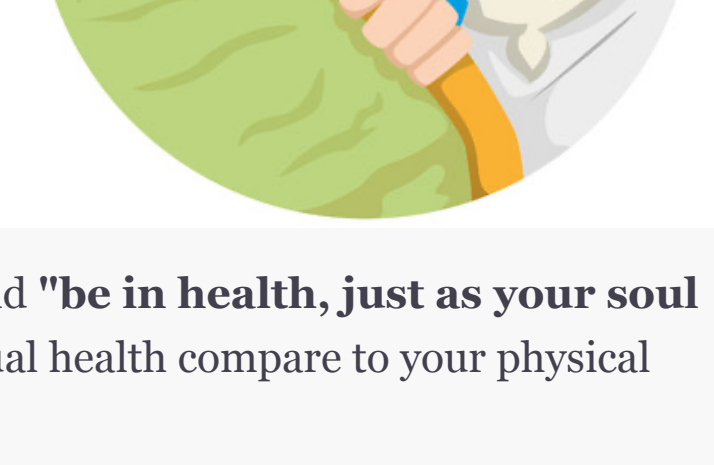
An Unnamed Woman (Mark 5:28-29): The woman with an issue of blood was healed by her belief that touching Jesus' garment would release His power and bring about wholeness. She touched and Jesus healed! Jesus said, "(Her) faith made (her) well." How is your faith in your time of sickness?

Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52): Blind Bartimaeus cried out for mercy. It is interesting to "see" (pun intended) how Christ healed several blind people using different methods. Often he just spoke the word. Once he spit on the ground and made salve to anoint the eyes (John 9:6-7). And yet on another occasion, he spit directly into the man's eyes (Mark 8:22-26). (I remember former GARBC Rep Paul Tassell preaching on the experience of the cool, refreshing saliva of the Savior!) The key here is not in the method, but a reminder that Jesus is The Great Physician.

Centurion's Servant (Luke 7:1-10): Another story of great faith. A centurion had a beloved servant who had become ill, even to the point of death. The Roman official sends word to Jesus about his servant. As Jesus was "not far from the house," the centurion claims he is not worthy to have Jesus come to the house. He requests for Jesus to simply speak the healing. Jesus does so and the servant is healed. Here is a great lesson in humility and faith during times of illness.

An Unnamed Man at Bethesda (John 5:1-9): "Do you want to be made well?" That's the question Jesus asked a man who had an infirmity for 38 years. The Savior instructed the man to rise up and move on. Although once lame, this man was healed immediately. It's hard to believe, but some don't want the healing work of the Lord in their life. Do YOU want to be healed?

Trophimus (2 Tim. 4:20): Even though the apostle Paul had the gift of healing, he left Trophimus behind in Miletus as he was sick. Paul could have healed him, but he didn't. Evidently, God doesn't intend for us to be healthy all the time despite what prosperity preachers may tell us.



Gaius (3 John 1-2): The apostle John wished that his friend Gaius would recover from his sickness and be in health, just as your soul prospers." How does your spiritual health compare to your physical health?

Our God is able to even resurrect the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 13:20-21; Mark 5:36-42; Luke 7:11-17; Luke 8:49-56; John 11:40-44; Matt. 27:50-54; Acts 9:36-42; Acts 20:7-12).

Are you ill? There is no sickness or disease that is beyond His control! This is a great time to, "Be still and know (He is) God" (Psalm 46:10). Reflect on God's healing abilities. Trust in Him.

Do you have articles for the MBM? Or do you have a comment about the MBM? Please send your email correspondence to dfriar@marbc.org.

Please forward this newsletter along to your friends by clicking "Forward to Friend" below.

(If you got this as a result of a friend forwarding this newsletter to you, and you'd like to be added to our list for future newsletters, please send your request to me, Darrell Friar, at dfriar@marbc.org.)

FUNTASTIC IS COMING MARCH 21-22

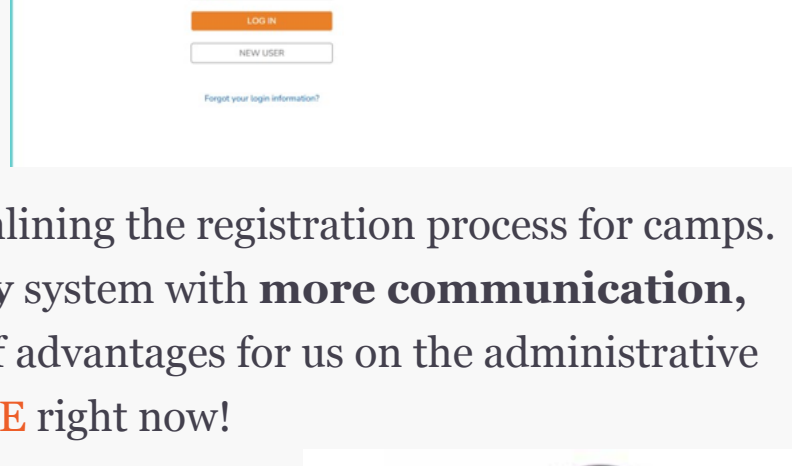
Don't miss out on the great Bible teaching, all-night activities, and fun times with friends. Registration is now open and runs through March 19. CLICK HERE for all the details.



Dr. Rand Hummel is the speaker. Brother Hummel has given his life to be a friend of teens. His unique, humorous approach to the Word of God has been an encouragement to teens. He loves God, the Word of God, and teenagers. His goal is to help teens and parents to hate sin and love God more. Other than this, he's just an overall nice guy.

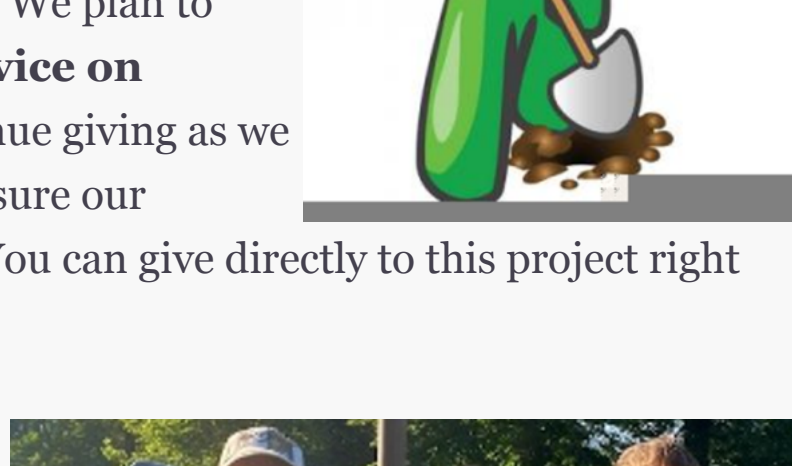
NORTHERN FELLOWSHIP MEN'S RETREAT INFORMATION

This annual men's gathering will be March 7-8 at Camp Shamaineau in Motley. Event begins with a 4:00 Friday registration and concludes on Saturday around 2:00. Cost is \$70 for those ages 13+. Please register by March 3. Any other questions can be answered at info@brookdaleministries.org.



BASS LAKE CAMPING NEWS

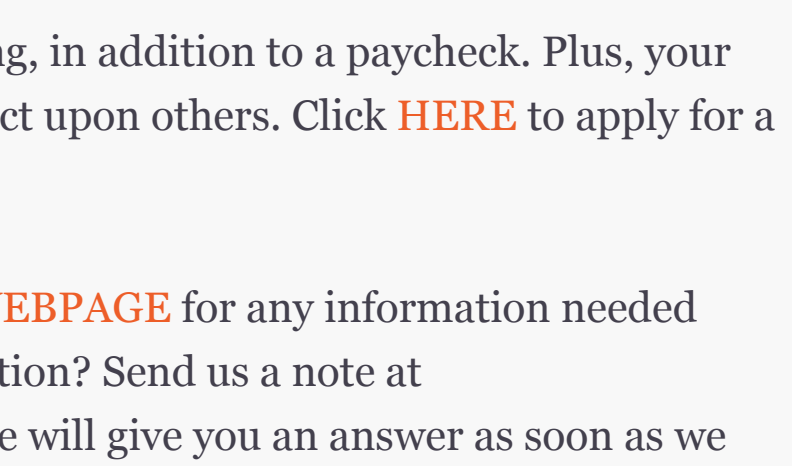
CAMP CORPORATION MEETING: Saturday, March 15 is the date (12:00) and Pizza Ranch of Champlin is the place. We have a reserved a room and lots of food for you. We will be electing board members, hearing reports and making plans for the upcoming camping season. We would love to have you join us. Please be prompt (perhaps even a bit early) as we have our room for just 90 minutes. Guests are responsible for the cost of their meal.



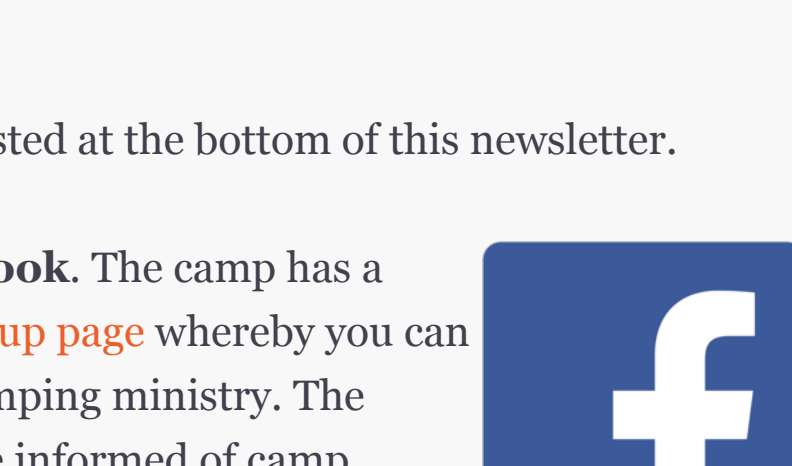
CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN! We are excited to announce that we are using a third-party company to assist us with camp registrations. UltraCamp has been helping camps for many years and has proven to be a leader in streamlining the registration process for camps. We anticipate a user-friendly system with more communication, clearer billings and a host of advantages for us on the administrative side. You can REGISTER HERE right now!



LET'S GET BUILDING! Money has been pouring in the last couple of months. Our goal to begin building was announced as \$560k. As of this writing we are at \$571k. We plan to have a groundbreaking service on Memorial Day. Please continue giving as we still need to get to \$700k to assure our building will go up debt-free. You can give directly to this project right now using THIS LINK.



SUMMER STAFF WANTED: We are looking for energetic, fun-filled workers to serve with us this summer. Can you help us? We need many counselors, lifeguards, and a staff supervisor. These positions offer you some memorable experiences, on-the-job training, in addition to a paycheck. Plus, your work can have an eternal impact upon others. Click HERE to apply for a position on our staff.



Be sure to go to the CAMP'S WEBPAGE for any information needed concerning camp. Have a question? Send us a note at info@basslakecamp.org and we will give you an answer as soon as we can.

THE 2025 SCHEDULE is listed at the bottom of this newsletter.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook. The camp has a business page and a public group page where you can share your thoughts on the camping ministry. The Facebook feeds allow you to be informed of camp events on a regular basis. You will see pictures of building progress, our needs, deadline alerts and other useful information.



MARBC CALENDAR & REP SCHEDULE

- February
9: Faribault, First Baptist
11: Faribault, First Baptist (Pastor's Fellowship)
14: Hibbing, First Baptist (Valentine Banquet)
16: Hibbing, First Baptist
23: Wadena, Southbrook Baptist
March
4: Mankato, Pastor's Fellowship
7-8: Northern Fellowship Men's Retreat
9: Fergus Falls, Woodland Baptist
11: TBA Pastor's Fellowship
15: Camp Corporation Meeting
16: Sartell, Grace Baptist
17-20: NARBAC Camp Director's Conference (California)
21-22: FUNTASTIC Youth Rally (Brainerd)
23: Mankato, Grace Baptist
29: Gilbert, Lakeland Baptist, Camp Developer's Banquet
30: Gilbert, Lakeland Baptist
31-Apr. 2: Twin Lakes Camp (In.), Regular Baptist Reps Meeting
Other 2025 Dates for Your Calendar
Apr. 4-5: Northern Fellowship Ladies Meeting
Apr. 11: Albert Lea, Camp Developer's Banquet
Apr. 25-26: Northern Fellowship Meetings (Sartell)
May 1: Early Bird Camp Registration Deadline
May 16-17: Camp Work Weekend at Bass Lake
Sept. 15-17: MARBC Annual Meeting (New Ulm)

You can request a date for Brother Friar to come visit your church and provide an encouraging report on the association and preaching from the Word.

MARBC FINANCES (as of 1/31/25)

- General Fund: \$8,995.47
Burden Bearers: \$4,849.81
Northern Fellowship: \$766.35
Church Planting: \$35,154.20
Woodbury Funds: \$10,000.00

MARBC CHURCH NEWS

HIBBING - First Baptist

Our annual Christmas program took place on Sunday evening of December 22 at 6:00 PM. It went very well and was well attended with lots of visitors. It was directed by Elizabeth and Alyssa Hsieh and featured a drama, children's program, and choir doing "I Heard the Bells."

Our Women's Missionary Fellowship has a combined meeting, Bible Study, and workday again in January. We are continuing in our study of A Life Beyond Amazing by David Jeremiah.

The deacons continue to pursue contacts for someone willing to come and be our full-time pastor. They have recently received a new contact which they will pursue. The Lord has blessed us with some excellent speakers to fill our pulpit and we are very thankful for them but still feel the need for a full-time pastor. Please continue to pray for God to raise up the right man at the right time and give the deacons wisdom and discernment as they work at this important task.

We have been working on a parsonage remodel for the past two years. Plans have also been in the works to replace our fluorescent lighting in the sanctuary with LED's. We also have a parking lot that is in rough shape and needs repaving.

Another new ministry at our church has been a Bible Study on Monday afternoons for our widows facilitated by Grace Swanson and Eileen Balgaard. This has been a needed ministry because we have 10 or 11 widows in our church.

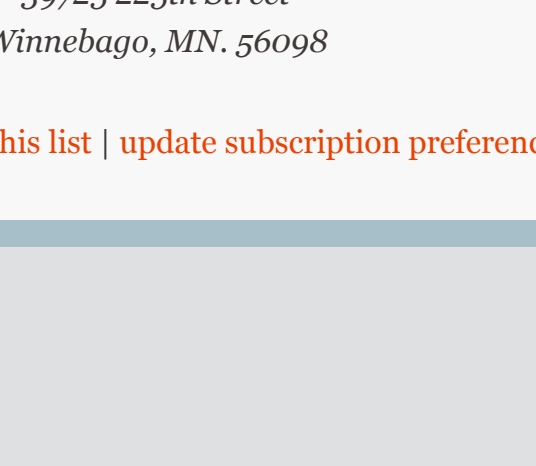
Do you have local church news which can be shared with our MBM readers? Our readers would love to hear reports from your church. Please send articles to dfriar@marbc.org.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS

Send us your news and pictures! Please note that there is no deadline to send us your news. Once you have some news, send it our way and we will include it in the next newsletter. Pray for our churches in need of a senior pastor. Hibbing, First Baptist Rochester, Chinese Christian. Is your church interested in joining with an independent Baptist fellowship that works together so that each church's ministry is strengthened and expanded? The MARBC is a growing association of autonomous Baptist churches that is having an impact in our state. We would love to have you join with us.

2025 CAMP DATES

- Mar. 15: Camp Orientation Meeting
Mar. 16-17: Work Weekend
May 26: Memorial Day Rally
June 9-12: Staff Training
June 12-14: Rental Group
June 16-21: Rental Group
June 23-28: Family Camp
July 4-6: Counselor Training
July 7-12: Junior Camp
July 14-19: Jr. High Camp
July 21-26: Sr. High Camp
July 28-30: Primary Camp
Aug. 1-3: Young Adults Rally
Aug. 14-15: Breathe - A Ladies' Retreat
Sept. 5-6: Men's Retreat



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