

Good Friday afternoon, New South Family. Welcome to the 33rd edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending February 14, 2020.

-----The Critical-----

Announcements

1) NOTE: Change of Venue for Annual Conference Due to several factors, primarily the fact that your Interim Superintendent doesn't yet really know what he's doing, we are choosing to have Annual Conference at Wilmore instead of at Oakdale Christian Academy. Sorry for this late notice, and thank you to Dan Fisher and the OCA staff for your accommodation and graciousness.

2) Memorials at Annual Conference ...please forward to Timothy Thomas newsouthconference@gmail.com the names of members of your church who have passed on to Glory since last year's Annual Conference, so they might be remembered at Annual Conference 2020.

3) A Couple Prayer Requests: Please keep Chris Cole (Forrest Chapel) in your prayers as he helps with a parental move back in New York. Also, keep Tim Huff (Murphy) in your prayers as he heals from eye surgery.

4) Spring Ministerial Education and Guidance Interviews will be held in Wilmore on Saturday morning, March 21. Those whom we believe need to be interviewed have been sent invitations. If you did not receive an e-mail invitation and believe you should be, or would like to be, interviewed by MEG, please contact me ASAP.

3) NSC Spring Youth Retreat information follows the newsletter. Direct your questions to Pastor Andrea Tinsley (Wilmore.)

Church of the Week: Calvary FMC in Lexington, KY with Pastor Brian Kidwell.

Conference / Superintendent's Calendar (all times eastern)

February 25:	MEG Zoom, 7:00p
March 12:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
March 14:	FMH&P – Gallatin #1 of 2
March 15:	Daryl in Charlotte, N.C.
March 20:	District Leaders – Wilmore, 2:00 – 5:00 p
March 20:	BOA – Wilmore, 6:00 – 10:00 p
March 21:	MEG/MAC interviews – Wilmore, 8:00 a - noon
March 31-April 2:	Global Overseers Team (GOT) - Indianapolis
April 9:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
April 14:	FMH&P – Gallatin #2 of 2
April 26-28:	ABS - Tampa
May 14:	DL Zoom, 9:30a
May 29-30:	New South Annual Conference, <u>Wilmore FMC</u>
June 7-9:	ABS - Indianapolis
June 15-20:	NSC Teen Camp
June 11-14:	NSC Family Camp
June 22-26:	NSC Kids' Camp
August 9-11:	ABS – Baltimore
August 25-28:	Starting Strong for new pastors - Indianapolis
September 23-25:	New Room Conference, Nashville, TN

And now...

-----**The Important**-----

Resources, Articles and Attachments

- 1) **The Latest Edition of the FM History Update** – [can be found by clicking here.](#)
- 2) **The Article, “Auschwitz and Intrinsic Evil”** is attached – a short essay on the importance of how we view life.

Job Openings

At this point, we have a pastor or interim pastor in every NSC church, although those interim situations are, well, interim.

However, [if you click here](#), you will find job opening listings at the FMC Human Resources web site.

February Birthdays (*that we know of)

Dean Cook – 24 – Elder, Retired, Wilmore, KY

Annette Diddle – 29 (my wife 😊)

*I would love to know the birthdays of all those related to the NSC who receive this communique – pastors, elders, delegates, special friends, etc. Please send month and day to Timothy at newsouthconference@gmail.com

This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

Passage: I’m speaking this Sunday morning on John 8:1-11, focusing on the love of Jesus mixed with truth, that He showed to the woman caught in adultery.

Quote: *“I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare.” ~ C.S. Lewis*

Joke: *After worship one Sunday a little boy told the pastor, “When I grow up, I’m going to give you some money.”*

“Well, thank you,” the pastor replied, “but why?”

“Because my daddy says you’re one of the poorest preachers we’ve ever had.”

Blessings on your weekend and day of worship.

D-

new SOUTH CONFERENCE SPRING YOUTH retreat

MARCH 6-8, 2020

"I am THE GOOD SHEPHERD. I KNOW MY SHEEP
& MY SHEEP KNOW ME." (JOHN 10:14, NIV)

Retreat Speaker: Mr. John Swaim



A word about himself.... I've been happily married to one and only for 43 years. I have four grown sons whom married great girls. Papa to 8 grandchildren. Long time adult SS teacher. I love God, country, family, bird hunting, fishing, and the Tennessee Vols.

COFFEE HOUSE & Missions Giving

Please bring a snack to share for our
SPRING MISSIONS COFFEE HOUSE.

We'll take an offering for Eden's Glory, a ministry that works to bring freedom and restoration to women who are survivors of human trafficking. You can find out more about their ministry here: <http://edensglory.org/>



Youth Grades 7-12

\$30 per student

Eagle Ridge Retreat Center
8744 Barren River Rd Bowling
Green KY

Packing list:

Bible, sleeping bag/bedding, toiletries,
comfy clothes, walking shoes,
jacket/sweatshirt

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FIRST THINGS

AUSCHWITZ AND “INTRINSIC EVIL”

by
George Weigel

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Seventy-five years ago, on January 27, 1945, the infantrymen of the Red Army’s 322nd Rifle Division were bludgeoning their way into the Third Reich when they discovered the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camps. The German inventors of industrialized mass slaughter had cleared out earlier, forcing some 60,000 prisoners deemed capable of slave labor in the Fatherland on a march westward, during which many died. Battle-hardened Russian veterans of the brutal war on the Eastern Front were nonetheless shocked by what they found at Auschwitz-Birkenau: 6,000 living skeletons, many suffering from diseases that would kill them before medical care and food restored their strength.

On his pilgrimage there in June 1979, Pope St. John Paul II called Auschwitz-Birkenau the “Golgotha of the modern world.” And it is striking that a world largely inured to murder on a vast scale still recognizes in Auschwitz an icon of radical evil: a barbaric grotesquerie no sane person would attempt to justify. In that sense, the lethal reality of what happened at Auschwitz-Birkenau stands in contradiction to the claim by some Catholic moral theologians—once thought marginalized but now back in business—that there are no “intrinsically evil acts.” If you cannot concede that what was done to over one million innocents in the torture cells, on the gallows, at the “Wall of Death,” and in the gas chambers and crematoria of Auschwitz-Birkenau was “intrinsically evil”—gravely wrong, period—then you are a moral cretin, no matter what your highest earned degree may be.

I’ve been to the Auschwitz-Birkenau complex perhaps 10 times: in recent years, to pray at the cell in Auschwitz I where St. Maximilian Kolbe was starved for two weeks before being killed by an injection of carbolic acid, or to hike around the perimeter of Auschwitz II-Birkenau, praying the sorrowful mysteries of

the Rosary while walking past the likely site of St. Edith Stein's gassing and cremation. And for me, as for many others, the questions inevitably occur: How? Why?

Poland is not on the periphery of Europe; Poland is at the center of Europe, and that part of Poland that was annexed to the Third Reich in 1939 is in the southernmost part of what, after postwar border adjustments, is now central Poland. So at Auschwitz and Birkenau—the German names for the absorbed Polish towns of Oswiecim and Brzezinka—you are not anywhere near the savage peripheries of the film *Apocalypse*. You are, rather, in the middle of the continent that, in the mid-20th century, considered itself the center of world civilization. And that is where the industrialized mass murder of innocents was undertaken.

Libraries of books have been written in an attempt to grasp how Germany, a country renowned for its accomplishments in the arts and sciences, could have handed itself over to a genocidal maniac who looked like a Charlie Chaplin character and rabble-roused in screechy German colored by a strong Austrian accent. That question becomes even more urgent when, in the exhibits at Auschwitz I, the visitor ponders black-and-white photos of the “selection” process at the railroad tracks leading into Auschwitz II-Birkenau—and notices that the SS officers making instant decisions about the life and death of those being unloaded from the cattle cars in which they'd been transported across Europe are quite at ease; some are even smiling. Then you learn that the men who invented this horror included eight officials with the coveted German doctoral degree. And you ask again, “How? Why?”

One piece of that jigsaw puzzle of evil falls into place when it's remembered that, in the 1920s, German intellectuals developed the notion of *Lebensunwertes Leben*: “Life unworthy of life.” Influenced by the pseudoscience of eugenics and the concern for “race purity” then epidemic throughout the West (not excluding the United States), this wicked idea was first applied to the physically and intellectually handicapped, especially children. From there, it was a short step to its application to Jews, Roma, homosexuals, Slavs, and other *Untermenschen*: lower life-forms. And the concept of “Life unworthy of life,” it must be remembered, was not developed by clods, but by highly educated people—people who likely thought there was no such thing as an “intrinsicly evil act.”

On this anniversary, we fool ourselves if we think humanity has learned its lesson and that an Auschwitz could never happen again. As the Italian Holocaust survivor Primo Levi put it, it did happen, so it can happen again. The form may be different; but the rationale will almost certainly be the same.



George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of Washington, D.C.'s Ethics and Public Policy Center, where he holds the William E. Simon Chair in Catholic Studies.

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