

Happy Friday, New South Family. Welcome to the 60th edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending September 11, 2020.

## -----The Critical-----

### Announcements

- 1) **Superintendent Search Team** One of the items of business at last Friday evening BOA meeting was the initiation of a task group from the BOA to serve as a Superintendent Search Team. That team is made up of Bishop Cowart, myself, Reed Wilbanks, Scott Clark, and Kasey Tinsley. We will bring a recommendation to the full BOA later this winter. Please pray for this group as we consider the alternatives for leading the conference in the years to come.
- 2) **Please Watch This Message from Our Bishops** if you have not already – an encouraging and challenging word for our troubled days. [Click here to watch.](#)
- 3) **Mustering of the Men Cancelled This Year:** Due primarily to the restrictions placed on Kentucky camps, we are choosing to cancel this event this year. Let's make next year's event twice as good!

**Church of the Week:** Let's keep the Pastor Rovin Rhodes and the church he leads in Murfreesboro, TN in our prayers this week.

### Conference / Superintendent's Calendar (all times eastern; in-person schedule subject to COVID restrictions)

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| September 23-25: | <a href="#">New Room Conference, Nashville, TN</a> – all online this year. |
| October 2-3:     | Mustering of the Men – Eagle Ridge Retreat Center                          |
| October 7-8:     | Superintendent's Leadership Team (SLT) - Zoom                              |
| October 16:      | DL Meeting – Wilmore, 2:00p  |
| October 16:      | BOA Meeting – Wilmore, 6:00p   |
| October 17:      | MEG / MAC Meeting – Wilmore, 8:00a   |
| November 12:     | DL Zoom, 9:30a   |
| December 10:     | DL Zoom, 9:30a   |
| March 19:        | DL Meeting – Wilmore, 2:00p  |
| March 19:        | BOA Meeting – Wilmore, 6:00p   |
| March 20:        | MEG/MAC – Wilmore, 8:00a   |
| June 17-20:      | NSC Family Camp – Eagle Ridge (tentative dates)                            |

And now...

## -----The Important-----

### Resources

1) **A Message From Free Methodist Bible Quiz Director, Laura Colberg:** “Dear FM Pastors, I write to make you aware of what is happening in this denominational ministry of the FMCUSA in the 2020-2021 season. Due to some fabulous minds tapping into Internet-based resources, we are able to offer an online competition season in addition to in-person monthly meets where local directives allow for that to happen.

If you're not personally familiar with FMBQ, I invite you to learn more. Since the 1950s, FMBQ has been the breeding ground for Christian leadership—including pastors and Bishops in the FMCUSA, in addition to providing in-depth grounding for teens in their faith, regardless of where they land professionally.

In a nutshell, through a game structured around Q&A from a designated text, teens (6th – 12th grade) study about a chapter a week and compete monthly to score points, earn ribbons and other recognition, gaining study skills, leadership skills, camaraderie among peers and leaders, the opportunity for travel (when that becomes a thing again), and ultimately a place to grow closer to Jesus through his Word.

New South Conference (mainly Wilmore FMC) has been a steady--or shall I say powerhouse?--presence in FMBQ in recent years. Your support and encouragement when you have the opportunity to promote and encourage our quizzers is much appreciated. We'd love to see more New South Conference churches thrive and reproduce this season. (I'm copying Benjamin Coates, our New South FMBQ Conference Director, so you can connect with him about joint efforts to invite new churches.)

These times being what they are, this season presents a unique opportunity for churches without a current Bible Quizzing presence to join without driving for hours or days to the nearest event. We'll be offering online quiz meets all season, still hoping for an in-person Quiz Finals event on the campus of Roberts Wesleyan College in July 2021. That means there's no need for fancy equipment (yet): as much as the parent in me cringes a bit at one more reason to be onscreen ... that's where we can meet, compete, interact and celebrate milestones along the way.

The season is just getting started ... but there's still plenty of time until the first online event (October 10, 2020) to invite new churches to introduce FMBQ to youth, parents, leaders and others whose ordinary activities may have been put on hold for the foreseeable future. Kids with physical limitations can find success competing against able-bodied peers in Bible Quizzing.

JOHN is our study book this year—a favorite text for many. And we have a growing list of school offering substantial scholarships to Christian colleges and universities—that's a development I'm excited about. Parents and youth can make FMBQ a part of their how-to-pay-for-college strategy. These schools recognize the value FMBQ adds to a prospective student's qualifications.

Attached you'll find an invitation and digital brochure you're welcome to forward to churches and leaders in your conference. Please don't let this strategic FMCUSA discipleship ministry for young people go untapped.

If I can help in any way ... I'm happy to answer questions by email, phone, Zoom, or in person if there's an opportunity for me to meet with you (I'm in Seattle, but I'll come to you if I can--or send someone else who can if I cannot).

Thank you for your kingdom work. Blessings on your week.

Laura Colberg, Director, Free Methodist Bible Quizzing [lchristn12@gmail.com](mailto:lchristn12@gmail.com) 206 218 6575

**2) New Room Conference, by Asbury Seminary is Free!** This year only, Asbury announces *A Night with New Room*, Friday evening, Sept. 25, 2020! From ATS: "As you would expect, due to the ever-changing restrictions and limitations of COVID-19, and with the safety of everyone in mind, we've made the difficult decision to transition the New Room Conference 2020 to an alternate format for this year. In the midst of the chaos and uncertainty, God is still making a way for us to come together. Never before in our lifetimes have we experienced such a protracted period of crisis. And never before have we experienced such a profound opportunity for awakening. [This is the reason for A Night with New Room. Click here!](#)"

**3) A Good Article, Especially for September 11:** *Why Did They Steal Our Flag?*

For 20 years we have lived in our current home in humble Grove City, Pennsylvania. It came with a nice flagpole mounted on the front lawn. We change the flag a lot. Sometimes we display flags with various types of art celebrating the seasons—for Fall, Winter, and Spring. Around July 4 and Memorial Day, it is an American flag. Lately, it has been a flag in honor of my oldest son – a U.S. Marine Reserve MP, and now a rookie small-town cop in Wyoming. For weeks and many to come, he has been going through intense police academy training in what we know are unbelievably difficult times. It is a lovely, thin blue-line flag.

My son is a good man. He is an idealist, a protector. When he was sworn in, he posted this quote along with his official photo, from Faramir in *The Lord of the Rings*: “I do not love the bright sword for its sharpness, nor the arrow for its swiftness, nor the warrior for his glory. I love only that which they defend.”

A few days ago, someone sneaked into our yard, broke our flagpole in half, and stole that flag. When I contacted a police officer friend to report it, I was informed that many Donald Trump signs were also being stolen. Here in our friendly, close-knit town.

You know, it’s funny. Every day when I walk my dog I pass “Biden for President” signs, Black Lives Matter signs, rainbow signs, and Trump signs. Somehow, we are all nice to each other, we respect each other, we don’t destroy each other’s property.

One of our neighbors, who has a Black Lives Matter sign, lost his dog. I found it and returned it for him, and we had a nice chat. He would have done the same thing for me. We allow each other to engage the political process freely. And our flag was not about politics. It was about our son. But even if it was about politics, so what? This is America. People come from all over the world to enjoy the freedom that some cowardly thief tried to steal from us last night.

People that are doing this are acting as enemies of freedom and disrupting the peace and neighborly order of our town...and thousands of towns across this country. They are opening wounds, then salting them, creating and then deepening divides. They are engendering suspicion, fear, and even discord that will still be there when whatever is eating at them has long become forgotten.

Right, left, or middle—when you see people doing this kind of thing, report it. If you know who they are and are comfortable doing so, gently rebuke them. Imagine the good will generated by someone returning that stolen yard sign and apologizing to its owner. Imagine the healing.

Remember when our parents made kids do things like this? I do. I was one of those kids.

We often cannot do much about the big things happening in this world, but it is the little things, one community at a time, that matter the most.

If you do this kind of thing—robbing and threatening neighbors to deny them a voice—stop it. People that do such things are only verifying the worst things their opponents are saying about them – that they cannot win by reason. This is not the way to win friends or change minds. It’s mean, it’s petty, and it is stupid.

We can do better.

Dr. David J. Ayers, Provost - Grove City College

## Job Openings

At this point, we have two churches who need pastors: Greeneville (TN) and Harriman (TN) Please keep this process in your prayers – that the Lord would provide shepherds for His flock. Remember too that [if you click here](#), you will find job opening listings at FMC Human Resources.

## September Birthdays (\*that we know of)

|                |              |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Thomas, Joyce  | September 12 | Cole, Buffy    | September 19 |
| McPeake, Patti | September 21 | Matthews, Doug | September 30 |

\*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](mailto:newsouthconference@gmail.com)

## This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

**Passage:** I'm continuing the series, "Jesus, Provocateur" looking at the very different reactions of people to what Jesus said and did. This week we look at the Centurion's response to Jesus in Matthew 8.

**Quote:** "God is always trying to give good things to us, but our hands are too full to receive them."  
- Augustine

"A good shoe is a shoe you don't notice....the perfect church service would be one we were almost unaware of; our attention would have been on God. But every novelty prevents this. It fixes our attention on the service itself, and thinking about worship is a different thing from worshipping."  
- C.S. Lewis

## Joke:



Blessings on your worship this weekend!

# FREE METHODIST BIBLE QUIZZING

... Study,  
... Strategy,  
... Scripture,  
& ... Scholarships!

## WHAT IS FMBQ?

Bible Quizzing is a way to learn a segment of the Bible, memorizing some key verses, then answering questions in competition--the quicker your reflexes, the more chances to answer and score!

There is team work, camaraderie, road trips, meeting teens from other churches ... awards, incentives and prizes along the way.

## WHO CAN QUIZ?

Most FM Bible Quizzers are sixth through 12th grade. Many attend FM churches, but that is not a requirement. Some areas offer quizzing for younger ages.



## HOW DO I START?

- Identify adults who love kids and the Bible
- Invite young people to learn
- Schedule a weekly practice time
- Connect with a conference or regional leader to learn about monthly quiz meets in your area
- Check out the FMBQ website for links to rules and materials
- Dive in! Connect. Have fun.

## NOW ALSO ONLINE!

Not ready to meet in person? Not able to drive to the nearest in-person quiz? Online quizzing options are available for the 2020-2021 season. over JOHN

## WHAT DOES THAT REQUIRE?

An Internet-connected device for each location where there are quizzers ... we'll send a Zoom link and information about the Buzzers app (to "jump" from afar).

## WHAT DOES IT COST?

You can download the study text for free (or use an NIV-2011 Bible). Study books and study questions are available for further purchase. A set of jumpseats for traditional quizzing is about \$185 (some options cost less). Registration fees vary by event.

# WHAT ABOUT SCHOLARSHIPS?

The end-of-season FM Bible Quiz Finals is a week-long tournament open to all. FMBQ is partnering with quality colleges and universities integrating faith and learning to recognize and reward FM Bible Quizzers with scholarships ranging from \$500/year for participation to over \$18,000/year toward tuition for teams and individuals who excel. See list of current partnership schools on back panel.

## MORE INFO ...

[www.fmquizzing.net](http://www.fmquizzing.net)

*Denominational Director:*  
**Laura Christensen Colberg**  
lchristn12@gmail.com  
(206) 218 6575

*Regional Directors:*  
**Scott Sittig** (East)  
pastorscott@newhope.org  
**Paul Stackhouse** (Mid-East)  
paul@stackhouse.org  
**Kendall Stephenson** (Mid-West)  
klmstep@mchsi.com  
**Anne and Jon Bartlett** (West)  
tebsmom@yahoo.com



## SCHOLARSHIP PARTNERS 2020

- Dallas Christian College
- Asbury University
- Warner University
- St. Louis Christian College
- Greenville University
- Central Christian College of the Bible
- Olivet Nazarene University
- Milligan University
- Central Christian College of Kansas

## TOP TEN BONUS PERKS

- 1 Confidence speaking in public
- 2 Increased appreciation for grammar
- 3 Analytical skills
- 4 Understanding of basis for faith in Christ
- 5 Opportunities for Christian service
- 6 Sportsmanship
- 7 Develop grace and focus under pressure
- 8 Study skills applicable anywhere
- 9 Travel
- 10 Lifelong friendships



# FREE METHODIST BIBLE QUIZZING

## Invitation to Study JOHN, 2020-2021

### ***FMBQ Summary***

Free Methodist Bible Quizzing (FMBQ) is a ministry of the Free Methodist Church, USA, providing competition-based discipleship for youth age 12-18 through study and memorization of Scripture (anyone can participate—whether FM or not). It partners with Christian colleges and universities to offer scholarships to teens for participation and achievement, while developing the next generation of Christian leaders who have a solid grounding in the texts of their faith.

### ***Season 2020-2021***

Online quizzing via Zoom will be offered all season for monthly quizzes. Local churches may host in-person quizzing with safeguards as local leadership determines. We will study the book of John (21 chapters), broken down into mostly three-chapter increments each month

### ***The Nuts and Bolts***

Competition involves teams of at least two and up to five quizzers, answering questions primarily on the new material, in 15-question rounds, with points awarded for each correct response. Only questions designated “Quotes” are required to be word-perfect. A new opportunity will be available each month to measure Accuracy in learning the material (versus the speed component to jump or buzz-in first to get the chance to answer). After six (or so) rounds of team competition and one or two Individual rounds, quizzers are recognized for placement with ribbons, certificates or other awards. 2021 Quiz Finals is a week-long event which will be held on the campus of Roberts Wesleyan College in North Chili, New York, July 12-16, 2021. It is open to all teams.

### ***Scholarships***

Nine colleges and universities<sup>1</sup> offered scholarships to FM Bible Quizzers in 2020, ranging from \$2,000 to \$124,000 to quizzers depending on either rank at Quiz Finals or participation throughout the season (and attending Quiz Finals). These are expected to continue for this upcoming season, and more are likely to be added. Free Methodist Bible Quizzing can be the path to earn your way to college!

### ***How do I start?***

Contact Laura Christensen Colberg ([lchristn12@gmail.com](mailto:lchristn12@gmail.com)) to express your interest and be connected with leadership in your area, information on how to order supplies, or to talk about a kick-off event to introduce FMBQ to your young people and their parents.

### ***When do things happen?***

Most monthly quizzes are scheduled for the first or second Saturday of each month, starting in October. Weekly practices can be scheduled in whatever manner suits your team.

### ***How much time does it require?***

In-person practices benefit from a 60-90 minute time period. Monthly quizzes are usually all-day events, from 8:30 or 9 AM to 3 or 4 PM, plus travel time, if applicable.

### ***What happens in practice?***

Reading and discussing the text is a good place to start. Using a set of practice questions to quiz students on what they've studied at home or at practice comes next, with or without using jump seats or the Buzzers App (for speed).

---

<sup>1</sup> Dallas Christian College, Asbury University, Warner University, St. Louis Christian College, Greenville University, Central Christian College of the Bible, Olivet University, Milligan University, Central Christian College of Kansas

Giving quizzers a chance to recite the Quote Verses for that week's material is recommended. Highlighting key words or phrases can be a component. Incentives like snacks or candy go a long way to add fun and encouragement. Other tools are available for Coaches and Quizzers, such as programs that create crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blank sheets and other creative ways to repeat and reinforce the text.

### ***How much does it cost?***

The good news this season is that you don't need a set of jump seats to get in on the action! Your Conference or Region will charge registration fees either for each quiz your team attends or for the entire season to cover the cost of tournament questions and awards. In-person quiz meets usually offer lunch for a modest cost (\$3 to \$5), which is usually optional if your quizzers bring their own. Other supplies (books, practice questions, flash cards, etc., are available for purchase—see [www.fmquizzing.net](http://www.fmquizzing.net) for ordering information).

### ***How do I find out what's happening if I want to watch?***

Great question! Information and updates will be available on the Free Methodist Bible Quizzing website ([www.fmquizzing.net](http://www.fmquizzing.net)), but more personalized information is sent out by email every 3 to 4 weeks. Send your email address to [lchristn12@gmail.com](mailto:lchristn12@gmail.com) to be added to that list; that's also the email to use to ask any question particular to your situation. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Links to online quizzes via Zoom will be made available to all who are interested in observing.

### ***What kind of technology is needed to participate online?***

A quizzer should have access to a laptop or other computer screen (a tablet will work also). Connectivity is best through computers (vs phones). A Zoom link will connect teams to their quizmaster for each round. Using the Buzzers app (on the same screen), quizzers can click (or "buzz") the button on their screen to register their intent to answer. For the Accuracy contest, we are using Kahoot! which works best using a separate device (i.e., phone or tablet) to register the multiple choice answer while the question displays onscreen (via Zoom).