

Happy Friday, New South Family!

Welcome to the 94th edition of the Weekly Word – this for the week ending May 21, 2021 – but one day early!

Announcements

- 1) Welcome to Annual Conference, 2021!** An update of Annual Conference happenings will be sent next week.
- 2) Local Church Annual Reports** The World Ministry Center has not yet sent the annual / statistical report to local churches. I've promised you that for several weeks, but so far, they've not released it. I'll certainly pass it along when they do, so again, you haven't missed it. 😊

Resources

1. The Free Methodist Way These resources will be highlighted at Annual Conference beginning tomorrow, but hopefully these links will prove helpful to you. The Free Methodist way is a new expression of what makes Free Methodists unique and important to the whole of Christ's Kingdom.

Click below for the Free Methodist Way videos:

- [Life-Giving Holiness](#)
- [Love-Driven Justice](#)
- [Christ-Compelled Multiplication](#)
- [Cross-Cultural Collaboration](#)
- [God-Given Revelation](#)

Purchase a 25-pack of brochures in ENGLISH here: <https://freemethodistbooks.com/product/fmway-25pk>

Purchase a 25-pack of brochures in SPANISH here: <https://freemethodistbooks.com/product/eml-25-pq>

Purchase the book "The Free Methodist Way: Learning and Living the Five Values That Shape Our Identity" here: <https://freemethodistbooks.com/product/fmwaybook>

Visit the dedicated page for *The Free Methodist Way* on the FMCUSA website here: <https://fmcusa.org/thefmway>

Visit the Light + Life Magazine site for all articles and discipleship materials: <https://lightandlife.fm/>

Be sure you've subscribed to Light + Life Weekly – the new digital format of our magazine here: <https://us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=be2950225b51b17969c7ddf64&id=c5a288fb84>

2. Tony Headley Our own Dr. Tony Headley is retiring this year from his role as professor of counseling at Asbury Seminary. He is also beginning a more focused ministry involving coaching, counseling, mentoring and training persons in vocational ministry. He is also devoting more time to speaking / teaching and preaching. Check out his website here: <http://anthonyjheadley.com/>

Articles

1) Forty Three Percent of Millennials Don't Know, Don't Care, Don't Believe That God Exists - Study
By Leah MarieAnn Klett, Christian Post

Just 26% of Gen X and 16% of millennials believe that when they die, they will go to Heaven only because they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus as their savior, compared to nearly half of the generation before them, a new study has found.

The American Worldview Inventory 2021, a survey of the philosophy of life on American adults from Arizona Christian University, assessed the worldviews of four generations: millennials (born 1984-2002), Gen X (1965-1983), baby boomers (1946-1964) and builders (1927-1945). Researchers found that among other recent generations, millennials have gone farther in cutting ties with traditional Christian views and normative biblical teaching.

For example, nearly half of all boomers believe that when they die, they will go to Heaven only because they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus as their Savior, compared to only 26% of Gen X and 16% of millennials.

A staggering 90% of boomers believe you treat others as you want them to treat you, while less than half of millennials agree. Additionally, 43% of millennials stated they either don't know, don't care or don't believe God exists compared to 28% of boomers, and 44% of millennials believe Satan is a real and influential, compared to 64% of boomers.

The study also found that overall, younger Americans are significantly more likely than the two previous generations to embrace horoscopes as a guide and Karma as a life principle, to see "getting even" with others as defensible, to accept evolution over creation, and to view owning property as fostering economic injustice.

On spiritual matters, Americans younger than 55 are far more likely to distrust the Bible and to believe God is uninvolved in people's lives.

Interestingly, a majority of Americans call themselves Christian, ranging from 57% of millennials to 83% of boomers. Researchers warn that the beliefs and behaviors of younger Americans, especially millennials, "threaten to reshape the nation's religious parameters beyond recognition." "In fact, this radical spiritual revolution has created a generation seeking a reimagined world without God, the Bible, or churches," they wrote.

Commenting on the study, George Barna, CRC director of research, said that Gen X and the millennials have "solidified dramatic changes in the nation's central beliefs and lifestyles," adding: "The result is a culture in which core institutions, including churches, and basic ways of life are continually being radically redefined."

The American World Inventory corroborates an earlier study from Barna that found that two-thirds of teens and young adults (65%) agree that "many religions can lead to eternal life" compared to 58% of teens and young adults surveyed in 2018.

Additionally, 31% of teens and young adults "strongly agree" that what is "morally right and wrong changes over time, based on society," compared to just 25% in 2018. Recent survey data released by Gallup found that one in six Gen Z adults identify as LGBT — the highest percentage of any generation in history — and that number is likely to continue to increase.

Jacob Bland, the new president and CEO of Youth for Christ, told The Christian Post that despite the challenges facing today's young people, he looks toward the future with optimism.

"Teens today are facing crises like never before, but it's often in the darkness that light shines the brightest," he said. "To enter into a disciple-making relationship where you're introducing a kid to an unconditional love that maybe they've never even considered, showing them the goodness and love modeled in Jesus — there's a lot of hope in that." "Jesus has a way of being new and fresh for the circumstances of today, and He is certainly doing that," Bland added.

The Latest Free Methodist Newsletters / Communications (click the links below)

[From the Free Methodist Historical Society](#)

[From the Free Methodist Chaplains](#)

[This Week's Issue of the Light and Life Magazine](#)

[From the Free Methodist Foundation](#)

[FM Pastors and Leaders' Newsletter](#)

New South Conference Calendar

June 17-20 NSC Family Camp
June 21-27 NSC Teen Camp
June 28-July 2 NSC Kids Camp

Upcoming Birthdays

Scott Clark, June 4
Joy Ireland, June 11
James Demaray, June 19
Sarah Baldwin, June 21

Jan Coleman, June 24
Sharon Bryson, June 27

*I'd love to know your birthday, so the conference can send you an expensive present...or maybe just a "Happy Birthday" wish. If yours is not listed, [please e-mail it to me](#).

This Week's Passage, Quote and Joke

Passage: This Sunday Bishop Cowart will be speaking at Wilmore, to which we're greatly looking forward. Next week, I return to studying the earthly interactions of the resurrected Christ, looking at Jesus promise of the coming of the Holy Spirit, as told in Acts 1.

Quote: "There are three stages in the work of God: Impossible, Difficult, Done." ~James Hudson Taylor

Joke:



Blessings on your worship this weekend, and looking forward to seeing many of you tomorrow!

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