

Rhema News

July, August, September 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Mobilize... Cultivate... Vision

July marks one year since reopening our doors to corporate fellowship. As Pastor, I have experienced COVID-19 up close and personal. Special thanks to the Ministerial Staff and Ministry Leaders for your unfailing commitment to God and the ministry.

There is an urgency to bring believers back to attending worship, getting them involved in ministries, growing and maturing in the faith.

As pastor, my primary calling is to care for people God has brought within my influence. This includes sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, biblical teaching & preaching, spiritual guidance, and care in times of crisis, because **IN TIMES LIKE THESE... WE NEED A SAVIOR.**

I'm also charged with the responsibility of equipping others with the ability to carry out their

calling in ministry and mission in the world, as well. That means identifying potential, evaluating spiritual giftedness, recruiting volunteers, training lay leaders for ministry, and providing them with the resources necessary to continue in their growth. If I'm to fulfill my calling, I must first pastor the people.

I am also responsible for the **mobilization** of the ministry in which good spiritual growth can occur. That means it's up to me to make sure that every person on our team has what he or she need to do what they need to do.

I can be the best preacher in the world but a terrible pastor if I don't **cultivate** good relationships with kids, students, young adults, parents, volunteers, my team, other staff, leadership, and others in the congregation. I must always treat each person as the valued child of God that they are.

I must guard my own words and attitudes, staying regulated, non-anxious, and differentiated. I must

provide positive leadership while listening carefully to those whom I lead and build teamwork into every level of our ministry.

I am convinced that **vision** comes from God, not from me. If we are going to grow the way God intends us to grow...I have to voice the vision.

Grace and Mercy, Pastor Ronnie



HOW TO REACH US

Please notify the church office at 618-398-7362, or email – <u>memberservices@rhemaworshipcenter.com</u>, if you are sick, hospital bound, have had death in our family or just to say "Hello".



What's new in 2021?

Yes, online prayer service started in March. Go to <u>www.rhemaworshipcenter.com</u>, click on resources tab and complete prayer request form.

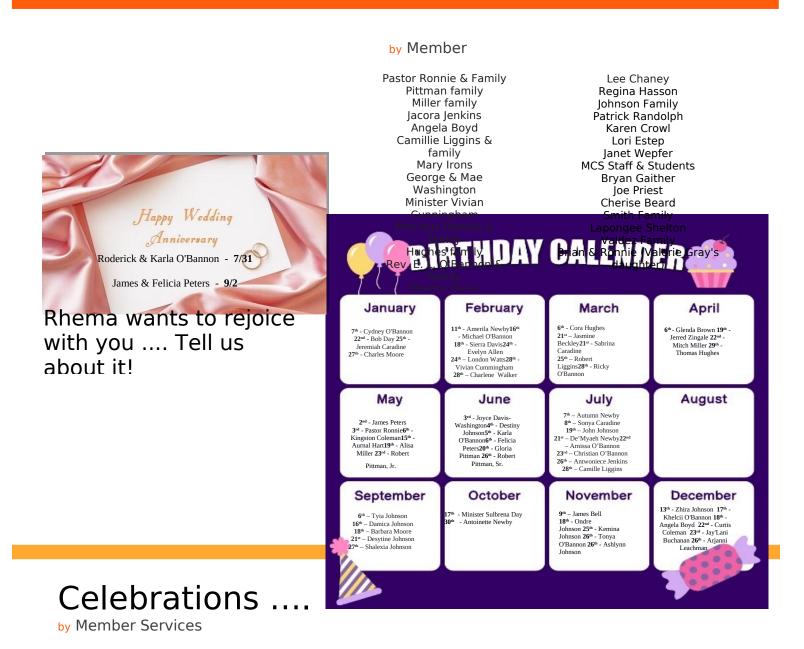


SICK & SHUT IN

Provide a personal touch and minister through calls, cards, prayer and offering communion to ensure that members continue to feel part of Rhema Worship Center – even during seasons of illness or life changes that prevent them from worshipping with their church family.

CONTACT INFO 618.398.7362

PRAY	list
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING 1 Thessalonians 5:17	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·



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Update Your Information

Please help us keep our records current. Let us know if you **move**, get a **new phone number**, change your **email address** or have a different way you wish to be contacted. Any significant changes to your household or status (single, married, widowed, divorced etc.) let us know. We do try to keep up, but sometimes the only person to tell us about these changes is you.

It is important that we have accurate records for our church members in order to communicate and minister effectively.

In the upcoming months, you will receive information on how to complete a very simple process, it will take a few minutes to update your information online and let us know!



We are excited about the new things happening at Rhema Worship Center and we want everyone to experience what God has in store for us!

1. I WILL PROTECT THE UNITY OF MY CHURCH

...By acting in love toward other members ...By refusing to gossip ...By following the leaders

"So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up." (Romans 14:19 NLT)

"Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." (Ephesians 4:29 NLT)

"Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit." (Hebrews 13:17 NLT)

2. I WILL SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY CHURCH

...By praying for its growth ...By inviting the unchurched to attend ...By warmly welcoming those who visit

"We always thank God for all of you and pray for you constantly." (1 Thessalonians 1:2 NLT)

"So his master said, 'Go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full. For none of those I first invited will get even the smallest taste of my banquet.'" (Luke 14:23-24 NLT)

"Therefore, accept one other just as Christ has accepted you so that God will be given glory." (Romans 15:7 NLT)

3. I WILL SERVE THE MINISTRY OF MY CHURCH ...By discovering my gifts and talents

...By being equipped to serve by my pastors and leaders ...By developing a servant's heart "God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another." (1 Peter 4:10 NLT)

"Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.

Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:11-12 NLT)

"Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. ... Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being...." (Philippians 2:3-4, 7 NLT)

4. I WILL SUPPORT THE TESTIMONY OF MY CHURCH ...By attending faithfully ...By living a godly life ...By giving regularly

"And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near." (Hebrews 10:25 NLT)

"Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News." (Philippians 1:27 NLT)

"On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. Don't wait until I get there and then try to collect it all at once." (1 Corinthians 16:2 NLT)

If you have any questions please contact the church membership

representative at 618.398.7362 or email: <u>memberservices@rhemaworshipcen</u> ter.com

IT CLASSES AT MCS

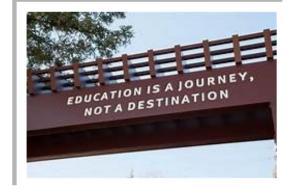
Learn basic skills

The goal of an online basic computer course is to equip students with basic computer skills. Additional advanced courses may be taken to strengthen knowledge in a particular area.

Knowledge of Microsoft Office is extremely important when searching for a new job. Many employers expect job seekers to have a basic understanding of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. This class typically covers the basics of how to set up a document, use a spreadsheet, and create a presentation.

9 BENEFITS OF TUTORING AT MCS

- 1. Improves academic performance
- 2. Can be customized to each student's needs
- 3. Improves study habits
- 4. Improves self-esteem
- 5. Helps develop critical thinking
- Encourages intellectual independence
- 7. Improves social skills
- 8. Helps manage learning difficulties
- 9. Personalized, direct feedback



You can volunteer, support or sponsor MCS through Rhema Worship Center.

A Illinois hospital's plan to build a strong pipeline of entry-level medical staff

by Minister Sulbrena Day

Midwest Career Source (**MCS**) was recently featured in the Becker's Hospital Review. <u>https://www.beckershospitalrevie</u> w.com/workforce/a-missourihospital-s-plan-to-build-a-strongpipeline-of-entry-level-medicalstaff.html

Executives at Memorial Hospital-Belleville (III.), a BJC HealthCare hospital, realized they needed a new approach to attracting and retaining employees a few years ago and took action.

The hospital partnered with Midwest Career Source Vocational School and St. Clair County's intergovernmental grants department in Belleville to develop a program that would grow its patient care team and reduce turnover for entry-level roles.

"It's gotten very difficult for employers to find employees, and COVID-19 hasn't helped at all," said Rick Stubblefield, director of intergovernmental grants at St. Clair County. "Our mission is to ensure area employees have a skilled and ready workforce available at all times."

The program targets employees working in other hospital

departments, such as food service or housekeeping, who have a passion for patient care. The employees can take courses through Midwest Career Source Vocational School's patient care technician program, blending theory, classroom learning and clinical hours. Students then take a state examination before they can enter into new patient care roles.

"We partner to help them fill their pipeline as they have vacancies and are growing their business," said Sulbrena Day, PhD, MSN, RN, program administrator for Midwest Career Source Vocational School. "Now they can focus on implementing their mission and vision instead of employment. It's a great concept and the employees can advance within the organization. That's a high retention initiative that also reduces turnover."

The employees selected for the program typically have demonstrated a good work ethic and capacity to move their careers forward. "It's a great opportunity to take someone you've vetted and help them advance themselves," said Mr. Stubblefield.

The grants from St. Clair County help offset the cost of the program for the hospital, and students are able to go through the course without paying out of pocket. The students typically complete the certified nurse assistant, medical assistant or phlebotomy programs.

"Our hope is this is a talent pipeline for the hospital and a career path for these individuals," said Mr. Stubblefield. "You can become a CNA, work in the field for a bit, and then come back to us to further your education to become a licensed practical nurse or registered nurse. You may come from the kitchen staff to then enter the nurse career pathway."

The programs also teach Memorial's mission and vision to students, and emphasize reliability and accountability.

The instructors set expectations and follow-up with students to make sure they're ready to take on their new roles. The program follows graduates for a year after entering into their new positions.

"We're looking at the social work-life balances that may

knock our students off their feet and can work with Memorial leadership to support them," said Ms. Day. "When we identify an issue, we pull the student aside and have a one-on-one conversation to drill into the weeds of what is happening. We can support them and make sure they aren't tardy or absent in the future. We do the case management for them, and Memorial has been really excited

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit us on our website: www.midwestcareersource.co m or call 618-213-6539. for us to implement this particular process in our curriculum."



other messages began to regularly appear during the past 6-9 months when I turned on the ignition.

When I arrived at the dealership, they placed my key fob in a reader that brought up all the information about me, the owner, the mileage, vehicle identification and what service was due. Yes, the car provided the dealership the reason for the visit. There were some added things that needed attention that the vehicle did not self-report. The customer service person added my list and proceeded with the service. I received an update via my phone with a video report from the service guy so that I would know his findings, needs and recommendations. He showed me via video that I had a nail in the right rear tire, two bulges in right front tire, need for wiper replacement and a filter. He could not find the problems I



reported but scheduled the car for a return appointment for new tires and wipers.

Although the tires are special flat tires designed to run flat, I didn't think it was safe to drive at my speed. By the way, the message warned me that it was safe to drive but not greater than 80 mph. I took their recommendations and now the vehicle is running well without messages.

How many times in our lives do we receive messages but ignore them? Sometimes ignoring the message(s) may result in delays, running flats, exhaustion, anxiety, fear, wrong decisions, missed opportunities, potential life-threatening events, or emotional drought.

There can be moments physically that we ignore our body sending messages that something needs attention. An

Tell me what's on your mind about health and wellness.

Well, there is to be a balance in our lives with everything for harmony or homeostasis.

I recently took my vehicle in for service because it was due for the oil change, brake check and low tire pressure messages. I knew last year that the oil would be needing a change, but the example, headache, pain, blurred vision, weakness, tingling, slurred speech, dizziness, confusion, nausea, change in skin color, swelling, deformity, hair loss, bleeding, etc. Don't ignore but seek medical attention to have a physical exam, blood levels checked, body scans, if needed, medication if needed, etc.

There are times that a little physical activity, water and a change of food choices can make the difference. Please don't ignore.

This is true spiritually, your oil of anointing may need to be refilled, you may be dirty from the world environment and need washing by the Word of God, your eyes may be dim, and you need the light of the Son, or you are desensitized and need the Holy Spirit for discernment and renewing, you may be weak and need to be sharpened by fellowship with another brother or sister in Christ.

Turn to the Word and pray. It doesn't matter if it is physical or spiritual, a checkup and service is needed for everyone. You want your body to run well without warning messages. Accept and implement the recommendations called commandments from God. He knows what you need.

The balance or circle of life is in spirituality, creativity, finances, joy, career, social life, relationships, home environment, home cooking, physical activity, health, and education.

Take some time to look at each of these areas to see if there is balance. If there is one or more that are neglected or not present, discover a way to explore to improve that area of your life for wholeness.

I find in this scripture John 15:4-9 (NKJV) a summation of where

and how to have all areas of the circle of life met.

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself. unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me. and I in him. bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. "As the Father loved Me. I also have loved vou: abide in My love.

Stay alert, stay in the Word, stay in prayer, stay connected to the body of Christ, remain safe and healthy.

In love,

Health and Wellness Ministry



Christian Education / Learning

by Minister Cora Hughes

The importance of Learning...

- Learning changes the physical structure of the brain. These structural changes alter the functional organization of the brain; in other words, learning organizes and reorganizes the brain. Different parts of the brain are often ready to learn at different, therefore it is important to keep learning.
- On a physiological level, learning new things is good for your brain. Learning allows the brain to form more neural pathways and allows electrical impulses to travel faster across them.
- Learning is essential for our existence. Just like food nourishes our bodies, information and continued learning nourishes our minds.
- ✓ Spiritual study is necessary to seek and know Jesus as our source of eternal life. The power of understanding what the Scriptures say is not for knowledge only but because they testify of Jesus.

Why studying the bible is so important...

 It is important for guidance. When in doubt

 check out the word!
 "Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion

 over me..." Psalm 119:133

- The greater time we spend understanding God's word ---the more he will reveal his purpose and plan for our life.
- Proverbs 16:16 says that having wisdom and understanding is better than having silver or gold. Nice and expensive items can be enjoyable, but there are very few things in life that can never be taken away, will never go out of style, and that truly make you a better person. A spiritual education is one of those things.
- ✓ It is through the Word of God that we get faith.
- ✓ If we are going astray, the Word of God corrects us.
- ✓ If we are ignorant, the Word of God instructs us. David says, "Thou through Thy commandments hast made me wiser than my enemies. I have more understanding than all my teachers; for Thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Thy precepts" (Psalm 119:98-100).

The many blessings from reading and studying God's Word...

- ✓ Receiving direction
 Psalm 119:105
- Answered prayer John 15:7
- ✓ Strengthened in faith Romans 10:17
- ✓ Nourishment unto maturity Mark 4:4
- ✓ Resistance to temptation Psalm 119:11
- ✓ Instruction 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ✓ Conviction 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ✓ **Correction** 2 *Timothy* 3:16-17
- ✓ Training in righteousness 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ✓ Clarity of thoughts Hebrews 4:12
- ✓ Freedom John 8:31-32
- ✓ Wisdom beyond your years Psalm 119:99
- ✓ **Revived soul** *Psalm* 19:7
- ✓ **Delight** *Psalm* 119:103
- ✓ Cleansing Ephesians 5:26
- ✓ Others are impacted Colossians 3:16
- ✓ Blessing and prosperity Psalm 11:3
- ✓ Courage for success Joshua1:8-9
- ✓ Victory in spiritual warfare
 Ephesians 6:17
- ✓ Endurance & Encouragement Romans 15:4

Won't you join us in bible study every Wednesday virtually to gain all the word of God has in store for you? See you real soon!!!!

Minister Cora Director, Christian Education

Christian Education / Beginner's guide to Reading the Bible

Scores of people feel overwhelmed when it comes to reading the Bible. Maybe, even now, you're shaking your head in agreement, thinking, Yes. That's me. How in the world do I know where to start reading and making sense of the entire Bible?

It is our prayer that this beginner's guide to reading the Bible will encourage you and help you reach your goals!

These six simple steps will help you start to read the Bible today.

1. Choose a Bible version that's understandable and easy to read.

Here's the flat out truth: If we don't understand it, we won't read it.

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek. One of the earliest translations to English was the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible, but today we have a variety of versions to choose from. Some translations focus on being more precise and are best for Bible study, while others focus on readability and are great for devotions.

If you're a beginner, we recommend the New Living Translation (NLT), or a study Bible in the English Standard Version (ESV) or New International Version (NIV). The NLT version of the Bible is most readable while still being literal in its translation; the Study Bibles contain footnotes that explain difficult to understand passages of Scripture. You can also download a Bible app or read the Bible at <u>biblestudytools.com</u>. These are great tools for beginners and veterans alike.

2. You don't have to start at the beginning of the Bible.

The Bible contains 66 separate books compiled into one book. The 39 books of the Old Testament are the story of God and his people before the coming of the Messiah—Jesus. The 27 books of the New Testament pick up the story beginning with the birth of Jesus.

If you're new to the Bible, the best place to start is the Gospel of John. This book (the fourth book in the New Testament) is John's eyewitness account of the life of Jesus. As one of Jesus' closest disciples, John's account is both riveting and informative.

John's purpose in writing is to help us believe, making it the ideal place to start. *"These things were written to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name"* (John 20:31).

3. Pick a book of the Bible and work your way through it.

If you're anything like us, you need a Bible reading plan or you'll waste precious minutes thumbing through the Bible, never quite landing. So pick one book of the Bible and read a little each day, one chapter, perhaps.

If you read one chapter of John a day, (which will take no more

than 5-10 minutes) you'll read John in its entirety in 21 days.

After reading John, move on to the other gospels – Matthew, Mark or Luke. Next read Philippians, Ephesians and Colossians, which provide practical encouragement and instruction for living the Christian life. Romans is jam-packed with essential doctrine. Genesis explains how everything began. Psalms is filled with heartfelt prayers that offer encouragement for every season of life.

Work your way through one book at a time, and you'll never find yourself fumbling for where to read again.

4. How to read the Bible: Read a little every day!

Getting God's Word into your life doesn't have to take long. Start small—five or 10 minutes is better than none. Sometimes less is more, especially when reading less means you'll actually remember more.

Chose a time and place that's convenient for you. Many people read their Bible first thing in the morning, choosing to spend time with God before daily distractions get in the way. But if mornings aren't your thing, don't sweat it. *That* you read God's Word is more important than *when* you read God's Word.

5. How to read the Bible: Pray before you begin.

Pause before you open your Bible and ask God to speak to you. Remember, the Bible is God's Word; it is God's love letter written to His people, which includes *you*.

Ask God to help you understand His Word. Ask God use His Word to teach you, to direct you and even to re-direct you, when necessary. Ask Him to use His Word to help you know Him and love Him.

Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find Me, if you seek Me with all your heart." God loves to reveal himself to those who seek Him.

6. Write it down.

As you read the Bible ask two questions:

- What does this teach me about God?
 - What does this teach me about how I should live?

No doubt, as you read you'll find one or two verses that seem to leap off the page. Maybe they speak to an issue you've been grappling with; maybe they answer a long held question; maybe they give you comfort or encouragement; maybe they provide an example to follow or avoid.

When a verse resonates with you, stop and write it down, word for word. Pause to let the message sink in because these words are *God's* words to *you*.

This practice will cemented God's Word into your thoughts in countless ways. Sometimes keep the verse with you throughout the day. Sometimes ask God to help you remember it when you need it. Sometimes memorize it. Be intentional about getting God's Word into your thoughts and you'll soon see your relationship with God thrive and your life change. After all, isn't that the whole point of reading the Bible! The Bible was never meant to merely inform us; the Bible was meant to transform us.

We all begin somewhere in our

Minister Glenda Brown Teacher

Minister of Music Tonya O'Bannon Teacher



relationship with God. And we all need someone to show us how. Let us know how you've been able to begin reading the Bible and what it has done for you!

Our Christian education classes are not just for learning the word but for getting to know and enjoy congregants better.

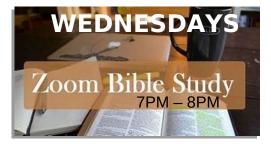
The learning atmosphere is designed for participants to not only learn and listen but ask questions as well.

Topics include studying books of the bible as well as current events that relate to wholesome Christian living.

We invite you to come enjoy this learning experience with us.

Minister Cora Hughes, Director, Christian Education

AROUND THE WORD



Please Join Us

www.rhemaworshipcenter.com



How to Pray

- 1. Pray simply
- 2. Read the bible and pray over verses
- 3. Make prayer active
- 4. Make prayer an integral part of your day
- 5. Pray expectantly

How to Study

- 1. Choose a book of the Bible
- 2. Begin with Prayer
- 3. Read the entire Book
- Zoom in (verse by verse)
 Choose your tools (commentary, bible dictionary)
- 6. Be a doer of the Word
- 7. Set your own pace

Christian Education / Why bring your bible to church?

2 Chronicles 34:15 "And Hilkiah answered and said to Shaphan the scribe, I have found the book of the law in the house of the LORD..."

The book had been lost for some time. True worship had been defiled with manmade instructions. It wasn't until the book was found that they were able to please God.

God's people have always been a people of the Book (Nehemiah 8:1-3) one book, the Bible. The church is the house of the living God (1 Timothy 3:15).

It is the place God's people congregate around the Bible. It is a place where we learn to worship and show reverence to God.

Below are seven reasons to bring your Bible to church:

- Identify: When you bring your Bible to church you identify yourself with God's Word and he holds his word in very high esteem (Psalms 138:2).
- 2. Varify: When you bring your Bible to church you can follow along with the preaching. Your Bible makes it possible to evaluate what is being taught. The Bible will keep you from being deceived. (Acts 17:11)
- 3. Fortify: When you bring your Bible and use it you won't have to worry about it distracting you with a ring. You won't be tempted to text or check out of church mentally by

viewing box scores or weather.

- 4. Satisfy: When you bring your Bible to church you can underline scripture and jot down a word or statement that touched you.
- 5. Intensify: When you use your Bible and open it your attention is clearly on the Word of God.
- 6. Magnify: Having a visible Bible in hand allows you to be a good ambassador of God's word.



Got one for ya

by Tonya O'Bannon



7. Testify: You can share with others who have not brought their Bibles. *Riddle definition: A riddle is a question or statement that offers a*

Rhema News



9100 Lebanon Road Belleville, Illinois 62223





The Fourth of July—also known as Independence Day or July 4th—has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution.

On July 2nd, 1776, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

From 1776 to the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence, with festivities ranging from

fireworks, parades and concerts to more casual family gatherings and barbecues. AWARENESS MONTH The Fourth of July 2021 is on Sunday, July 4, 2021; the federal holiday will be observed on July 5 2021

SEPTEMBER





Answers:

- a. You Luke into it
- b. Gloves
- c. Footsteps
- d. David
- e. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

