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STAYING CONNECTED

WRITTEN BY PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

In the Scriptures, God reveals the purpose for His Church by using several illustrations. The Church is a bride, a family, a temple, and a body. The picture of a body demonstrates the importance of connection (Rom 12:3-5; 1 Cor 12:12-27; Eph 4:15-16; Col 1:18). Although each body part has its unique function, it cannot survive in isolation. A healthy body must have all its parts connected and working together in unity. This is why Hebrews 10:25 instructs us not to forsake the regular gatherings of the local church. We assemble in order to "stir up love and good works" (Heb 12:24) and to "exhort one another" (Heb 12:25).



Our current situation presents some challenges to our Christian duty to connect with each other. We are being told to "self isolate," which is the direct opposite of behaving as a unified body. I know I will greatly miss our times of worship and fellowship on Sundays and other times. We will need to be more creative in connecting with others without meeting in the same room.

In an effort to stay connected, we will send out a weekly newsletter each Friday. It will be emailed and posted on <u>Facebook</u> and our <u>website</u>. We will also <u>broadcast a worship service</u> each Sunday with congregational singing, Scripture readings, prayers, and a sermon. I realize that these options are insufficient, but they will allow us to connect in a limited way. I urge you to take time each week to connect with other believers by a phone call or message. "Self isolation" may be a good thing to prevent the spread of this contagious virus, but it is not good for Christ's church. Let's do our best to reach out to others in the ways that we can.

Sunday's Worship Service Broadcast

Each Sunday that we are unable to congregate, we will worship remotely with a pre-recorded video broadcast. You can find the video on Sunday morning at our website's sermon page:

https://meadowlandsbaptist.ca/resources/sermons/

22 MARCH 2020

- Welcome/Call to Worship
- Opening Prayer: Pastor Jerry
- Hymn: "Great it Thy Faithfulness"
- Hymn: "In Christ Alone"
- Scripture Reading: Psalm 27
- Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Mark
- Hymn: "Like a River Glorious"
- Sermon: "If the Lord Wills" (James 4:13-17)
- Hymn: "Rejoice the Lord is King"

Giving

Several people have inquired about giving while we cannot gather in person. Of course, you can always mail a cheque to the church. We also have e-transfer available, which is very easy. From your bank's website you can select the e-transfer feature. The email address that you transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer. Your bank may even allow you to set up reoccurring e-



FAMILIES REDEEM THE TIME

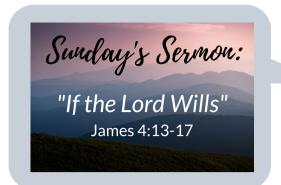
WRITTEN BY PASTOR MARK RICHMOND



transfers as well.

The recent changes we have had to make may cause us to wish the time away. Christian parents, however, have a unique opportunity to live out Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and impress our faith onto the hearts and minds of our children. With less activities and more time at home, we can redeem the time as a family. Don't waste the opportunity to grow spiritually as a family. Here are some resources to help you. Kids4Truth is offering free lessons and daily devotionals. Also, Kids of Integrity has many good lessons for building character. I'm praying that we make the most of this unique situation. I'll include more resources in next week's newsletter.

"I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.""



MINISTRY OF PRAYER

In next week's newsletter, we will try to include submitted prayer requests from those in our church family who would like to share their requests in this format. Requests may be emailed to info@meadowlandsbaptist.com by Thursdays at noon. However, this week we want to remind you to keep our MBC missionaries in your prayers.

- Jake & Sharon Wiebe, Bolivia
- Darren & Elizabeth
 Hammermeister, BC

Need to contact us?

- Chris & Glenda Hammond, SK
- Larry & Pam Noland, NT
- Simon & Elise Ouellette, QC
- Bud & Debbie Talbert, Foundation Baptist College
- Mike & Melodie Duguay, SK
- Kris & Mariola Kolt, Poland
- Herb & Janet Hunter, South Africa
- · Josh & Erica Burrill, Malta
- Project World Walk
- Matt & Rachael Wilson, Grandview Camp

Discussion Questions from James 4:13-17

- Which biblical truths have you been reminded of in the last couple weeks?
- What was wrong with the plans stated in James 4:13?
- What truths about life are communicated in James 4:14?
- Why is planning without God such a serious sin? (James 4:16-17; Gen 3:1-6)
- How can you practically live in the spirit of James 4:15?
- How is God's sovereignty a comfort to you?
- What truth from James 4 can you share to encourage a fellow believer?



