

# The Connection

24 APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

## RESPONDING TO THE GLORY OF GOD

WRITTEN BY PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS



"...children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you *shine as lights*..." Phil. 2:15

Over the last several weeks we've been able to observe a variety of responses to this current situation—from panic to indifference, and everything in between. Here are four instructions that will help you to respond in a way that glorifies God.

### 1. CARE

We should care about the suffering and death of fellow human beings. Since mankind is made in God's image (Gen 1:27), every human life is precious from the moment of conception to the final breath in death. Christ commands, "love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt 22:39). Philippians 2:3 even urges us to treat other as better than ourselves. Coronavirus gives us opportunities to respond with care.

### 2. SHARE

Although we are trying not to share germs, times of crisis give God's people opportunities to share the truth. We may not understand this virus and what actions should be taken, but we do know the truth of God's Word. God says that all have sinned (Rom 3:23), and we will all eventually die (Rom 6:23). Although we pray for a cure or vaccine for this virus, the greater need is salvation from sin and hell. All human crises are opportunities to share the truth of the Gospel (Luke 13:1-5).

### 3. BEWARE

In our current situation, we need to beware of ungodly attitudes. It is natural to react in fear, anger, or despair. We must not forget that God is still in control. We can trust our heavenly Father instead of worry (Matt 6:25-34). By relying on the Lord and His promises, we can maintain joy (Phil 4:4) and peace (Phil 4:6-7). And we can even demonstrate gracious spirit toward others (Phil 4:5).

### 4. PREPARE

A month ago, many folks were preparing for a toilet paper shortage! We, however, need to prepare ourselves for suffering. We don't really know the lasting effects of this virus and the resulting lock-down. There could be lasting pain. But we can prepare our hearts for this by remembering that nothing can separate us from Christ and His eternal blessings (Rom 8:31-39). Loss in this life should cause us to prepare for the life to come. Remember: this world is not our home! We are living in a unique opportunity to glorify God by how we respond. I pray that the responses of God's people will shine brightly in this dark world and glorify our Heavenly Father (Matt 5:16).

# SUNDAY'S SERMON BROADCAST

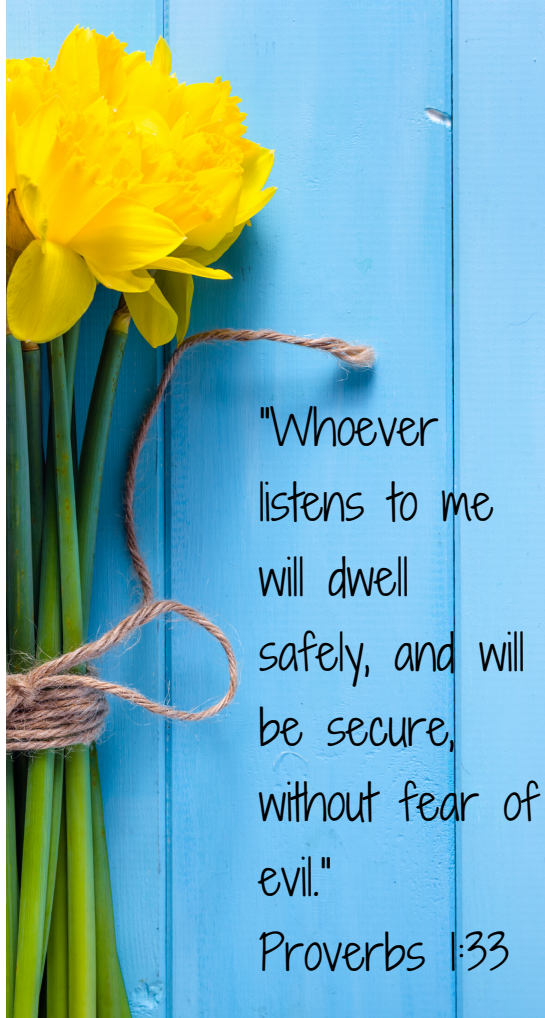
You can find the video and audio of the sermon and children's story broadcasts on our [sermon audio page](#).

"REACTING GRACIOUSLY"  
PHILIPPIANS 4:5  
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

- WELCOME
- PRAYER
- HYMN: "IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE"
- HYMN: "O WORSHIP THE KING"
- JOSHUA 1:1-9
- PASTORAL PRAYER
- HYMN: "BE THOU MY VISION"
- MESSAGE
- HYMN: "WE WILL GLORIFY"

## CHILDREN'S STORY BROADCAST

**This Sunday's children's story continues the 8-part reading of The Big Picture Story Bible by David Helm. Children of all ages will learn the Bible's message of "God's people in God's place under God's rule."**



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

If you would like to join a group to discuss these questions over video conference at 7 PM this Wednesday, please send an email to Pastor Kevin: [kwilliams@meadowlandsbaptist.com](mailto:kwilliams@meadowlandsbaptist.com)

1. Verse 4 of Philippians 4 is about joy, and verses 6 and 7 are about peace. How is gentleness in verse 5 related?
2. The Greek word translated "gentleness" in Philippians 4:5 occurs four other times in the New Testament (1 Tim 3:3; Tit 3:2; 1 Pet 2:18; James 3:17). What are some other words that describe this virtue?
3. In what ways did Jesus display this quality to others?
4. When is obedience to this command most difficult for you?
5. When should we be uncompromising and when should we be accommodating?
6. What biblical realities accompany the Lord's coming?
7. How does the Lord's coming motivate us to react in a spirit of gentleness?

## REDEEMING THE TIME BY FAMILY WORSHIP

WRITTEN BY PASTOR MARK RICHMOND

From various phone conversations in recent weeks, I've often heard "my children miss going to church." The change in routine hasn't gone unnoticed by our kids. Something is missing each week!

This provides us with the opportunity to begin family worship at home. It can begin very simply with prayer, Scripture reading (verse by verse through a book of the Bible), and some discussion. You could even incorporate singing together. Establish this as a regular routine for your family. This time of isolation is the perfect opportunity to form a new family habit.

The reason we neglect family worship is that we think there is plenty of time to do this later when the kids are older. And when the kids get older, the schedule is too crowded to fit anything else in. We fail to see the urgency of making this a priority. Our enemy, however, is like a roaring lion, and he wants our children. Our fallen culture is regularly bombarding them with question to cause them to waver and doubt their faith. This season, where we have more time together, affords us the opportunity to be proactive and make regular discipleship of our children a priority. Family worship is a wonderful gift from the Lord. There's no time like the present to get started!



## BRIDAL SHOWERS

Each recipient is featured on our Ladies' Sincere Heart Facebook page along with gift registry information. This information is also available through the church office. Gifts can either be purchased online and sent directly to the individual, or money can be sent to the church to be applied toward a gift card. To e-transfer funds from your bank, please use the email address: [custom@meadowlandsbaptist.com](mailto:custom@meadowlandsbaptist.com). (Please note the intended recipient in the message line.) These funds will not be tax receiptable. A delivery of a small cake and gift card will be made on the recipient's selected shower date.

**Jason Ramer & Kianna Owen: May 1**



## FOUNDATION BAPTIST COLLEGE ONLINE ESCHATOLOGY BLOCK CLASS WITH DR. BRIAN COLLINS: MAY 18-23

This block class will be taught online through Zoom. There is an online registration and payment system set up so that anyone can participate. All of the information for the class, including a registration link, can be found at the [college website course page](#).



## MBC MISSIONARY FAMILY JAKE & SHARON WIEBE TO BOLIVIA

This year began with many regular activities. Seminary classes began with 25 students in January. Children's classes at Emanuel and Grace Baptist Church continued as normal. A work project on the camp property was begun in March, but everything came to a halt on March 18.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, all normal activities have been suspended, from seminary classes, church services and construction at camp. We are able to leave our home only on days that coincide with the last number of our Bolivian identity card for just a few hours. Getting groceries has been a little like a scavenger hunt. We are helping those that the Lord brings into our path. Our neighbours with need or young pastors that because there are no services, have no salaries. We continue to monitor news, shelter in place and pray for this crisis to pass.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**In the newsletter, we try to include submitted prayer requests from those in our church family who want to share their requests in this format. Requests may be emailed to [info@meadowlandsbaptist.com](mailto:info@meadowlandsbaptist.com) by Thursdays at noon.**

- Diane Burdett's son, Steven, is homeless. Pray that he finds the Lord, comes off the streets, and repents of his lifestyle.
- Estelie Fries, and Diane Burdett are among 24 members and attendees of Meadowlands who work in the health care industry.
- Mitch Laslo and Merv Tuplin are home recovering from recent strokes.
- John Knutson's mom has Alzheimers and is staying in a long-term facility in Ontario. They recently had two patients and seven staff test positive for C-19.
- Cyril Syroteuk, from Emmanuel Baptist Church in Three Hills, passed away Wednesday evening from a massive heart attack. Please keep Lois and the family in prayer.
- Families of the victims of the Nova Scotia tragedy.



## Sharing & Caring

Care packages for 25 of our medical and grocery workers from Meadowlands were bought, assembled and distributed this week on behalf of an MBC donor.

Regular offering giving can be mailed in or e-transferred to [donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com](mailto:donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com).

## Need to contact us?

**Pastor Kevin Williams**  
587-635-2758

**Pastor Jerry Ascher**  
587-635-2751

**Pastor Mark Richmond**  
587-635-2752



**David Treau**  
587-635-2753

**Church Office**  
780-440-1195

2215-17 ST. NW, EDMONTON, AB T6T 1J1  
[WWW.MEADOWLANDSBAPTIST.COM](http://WWW.MEADOWLANDSBAPTIST.COM)