

the Connection

22 MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

RE-EVALUATING OUR PRIORITIES

WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

In the last couple weeks, I have noticed a variety of articles discussing how life will be different on the other side of COVID-19. How will consumer spending habits change? How will the labour market be different? What will shift for government priorities and the expectations of citizens? How will educational institutions function differently? What is the future of air travel? Will our traditional worship gatherings ever return to normal? There is overwhelming agreement that we are living through a major turning point—that some aspects of life will change for the long-term. There are also several articles discussing how individuals hope their lives will be different. Many people are re-evaluating their priorities. This is something that we, as Christians, should do as well. As you assess your life, which areas should not return to normal? What priorities have not been in line with God's priorities?



In John 4, Jesus' disciples bring him some food for lunch. Instead of taking the food, Jesus says, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." And then He says, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me." **While the disciples were concerned about food and material things, Jesus was more concerned about eternal priorities.** On Sunday, we will see the priorities of Jesus and His priorities for His followers. We will resume our study of Jesus from John's Gospel this Sunday. Take time to read chapter 4 to prepare your heart to receive God's Word. I pray that the Lord will use this passage to help you re-evaluate your priorities in order to bring greater glory to Him.



FAMILIES REDEEM THE TIME

WRITTEN BY PASTOR MARK RICHMOND

In last week's newsletter we were reminded to look to Christ's example as we endure trials (Heb 12:1-3). With that said, we can use our suffering as an opportunity to teach our children. Not only can they watch our responses, but we can intentionally bring them along on the journey. We can discuss our problems with them and look to Scripture together. We can model for them how to endure trials with God's enablement. 2 Peter 1:3 states, "His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue." Our children are watching us wrestle with our emotions during difficulties. We are teaching them day by day, moment by moment.

Perhaps you have a pressing need for finances, health, employment, or making an important decision; you can pray about these with your children. What a great hands-on lesson! They can learn how to pray and watch your dependence on the Lord. One day, you may even hear them pray something that they heard from you. Redeem these difficult moments as stepping stones of faith for you and your children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

On Wednesday, May 27 at 7 PM, you can register to attend an in-person Prayer & Bible Study group in the gym at Meadowlands. This group is strictly limited to 50 people. A link to register will be sent out on Mondays to those who have subscribed to our email list. In addition, you may also participate in a Zoom group that will follow the same format at the same time (Please email kwilliams@meadowlandsbaptist.com for a Zoom invitation). For our Bible study we will discuss the following questions in the newsletter that relate to the Sunday morning sermon:



John 4:27-42

1. Which three words in this passage do you think are most significant?
2. What is being said about those three important words?
3. What does this passage say about Jesus?
4. How do people in this passage respond to Jesus?
5. How does this passage challenge or encourage you?
6. What from this passage can you share to encourage a fellow Christian?
7. What from this passage can you share with an unbeliever?

WORSHIP SERVICE BROADCAST & CHILDREN'S STORY

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

"RE-EVALUATING OUR PRIORITIES"

JOHN 4:27-42

PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "SOLDIERS OF CHRIST, ARISE"

HYMN: "REJOICE, THE LORD IS KING"

PSALM 84

PRAYER

HYMN: "WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS"

MESSAGE

HYMN: "HALLELUJAH, WHAT A

SAVIOUR!"

CLOSING PRAYER

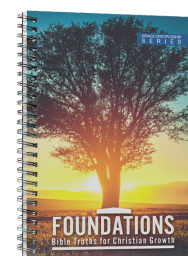
This Sunday's children's story continues the 8-part reading of *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm. Children of all ages will learn the Bible's message of "God's people in God's place under God's rule."

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

On Sunday evenings we will continue our discipleship training using the book *Foundations: Bible Truths for Christian Growth*. Audio recordings will be posted on our website as usual.

Registration to attend in-person is available at 4 pm or 6 pm. There is a strict limit of 50 for each class. A link to register will be sent out on Thursdays to those who have subscribed to our email list. **If you are not on our email list, please go to our website and sign up!**

www.meadowlandsbaptist.com



RE-GATHERING: PHASE 1

It has been over two months that we have gathered together for worship and fellowship. I hope the absence has caused a longing in your soul to regather with the church family. The government of Alberta has issued guidelines and restrictions for phase 1 reopening. Because of the strict limit of 50 people and the prohibition of singing, we will begin by regathering in smaller groups on Sunday evenings and Wednesday evenings as is mentioned in the newsletter sections.

All gatherings will take place in the gym. This will be a clean environment with plenty of room to spread out. Guidelines and what to expect are posted on the registration sites. Registration links will be given out weekly for those who have subscribed to be on our email list.

We realize that this is a difficult time with many challenges.

Whether we see you in-person or continue to communicate electronically, we are praying for the Lord to use this in your life for His glory. --Pastor Kevin

VIRTUAL BRIDAL SHOWER FOR SUSANNAH ENTZ AND JEAN-DAVID JUTRAS MAY 29

Please see the Sincere Hearts Facebook page for details and gift suggestions. You may also e-transfer money to be collected for a gift card to custom@meadowlandsbaptist.com.



Need to contact us?

Church Office

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Pastor Kevin Williams

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Pastor Mark Richmond

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David Treau

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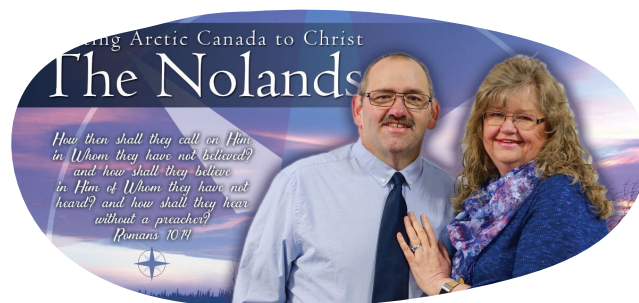
GIVING

E-transfer is available. From your bank's website, select the e-transfer feature. The email address to transfer to is donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com. Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

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MINISTRY UPDATE FROM MBC MISSIONARIES: THE NOLANDS, NWT



"Since the middle of March our furlough plans have changed drastically. Churches began making decisions not to hold services and our scheduled meetings began canceling. We have had the opportunity to be in an online mission conference as well as preach at a couple of churches through their online meetings. The far north has not been beyond the reach of this pandemic. Like many other churches we have begun to livestream our services on Facebook. Bro. Seely began doing this from our house in Aklavik, and we noticed quickly people from many of the communities in the North without a church were watching as well. Doing the services this way has allowed me the opportunity to preach there some as well. Pam and I have also been able to use technology to participate and teach in our weekly ladies and men's Bible studies.

At the writing of this letter our plan is to return to Aklavik in July as we had originally planned. However, a few things could influence this date, one being the completion of some dental work and another being Canadian travel restriction due to the coronavirus."

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 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.
- Several of our senior citizens are in assisted living homes and isolated from their friends and families.
- Laura Cook's dad has possible skin cancer on his head and her sister, Lee, is going through chemo treatments for breast cancer.
- Alfred Neumann had surgery Wednesday and it went well. Please pray for his recovery.

