

# the Connection

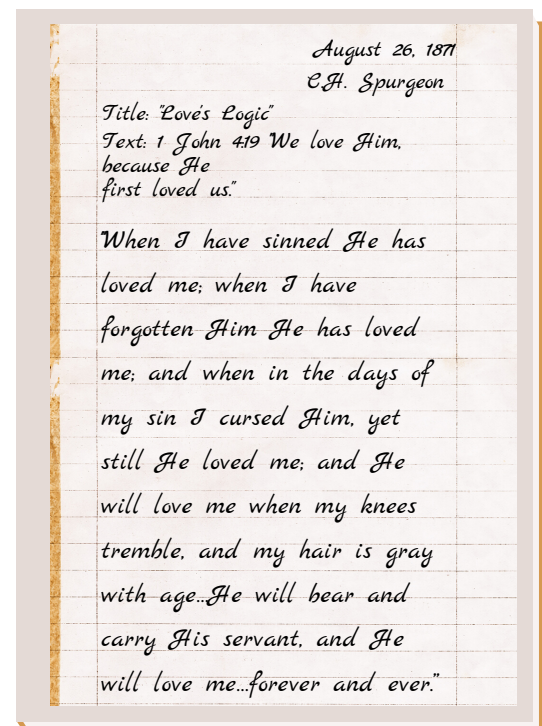
29 MAY 2020 NEWSLETTER

## GOD'S LOVE FOR THE UNDESERVING

WRITTEN BY JERRY ASCHER

What a wonderful blessing it has been to begin our meetings together again albeit in a limited way. For those who have come to one of these services, I trust you have enjoyed the opportunity to finally be able to see members of our church family after such a long lay-off. At our first meeting together last Sunday night, we discussed what the Bible teaches about confession of sin and God's forgiveness which He offers to each believer. Part of our discussion focused on what God says about forgiven sin and the relationship that has with His own character. Psalm 86:5 says, "For You, O Lord, are good and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You." The question must be asked that if we serve a

God like this, why do we wait so long to come to Him to confess our sins? Can it be that we think we must somehow become deserving of forgiveness before we can address our failures with Him Who knows it all anyway? "He knows our frame," the psalmist says, "He remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103:14). This is good news, and it should remind us of God's everlasting love that Christ died for us even while we were sinners. C.H. Spurgeon preached a message on August 26, 1871 entitled "Love's Logic" where he eloquently articulated God's love at work when a believer comes to Him in repentance:



"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

Proverbs 28:13

Praise the Lord for His forgiveness and His love for the undeserving!

Note: A special thanks to Bonnie Koster for sharing the sermon quote from C. H. Spurgeon.

# FAMILIES REDEEM THE TIME

WRITTEN BY PASTOR MARK RICHMOND



In the last couple newsletters we have looked at Hebrews 12:1-3, seeing the paradox of joyful suffering as Jesus endured the cross for our salvation. This passage encourages us to throw off everything that could trip us up as we run the Christian race. Trials have a way of exposing what is in our hearts, like the tea bag in hot water mentioned by Pastor Kevin. **If we see anything flowing from our hearts that hinders our running, we need to get rid of it. Don't carry around a heavy backpack full of needless weights and debilitating sins.** Allow the trials of life to refine you, and run with endurance as you look to Jesus. He is in control. He is perfecting your faith. He endured the cross for you and is seated at the right hand of God's throne. As we look to Christ in our trials, we can endure, following His example and rejoicing in the eternal hope He gives.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS/WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY

We invite you to register to attend an in-person Prayer & Bible Study group in the gym this Wednesday at 7 pm. This group is strictly limited to 50 people. A link to register will be sent out every Monday 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](mailto: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 4:43-54

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](#).

"UNDERSTANDING GENUINE FAITH"  
JOHN 4:43-54

PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: "IN CHRIST ALONE"

HYMN: "COME, THOU FOUNT"

2 TIMOTHY 2:1-19

PRAYER

HYMN: "SAVIOUR, LIKE A SHEPHERD  
LEAD US"

MESSAGE

HYMN: "MY HOPE IS IN THE LORD"

CLOSING PRAYER

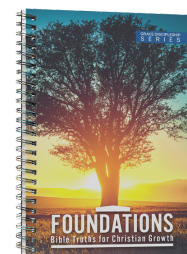
This Sunday's children's story continues the 8-part reading of *The Big Picture Story Bible* by David Helm. Children of all ages will learn the Bible's message of "God's people in God's place under God's rule."

## DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

On Sunday evenings we 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 every Thursday 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](http://www.meadowlandsbaptist.com)





# MINISTRY UPDATE FROM MBC MISSIONARIES: THE BURRILLS, MALTA



GRACIOUS LORD,  
THY MERCY  
FILLETH ALL THE  
EARTH BELOW,



AND FROM  
HEAVEN'S THRONE  
IT FALLETH WHEN  
TO THEE I GO.

--Eileen Berry

We continue on with the gospel work largely through Facebook, Zoom fellowships, WhatsApp video chats, and phone calls. Currently, I am discipling two new believing couples. Both couples are eager to learn and grow in Christ. Pray for their spiritual maturity and a growing love for God's truth. I was able to do some socially distanced visits with our people in Gozo, once the ferry opened up for regular crossings, and have seen a few others along sidewalks for drop-offs of food, masks, and other items. As we slowly ease out of restrictions, we anticipate being able to meet physically again in early summer. Pray that we will have wisdom to wisely manage our corporate gatherings when the time comes. Most Sundays, we can have a handful of people in the service who have been in various distant corners of the world just a few days before. That won't happen again until the airport reopens, but we continue to trust the Lord for health and wisdom, and take care while resuming normal ministry step by step.

Our teammates, Joe and Jenny Mifsud, are eagerly awaiting the opening of travel routes so they can make the journey back to Malta from Michigan, and I am sure that our teammates on deputation, Luke and Anna Tanis, are looking forward to being able to present the work in churches again soon. The building project has surged ahead in the last month, and we are seeing the big changes that have been planned for many years. The recent excavations were completed without complications, and went much faster than I anticipated. We thank the Lord that the third phase of the project is nearing completion. Continue praying for us as we move into the ministry of the summer, which includes regathering, maturing of believers, a baptism service that had to be postponed, finding a new meeting place in Gozo, a new church website in progress, continued building work, and continued gospel preaching and discipleship through various means. May the Lord bless you as you continue serving Him.

In Christ,  
Josh, Erica, Rowan, Kian, Selah, and Naya Burrill



## Need to contact us?

### Church Office

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**Pastor Mark Richmond**

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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](mailto:donations@meadowlandsbaptist.com). Your donation will be automatically accepted and you will receive a confirmation of the transfer.

2215-17 St. NW, Edmonton, AB T6T 1J1  
[www.meadowlandsbaptist.com](http://www.meadowlandsbaptist.com)

## 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.
- 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.
- Wisdom and discernment for churches and leaders in Alberta trying to re-open through the phases.