

the Connection

17 JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

WHEN TO BE QUICK & WHEN TO BE SLOW

WRITTEN BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

Our society likes speed. We value anything that will save us time. We like express lines, fast food, instant results, and getting rich quick.

In most sports, the athletes that are quick have an advantage. Which reminds me of what my high school basketball coach used to say. "Guys, we may be short, but we're slow." That was not a compliment!

But being quick is not always an advantage. We are more concerned that a surgeon does things right than how fast he can operate. James 1:19-20 tells us when to be quick and when to be slow in our communication. **"Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."**

James addresses these three commands to "beloved brothers"—to Christians. And no one is excluded—"let every person." These guidelines are for each of us in every conversation—which includes speaking and writing (even social media).

Be quick to hear. Close your mouth and listen. Rapid responses are not a virtue. You don't need to post your disagreement immediately, maybe not at all. Proverbs 18:2 states, "A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion." Beware: there are a lot of fools on Twitter and Facebook, and they will try to draw you into their foolishness.



Be slow to speak.

Everyone has an opinion, but that doesn't mean that everyone's opinion needs to be shared. Proverbs 17:28 tells us that "even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent." But the main reason for caution is not our reputation but consideration of others. Stop and consider how your words will affect others. And remember that you are a representative of the Lord Jesus Christ in everything you say.

If you've read an online discussion about almost any topic, then you have probably observed expressions of anger. James' advice to his beloved Christian brothers is to **"be slow to anger."** Careless words often escalate into angry arguments. And what is wrong with this? "The anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God."

As we live in a contentious world full of harmful dialogue, let's be different. Let's please the Lord by being quick to hear and slow to speak. Your mouth (and keyboard) can be a divine instrument for righteousness if controlled by the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM

The main service (including congregational singing) will take place in the auditorium. Overflow will be in the gym (no singing allowed). If you desire to watch the service from your home, please go to the front page of our website and click the link that will join you to our [live service](#) or the [recording of it to follow](#).

JULY 19, 2020

- CALL TO WORSHIP
- "CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY"
- "BLESSED ASSURANCE"
- PRAYER
- MINISTRY IN SONG
- "HIS MERCY IS MORE"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "CLOSE TO THEE"
- MESSAGE: "FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH"
JOHN 8:1-11 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "GRACE GREATER THAN OUR SIN"
- PRAYER

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7 PM

This service takes place in the auditorium. 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 that relate to the Sunday morning sermon:

JOHN 8:1-11

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?



Christ be in my thinking,
And my understanding,
Guarding me from evil,
Walking in the light.
Christ be in my speaking,
Every word a blessing,
Pure and not deceiving,
Grace to all who hear.

Stuart Townsend &
Simon Brading

VIRTUAL VBS 2020

VBS Packages will be available for pickup this Sunday in the toddler nursery (gym foyer) or Monday-Friday (9-4) at the information desk.

The packages, which include crafts, instructions, and games, accompany our online VBS. Stay tuned for the release of the videos!



Need to contact us?



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Pastor Kevin Williams

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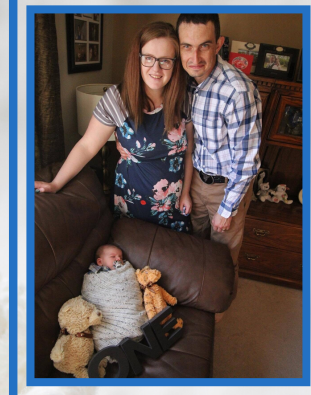
GIVING

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.

VIRTUAL BABY SHOWER FOR CHRIS & CINDY BURDETT AND BABY ZANDER

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Drop off a gift at the church office.
- Give toward a collective gift card by dropping off a donation or e-transferring it to custom@meadowlandsbaptist.com.
- See Sincere Hearts Facebook page for gift ideas and details.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Announcing the birth of Lauren Elise to Luke & Natalie Haines on Thursday, July 16. She weighed 4 lbs/9 oz. and was 16.9 inches long.



PRAYER REQUESTS

- Missionaries Larry & Pam Noland are travelling back to Inuvik from the States. Please pray for safety in travels.
- Project World Walk prayer request from the husband of the missionary we support: "Recently in our Christian community group here in (Asia), a local pastor's wife, a foreigner, was denied getting her visa renewed. We believe that this is one of the strategies of eradicating missionaries in the country. (Wife) is in the same visa category, and her application is still pending.
- Scott McKee's mom, Bertha, is 83 and lives by herself in Nova Scotia. She has a lung infection and is supposed to see a specialist on Tuesday.
- Laura Cook's sister, Lee, is going through chemo treatments for breast cancer.
- Nell Popowich is going through a series of radiation treatments at Cross Cancer.
- Dale Bevan has ongoing health needs.
- Continued prayers appreciated for the Ascher's granddaughter, Isla Grace.
- Scott Young's mom is at Good Samaritan Southgate Care facility. As of Friday morning they have 34 active Covid cases. Please pray for her protection.

Guidelines for in-person gatherings may be found on our website.

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