

the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

29 JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

Are you easily distracted? I am. I often begin a task and then my attention is captured by something else. I even forget what I was originally doing. For this reason, I am heavily reliant on calendars and to-do lists (and reminders from my wife) to stay on track.

It is easy for the church to get distracted as well. There are a thousand good things that we can do (and thousands more that we shouldn't). What priorities are most important for Christ's followers? What purpose does God have for us?

The Bible, of course, must be our starting point. The commands of Scripture provide us with God's will. There are many commands and principles that we must devote ourselves to learning and living. One command that is prominent is what we sometime call "The Great Commission."

After His resurrection and just before His ascension, Jesus gave His followers a clear command. **His last command should be our first concern. He said, "Make disciples of all the nations" (Matt 28:19).** And we do this by "preaching the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). The message of good news includes calling for "repentance and remission of sins" (Luke 24:27). And Jesus promises the power of His presence (Matt 28:20) through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

On Sundays, the church engages in "equipping the saints for the work of ministry." The reason we are studying John's Gospel on Sunday mornings is to train Christ's followers in the mission He calls us to. On the Sunday evenings of February 21 & 28, we are planning two practical lessons on evangelism (chapter 12 of the Foundations Discipleship Book). There are many good things to be involved with, but let's keep the main thing the main thing. We are here on earth as Christ's ambassadors, pleading with others to be reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:20).



SUNDAY, 31 JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:30 OR 11 AM

In-person services (with singing) take place in the gym. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the auditorium (no singing) or available to you at home.

- "COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING"
- PRAYER
- "HERE IS LOVE"
- "HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 6:19-34
- "TURN YOUR EYES UPON JESUS"
- MESSAGE: "THE BASIS FOR CHRIST'S INTERCESSION" JOHN 17:6-10
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "AMAZING GRACE"
- PRAYER



For the safety of all, parents should supervise their children before and after worship services.

VOTING RESULTS

- Approval of 2021 Budget: 97%
- Approval for Increased Missionary Support: 100%
- Approval for Supporting Freedom That Lasts: 100%
- Approval for Supporting Roys in DR: 100%
- Jeff McConnell was approved for a second deacon term (3 yr)



2020 DONATION RECEIPTS AVAILABLE NEXT SUNDAY

Receipts will be available for pick up from February 7-14 at the Information Desk on Sundays and in the church office Monday-Friday (9-4). Those that remain will be mailed out February 16.



WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY & KIDS 4 TRUTH 7 PM

This mid-week service takes place in-person in the auditorium. If you would like a Zoom link to participate, please email the church office.

Discussion Questions from John 17:6-10

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?



We go to all the world,
With kingdom hope unfurled.
No other name has pow'r to save
But Jesus Christ, the Lord.

SUNDAY EVENINGS IN FEBRUARY:

Lessons on Stewardship &
Evangelism from *Foundations:*
Bible Truths for Christian Growth



Workbooks are available for \$10 at
the Information Desk.

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.

Need to contact us?

Church Office

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Dear Friends and Family,

We are extending our gratitude for all your prayers and encouragement on Citadel's residence permit. After a year of waiting, we were requested to appear personally at the immigration today. The result was heart breaking.

The government has denied providing residence permit for Citadel, worse she was given a code of "promoting terrorism & dividing the country" which is not good for her current and future records. She was given 10 days to leave the country, and there is no chance of coming back.

At the moment, we are in the process of working with a lawyer to make two very important appeals, to reverse the order of leaving the country and to obliterate the code that was given under her name. We hope that with the 2 cases being approved, we can make a new application for her residence permit to be renewed.

As being married to a (***) citizen, and with two (***) children, Citadel is entitled to legally stay in the country. Unfortunately, this case is not about legality. This is about us having faith in Jesus Christ. This is clearly a form of religious persecution in this country as we have been actively doing mission works for years.

When we see the big picture of what the Lord is doing, what happened today is not just solely about Citadel, but the enemy trying to separate our family, breaking our marriage, stopping the ministry works and leaving the souls God entrusted to us. The enemy has been fully aware of God's spiritual venture and awakening happening here, and this is him trying to distract us.

**UPON ADVICE FROM THE CHURCH LEADERSHIP,
MEADOWLANDS IS USING FUNDS FROM THE MISSIONS
BUDGET TO COVER THEIR LEGAL FEES. PLEASE BE
PRAYING FOR THIS URGENT REQUEST.**

ANTUAN & CITADEL, PROJECT WORLD WALK
A CREATIVE ACCESS NATION



MISSIONARY

CORNER

Quotations taken from "Facing a Task
Unfinished" with words by Keith & Kristyn
Getty, Ed Cash, Fionan de Barra