




the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH
09 APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

HOW LONG, O LORD?

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS



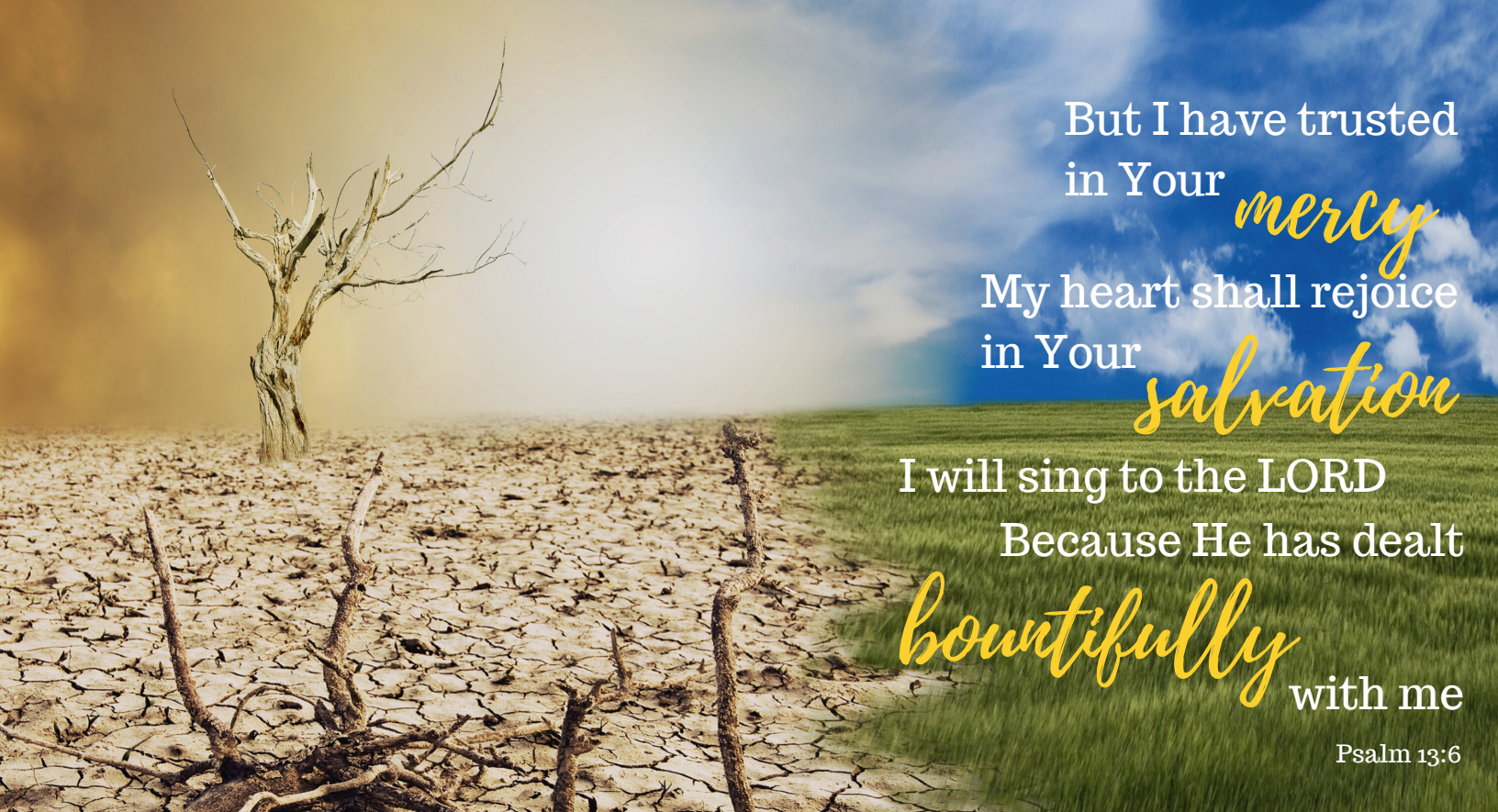
Have you recently thought “How long, O Lord?” If you’ve uttered this complaint, then you can relate to David’s frustration in Psalm 13. Four times he laments, “How long?” “How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?” (Psalm 13:1-2)

Do you feel that God has forgotten you, or that He has willfully hid Himself from you? When you are alone with your thoughts, are you reminded of your daily sorrow? Maybe your suffering is not only internal but from an external enemy constantly provoking you. You ask yourself, “When will the pain end? When will the hardship be turned around? When will justice triumph?”

By the end of this short Psalm, David’s attitude completely changes. His complaining turns to rejoicing; his sighs give way to song. What made the difference? Verse 3 tells us that David took his frustration to the Lord —“Consider and hear me, O Lord my God.” We can cast our anxious burdens on Him knowing that He cares for us (Phil 4:6; 1 Pet 5:7). In verse 5 David affirms his trust in God’s mercy. It is because of “the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed” (Lam 3:22). And by His mercy we are saved (Psalm 13:5).

Instead of looking to God through our trials, we need to look at our trials through God’s mercy and salvation.

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But I have trusted
in Your *mercy*

My heart shall rejoice
in Your *salvation*

I will sing to the LORD
Because He has dealt
bountifully with me

Psalm 13:6

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In the final verse David sings. Why does he sing? Were his troubles immediately removed? Did God change his circumstances to be more favourable? No. David expresses the reason by saying, "I will sing to the Lord **because He has dealt bountifully with me.**" As he further reflected on the reality of his situation, he realized how good God had been to him.

My brothers and sisters, we can rejoice and sing because the Lord has dealt bountifully with us! Has God forgotten you? Has He abandoned you? Will He allow your enemies to prevail? No. He has "blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Eph 1:3). So, we can patiently endure the difficulties of life as we trust and praise our merciful Saviour.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:30, 11:00 AM OR 6:00 PM

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.

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 20 are available below:

SUNDAY, 11 APRIL

- "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"
- PRAYER
- "ALAS, AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED?"
- "ARISE, MY SOUL, ARISE"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "BE THOU MY VISION"
- MESSAGE: "SENT ON A MISSION" JOHN 20:19-23
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "FACING A TASK UNFINISHED"
- BENEDICTION

YOUTH ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Teens at Meadowlands are invited to join a new Bible study, *Changed into His Image*, by Jim Berg that will meet every other week on Zoom beginning Sunday, April 18. If you would like the link to join, please let Giselle know so she can get you the book on Sunday! greneau@gmx.com

YOUTH ACTIVITY:

- Where: Jackie Parker Park
- When: Saturday, 17 April, 2-4 pm
- Individual snacks provided
- Divided into groups of 10 or less

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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Pastor Jerry Ascher

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MEET OUR NEW MBC MISSIONARIES, THE ROYS

Jeremie and Amy, along with their three children, Olivia (5), Elliot (3) and Sophia (5 mos), minister in the Dominican Republic. Jeremie's main ministry is teaching and administrating to further establish Dominican International Baptist Seminary in training national pastors. To learn more about their ministry [click here](#), or the link below.



Semester and Planning: While we don't know what the future holds, the number of students we currently have per class will require doubling our teaching amount, so as to split our classes in two, and offer better quality teaching. When we started the semester the quantity of students per class was around 50. Please pray for us as we plan logistics and prepare for the workload of twice the teaching, which we plan on launching by January 2022. One of our students, Albert, called me this week to tell me that he is going to pastor a small church north of the capital city, Santo Domingo. Please pray for him as he and his family transition to that city, and as he plans to continue with our undergraduate program as well.

Scholarships: We did a 2021 budget and the numbers that we have turn out to a cost of \$365 per student per year. At this moment we have 18 students that have a full scholarship. We thank God for all who have given. We have more money than we asked for, which puts us over budget for the year, a first in our school's short history.

Physical Campus: It surely is an interesting thing to be planning on establishing a physical campus in a pandemic, in which "everything" is online at least temporarily, and much of that may stay so permanently. We feel that. Nevertheless, for philosophical reasons of discipleship, we still believe a strong base must be a physical campus. We also need that for accreditation which we are in the long process of pursuing. We are finalizing architectural plans, including soil tests and structural calculations at this moment. We are working on finishing the land paperwork too. While we own the land, there still is paperwork to do, and administrative processes are quite lengthy here, so we appreciate your prayers to that end.

Church: Right now, in our local church, we have one service, in person, on Sunday mornings, without Sunday school and nursery. We also have a zoom mid-week prayer service. I used to preach here occasionally on Sunday evenings, and I taught Sunday school for the men, but now my preaching ministry consists of monthly preaching in different churches.

Family: We are doing well by God's grace. Amy and I just got our visas renewed (no small feat!), and are working on getting the older kids' renewed and Sophia's for the first time. Amy is getting into a homeschooling routine, as Olivia will officially be starting kindergarten in the fall.