

# the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

16 APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

## HOPE IN DISCOURAGING TIMES

BY JERRY ASCHER

"Fight to hope in God." These words caught my attention recently in a message I heard from Psalm 42. I encourage you to read this psalm now and notice how David handled the feelings of being "cast down."

1) As the deer pants for the water brooks,  
So pants my soul for You, O God.  
2) My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When shall I come and appear before God?  
3) My tears have been my food day and night,  
While they continually say to me,  
"Where is your God?"

4) When I remember these things,  
I pour out my soul within me.  
For I used to go with the multitude;  
I went with them to the house of God,  
With the voice of joy and praise,  
With a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

5) Why are you cast down, O my soul?  
And why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him  
For the help of His countenance.

6) O my God, my soul is cast down within me;  
Therefore I will remember You from the land of the Jordan,  
And from the heights of Hermon,  
From the Hill Mizar.

7) Deep calls unto deep at the noise of Your waterfalls;  
All Your waves and billows have gone over me.

8) The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime,  
And in the night His song shall be with me—  
A prayer to the God of my life.

9) I will say to God my Rock,  
"Why have You forgotten me?

Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

10) As with a breaking of my bones,  
My enemies reproach me,  
While they say to me all day long,  
"Where is your God?"

11) Why are you cast down, O my soul?  
And why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God;  
For I shall yet praise Him,  
The help of my countenance and my God.

Most of us can certainly relate to this! Instead of surrendering to the discouragement that seemed to be plaguing his soul and the depression that was affecting his mind, David began to fight back. Notice his desire to reclaim the ground that was lost as he focused on his circumstances rather than his God. If anyone had a good excuse to complain, it was David. His afflictions were plaguing him at every turn (vv. 3, 10). No doubt his neglect of meeting with God's people for worship was a contributing factor in his inability to cope with his discouragement (v. 4). He realized correctly how crucial saturating himself in God's Word and prayer was to victory over his depression (vv. 1-2; 8). And he determined to preach to himself the things he knew to be true about his God (vv. 5, 11).

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2





How have your reactions to life's circumstances been lately? What do those reactions say about your belief in God's sovereign plan for all that comes your way? Is your fight to hope in God waning? Consider these words by C.H. Spurgeon: "Let it never be forgotten that when a man is down, he has a grand opportunity for trusting in God. A false faith can only float in smooth water, but true faith, like a lifeboat, is at home in storms. If our religion does not bear us up in time of trial, what is the use of it? If we cannot believe God when our circumstances appear against us, we do not believe Him at all."

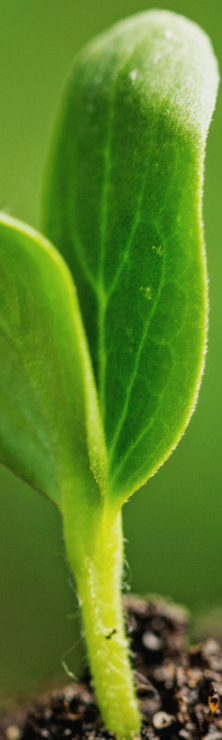
May the peace of God rule in our hearts for His glory!



Jesus, draw me ever nearer as I  
labor through the storm.  
You have called me to this passage,  
and I'll follow though I'm worn.

May this journey bring a  
blessing, may I rise on  
wings of faith;  
And at the end of my  
heart's testing, with  
Your likeness let me  
wake.

Keith Getty & Margaret Becker



### **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.

### **SUNDAY, 18 APRIL**

- "A DEBTOR TO MERCY ALONE"
- "COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING"
- PRAYER
- "COMPLETE IN THEE"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "COME, WE THAT LOVE THE LORD"
- MESSAGE: "FROM FAILURE TO FAITHFUL FOLLOWER" JOHN 21:1-25 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "ALL I HAVE IS CHRIST"
- BENEDICTION



## YOUTH ACTIVITY:

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

## 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

## 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.



## Need to contact us?

### Church Office

780-440-1195

### Pastor Kevin Williams

587-635-2758

### Pastor Jerry Ascher

587-635-2751

### Pastor Mark Richmond

587-635-2752

### David Treau

587-635-2753

### Email:

[info@meadowlandsbaptist.com](mailto:info@meadowlandsbaptist.com)

## MISSIONARY UPDATE: LARRY & PAM NOLAND, NT



A few months ago Pam's mom, Norma, was diagnosed with a late stage kidney cancer that has spread to her lungs and lymph nodes. The doctors have been aggressive in their treatment with some success at reducing the tumors, but a side effect of the type of chemo they used is confusion and dementia symptoms. Before the cancer she was already showing signs of dementia, which has been prevalent in several of her siblings, but the side effects have accelerated at a very alarming rate. All of this has resulted in her need for someone to be with her and care for her at all times.

Last October Norma married Larry, a widower from her church, but he is over 80, has some health problems of his own, and no family to help him care for her. Pam is an only child and following the Biblical principle that Paul gave to Timothy we know that her and I have a responsibility to see to her care. We also have a burden for her soul as we believe she is not saved at this time. That being said we have sought counsel from our Pastor and other faithful mentors in our life on how to best fulfill our responsibility. Following the recommendation of our Pastor we will be taking a 6-month sabbatical from the ministry in Aklavik to travel to Missouri and care for Norma. Because we are nearing the end of our ice road season in the Arctic we must begin driving south by mid-April or wait until mid-June when the ferries start operating. The Lord has provided an older but nice 5th wheel camper for us to pick up in Edmonton on the way down and to live in, as Norma and Larry have a very small house.

Our current plans for the ministry in Aklavik is for Pastor Featherstone from the church in Inuvik to travel over and hold a midweek service when possible. With the closing of the ice road this travel would involve a flight over on Thursday and then spending the night and flying back on Friday. There are live stream services available each Sunday from the church in Inuvik as we still have limits on the number of people allowed to congregate due to Covid. I am asking 2 of the faithful men in Aklavik to gather the church together once a week also for scripture reading and a prayer time. With technology we can also hold small group Bible studies on a regular basis. There also may be a possibility for a missionary we know to come and fill in for part of this time as well. With this sabbatical taking place through the summer it is also a slower time for the ministry in the Northern culture as many people travel and spend time out on the land or down at the coast as it is fishing and whaling season.

This year will mark 15 years our family has lived and served the Lord in the Arctic. We are thankful for how the Lord has provided for us and the great things we have seen Him do with the many souls that have been saved and the lives that He is conforming into His image. Right now I do not believe the Lord is finished with us in the Arctic, but one thing I have learned over the last year is that we have to seek and follow the Lord for every step of every day. We have set a 6-month time frame for this sabbatical. At the end of that time we will make the decision on either a return to Aklavik to continue in the ministry there or begin in the next area of ministry the Lord has prepared for us.