



the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

27 AUGUST 2021 NEWSLETTER

"HOW SHALL I KNOW THIS?"

by Jerry Ascher

In Luke chapter one, we have recorded for us the fascinating account of the angel Gabriel visiting Zacharias, a priest, as he performed the task of burning incense in the temple. Gabriel had come directly from the presence of God with the message that Zacharias and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a son who would "be great in the sight of the Lord," and who would "turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God." He would "also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:15-17 NKJV). This was great news! We know Zacharias and Elizabeth did not have any children because Elizabeth was barren. But instead of responding with joy at this news, Zacharias' first words in response were words of unbelief, "How shall I know this?" This question is a close relative to Satan's words spoken to Eve in the Garden of Eden, "Has God indeed said?" Satan was putting doubts into Eve's mind that God was good and instead was holding something good from Eve. Zacharias was simply looking at all the contrary evidence that made God's Word seem ridiculous and impossible to really come to pass. The sin of unbelief in the clear Word of God is a serious matter. It was sin for Eve and for Zacharias, and it is sin for you and me, too. God, in His mercy, might not deal with our unbelief as harshly as He did with those two Bible characters, but it is no less an affront to Him. We serve a great God whose Word, the psalmist tells us, is forever settled in heaven. His faithfulness endures to all generations (Psalm 119:89-90 NKJV).

A chorus from years ago that we used to sing went like this, "God said it, I believe it, and that settles it for me." The problem with that theology is that if God said it, that settles it, whether I believe it or not! Our faith is weak and is affected so much by our subjective feelings and perceptions about what God says. Feelings change; God's Word stands and cannot change, and He never goes back on it. When God speaks, we may be tempted to ask, "How shall I know this?" The answer: because God said it, and His Word is truth! May God help our unbelief!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES:

9:30 AM OR 11:00 AM

In-person services take place in the auditorium. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the gym or available to you at home. Childcare is available during the 9:30 service for ages 2-3.

- "WE COME, O CHRIST, TO YOU"
- "OH, HOW GOOD IT IS"
- PRAYER
- "HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR US"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "SPIRIT OF GOD, DESCEND UPON MY HEART"
- "SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD"
- MESSAGE: "GOD'S TOOLS FOR YOUR TRANSFORMATION" PHILIPPIANS 1:6
PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "WONDERFUL, MERCIFUL SAVIOR"

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7 PM



This fall, Meadowlands is setting aside three Sunday evenings to encourage small group fellowship. Groups will meet for dinner or dessert hosted by a connect group leader on **September 26, October 24, and November 21**. There are no age restrictions and we encourage everyone to participate. [Register here](#) or fill out a form at the Information Desk. After registering, you will be placed in a group and your assigned host will arrange the time, place and details. Hurry! **The deadline to sign up is September 15.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SEPTEMBER!



- 8 Kids 4 Truth Begins**
7:00-8:15 pm ([For more details and to register, please see our website.](#))
- 12 Adult Bible Study Fellowship Groups Begin**
9:30 or 11 am
Children's Sunday School/Teens Begin
11 am
All-Church Luncheon
12:15 pm in Gym
Afternoon Baptism Service (Please see Pastor Kevin if you would like to be baptized.)
1:30 pm
- 15 Teen Group Meeting**
7 pm
Parenting Class: *Intentional Parenting*
7 pm in Room 207
(Meeting weekly for the next four weeks. Nursery is available.)
- 19 Church Membership Class**
4-8 pm
A basic introduction to the mission and ministries of Meadowlands Baptist Church and how you can get involved.
Supper included. Sign up on the church bulletin board by September 12.
- 26 Connect Groups Meet**
(Group leaders will be in contact with registrants.)

UPDATE FROM LARRY & PAM NOLAND, MBC MISSIONARIES TO AKLAVIK, NT

The Nolands have been in the States since April caring for Pam's mom who has late stage cancer. While there, Pam was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. The following is an update:

On August 18 we began a long day at the hospital with a PET scan, a pulmonary test, lab work, and appointments with both the oncologist and the surgeon. The recommended treatment plan they came up with is to begin with 8-10 weeks of chemo and radiation, followed with 4 weeks of recovery and rest and then a surgery to remove what is left of the mass. As the surgeon began to explain the procedure, we quickly realized it would not be a simple one. They will be removing her entire esophagus and the lymph nodes adjacent to the area where the mass is. Then they will pull her stomach up and attach it to her throat creating a new esophagus. As you can imagine there will be a long recovery from this procedure as well as the possibility of more radiation after the surgery. Following the surgery, the surgeon estimated 6 months to 1 year before everything is back to normal, but he believes she will be cancer free at that point.

When we began our sabbatical in April, we set October 15 to re-evaluate our situation with Pam's mom and her cancer and hopefully return to Aklavik. Her mom's cancer is very aggressive and it was becoming clear that she is going to need continued care, but I was making plans to begin making trips back to Aklavik. With the diagnosis and treatment plan for Pam, I now need to stay here and care for her. I have started making plans to have services in Aklavik through Zoom meetings, or some similar



technology so we can have some interaction and fellowship with everyone there.

We do not take the love and support you have given us for granted. We praise the Lord through all of this how he has used each one of you to meet our needs and bless us. If we had not been in the states, it would likely have been months from now before she would have had the first appointment for the endoscopy with the health care system in the arctic. As I sit here and think about it, I could write many pages of testimony of how God has provided and guided us, but I will sum it up by praising Him for His goodness and grace in our lives!

Our hearts desire is still to see the Lord glorified through the spread of the Gospel and the edification of churches in the Canadian Arctic. Though it may be through the internet that we do it right now, we are asking the Lord that it may be in person again one day. All that we can do is follow the Lord through the wilderness and are asking that you would continue to pray for and support us and that through it all He will be glorified!

What more can
He say than to
you He hath said,
To you who for
refuge to Jesus
have fled?

John Rippon



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GIVING

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