

# the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

30 DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



I'm thankful for a loving, godly father who intentionally disciplined his family. I remember several times as I was growing up that my dad would meet with me before the new year to talk about setting goals. We would discuss academic goals, athletic goals, and, of course, spiritual goals. Because my father loved me, he wanted me to be successful. These goals were a way for him to encourage me in my pursuits.

The apostle Paul's love for other believers is evident in his letters. He told the Colossian church that he was thankful for them and was always praying for them (Col 1:3). He also wrote, "I rejoice in my sufferings for you" (Col 1:24). Paul loved these folks and wanted to see them prosper. That is why he lays out four goals for them in Colossians 2:1-7. And I think these are goals that we should aim for as we begin a new year.

## ✓ 1 BE STRONG

Paul writes so that "their hearts may be encouraged" (Col 2:2). Physical strength can certainly be helpful, but Paul knows that the heart controls everything else. Solomon says, "Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life" (Prov 4:23). If we are going to survive and thrive in this sinful world, we must have hearts that are spiritual strong.

## ✓ 3 BE CONFIDENT

This loving apostle also tells them to "reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ" (Col 2:2). "Full assurance" is a confidence in God's plan for us through Christ. You may hear and read many things that you cannot confidently accept, but you can be fully assured of all God's promises in Christ. "You are complete in Him" (Col 2:10). Whatever happens in the next year, don't stop trusting the Lord.

## ✓ 2 BE UNIFIED

Paul tells them to be "knit together in love" (Col 2:2). We cannot live the Christian life alone; we need others. Paul urges a strong bond between all who love Christ. This is the unity that Jesus prayed for before going to the cross (John 17:11, 21). How can you strengthen loving relationships within the church family in 2022?

## ✓ 4 BE PROGRESSING

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord," Paul exhorts, "So walk in Him" (Col 2:6). Walking is how we make progress. What's most important is not the speed but the direction. Paul uses several pictures to illustrate progress: a rooted plant, building a structure, and teaching students (Col 2:7). Although progress requires discipline and hard work, it results in "abounding with thanksgiving" (Col 2:7). I pray that we will look back at this time next year and see spiritual progress by God's grace.

You may have already set some goals for the new year. There's nothing wrong with financial goals, career goals, scholastic goals, or exercise goals. But what goals does God have for you? Let's not neglect the goals that will bring Him glory in 2022.

## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 02 JANUARY 9:30 OR 11

*In-person services take place in the auditorium. Livestream is available.*

- "Ye Servants of God"
- "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus"
- "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"
- Prayer
- Philippians 1:1-11
- "God of Grace"
- "This Is My Father's World"
- "Another Year Is Dawning"
- Message: "Bible Knowledge: Optional or Essential?" 2 Timothy 3:15-17  
Pastor Kevin Williams
- "Speak, O Lord"

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ✓ **Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study and Kids 4 Truth resume this Wednesday, 5 January at 7 pm**
- ✓ **Children's Sunday School and Adult Fellowship Groups resume next Sunday, 9 January**
- ✓ **New Members Joining and Annual General Meeting (vote on budget for 2022) Sunday, 16 January, 1:30 pm**

### 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.

### MBC MISSIONARY UPDATE:

During the fall we were able to get our camps booked for next summer. We are booking the same place for July 1-9, but we are praying that God will provide a different facility with access to a playing field for our games.



Kris & Mariola Kolt  
Poland

Our preschools are open and our attendance is up from last year. We just finished our Christmas videos which is a great evangelistic opportunity and we are praying that God will use these short videos to do a great work in the lives of our children and their families. We are looking forward to what God will do for our preschools in the coming year.

We have a new retired couple who moved to the area and they have been coming to our church. They are such an encouragement to us and to our church. We also received the 800 Bibles we ordered and we already started passing them out in our community. The Bibles have a stamp in them with information for our church and our website. On Saturday December 18, our church will be passing Bibles and tracts at Christmas fare in our town of Libiaz. We are praying that God will bring more people to our church and, more importantly, that the people will read these Bibles and the Holy Spirit will work in their hearts and draw them to Himself.

We are so thankful for all your encouragement, cards, notes, gifts, prayers, and support. Each prayer and gift is so precious and we thank God for you all.

### CONTACT US:



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