

The Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

08 JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

SATISFIED BELIEVERS

WRITTEN BY JERRY ASCHER



Through the years, every household experiences a dilemma of what to do with all the extra things that have been accumulating during that time. Besides keeping it a little while longer, the only other options are to give it away or sell it. Before the internet, if one was going to sell their things, one of the best alternatives was to have a garage sale. As our kids were growing up, they seemed to look forward to helping prepare for these sales. We would let them make some money selling bottles of pop or water, and they looked forward to the next customer that might come along. One of the kids actually referred to each one as a 'satisfied customer' even before they had started looking through the merchandise. We had to explain that the satisfaction we hoped the customer enjoyed was when they finished shopping, not before!

People who run businesses know the value of satisfied customers. In a sense, every believer shows by what they do and say and the attitudes and motives behind those things how satisfied they are to be Christians. Unfortunately, most of us have heard these sentiments before: "If that's what Christians are like, count me out!" This is because, even in the best of churches, there are believers who are bitter and unhappy, restless and agitated, who live lives that bear little difference from the unsaved around them. Does this describe you? How satisfied are you with Jesus? Does your view of Christ display itself appropriately in the way you live, in how you talk, and in what you think? It should. It did to the apostles when those who observed them "realized that they had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13). "How believers conduct themselves before unbelievers," writes T.J. Betts, "will go a long way in gaining the ear of unbelievers when speaking about things concerning the kingdom of God."

This is the essence of the calling of every Christian: to be the salt of the earth - not the kind that is "good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men" (Matthew 6:13). Instead, as Jesus commanded His disciples, "Have salt in yourselves, and have peace with one another" (Mark 9:50). If you and I are truly satisfied with Jesus, it will have an impact on those around us. If questioned, our friends and acquaintances should be able to say about us that what we say we believe and how we live matches up and reflects our Lord well. Each day, may we resolve to live for Christ, so that "thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see."





SUNDAY, 10 JANUARY WORSHIP SERVICES: 9:30 OR 11 AM



Two in-person services (with singing) take place in the gymnasium. Services will simultaneously be livestreamed in the auditorium (no singing) or available to you at home.

- "ALL HAIL THE POWER OF JESUS' NAME"
- PRAYER
- "AMAZING GRACE"
- SCRIPTURE READING: 2 CHRONICLES 14:2-15
- "BE STILL MY SOUL"
- "HIDING IN THEE"
- MESSAGE: "OPPOSITION TO THE MISSION"
JOHN 15:18-16:4 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "I'D RATHER HAVE JESUS"
- PRAYER

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE 6 PM

The service will take place in the auditorium. Livestream is available.

MESSAGE:
"LESSONS LEARNED IN 2020"



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.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 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 15:18-16:4

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?



COMING UP:

Sunday, January 31, 6 pm: Baptism & New Members' Joining Service

Sunday Evenings in February: Lessons on Stewardship & Evangelism from *Foundations: Bible Truths for Christian Growth*

Well of water ever springing,
Bread of life so rich and free,
Untold wealth that never faileth,
My Redeemer is to me.
Clara T. Williams

Need to contact us?



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In mid-October, Pam got a text one evening from a young mom in our church about her son who was asking about salvation. Pam was able to send her several scripture references and an hour or so later we received the text that this young man had trusted Christ as Saviour.

Also in October I had the opportunity to preach a funeral in Aklavik. With the covid regulations, funerals are being done outside as any indoor gatherings are limited to 25 people. The temperature that day was just below 0 (C) but the Lord gave me great liberty to preach the gospel to many people for the first time. Though no salvation decisions were made that day, that we know of, we are trusting that the Lord's Word will not return void and will accomplish that which is pleasing to Him.

In November a young lady who came to many of our teen activities that we had in our first few years in Aklavik, called and wanted to come by and visit. She left our house that day reminded of the love that Christ has for her but without the salvation that He was freely offering. As we prayed for her, she called about a week later and wanted to come by and visit again. Pam met with her and that afternoon she trusted Christ as her Saviour. About a week later she told us she had been talking with her teenage sister about what the Lord had done in her life and brought the sister to church. Following the service Pam was able to deal with her and she too was saved.

In a year that it feels like everything has shut down or come to a halt, the Lord is still at work. Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: In Aklavik over the last 12 months there have been 7 salvation decisions, 3 baptisms, and countless other decisions for spiritual growth and steps of faith. Several in our church family have seen and taken opportunities to witness and minister in our community in the unique ways that have presented themselves when we could not meet together.

As we end another year serving the Lord in the Canadian Arctic, would you praise the Lord with us for the great things He hath done!

MEANWHILE... IN AKLAVIK...

DID YOU KNOW?

- THE AVERAGE HIGH/LOW FOR JANUARY IS -22/-30 (C)
- THE AVERAGE POPULATION IS AROUND 600



CORNER

MISSIONARY

LARRY & PAM NOLAND, AKLAVIK, NT