

the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH
21 MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



A REMINDER DURING TIMES OF SUFFERING

BY KEVIN WILLIAMS

It has been virtually impossible to escape the effects of COVID-19 over the last fourteen months. For most of us, the worst has not been sickness but the government restrictions. It has impacted our jobs, schools, and social interactions with friends and family. Of course, our regular church gatherings have been inconvenienced throughout this ordeal.

From a distance I have watched this virus sweep through churches of many of my friends. We have also prayed for several of our missionaries in other countries who have been significantly affected. A few of our church members have also had loved ones die from COVID-19 who lived outside of Canada.

Until three weeks ago, our church family seemed immune to the threat of this illness. That has certainly changed. A couple dozen have become sick, and several have had to be hospitalized. Because the virus can spread before symptoms emerge, we have unknowingly infected each other at some of our gatherings. I, most likely, caught the virus at church, and I possibly spread it to others.

As I lay in bed for over a week with pneumonia, I was reminded that God's people are not immune to suffering. We get sick like anyone else. We grieve the loss of loved ones. The gravitational pull of this fallen world affects us all.

I'm grateful for the Lord's healing! I know my church family was concerned and praying for me. I feel that my lungs have fully recovered, and I'm eager to return to pastoral ministry. I also have a heavy heart for those in our congregation who are still sick. And I grieve for those who have recently had family members die.

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

Three live services will be available to fifteen people in the auditorium. Registration is available [here](#) or on the link below to attend one of the services. **Only those registrants/attendees who can adhere to the restrictions of Alberta Health Services may attend.** These are listed on the registration site. As always, livestream is available for those not able to attend.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY: 7 PM

This in-person service is held in the auditorium. There is a fifteen person limit. A link to register will be sent out on Tuesdays through email. A Zoom link will also be made available for as many as would like to participate from home.

A Reminder During Times of Suffering (Continued)

This world is a cruel place. Sin's influence is everywhere. But suffering is a great reminder of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This world is passing away (1 John 2:17), and it groans to be redeemed (Rom 8:22). Our corrupt bodies also groan awaiting glorification (Rom 8:23). The message of hope comes from our Saviour who declares from His heavenly throne: "Behold, I make all things new" (Rev 21:5).

Recovering from an illness is a blessing, and the prospects of living without COVID restrictions is certainly desired by everyone. But this corrupt world is not getting better. Praise God for His eternal promises! "Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Cor 4:16-17)

Discussion Questions:

1. What was rational about Orpah's decision to return to Moab? (Ruth 1:14-15)
2. How did going to Judah cost Ruth? (Ruth 1:14-15)
3. How was Ruth's decision theological? (Ruth 1:15-16)
4. What are the costs of following Christ?
5. How does faith and repentance relate to Ruth's confession?
6. How should you describe the Gospel to a polytheist?
7. How does Boaz describe Ruth's salvation? (Ruth 2:12)

Sunday Worship Service: 23 May

- "GOD, OUR FATHER, WE ADORE THEE"
- "HOW GREAT THOU ART"
- PRAYER
- "MY FAITH LOOKS UP TO THEE"
- CHILDREN'S STORY
- "BREATHE ON ME, BREATH OF GOD"
- MESSAGE: "RUTH'S CONFESSION OF FAITH"
RUTH 1:14-18 PASTOR KEVIN WILLIAMS
- "IN CHRIST ALONE"
- BENEDICTION

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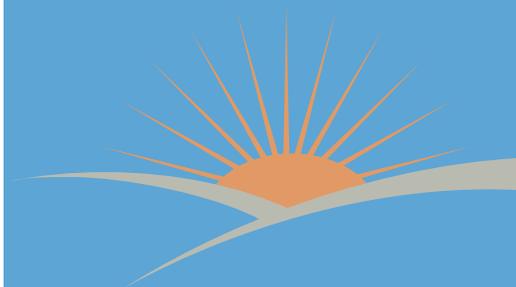
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GIVING

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