

the Connection

MEADOWLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH

26 NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

Testifying of God's Grace

by Kevin Williams

Last Saturday evening there was a fender bender at the intersection in front of our church building. As I drove by, I saw three cars pulled over on the shoulder. A police officer was talking to one of the drivers, and I assumed

the people in the other two cars were waiting to talk with him. They were probably witnesses of the accident. The task of a witness is fairly simple—explain what you saw or heard. In a courtroom, a witness promises to tell the truth and then answers questions about something he experienced. That testimony is often used as evidence to convict the guilty or exonerate the innocent.

The Bible also describes witnesses giving testimony. Just before ascending to heaven, Jesus told His followers, “You shall be My witnesses” (Acts 1:8). John was one of those witnesses who testified of what he saw and heard from Jesus. After writing about Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, John says, “This is the disciple who is bearing witness about these things, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true” (John 21:24). John simply shared the truth about Jesus.

Another witness of Christ was Paul. Luke records Paul's personal testimony in Acts 22 where a great light from heaven shined on him, and the Lord Himself spoke. That



day he was called to be a “witness” for Christ to everyone of what he had “seen and heard” (Acts 22:15). To the Philippian church he described the religious accomplishments of his past and then declared, “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ” (Phil 3:7). He testified that his righteousness was not from his own law-keeping but through faith in Christ (Phil 3:9).

Your personal experience may not be as dramatic as that of John and Paul, but if Christ has saved you, you have a testimony. You have the privilege of being a witness for Christ. You have opportunities to share with others what you have seen and heard from God’s Word. Each of us has received what Paul explained as “the ministry from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God” (Acts 20:24). As Christ’s witness, you can share the good news of God’s gracious salvation.

One of the highlights of community fellowship is hearing from others how God’s grace has touched their lives. This Sunday evening at 6:00 we will listen to new members testify of God’s gracious working. And we will praise the Lord because it is only by His grace that we are saved (Eph 2:8).



SUNDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 9:30 OR 11 AM

In-person services take place in the auditorium. Services are simultaneously livestreamed in the gym or available to you at home.

- "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"
- "Wonderful, Merciful Savior"
- "O Father, You Are Sovereign"
- Prayer
- Scripture Reading: 1 John 5:11-21
- "Jesus Paid It All"
- "My Jesus, I Love Thee"
- "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"
- Message: "Theology Test" James 5:7-12
Pastor Kevin Williams
- "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

ADULT FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

9:30

Forerunners of the Faith (Church History)
Pastor Jerry | Room 207

11:00

College & Career

Jeff McConnell | Room 221

Young Couples: 20s & 30s

Will Breckenridge | Room 207

Epistle to the Philippians

Manuele Russo | Gym Foyer

CHILDREN'S/TEEN MINISTRIES

9:30

Nursery (0-1)

Nursery (2-3)

11:00

Nursery (0-1)

Nursery (2-3)

Ages 4-5 Room 209

Grades 1-2 Room 212

Grades 3-4 Room 211

Grades 5-6 Room 309

Teens Room 308

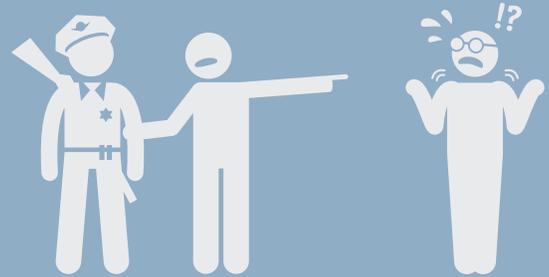
NEW MEMBERS JOINING & BAPTISM SERVICE

SUNDAY, 28 NOVEMBER, 6 PM

A list of those joining is available on the bulletin board.

Prior to this service, at 5 pm there will be a time for questions and answers about the proposed 2022 budget and upcoming projects.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY/TEENS/KIDS 4 TRUTH 7 PM



Events:

VIRTUAL SHOWER FOR KAITLYN NEUMANN



Gifts may be dropped off in the church office anytime between now and **Sunday, December 5th**. Find Shea and Kaitlyn's story and gift ideas at <http://theknot.com/kaitlynandshea>

COLLEGE & CAREER FELLOWSHIP FRIDAY, 3 DECEMBER, 6:30-9:30 PM MBC

Important Update from MBC Missionaries Jeremie & Amy Roy

Three weeks ago I communicated that we had a few pending medical tests for Amy, and that after those, we were intending on going back to the Dominican Republic. We were planning on going back around this time. Those tests revealed something unexpected to us and are causing a major change, because they revealed that mold harms Amy's health. We found out she has a genetic predisposition of sensitivity to mold toxicity, and that she is actively fighting inflammation from mold. The issue at hand is that it is almost impossible to find housing without mold in the DR. We see no other way of dealing with this problem than leaving the Dominican Republic. Our conscience is 100% clear in this decision as staying there means that we would almost certainly be causing further harm to Amy's health.

Prior to having this information, our plan was to keep serving in the DR and to travel back to the USA occasionally for medical care, as for both Amy and Olivia, the care was not adequate in the DR. We found out that the medical professionals in the DR who were dealing with both of their medical matters had missed important things. As I look in retrospect, it was going to be rather a steep hill for us to stay in the DR as traveling internationally to get health care a couple times a year is complicated at best. We were just doing what we could to continue in the DR. We are thankful that the decision is clear in God's providence. God is moving us out of the DR to serve elsewhere. We are sad, but at peace.

We are concerned and we care very much about the work, and pray to God that He would cause this transition to make the Dominicans step up and do so in unity. I will be spending the next few months doing what I can to finish and transition well.

As we look ahead, we will continue to be missionaries. We have one country in mind. Along with our responsibility of phasing out of the DR as best we can, also is that of talking to people to look for that next ministry. When most of our responsibilities have been transitioned in the DR and when we have clear direction as to a new ministry as missionaries, we hope to then report to churches the sooner we possibly can, and then start serving in a next ministry.

We thank you for your prayers and support in this transition.



MISSIONARY CHRISTMAS OFFERING:

It has been our tradition to collect a special Christmas offering for our missionary families. We will be collecting funds from now until Sunday, December 12th. On your offering envelope or electronic transfer, you can designate a special donation to "Missionary Christmas."

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.

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