

Meadowbrook MESSENGER

A Monthly Newsletter for Members and Friends of Meadowbrook Christian Church



A Devotion from Daniel

July the 10th we will begin a new sermon series here at Meadowbrook that will carry us through the summer months of July and August. We have spent the last four months in the book of Romans. In Romans, Paul showed us over and over again that this Christian life is unique... it is not of this world. This new sermon series, I hope, will continue this message. Reminding us that we are citizens of Heaven, and that this world is truly not our home. The truth is though some of the most challenging teachings in scripture didn't come from any apostle. Some of the most counter cultural teachings that we have as Christians have come right from the "horses' mouth".

It is the words of Jesus that should challenge us as believers the most. When we claim the title Christian, we are striving to be Christlike... no easy task. But the ease of the job is not why we undertake it. Do we really want to reflect Christ in our lives? Do we really want to follow all of His teachings or are we satisfied with jumping on the bandwagon and doing the easy stuff? Do we want the eternal life without the cross? This summer we undertake a sermon series entitled "Things I Wish Jesus Never Said". Teachings straight from Jesus' mouth that will challenge popular thought. Teachings that, in truth, life would be easier if we ignored... but we were not called to the easy. If we are ready to bear our cross, we must be ready to follow Jesus' teachings even when they are the antithesis to everything the world says is right and proper. So, what did Jesus teach about...

- The love of money
- Praying for our enemies
- Hell
- Denying self
- Being accepted by the world
- Denying God before men
- Turning the other cheek
- Our relationship with God compared to friends and family

I do believe that, if we will allow it to, this series will challenge us and expand our understanding of just how extreme being a follower of Jesus can and should be. I am pretty confident in saying that as I prayed over this list of teachings, there is not one among us who can say there is nothing we can learn in these topics. Sanctification is a continual process, let's keep pushing forward together. Thanks for being my Church family. Looking forward to tomorrow.



Message from Anthony

Song Stories: Abundantly More

Here at Meadowbrook, we sing a lot of different songs in worship. Be it a classic hymn, a well-known contemporary chorus, or something that is lesser known, we sing a variety of songs that help us connect with the Father and worship Him fully. But why so many songs, and why THESE songs in particular? Well, this series of articles is going to attempt to answer those very questions as we explore some of the songs that make up our worship sets on Sunday morning. **Let The Redeemed & Fountains**

Every once in a while, you come across a few songs that both draw from the same scripture but inspire us to see so much more than only one element of what that scripture teaches.

That's what we find as we look at two songs by Josh Baldwin. Let's look at the lyrics of Let the Redeemed and Fountains:

LYRICS: LET THE REDEEMED

VERSE 1:

He led me out of the desert
Brought me into His streams
River of living water
Turned my bitter into sweet
And all my burdens are lifted
You took the shackles off my feet

PRE-CHORUS:

There's no sound louder
Than a captive set free

CHORUS:

So let the redeemed of the Lord say so
Sing of His promises ever more
Pour out your thankfulness, let it overflow
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so

VERSE 2:

There is joy in the morning
Springing up in my soul
There is life worth living
'Cause He calls me His own
And there's a hallelujah
After sweet victory

BRIDGE:

You are my Deliverer
The freedom I'm livin' in
You are my Deliverer
You are my promised land

"Let The Redeemed" Written By: Bobby Strand / Josh Baldwin / Ethan Gregory Hulse / Kalley Anne Heiligenthal

LYRICS: FOUNTAINS

VERSE 1:

I will never forget
The moment I met you
The moment you called my name
Pulled me out of the darkness
Gave me a promise
To never thirst again

PRE-CHORUS:

All that I ever wanted
My heart has found in you

CHORUS:

I have tasted life
Nothing satisfies
Like you do
The fount that won't run dry
Nothing satisfies like you do

VERSE 2:

I want all that You offer
Your living water
Drink from the endless well
I will sit at your table
Forever grateful
Forever where You plan

BRIDGE:

All my fountains are in you
All my hope is built on your love
All my fountains are in you
With every breath I live for you, Lord

"Fountains" Written By: Tony Brown / Joe Volk / Bobby Strand / Jonathan David Helser / Josh Baldwin

Imagine all that the Israelites went through as they exited Egypt. All they knew was the captivity and oppression they endured under Pharaoh's rule, but they had just witnessed the power of God deliver

them! They had seen God work exactly as He said He would, and now as they stood on the far side of the Red Sea, with the Egyptian army swallowed up by the waves behind them, they tasted their first breath of true freedom. It was a moment of celebration. That is what we should be celebrating each and every day as we awake to a new sunrise. He is our Deliverer, and there's no greater sound than His people praising Him with joy and thanksgiving.

The song "Fountains" calls us to remember when Christ came into our hearts and set us free, and to let Him continue to sustain us every single day. He is the source of Living Water that refreshes our souls. Our hope truly is found only in His love, a love that we should be sharing with others every chance we get. There's a whole world of people out there who are still captive to sin, dying of spiritual thirst.

As David says in Psalm 107:2-9:

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed from trouble and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south. Some wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in; hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them. Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He led them by a straight way till they reached a city to dwell in. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for His wondrous works to the children of man! For He satisfies the longing soul, and the hungry soul He fills with good things.

Never miss a moment to celebrate the freedom you've found in Christ, and treasure that memory each and every day. Share that Good News every time the opportunity arises. "And let the redeemed of the Lord say so."



Kerala Christian Mission – Annual Report 2021

The Missions Team recently received the 2021 Annual Report for Kerala Christian Mission and wanted to share it with the Meadowbrook family:

Kerala Christian Mission

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



PRESIDENTS LETTER

Dear brethren,

2021 opened new methods to reach people with the message of LOVE despite the Covid related restrictions imposed on us since 2020. The pandemic affected all areas of human life including the ministry universally. KCM continued to serve the KINGDOM OF GOD using internet, thanks to the availability of internet even in the rural areas. KCM media productions used the fb platform to provide pre-recorded Sunday Services. This benefited our youth working broad without a local congregation to associate with. Upon their request we are continuing this service even after the physical gathering restarted.

Online facility was a blessing to the Sunday School ministry with 350 kids actively involved from the congregations in Kerala. The poor economy has affected many self-supported local congregations. The city churches helped their brethren in this difficult time in addition to the aid from KCM.

Our licence to receive foreign contributions expired in September 2021. We had applied for a renewal for 5 years well in advance. Covid related issues slowed down the scrutiny by the Ministry of Home affairs and majority of organizations like KCM is pending approval. The government was gracious enough to extend the licence till 31 December 2021 and then to 31 March and now again to 30 June. Strict investigation is going on regarding the misuse of foreign donations for conversion and anti-government activities.

We did not start any new congregations in 2020 but concentrated on strengthening the existing congregations to grow spiritually witnessing through their life, proving that actions speak louder than words.

We thank you for your faithful support in times of economic crisis. A brief report of each

ministry is given below. We pray that the years ahead will be filled with more opportunities to share the love of God through Jesus.

Your partners in the vineyard
Rajan & Reni.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



A. **SUNDAY SCHOOL** Covid was a blessing in disguise for the Sunday School ministry. The lesson writers were able to teach online. The teachers from the local churches got coaching by being a part of the online class. Some churches do not have enough students for each grade and so, the children attending physical class could feel lonesome. But with online class they were able to interact with children from other areas and have a crowd feeling. The plan is to continue online class along with the physical class in future. The only problem was availability of internet in a few areas. To rectify this lessons were recorded and sent as what's app or telegram. The new curriculum was tested in class and found very fruitful.

B. ANGEL BAGS

In partnership with SOAR MINISTRIES Angel bags containing learning and entertainment materials were distributed to 900 children in Kerala, Andhra, Telangana, and Odisha. They were well appreciated.



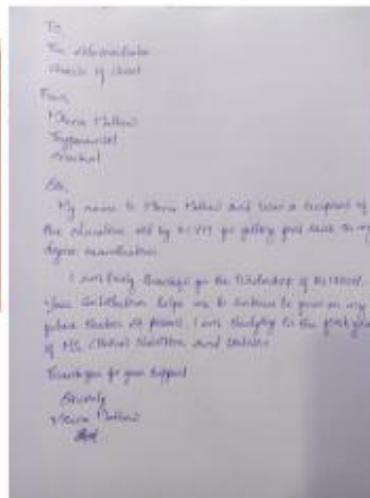
Elsha got her "Piggy Bank" as one of the items in the Angel bag. Her father Deepu Varghese is one of our preachers. He told her that this is "Yeshuappachan's Kudukka". meaning this PappaJesus's piggy Bank. She eagerly put all the coins she got and filled it and brought it to KCM Office. She told me, "This is for Yeshuappachan's Ministry."

C. **V.B.S:** Online V.B.S was conducted in partnership with Crosspoint Christian Church NY under the leadership of Keri Duncan and Team for 3 days and English-speaking children from several congregations and our Girls Home participated.

D. EDUCATIONAL AID



Scholarship was given to 47 eligible students from various local congregations under the Serenity Social Welfare Program.



SERENITY COUNSELLING CENTRE This centre provided premarital counselling to couples married in our local congregations mostly by online sessions in 2021 which worked out to be more convenient saving travel time and money to reach the Centre in person.

Greetings from Nikhil & Subi

It has been a year since we were married in the name of Jesus.

We Thank God almighty for what he did with joy. Sister's counseling also played a major role in that.

We sincerely appreciate the time you spent with us in counseling. We would like to thank you for your valuable advice, support, and help.

Sometimes, we will have our difficulties, but by putting our faith and trust in God during those difficult times everything will work out.

We would really like to thank Sister Cindy for your encouraging support throughout the counselling and even now.

Thank you once again for your guidance and asking to continue your prayer and support towards us..

With love

Nikhil Abraham & Subi. T. Joseph



SALEM SENIOR HOME In 2021 we could not meet Physically at Salem Senior Home due to strict Covid protocols. We joined in Google Meet from various locations and watched Mohan and Amrutha distribute the yearly gifts. Two senior sisters namely Elsy and Aleyamma departed to be with the Lord.



CARMEL GIRL'S HOSTEL Even during the lockdown days the students stayed in our HOSTEL and Josephine helped them with extra tuition to catch up with their online studies. Most of their native villages do not have internet and so there was no option. CROSSPOINT CHRISTIAN CHURCH in NY. One of the congregations started by KCM sponsored a large monitor and online devices for the Home. KCM provided Tablets to each student and made their schooling possible during the pandemic restrictions.

CHURCH OF CHRIST YOUTH MOVEMENT (C.C.Y.M) Due to Covid protocols public physical activities were minimal but online Bible Classes kept them in touch with each other to some extent.

Helping Hands from IDES. In addition to the services through our Hospital KCM helped 900 families with **FLOOD RELIEF** by way of supplying food items. IDES sponsored these programmes.



ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 44 YEARS:

- 73 Congregations in 4 countries.
- 38 in Kerala
- 32 in neighbouring States
- 3 in other countries
- 1 Well equipped Hospital
- A Home for Seniors
- A Hostel for underprivileged girls.
- MINISTRIES
- Youth Development
- Child Development
- Counselling

PLAN FOR 2022

- Three new Congregations in ODISHA
- One new property and building in ODISHA
- Angel Bag distribution in Kerala, Andhra and Odisha.
- Bethany Project for Women

BAPTISMS



Please continue to pray for the Kerala Christian Mission as well as our other Mission partners in our local area, country, and around the world. Thank you all for your continued support of Faith Promise.

New Meadowbrook Christian Church Website



OUR NEW WEBSITE HAS
LAUNCHED
Visit us today at:
www.mccrochesterhills.com



Sisters IN CHRIST *Service*

We chose to support the Furniture Bank in their endeavor to ensure kids have a bed to sleep on. SIS donated \$375 for them to purchase 3 twin sized beds. Thanks to your generous contributions in June, we raised \$200 which will allow us to purchase 4 sets of bedding. Click: [Home Page - Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan : Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan \(furniture-bank.org\)](#) to learn more about Furniture Bank of Southeastern MI. SIS also collected 72 food items that were donated to Gleaners Food Bank. It feels so great to support families in our communities. Thanks for a great year! SIS will take a breakthrough the summer and start meeting again in September. We'll also be hosting the annual Garage Sale on August 18 - 20 at the church. Save your gently used treasures to donate to the sale. More details will be shared as we get closer to August.



Off-Campus Youth Group

The MCC youth group is meeting off campus for the summer. The youth have made it to several Meadowbrook family member homes to enjoy time spent together in fellowship, as well as share in a devotion. A text will go out to all the youth parents with the location address by the Wednesday before the following Thursday event. All MCC youth group meetings from June through August will be held on Thursday evenings from 6-8pm.

Also, seven of our youth went to Wolverine Christian Service Camp for JR HIGH camp and one made a decision for Christ! Praise the Lord!

Vacation Bible School – August 2022

VBS will be held daily, August 1st-5th from 9am-12pm. Please sign up in the foyer for one of the volunteer spots and make a difference in the life of a child while celebrating God's greatness!!!

Registration for VBS is now open on our website: <http://mccrochesterhills.com>. Please register your kids for this time of fun while learning about our great and wonderful God!



Young Adults - Bowling Event

The Young Adult Group had a great time meeting up at the Rochester Hills bowling alley. If you are interested in being added to the invite list for future events, or know someone who should be, please reach out to Daniel at daniel@mccrochesterhills.com.





Birthdays

Cindy Esterline - July 9
Eric Klaus - July 12
Tim Howell - July 16
Carol Howell - July 16
Dona Thomas - July 16
Hector Urteaga - July 18
Ken Small - July 19
Sandy Krugh - July 21
Mike Rose - July 22
Brenda Cox - July 22
Harry Thompson - July 24
Joyce Tingley - July 26
Eunice Salminen - July 27
Marian Murphy - July 28
Daniel Sweigard - July 30

Anniversaries

Mike & Sue Rose - July 21