

PASTOR'S NOTES

Lessons from Nehemiah: A God-Sent Revival

It is not about the building!

As soon as the last boulder of the wall was placed and the final door was installed in its gate, Nehemiah sent the people home for a few days but asked them to return on the first day of the seventh month. He desired to build in them the eternal truths of God.

Nehemiah understood it would be a travesty to reconstruct and repopulate Jerusalem if the people remained eternally hopeless outside faith in God. He knew that making the city secure and economically viable would be far short of God's desire for them. God wanted an eternal relationship with his people.

God is not primarily focused on our pleasure, prosperity, or popularity. Rather, he is intently focused on our eternal salvation, spiritual growth, and alignment and obedience to his divine will.

Sensing God's mercy and grace to restore Jerusalem, the people were eager for spiritual revival.

See Nehemiah 8:1-3

After working and camping in Jerusalem for 52 days, the people went to their homes for a few days with a request from Nehemiah to return on the first day of Tishri. We can infer that Nehemiah encouraged them to do so with the expectation of reading God's word together.

Life without the Bible:

Never in history have people had more access to the Bible than today. And yet, most are ignorant of its teachings and commands. We must be different. We must not have a superficial understanding of biblical doctrines and the theology of God.

We ought to be reading it, studying it, memorizing it, walking in its truths, and sharing its treasures with others.

We should not expect spiritual transformation or life without God's word, the Bible.

When the people gathered, Ezra, the local scholar of God's law, and 13 Levites read and taught the people.

God's word is the foundation of genuine revival—reading, acknowledging, and responding to the Bible.

Nehemiah 8:5-8

Clearly, the Holy Spirit was working within the people. In this passage, we have five manifestations of congregational worship:

1. Standing
2. Answering "Amen"
3. Lifting hands to the Lord
4. Bowing heads
5. Bowing in worship with faces to the ground

There are other biblical expressions of worship not mentioned in this text, such as singing, clapping, dancing, chanting, and kneeling. We ought to be willing, if not eager, to express to the Lord in a manner biblically modeled and resist the urges outside the purview of the Bible.

Clearly, the people were serious about hearing and responding to God's word. They stood in place for 5-6 hours and were overwhelmed by what they heard and overcome with emotion, mourning, and weeping.

Mourning and weeping is the proper response, for such sorrow moves people to repentance. But on the other side of repentance is joy.

God had expressed his lovingkindness to them when he mercifully and graciously brought them back to the Land, rebuilt the temple, reconstructed the wall, secured the city, and provided selfless leaders who lived for the glory of God and the good of the people.

See Nehemiah 8:9-12

When reading and hearing God's word, we should grieve over our sins and celebrate God's forgiveness.

When the people understood God's forgiveness and goodness, they found his joy, which strengthened them.

Obedience to God's word is a sign of a genuine spiritual revival.

See Nehemiah 8:13-18

The next day, the heads of households returned to study the law more, learning about the Feast of Booths, and they were immediately determined to do it.

The people came to know and understand the goodness of God, and today's text tells us how we can, too.

- They put themselves under the instruction and conviction of God's word.
- They experienced godly grief over their sin and failures, which produced repentance that led to salvation without regret.
- The people trusted God's forgiveness and goodness extended to them, finding the joy of the Lord as their strength.
- They moved quickly to align themselves with God's word.



MeadowBrook
CHURCH

Sunday, March 17, 2024 • Pastor Randy Gunter
mbchurch.com

family DEDICATION



*Zachariah Hayden
Doak*
JUNE 23, 2012
Daniel & Candace



*Kaleb Henry
Doak*
SEPTEMBER 3, 2017
Daniel & Candace



*Kira Kennedy
(KK) Doak*
MARCH 15, 2018
Daniel & Candace



*Kara Grace
Doak*
OCTOBER 15, 2021
Daniel & Candace



*Judah Thomas
Hamilton*
DECEMBER 20, 2023
Dalton & Alana



*Dakota Anne
Moore*
NOVEMBER 9, 2023
Jeremy & Stephanie



*Charlotte Rae
Parker*
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023
Luke & Olivia



*Wesley Clay
Rogers*
JULY 19, 2023
Clay & Jill



*Hallee Mae
Sims*
AUGUST 24, 2021
Blake & Marisa



*Marlowe Kate
Turner*
JANUARY 24, 2024
Noel & Lauren



CONNECT

people to Christ
and His church



SUNDAY, MARCH 24 at 11:30 AM
Brenda shared a video tutorial on how to make her famous buttermilk biscuits on Facebook and the post went viral, generating over a million views. Now she has nearly 4 million followers on social media! Come for lunch and hear her story. Ticket Cost: \$10
Register at mbchurch.com/55plus



OCTOBER 21-23, 2024
The 55+ Blue Ridge, GA trip is now open!
Join us for an unforgettable journey to one of the South's Best Mountain Towns!
Limited spots available due to hotel availability.
Register at mbchurch.com/55plus



MARCH MADNESS FELLOWSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 24
4:00-7:00 PM • Gym & Dining Hall
For men of all ages!
\$8.00 Adult Plate / \$4 Student Plate
MeadowBrook will provide wings & pizza.
Men, bring your favorite side dish!
Register at mbchurch.com or on the MB App



RESURRECTION SUNDAY

AT MEADOWBROOK
MARCH 31
8:30 & 10:30 AM
Kids' Worship Live at 8:30 & 10:30
Life Groups will not meet



GOOD FRIDAY

at MeadowBrook
FRIDAY, MARCH 29
6:30 PM



GROW

them as disciples
and equip them to

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK!

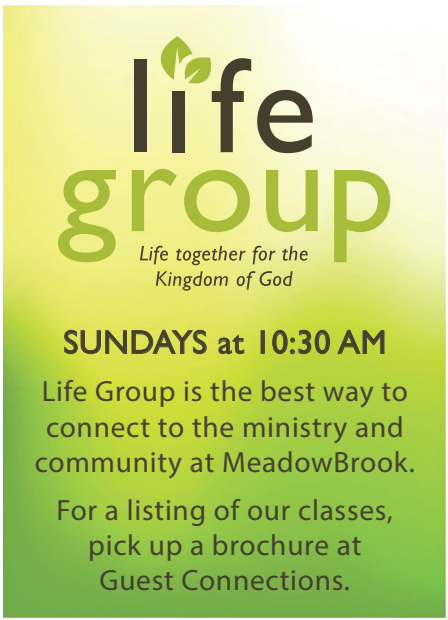
TODAY
8:00-8:20 am - Sunday Morning Prayer Time - W105
9:00 am - Worship - Worship Center
9:00 am - Kids Worship Live - Kids' Theater
10:30 am - Life Group
10:30 am - Family Dedication Brunch - Conference Center
12:30 pm - MeadowBrook Young Adults
New Graduate Social - Chad Kitchens' Home

TUESDAY, MARCH 19
9:30 am - Tuesday Bible Study - Dining Hall
10:00 am - GriefShare - Conference Center
10:45 am - Abundant Life Choir - Worship Center

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20
5:00 pm - Fellowship Meal - Dining Hall
(Fried Chicken, Green Tomatoes with Potatoes, Pinto Beans, Squash Casserole, Mexican Cornbread, Dessert, Kids: Chicken, Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Cookies)
5:30 pm - Kids' Choir - Room 312
6:30 pm - Wednesday Breakout Groups, Preschool Ministry, KidStuf, Middle School Worship, High School Worship, Worship Ministry Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 21
10 am - Threads of Love Knit/Crochet - Conference Center

Welcome
If you are our GUEST, we'd like to **CONNECT** with you! Please fill out a **CONNECTION CARD** and stop by **GUEST CONNECTIONS** for a **FREE gift!**



life group

Life together for the Kingdom of God

SUNDAYS at 10:30 AM
Life Group is the best way to connect to the ministry and community at MeadowBrook.
For a listing of our classes, pick up a brochure at Guest Connections.



2024 BIBLE READING

March 17 - Mark 9:33-50	March 21 - Mark 10:46-11:11
March 18 - Mark 10:1-16	March 22 - Mark 11:12-33
March 19 - Mark 10:17-31	March 23 - Mark 12:1-27
March 20 - Mark 10:32-45	

Bible reading plans are available at Guest Connections & Ministry Central



SERVE

through missions,
ministry and worship

SCHOLARS BOWL DIVISION I STATE CHAMPIONS



Congratulations to Gadsden Middle School's Scholar's Bowl team and their coaches, Drs. Roy & Sue Bliss, for their 54-0 record!
Good luck at Nationals in May!



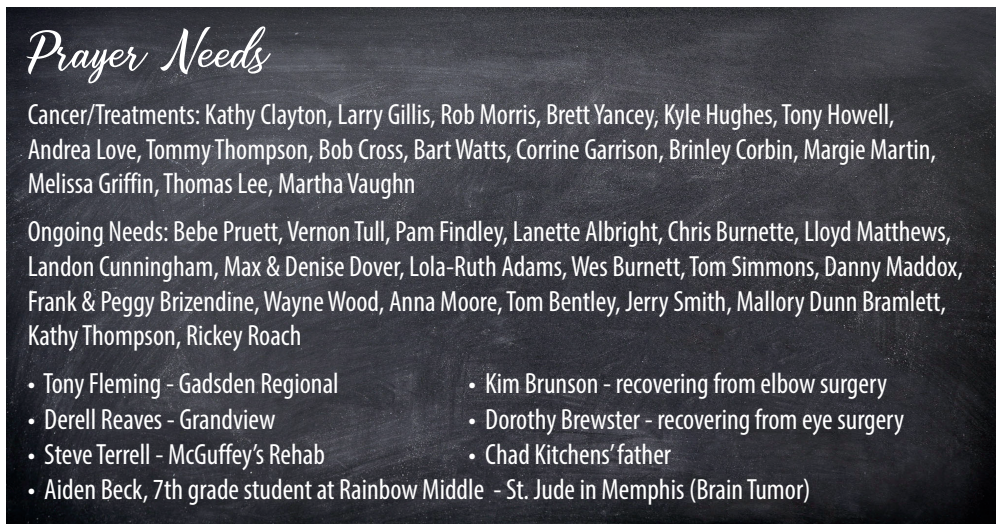
MISSIONS to NORTH AMERICA
Our Goal: \$32,000
Annie Armstrong Offering Envelopes are available in the seat pockets



centrikid camps

JULY 29-AUG 2
WorldSong Retreat
Cook Springs, AL

For kids who've completed 3rd-5th Grades
Camp Cost: \$360 per child
Non-refundable \$80 deposit due at registration
Limited spots available. Register early!
Register on the MB App or at mbchurch.com
Contact Kristi (kristi@mbchurch.com) or Vickey (vickey@mbchurch.com) for more information.



Prayer Needs

Cancer/Treatments: Kathy Clayton, Larry Gillis, Rob Morris, Brett Yancey, Kyle Hughes, Tony Howell, Andrea Love, Tommy Thompson, Bob Cross, Bart Watts, Corrine Garrison, Brinley Corbin, Margie Martin, Melissa Griffin, Thomas Lee, Martha Vaughn

Ongoing Needs: Bebe Pruett, Vernon Tull, Pam Findley, Lanette Albright, Chris Burnette, Lloyd Matthews, Landon Cunningham, Max & Denise Dover, Lola-Ruth Adams, Wes Burnett, Tom Simmons, Danny Maddox, Frank & Peggy Brizendine, Wayne Wood, Anna Moore, Tom Bentley, Jerry Smith, Mallory Dunn Bramlett, Kathy Thompson, Rickey Roach

- Tony Fleming - Gadsden Regional
- Derell Reaves - Grandview
- Steve Terrell - McGuffey's Rehab
- Aiden Beck, 7th grade student at Rainbow Middle - St. Jude in Memphis (Brain Tumor)
- Kim Brunson - recovering from elbow surgery
- Dorothy Brewster - recovering from eye surgery
- Chad Kitchens' father