

Life is Like a Journey On a Train

Life is like a journey on a train with stations, changes of routes, and accidents along the way. At birth, we board the train and meet our parents. At that point, we believe that our parents will always travel by our side. However, at some point along our journey, our parents step down from the train, leaving us to continue our journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train, and they will be significant in our life (i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life). Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go unnoticed and we probably won't realize that they have vacated their seats!

This train will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all the passengers, requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

We must live our lives loving others more than ourselves. We must teach others about Jesus who gave His life on the cross for the sins of ALL mankind if they will only follow Him. The recipe is very simple. First, you must hear the WORD! In **Romans 10:14**, *"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him who they have not HEARD? And how will they hear without a preacher."*

In **Acts 8:26-40**, is the conversion of the eunuch. Beginning in vs. 35 *"Phillip opened his mouth and beginning from this scripture, he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, Look, here is water, what prevents me from being baptized? And Phillip said, if you believe with all your heart, you may, and he answered, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he ordered the chariot to stop and they both went down into the water, Phillip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit snatched Phillip away and the eunuch no longer saw him and went on his way rejoicing"*

Hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized. There are so many who will not heed the invitation but the Bible tells us the fields are ripe for those that will.

At the age a lot of us at Meadows are reaching, we have some years behind us. I don't like using the expression "we lost someone" when they pass. In my mind, we have not lost those who are Christians; they departed the train sooner than we did. They will be waiting for us at the Station with the Pearly Gates. Just inside those gates will be the most glorious sight that we have ever seen. The singing will be fantastic, there will be no pain, no anguish, no sorrow. Only the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Father, and the Holy Spirit who has guided us.

The mystery to everyone is that we do not know at which point in our journey that we ourselves will step down. We must live in the best way - Love, Forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important for us to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty, we should leave behind the beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life without us.

I wish you the joyful journey for the coming years on your train of life. Reap success, give lots of love, and be happy. More importantly, be thankful for the journey! Lastly, I thank you for being one of the passengers on my train.

[A portion of this was taken from an article by an unknown author sent to me by Bertin Howard. I added some thoughts of my own to go with it.]

Doug Smith



MEADOWS LEADERSHIP:

ELDERS:

Jerald Bass (409) 504-1941
 Derrell Hart (409) 769-0099
 Donnie Landrum (409) 842-3236
 Brad Mansfield (409) 781-3987
 Doug Smith (409) 767-1824
 Carl Sundgren (409) 658-0027

DEACONS:

Bobby Case, Joey Case, David Owens, Daryl Phelps

PULPIT MINISTER:

Rick Walker (303) 359-9160

YOUTH MINISTER:

Remy Afre (405) 693-9333



January 29, 2023

Vol. 7 # 4

Schedule of Services:

Sundays:

Morning Worship

9:30 AM

Bible Class 10:45 AM

Evening Worship 5 PM

Monday Night Study:

6:30 PM

Tuesday Ladies

Bible Class:

9:45 AM Fellowship

10 AM Bible Class

Babysitting provided

Wednesday Night

Devo / Bible Class:

6:30 PM

Beaumont Nursing Homes

Service Times

Beaumont Nursing & Rehab
 (1175 Denton Drive, Bmt.)

Saturday @ 2:30 pm

The Oasis @ Beaumont
 (2660 Brickyard Rd., Bmt)

Sunday @ 2 pm

Arden Place of Beaumont
 (4195 Milam St., Beaumont)

Sunday @ 3:30 pm

Brookdale Dowlen Oaks
 (2250 Dowlen Rd., Bmt)

Sunday @ 2 pm

Meadows Church
 of Christ

P.O. Box 5126
 Beaumont, Texas
 77726

409-892-7063 Office
 409-892-6420 Office

On the web:

Meadowschurchofchrist.com

Meadows Messenger



"Does It Fit?"

For as long as I can remember I have been asked the above title's question. My parents would have me try on a new pair of shoes and then press down on the toe of the shoe and ask, "Does it fit?" Well, it always felt fine to me until they did that! I knew, however, that they wouldn't have their thumb on the toe while I was walking around, so I always said, "Yes." The same question was asked about shirts, pants, and even hats. After a while we are programmed to believe if something "fits" then its good. If not, try on something else.



But does that also work for God's word? We read our Bible or sit in a class or at worship listening to God's word. Then if something is said which is new to us we immediately we go into "does it fit" mode. Does what we have heard fit in with what we have always believed? Does it fit in with my current lifestyle. If it does, good, we'll buy it. But what if it doesn't fit? Are we willing to adopt God's word into our lives and toss out our old "does it fit" paradigm? Or do we toss out what God's word says?

On one occasion Jesus spoke to the multitudes following Him, and said, *"Unless you hate your father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even your own life, you cannot be My disciple,"* Luke 14:25-26. Does that fit in your lifestyle? Do you say, "Surely he doesn't mean for me to put my love for Him far before my love for family, does He?!"

In His very next breath, Jesus goes on to say, *"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple,"* v. 27. A cross was an instrument of shame and death. Carrying one would have been abhorrent to any person. Yet Jesus says this is a "deal-breaker." If we are ashamed of Him and of living the Christian life then we *cannot* be a disciple of His - period! Does that fit? Some may say, "I am excited about Jesus when I am at church. But does He expect me to be just as excited at school, on the job, or wherever I am during the week?!"

We are used to wearing clothes that fits us the way that we like. If they don't we discard them. But Christians have *"...been baptized [and] have clothed ourselves with Christ,"* Galatians 3:27. It is not about Him fitting into our lives but us fitting our lives into His! So, if there is something in us that doesn't fit into the teachings of God's word - then brethren, it isn't the Bible that needs to be discarded!

Rick Walker

EVENTS

Current Events & Activities:

The 2023 Budget Presentation will take place this morning for adults during the Bible class hour in the main auditorium. Thanks!



Many thanks to all who brought dishes and helped clean up after the luncheon last Sunday. It was a big success because of all of you! Thanks!

There will be a "baby girl" shower for Danielle Mansfield next Sunday, February 5th at 2 pm. She is registered at Amazon, Buy Buy Baby, and Target. Please bring a book and sign it for the baby instead of a card.



There will be a baby boy shower for Hani & Prakash Napu at the South Park CoC (Lamar Student Center) this afternoon from 2-4 pm. They are an Indian couple that attend Lamar and the student center and several of us have met them when we serve the Wednesday meals.



Maybe if we tell people the brain is an app, they'll start using it.

"The Parable of the Eagle"

At the edge of the woods, near a small farm, a baby eagle fell out of the nest. The farmer found the eagle, and thinking it was one of his own, brought him to the chicken coop with his other chickens. As time passed, the baby eagle grew up learning to do what chickens do. He clucked, he strutted around the coop pecking at the corn, and even tried his voice at the morning wake-up call.



A neighbor came to visit his friend the chicken farmer. He was surprised to see the eagle strutting around the chicken coop, pecking at the ground, acting like a chicken. The farmer explained to him that he had brought the bird to the coop as a chick and only later discovered that it was an eagle. He further told his friend that since the bird had been raised with chickens, that the bird actually believed himself to be a chicken.

The neighbor knew there was more to this noble bird than his behavior shown as a chicken. He was born an eagle and had the heart of an eagle, and nothing could change that. The neighbor reached down and lifted the eagle onto the fence surrounding the chicken coop and said, "Eagle, you are an eagle. Stretch out your wings and fly." He jumped up off the fence and continued doing what chickens do. The farmer was satisfied. "I told you - he thinks he's a chicken," he said.

The neighbor couldn't sleep that night and returned the next day and took the eagle from the dirty coop and carried him to the loft of the barn. Setting the bird down on the roof, the neighbor spoke to him, "Eagle, you are an eagle. You therefore belong to the sky and not to the earth. Stretch your wings and fly." The large bird hesitated then fluttered awkwardly back into the chicken coop.

After another restless night, the friend returned the next morning to the chicken farm and took the eagle to a high mountain. They could not see the farm nor the chicken coop from this great height. The man lifted the eagle on his outstretched arm and pointed high into the sky where the bright sun was beckoning above. He spoke, "Eagle, you are an eagle! You therefore belong to the sky and not to the earth. Stretch your wings and fly." He pushed him into the mountain air. The eagle stretched his massive wings, awkwardly and frantically at first... then he caught an updraft that lifted him into the sky.

With the mighty scream of an eagle, he flew away.

Author Unknown

Meadows Prayer List

Meadows Family:
Sharon Hood / tests
Mazzy Milich / health
Erskine Reliford / health
George Southerland /
pancreas issues
Margie Tinsley / health
Chris Walker

Members Unable to
Worship With Us:
Jim & Tiggy Boswell
Mildred Campbell
Marjorie Crabtree
Fred & Pat Culver
Floyd/Georgia Guillory
Ed Hart
Marsha Hoskins
Mary Kattawar
Annie Pearl Leigh

Members Unable to
Worship With Us:
Chester & Louise Rannels
Betty Jo Sorrell
Shirley Sturm

Our Friends & Family:
Raye Dorrell / health
Heather Hargraves / fr of
J. Miller / colon cancer
Ruby Hill / T. Pearson, &
T. Robinson's mom / health
Mary Johnson / C. Case's
mom, heart issues
Danielle Mansfield /
healthy pregnancy
Kendra Reliford / Reliford's
daughter / health issues
Troy Simon / C. Probst's
son / rec kidney
stone surgery

Meadows Attendance & Contribution

2023 Weekly Budget: \$12,500.00

Collection 1/22/23: \$10,923.97

Sunday AM (1/22) ... 152 Sunday BC (1/22) ... NC

Sunday PM (1/22) ... 56 Wednesday PM (1/25) ... 50

Weekly Averaged Collection for December 2022:

\$12,476.01

Building Fund / Parking Lot Balance:

\$295,854.49

Generation Z

A Cultural Trend

Generation Z is today's teenagers. They were born between 2001 to 2015. This generation comes after the millennials (1980-2000) (my generation). 9/11 played a part in separating these generations apart. Those who are Gen. Z do not know what the world was like before that horrific event unless their parents tell them. Technology has shaped Generation Z. The first iPhone came out in 2007. The first iPad was introduced in 2010. Video games have advanced. You can even download an app and trade baseball cards with someone. Those who do generational studies see Generation Z as a brand-new generation. Because social media and the internet have impacted Generation Z, they are a humanistic culture. In other words, they see themselves as the highest standard of morality. For example, those who are Generation Z have said, in one way or another, "I believe in God and Jesus. But I do not believe you have to follow the Bible step by step. You can be a good person and have good intentions. That is all you need."



In 2016, Oxford English Dictionary said the word for that year was post-truth. Have you ever heard of this word before? Post-truth is not a new made-up word. In 2016, the Economist had a headline article entitled, "Obama founded ISIS. George Bush was behind 9/11. Welcome to post-truth politics." These statements focused on emotions and personal beliefs. Think about what was happening in politics and the hot-button topics in 2016. Bernie Sanders identified himself as a socialist, and Donald Trump stirred up emotion. Emotions and personal beliefs will determine how you feel about specific people.

Barna research surveyed people from generation Z and asked them, "Is lying morally wrong?" Only 34% of Generation Z say lying is morally wrong. If you are shaking your head at what Generation Z feels about lying, wait until you read the numbers for other generations concerning this question. For instance, 61% of Elders, the oldest generation (1945 and up), affirmed lying is morally wrong. That also means 39% said lying is not morally wrong. 54% of boomers said lying is wrong. 46% of them think lying is okay. 50% of Generation X think lying is morally wrong. 42% of Millennials think people should not lie. Do you see the decline of this question as each generation passes? The same is true when asking about homosexuality, abortion, marriage, etc.

We know the Bible says it is absolute truth (**John 17:17; Psalm 119:160**). How do we convince our children the Bible is objectively true while living in a society that says truth is based on emotion and personal circumstances? Our young people want truth that matters, and what matters is modeling that truth, both by parents and fellow Christians. In other words, since people say truth is based on emotion and personal experiences, the church must offer new ways for young people to live out their Christianity that go behind the walls of the church building and make an impact (e.g., visiting orphans and widows, participating in making meals and bring to the member's home, handing out lunch meals to the homeless). Let us not make the Word of God just a book, but something changes lives.

Remy Afrz

Dear Meadows Family,

I want to thank everyone who prayed for and with me and my family before, during, and after my surgery. I also appreciate all the calls, text messages, cards, and gifts during my recovery. The love you showed me really lifted my spirits. I thank God for His grace, mercy, and for all of you. Love, Fawnn Paul



"A half truth is a whole lie"

Birthdays:

1/30 Karen Barry
 2/2 Zach Browning
 2/2 James Garner
 2/2 Vicki Thomas
 2/4 Robert Peden
 2/4 Betty Whitehead



"God tells us to burden Him with whatever burdens us"

February Anniversaries:

2/2 Bertin & Frances Howard
 2/14 Kevin & Karen Barry
 2/17 Brian & Cheryl Probst

Angelina CoC Ladies Day

"Let the Beauty of Jesus"

The Ultimate Makeover

Saturday, February 18th

8:30 am ~ Refreshments

9 am Ladies Day begins...

*****RSVP to 936.634.4555**

