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February
2021



Developing completely committed followers of Christ who: KNOW – GROW – GO



North Main

North Main exists to:

Develop completely committed followers of Christ who

KNOW Christ intimately
GROW in Christ continually
GO for Christ daily

Our mission is centered in the process of discipleship where Jesus commands his followers to:

“
Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.
Matthew 28:19-20 NLT
”

“Peace that Passes Understanding”

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians, he writes, *“Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus”* Philippians 4:6-7.

It's interesting to note that this specific letter was written by Paul while in prison, and the common theme that runs throughout is “joy.” The words “rejoice” or “joy” occur over sixteen times in this short four chapter epistle. Paul has learned what true joy is, and he expresses that joy to the believers in Philippi who have contributed to his joyful demeanor.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, our theme at North Main this year is “peace.” 2020's theme was “joy.” So, why do I bring up this passage from Paul's letter to the Philippian Church? Well, it's because joy and peace are inextricably linked together. It's hard to have peace without having joy, and it's hard to have real joy when there is no peace.

In these few verses (vv. 6-7), Paul links being “worry-free,” and “thankful” to God, as the catalyst for real peace. You see, what Paul has come to understand (even from a prison cell) is that like true joy, true peace isn't

something that comes when things are only going good in life, but especially when they're not. Real peace (peace that passes all understanding) requires complete trust in God and a surrendered life to God. True peace requires a total commitment of life and of circumstances to the Almighty God who loves us and cares for us.

This month at North Main, our sermon series will focus on “Peace in the Wilderness.” We will be focusing on the Israelites history as written in the books of Numbers and Deuteronomy. These years for the Israelites were spent in the wilderness just outside of the Promised Land. These were tough and trying times for the Israelites (and much of this was because of their stubbornness and disobedience to God).

Do you ever feel like you're in the wilderness, struggling for survival, watching out for pitfalls, and constantly facing difficulty? Does peace ever feel like it's in short supply? Be encouraged, you can have peace in the wilderness of trying times and wilderness wanderings.

Join us in person, or online, as we explore how God was with the Israelites even in the wilderness, and how He worked for their good even when they were stubborn and disobedient. And remember: *God loves and cares for you too!*

- Pastor Brandon Lenhart



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Mon-Thu 9am-4pm

FAMILY LIFE

Pastor Melissa Hickman

MelissaH@northmaincog.org

This month our Elementary Ministry, Jump Start, is learning all about KINDNESS, which is showing others they are valuable by how you treat them. Our monthly memory verse is Colossians 3:12 NIRV: "You are God's chosen people. You are holy and dearly loved. So, put on tender mercy and kindness as if they were your clothes. Don't be proud. Be gentle and patient."

God was kind to us even when we did not deserve it. Because of His love for us, we can be kind to everyone. Kindness is a fruit of the Spirit. And when you show kindness to others, you give them a glimpse into the heart of God, and how much God loves them. Kindness should be a characteristic of people who follow Jesus. Not only did Jesus model kindness, but He also commanded it. He taught us to treat others the way we want to be treated.

How are you following Jesus with KINDNESS? Our Bible stories this month are Ruth & Boaz & The Good Samaritan. Read: Ruth chapters 1 & 2 and Luke 10:25-37.

Questions to talk about around the dinner table:

1. What does kindness look like?
2. When is it hard to be kind?
3. Have you ever received unexpected kindness
4. How can you be kind to those different from you?

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Pastor Christy Pittman

ChristyP@northmaincog.org

The Lighthouse Foundation is hosting a cooking class ministry for families at Fishbone's downtown location on Shore Street. They are restarting this month after taking a brief break and are looking for volunteers to help once a month on the 4th Thursday at 5pm. They will be teaching life skills such as: meal planning, budgeting, healthy cooking, and meal preparation & planning. Come partner with us as we support local families in a welcoming and friendly environment.

GROUP LIFE

Pastor Christy Pittman

ChristyP@northmaincog.org

We currently have several on campus and in home group options for you to join. We would love for you to get connected with one! A new group is starting on February 9th: Men's Recovery Group. (see back page for more details)

The Young Adult retreat that happened January 8-9, 2021 was extremely well attended and was life changing for many in attendance on multiple levels. Also note, this annual event draws young adults from well beyond our local body of Christ.

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Laura Link

bballnut01@yahoo.com

We have a new partner in ministry in Guatemala. In July of 2020 North Main began supporting Pastor Fontaine Greene as he leads a vibrant ministry where many are coming to faith in Christ. Check them out on their Facebook page "The Access Church Guatemala" and their organization's city-wide ministry page "Catalyst Resources International" to learn more about this vibrant growing ministry in Central America.

INDIA (Richard Fields) Persecution is increasing against Christians, BUT....Praise God, believers are sharing their faith with vigor! A new church in memory of Debbi Fields to be dedicated very soon.

HAITI (Richard Fields) There is much political unrest BUT... doors are opening up for Biblical training and church leadership development. Pray for Pastor Monoit.

UGANDA (Tim and Colleen Stevenson) The sewing center provided by North Main in 2019 has outgrown its space! The sewing machines have been humming making facemasks and hygiene kits. The Love of Jesus is shown through the provision of food, shelters, new wells that are providing desperately needed clean drinking water which is paving the way for teaching about the Living Water: Jesus Christ!

2021 Bible Reading Plan

You're invited to journey through the Bible with North Main this year as we enter 2021: a year of **PEACE!** As you read through the Bible, highlight evidence of **PEACE** throughout your daily Scripture readings. Regular print or large print reading guides & blue highlighters will be available for pickup at the office.



You may also access the daily scripture readings & videos through the You Version Bible App on your phone, tablet, or computer.

Simply log on to:
bible.com/r/1Fk
or scan this QR code.



May the LORD bless you and protect you.

May the LORD smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the LORD show you his favor and give you his peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

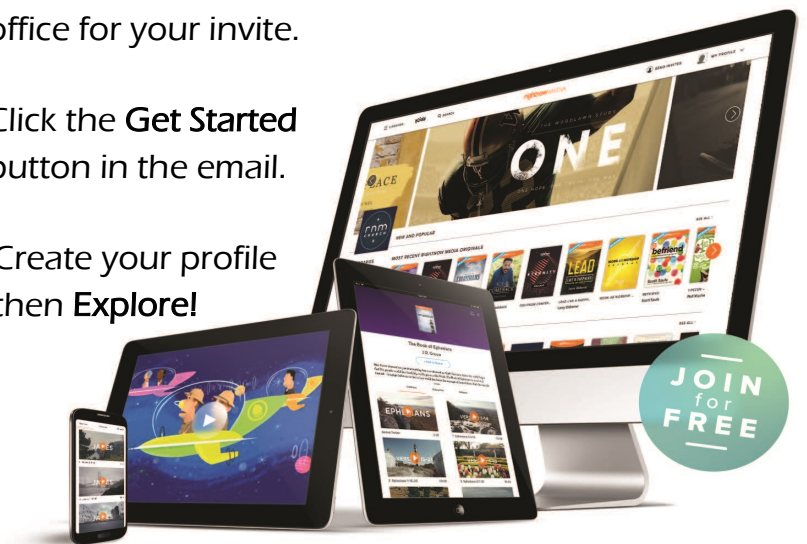
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Looking toward March...

By the time you receive this newsletter we will have begun the study and research for next month's series. As we look toward March, and our Bible reading plan for this year, we will be exploring the Israelites entrance into the Promised Land. Though coming into the Promised Land was not easy for them, there were moments when God's peace resonated in some amazing ways as they settled into the blessings of all that God had promised, not only them, but their ancestors.

In March we will be exploring the theme of "Peace in the Promised Land." If you're interested in reading ahead, check out the following:

- March 7— "Courageous Peace," Joshua 1:1-9; There is peace in the promises of God.
- March 14— "Obedient Peace," Judges 6:1-32; Peace comes through obedience to God's calling on our lives.
- March 21— "Parting Peace," 1 Samuel 20:1-42; The bond of peace is shown in loyal friendship.
- March 28— "Peace through Confession," 2 Samuel 12:1-25; Confession of sin allows peace to take root in a person's life.



Boaz & The Good Samaritan. Read: Ruth chapters 1 & 2 and Luke 10:25-37.

Questions to talk about around the dinner table:

MEN'S RECOVERY GROUP

Meets every other Tuesday starting
February 9th, 2021 // 6:30pm - 8:00pm
mensrecovery@northmaincog.org

If you struggle with depression/anxiety, addictions, anger, co-dependency, relationship issues, etc., we welcome you. No problem is considered too big or too small. If you want to participate in this group OR encourage other men in their recovery please contact the confidential e-mail or the church office for inquiry. You will be contacted by one of the group organizers and given the guidelines for your review prior to joining. Confidentiality is the main priority.

Members will be reviewing the book "Overcome" by Clayton King which will be available at the first meeting.

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