

koinonia

July 2023

Peace in the Shaking From Pastor Brandon

It is no secret that we have had a bounty of opportunities as of late to walk out our faith. Though you might call me crazy, I hope you know that I appreciate each and every one of them. At least I am learning to do so... And I hope that you are as well. It is in times such as these that I press into the Lord and His Word and rejoice as He faithfully ministers to me. Rather than attempt to put together a word of encouragement for Koinonia this month, I want to simply share with you an encouragement I have received from the Lord in this season.

Hebrews 12:27 tells us that which can be shaken will be, and this is so only the unshakable remains. I feel safe in saying that Northside Christian Center has experienced some shaking as of late. From our building plans being shaken years ago, to our facilities being shaken more recently, and our finances being shaken as of late; it could be easy for us to look at the proverbial waves rather than Christ. You may have experienced some personal shaking in the transition from the leadership of Pastor Aaron to my own. You may currently be experiencing a shaking in your life in one area or another. Regardless, one thing is usually true; when things are shaken, it is almost always uncomfortable.

Knowing that shaking occurs in our lives with purpose can do a great deal to help us process and walk in faith through the situation. A go-to verse for me regarding this is Romans 8:28, reminding me that God works ALL things together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose. Encouragement from James 1:2-4 to “consider it joy” when these things happen because they produce maturity in us, helps me to gain perspective that right now might not be about right now. I know that God has a plan for our church and I want to grow now so that I am who I need to be when His plan comes to fruition. As I have said many times before, “Who we are is far more important than where we are.”

These encouragements are good, but we can still be left distraught in the midst of shaking unless we know this as well. God’s love for us cannot be shaken. Isaiah 54:10 says,

“Though the mountains move and the hills shake, my love will not be removed from you and my covenant of peace will not be shaken.”



These words were spoken to Israel in regard to their future hope. We stand in that hope today, in Christ. His love will not be removed from us and we stand at peace with God through His

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Upcoming Events:

Ministry Leader Meeting
July 16th

VBS
July 24th – 28th

Night of Worship
August 9th

work of salvation. We do not need to be shaken by our circumstances. We don't have to panic or be anxious, because we know He will accomplish what He wills to do. His love for us never fails. We are secure in Him.

“The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me. Lord, your faithful love endures forever, do not abandon the work of your hands.” – Psalm 138:8

As we continue to walk this out together, I pray that you are encouraged by these verses as I have been. I pray that we can walk through this season joyfully expecting to be matured through the process and seeing the faithful love of the Lord sustain us through it. He

will not fail.

VBS 2023

July 24–28th will be the dates for Vacation Bible School this year. We are so excited to continue the great ministry we experienced last summer. This year's VBS is called “Hall of Heroes.” We will have an exciting museum theme and the kids will get to see some of the heroes of the faith in person as well as some exhibits of important items from their stories. We'll be looking at the stories of Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and David. With everyone's help, this will be an exciting time of ministry for both the kids and the adults! We still need adult volunteers to make this week a success, so please let Pastor Brandon, Tonia Crittenden, or Holly Derrick know whether you are available. Each night will run from 5:00 to 8:00 with a meal beginning at 5:00. Our big need right now is for men who would be willing to get into character as one of our four heroes of the faith and men to work as “ushers” during the event.



EXHIBIT OPEN

JULY

24th – 28th

5pm – 8pm

REGISTER NOW



www.NCC-VBS.com

A Word on Worship

From Pastor Scott

I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD!” Psalm 122:1 ESV

David was glad when he heard that the people of God would be gathering together in the house of the Lord. In fact, there are 15 psalms dedicated for preparing God’s people to gather together. Psalms 120 through 134 are the psalms of ascent. Psalms that were written for the purpose of being sung as people journeyed from where they lived to ascend Mount Zion, the location of the tabernacle/temple and the promised resting place of the presence of God between the cherubim of the ark of the covenant. These songs beautifully deal with every circumstance of life. As the people would sing them, they would be reminded of many truths. There is a progression in these psalms that builds faith and helps people prepare to worship together in the Lord’s house.

Fast forward a few thousand years and the question is now, “Do these psalms still hold validity for God’s people today?” I believe the answer is a resounding YES. When we set out to gather together to worship corporately, we all have things that have influenced us since our last gathering. For better or worse, we have a certain perspective when we come together. The Psalms of Ascent can remind of the things that we may have lost sight of through our circumstances.

Does this mean that I should read through Psalms 120 through 134 every time I am headed to worship corporately? While it would be beneficial, it would not be very practical. This is where the Holy Spirit desires to step in. If we will ask, He will deal with our hearts in areas of unconfessed sin, skewed perspective, lack of faith, seeing God for who He really is, and giving us a testimony that will be beneficial for the body. Psalms 133 and 134 give us insight into what our corporate gatherings should look like.

Just like the worship team prepares for our worship services and our pastors prepare to share God’s word every week, you, too, have a responsibility in preparing yourself for our corporate gatherings. I challenge you to read and study through Psalms 120 through 134 and see how it affects you when “go to the house of the Lord.”

Insurance Update

We are currently set to enter mediation with Church Mutual Insurance regarding our church facility. This has been a long road, with a few miles left on it. What does this mean? A mediator has been agreed upon by both legal counsels. Dates are currently being talked about for this to take place. We will keep you updated on the process. Pastor Brandon will be present during this process, as well as one or more other elders. Pray with us for this process to go well. Should the issue be settled in mediation, our legal fees are about half of what they would be were we to file a lawsuit. We are trusting the Lord to take care of us in this process.

Giving Update

I want to first thank you for your prayers throughout this season. Secondly, I want to thank you for your faithful giving. Everything we accomplish happens through giving. Whether it be time, money, or resources, your giving is what keeps us moving forward in fulfilling our mission and vision. I pray regularly for the Lord’s blessing in your life because I

know well that He provides for both your family and our church through His blessing. I have shared through several avenues of communication that we have experienced a short-fall in our income over the last couple of months. We have had enough to fulfill our obligations every month with the exception of the last half of June. We fell short and were not able to fulfill every obligation. Even in the midst of this, God has shown himself faithful. I shared last week that we needed \$20,000 in addition to our regular giving to make up the difference for our fiscal year that ends in July. What the elders weren't aware of was \$5,000 in giving that came in after our retreat. Praise the Lord, we only need \$15,000 in special giving to make up for our lack now! God is truly going before us and we are trusting Him to make up this difference.

In the meantime, we must seek to be good stewards of what we do have. We'll be having a garage sale fundraiser to fund VBS this year. The dates for this are July 13th and 14th. We are asking for donations for this event. You can begin to bring your donations to the Activity Center on Monday, July 10th. We need lots of help to make this event a success. We also lack around \$4,400 from our Jehovah Rohi support that is supposed to be sent in October. Plan to see some fundraising in the community to help us gather the remaining funds needed for next year's support of our orphanage in Northern India.

Finally, look for pledge cards for supporting Northside Christian Academy to come available soon as we prepare for next year. Pledges for monthly support, no matter the amount will help us to plan for our school year and ensure that we are executing school ministry with stewardship in mind. Prayerfully consider what the Lord may be calling your family to contribute to this important ministry to families in our community.

-Pastor Brandon

The chart below reflects giving through the month of June. If you have any questions about giving or finances, feel free to call the church office and we'll make time to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have. (903) 693-6366

