

December 2023 Newsletter

The World Around Us

What are you influenced by the most? Is it the culture or environment you live in? Perhaps, it is your values and beliefs! Or maybe it is something else – either way, we are all influenced by something or someone. In Joshua 24, Joshua brought together all the tribes of Israel to Shechem for a covenant renewal. In brief, Shechem was an ancient biblical city in Israel. In Hebrew, it means “shoulder” because of its location as a pass between two mountains. It was also a place of promise! Joshua says in verse 15 “And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Take note: If it was evil to serve the Lord, Joshua gave the Israelites a choice to serve the gods of their fathers or the gods of the Amorites. But he stood strong on the solid foundation of God and made it clear that he and his household will serve the Lord. Either they would be influenced by the past or



see all the Lord has done for them and choose to serve Him. Let me encourage you to take a few moments to read Joshua 24:1-28 to learn the outcome. God is my influence, and what a blessing it is to serve Him!

Our recent ministry retreat to California was amazing! It was refreshing to start out at Dr. David Jerimiah’s church. We met the Director of Missions at his church and had a great time sharing about all the Lord is doing within our ministries. Our hearts are full, as we came back with some new resources and many blessings. The people we met along the way, are some of the nicest people you can meet. It may sound strange being in California, but it is true. The area where we were located had a big Arabic representation and just north of there, it was more Catholic and Jewish communities. We can share many stories, but

here is our most rememberable one. I met a young man in San Diego that was full of excitement to share his friend's testimony of how the Lord had changed his life. His friend had been heavily involved in drugs, alcohol, and had financial struggles. He had even tried a few different religions! He ended up hitting rock bottom and saw no way out! Then one day he met Jesus, and his life was changed forever. To this day, he is sold out for Christ, attends a church on the East Coast, serves the people in his community, and shares the Gospel with everyone he meets. The young man sharing this with me went on to say it was amazing to witness how his friend's life was completely turned around. As we continued to listen, the young man had questions about salvation, baptism, and the rapture. I was not only able to walk him through the Scripture and answer his questions but left him some resources and prayed with him. We are not certain he decided to follow Jesus, but we know the Lord is working in his life. Many are searching and certainly need the Lord.



So much has happened since we arrived in Florida early November. The money donated to our ministry specifically for this mission trip opportunity has been used in many ways to help further the Kingdom of God. The Lord has allowed for us to hand out many resources from Bibles to tracks and crosses. He has given us opportunities to serve alongside Parkview Church Palm Coast to reach those in need within the community, and all while sharing the Gospel with the people we meet. In addition, the Lord has blessed our ministry to fund thanksgiving meals, serve meals, fund Christmas gifts for needy families, and be a part of the community where God is at work. Please join us in prayer, as we continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus the remainder of our

time here. The church is less than 3 months away from moving into their new worship center. They will continue with four worship services! It is such a joy to witness all

God is doing, and we look forward to what the future might hold for our ministry to be here more long term. We do not know what 2024 will hold, but God does. We trust His plan and know what He has in store is better than anything we can do or possibly want. When you find yourself starting to get worried, scared, or going through a trying time, remember our Heavenly Father is able.

We hope that your Thanksgiving was full of “precious memories” and “many thanks!” With Christmas a few weeks away, it is our prayer that you will realize that Jesus is the reason for the season. Without the birth of Christ, we have no reason to celebrate. Gifts, families, and friends are great to have, but there is no better gift than having Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. As Joshua said, choose this day who you will serve – as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!!

In Christ,
Pastor Matt



Meeting people where they are and taking them where they need to go!

Thank you for your continued support!

If you would like more info on how you could support this ministry, please email us at redoakministries@q.com for more information.