

Pastor's Report 2019

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Though 2019 may have been a difficult year for many, God's goodness did not cease. In fact, I believe that his grace was sufficient in our weaknesses and in His goodness, he stretched us, challenged us and convicted our hearts in order that we may be matured. He continues to call us forward, in Him. Every year, we have victories that he brings and setbacks that we encounter, but in all of it we're being conformed to the image of His Son. It is a wonderful, exciting and sometimes difficult journey but it's worth it.

Jeremiah 33:3 says, "Call to me and I will answer you. I'll tell you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own."

Sometimes it can be easy in the midst of uneasy times to focus on our circumstances, but this is the God we serve. He sees the big picture. He has a perspective that we don't have and going forward into 2020, He has already been doing a deep work. He calls us forward.

At the same time, let's not forget that we are to be a people, who individually and corporately **rebuild, repair and revive** this community. Again, it's why we exist as a church. Each of us have dreams, desires and ideas from Jesus to **make our community and someone's life livable again.**

You've heard this before, that, I dream of the people of Gateway being instruments of rebuilding the brokenness of our community. That we would be people who, rebuild those who have been ruined by sin, addiction and poor choices, but in order to do that we have to first seek the Lord and allow him to rebuild our own brokenness.

I also dream of the people of Gateway being instruments of restoration. That we would bring the transformational Gospel to those outside the church, in Love. Again, we must learn to let love rule our hearts within the body of Christ. Where we cast a cloak of silence around what's displeasing in another person. To honour them, to protect them, always with a heart of restoration and not condemnation.

I also dream of the people of Gateway being instruments of renewal and revival. Unashamed of the gospel that is the power of salvation. Unashamed of Jesus. Unafraid of intimacy with the one who knit us together in our mother's womb. Where we are willing to be renewed and revived ourselves in order to do what Jesus asks of us.

All of this takes active participation with the Lord, so as we move forward into 2020 and beyond, let's pursue him like never before.

Jeremiah 29:12-14 THE MESSAGE

12 "When you call on me, when you come and pray to me, I'll listen. 13 "When you come looking for me, you'll find me. "Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, 14 I'll make sure you won't be disappointed." God's Decree.