

**Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
April 24, 2019**

WINNING THE OFFSEASON!

We are fast approaching the end of the month of April. Many in our midst have already departed for homes in the north, and another wave is in the preparation process to do the same. That said, it has been quite a "season" this 2018-2019, beginning back in October. Our "seasonal contingent" arrived to find a new pastor (now what was this guy going to be like?) and with him some differences from the way things had been done before. It seems to me, and I pray to you, that we've come together pretty well. If we base things on statistics, which is all too often a dangerous thing to do, we've seen growth in our worship attendance of nearly 15% over the previous season, and we've welcomed 20 new members into our midst. That's some positive momentum for the proclamation of the Gospel, and we most certainly want to do all that we can to keep the momentum through the summer season; always remembering that it is the Holy Spirit's power and not ours that is behind our mission and ministry.. It's not our desire, nor do I believe it's the Lord's, that we now just kick back and let things ride until our northern brothers and sisters return in the fall. There is much to be done in the interim and we still have that same power within us, that of the Spirit, to not only keep on keeping on but to keep moving forward. One of the major initiatives to that effect will be our involvement with Younglife. If you don't already know what Younglife is, it's a ministry that began in the early 1930s that is focused on bringing the good news of Jesus to young people in the middle and high school age group. The Charlotte County chapter has been highly successful in getting into the schools and introducing the kids to Jesus and the salvation that He freely offers. Now more than ever...well actually just as much as ever...our kids NEED to be connected to Christ to offer hope in this ever darkening world and hope for eternity. I hope you'll join me in connecting to this wonderful outreach ministry. There will be a number of events that we can take part in (beginning this week) to build relationships with the kids, earn their trust, and tell them about Jesus and our journey with Him. Once a new school year begins in August, and then our forces grow with the return of our seasonal members and friends we should be able to move more and more in this and other outreach areas (i.e. The Pregnancy Careline Center). We are all in this together! This mission of bringing Jesus to the world starting with those near to us. Please pray for the power of God the Holy Spirit to guide us and move us to continue moving forward with the Gospel!