

August 2022 Newsletter
From the Pastor's Desk

Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink in the wild air.
~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Summertime—It is the best time of the calendar year, in my opinion. I remember when I was a kid living in Springfield, Illinois; one early summer when I was riding in the back seat of my mother's car, a song by the rapper Will Smith came on the radio. The song went like this:

*Summer, summer, summertime
Time to sit back and unwind.
School is out and it's sort of a buzz
But back then I didn't really know what it was;
But now I see what have of this
The way that people respond to summer madness.*

*The weather is hot and the [people] are dressing less and checkin'
out the fellas to tell 'em who's best.*

*Riding around in your jeep or your benzos [a Mercedes Benz] or in
your Nissan sittin' on lorenzos...*

In this song, the rapper Will Smith was talking about the joy and thrill of summer. For most of us summer is a time to sit back and unwind. It is a time remove the winter coats, sweaters, and heavy boots; and just throw on a t-shirt, a pair of shorts, and some sandals. O how I love summer. Prior to the pandemic, my family and I would take a cruise to the Caribbeans every June. We would eat good food, explore the islands, collective souvenirs, swim in the ocean, and enjoy the comedy shows and the musicals on the cruise ship. When we weren't on a cruise, we would always find some outside activity to do like cooking on the grill or just simply getting some ice cream from our favorite ice cream shop. Summertime is absolutely my favorite time of the year. What's your favorite time of the year? Fall, Winter, Spring, or like me summertime?

Well—whatever season is your favorite, make sure you take time out to slow down and enjoy every moment of it. So many times, we rush through life, trying to get from one thing to another; trying to accomplish one project after another; and even trying to solve one problem after another. But let me challenge you—to slow down, live in the moment. Take time to smell the roses; to swim in the ocean; to play in the snow (if winter is your favorite season). Take time to bake a cake with your grandchildren; to rise early to listen to the birds as they sing, early in the wee hours of the morning.

Recently, I heard someone say, "Every man [or woman] gets two lives. The second one begins the moment they realize that they only have one." Seeing that we only get one

life to live, slow down, take your time, and relish every moment. If you find yourself getting frustrated by something, stop whatever it is you're doing, and breath, relax. Most of the things that we get upset about are not even worth it.

Furthermore, this is exactly what I am planning to do this summer—to stop, breath, and relax; to stop and walk on the beach to feel the sand underneath my feet; to stop and listen to the sound of the ocean waves crashing against the banks; to stop and enjoy some good quality time with family and friends.

Let us relish in the beauty of God's creation and enjoy this summer!

Pastor Michael