

Dear Maranatha Family,

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NKJV)

As I reflected on all that took place during the month of July, this verse came to my heart. So many of you invested your time, your energy, and your love to reach our community through our summer outreach activities.

At times we may wonder, *"Did my service really make a difference? Did all of this work accomplish anything?"* God's Word gives us a wonderful promise: **our labor in the Lord is never in vain**. Every act of kindness, every prayer, every conversation, every invitation, every meal served, and every hour given to His work becomes a seed in God's hands. We may not always see the fruit immediately, but we can trust that the Lord will use every faithful act of service for His glory and in His perfect timing.

With that encouragement in our hearts, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to every one of you who faithfully served during our summer outreach activities. Thank you for your love, your sacrifice, and your willingness to serve both our church family and our community. Whether your role was seen or unseen, your labor has made an eternal difference, and I know the Lord will bless you for your faithfulness.

As we have spent much of the summer pouring into others, August gives us an opportunity to allow the Lord to pour into us. As we have given much, we also need to receive much from Him.

Throughout this month, our Sunday messages will focus on **Carrying God's Presence**. Together, we will discover God's desire to dwell with His people and how His presence refreshes us, strengthens us, renews us, and enables us to carry His presence into every area of our lives. My prayer is that this month will be a time of spiritual refreshing as we draw closer to the Lord and experience His presence in a deeper way.

As part of this season of refreshing, there will be **no Tuesday Night Mega Ministry on August 4, 11, and 18**. Mega Ministry will resume on **Tuesday, August 25**. We encourage you to enjoy this time with your family and friends while continuing to seek the Lord and be refreshed in His presence.

This **Sunday, August 2**, we will gather for our **11:00 AM Unified Worship Service**, followed by a coffee fellowship. We hope you will stay after the service for a wonderful time of fellowship and encouragement as we continue to grow together as the family of God.

If you have been considering taking the next step in your walk with Christ through water baptism, we invite you to attend our **Water Baptism Seminar on Monday, August 10, at 6:30 PM via Zoom**. Water baptism is a beautiful public declaration of our faith in Jesus Christ and our new life in Him. Information and baptism forms are available in the church foyer. Our Water Baptism Service will take place during the **11:00 AM Unified Worship Service on Sunday, September 6**.

If Maranatha International Church has become your church home and you would like to become a member, we would love to have you join our **Membership Class on Monday, August 17, at 6:30 PM via Zoom**. Church membership is a wonderful opportunity to identify with the local body of Christ and commit ourselves to growing and serving together. Membership applications and additional information are available in the church foyer. Please complete the application and place it in the designated box. Further details will be sent to you.

We also warmly invite everyone to join our **African Fellowship on Sunday, August 16, at 4:00 PM**. One of the beautiful blessings of Maranatha International Church is worshiping together with believers from many nations and cultures, united in Christ. We hope you will join us for this special time of worship and fellowship.

Pastor Rania and I are grateful for each one of you. May the Lord bless you and your family throughout this month, refresh you with His presence, and continue to use your lives for His glory.

We look forward to worshipping with you soon!

In Christ,

Pastor Nader Kawar

Senior Pastor

Maranatha International Church

P.S. Please see the attached August calendar for an overview of events.