

“And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works,
not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...but exhorting one another.”
Hebrews 10:24–25 (NKJV)

Dear Maranatha Family,

As we enter the month of September, we are also entering a new season of ministry at Maranatha International Church. Summer is coming to an end, children are returning to school, families are returning to their regular schedules, and many of our ministries are beginning again.

During August, we took three weeks away from many of our regular ministry activities. I hope that this time gave everyone an opportunity to rest, spend time with family, and be refreshed. There are seasons when we need to slow down and be renewed, but there are also seasons when it is time to come back together, reconnect, and move forward into what God has for us next.

And that is what September represents for us. After a time of refreshment, I want to encourage all of us to come back strong and begin this new season with fresh hearts and renewed commitment. Our Scripture reminds us to “stir up love and good works” and not to forsake “the assembling of ourselves together.” There is a reason God calls us to come together. We need one another. When we gather, we encourage one another, strengthen one another, and stir in one another a greater love for Christ, a greater love for His Word, and a greater desire to serve Him.

So let us not simply return to our schedules. Let us return with fresh hunger for God and fresh excitement about what He wants to do among us. Let us worship together, pray together, study His Word together, serve together, and encourage one another. I am looking forward with great expectation to another season of ministry together, filled with God’s presence and all that He has prepared for us.

On **Sunday, September 6, at 11:00 AM**, we will gather for our **Unified Service**. There is always something special when our entire church family comes together as one body to worship the Lord. Different languages, cultures, and backgrounds, but one church, one family, and one Lord. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship afterwards.

Our Tuesday Night Mega Ministry has resumed and meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Tuesday night has something for everyone and gives the whole family an opportunity to come to church, grow spiritually, build relationships, and be strengthened in the Lord.

Our spiritual growth does not happen only on Sunday mornings. Throughout the week, we need opportunities to go deeper in God's Word and in our relationships with one another. I encourage you to make Tuesday night part of your weekly schedule this fall.

Our ladies' Bible studies are also resuming this month. The English Ladies Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings, and the Arabic Ladies Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings. There is something powerful about opening the Word of God together. We encourage all our ladies to take advantage of these opportunities, not only to study Scripture, but also to encourage one another, pray together, and build meaningful relationships.

We also want our children to build wonderful memories with their families and their church family. On Saturday, September 12, our children and their parents are invited to an outing at The Children's Farm in Palos Park. Parents are asked to accompany their children and meet at the farm at 10:30 AM. The cost is \$9 per person. The farm is located at 12700 Southwest Highway. This will be a fun, hands on experience where the children can see and interact with various farm animals while families enjoy time together. Please see Pastor John for additional details.

Our Ladies Book Club will meet again on Saturday, September 26, at 10:00 AM. The new book is *Adorned* by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth. Ladies who would like to participate can purchase the book through Amazon or Christianbook.com and are encouraged to sign up in the foyer.

As September begins, let us come back refreshed, reconnect with one another, and get involved. Worship with us. Join a ministry. Study the Word. Build relationships. Bring your children. Invite someone. Encourage someone.

Church is more than a place we attend. It is a family we belong to. God has given us one another, and I believe He has much more ahead for us as we continue walking together in this new season.

May the Lord bless you and your family abundantly throughout this month.

With love and appreciation,

Pastor Nader Kawar
Senior Pastor
Maranatha International Church

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