

Youth NEWS



The Junior High/High School Devotional will be held

on January 8 following evening services at the home of the Cleveland Family. Food and desserts will be provided. Please bring drinks.

Education NEWS

A reminder that the Tuesday Men's and Ladies' Bible Studies will be on break until January 10.

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, January 8 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Not Too Hard." The Bible is the best-selling book of all time and comes today in hundreds of languages. Some think the Bible is too hard to understand. Is it really? In this lesson we'll discuss whether we can understand the Bible.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Tuesdays (September through May)

Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM
Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAYS

Midweek Bible Study 7:00 PM

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Mike Batot
Southwest School of Bible Studies

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

JANUARY 1, 2017

"LOOK ON THE HEART"

by Ronnie Scherffius

In 1884 a young man died. After the funeral his grieving parents determined to establish a memorial to him. With that in mind they met with Charles Eliot, president of Harvard University. Eliot received the unpretentious couple into his office and asked what he could do. After they expressed a desire to fund a memorial, Eliot, noting the appearance of the couple impatiently said, "Perhaps you have in mind a scholarship."

"We were thinking of something more substantial than that—perhaps a building," the woman replied. Eliot, in a patronizing

"And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God"

Luke 16:15

tone, brushed aside the idea as being too expensive and the couple departed. The next year, Eliot learned that this unassuming couple had gone elsewhere and established a \$26 million memorial named

Leland Stanford Junior University, better known today as Stanford University.

How vividly is humanity represented in this illustration. Man looks on the outward appearance—ever concerned with status, achievement, and appraisal of society. How desperately ought man to imitate the assessing character of his Creator: "But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7). In our society, unless one meets the standard set by the world he is considered less than others and unworthy consideration.

As detestable as such character is in the world it is even more so when found among God's people! After hearing the parable of the Good Samaritan, a parable directed specifically at the sin of prejudice, Luke records, "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him" (Luke 16:14). Jesus' reply speaks volumes, "And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: **for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God**" (Luke 16:15).

How do we look upon our fellowman? Do we consider the appearance or do we consider the person? Moreover, how do we look upon our Christian brethren? When we come to worship God do we see one another as those of like precious faith, or do we rather view our Christian brothers and sisters through the prism of race, class, and social distinction? James wrote, "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. ²For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; ³And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say unto the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: ⁴Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? ⁵Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? ⁶But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? ⁷Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? ⁸If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as

thyself, ye do well: ⁹But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. ¹¹For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. ¹²So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:1-12).

When our Savior walked the earth many of his own people foolishly rejected him because He did not correctly portray what **they** pictured the Messiah should be. Isaiah prophesied of this saying, "For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him" (Isaiah 53:2).

Are we sometimes guilty of looking upon the outward appearance of others? If so, consider that we not only have sin in our lives, but we are also shutting ourselves off from the great joy of true Christian fellowship. We ought not be judgmental of others simply because of appearances or of the common life one leads, rather we should look to the heart and judge others by their character and their love for Christ.

Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
DECEMBER 25, 2016

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....111
Sunday Morning Assembly.....181
Sunday Evening Assembly.....91
Wednesday Attendance.....101

Offering: \$5,344

News
& ACTIVITIES

Sunday, January 8

The Monthly Men's Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 21

MidTown's Ladies' Day will be held here at the building with registration beginning at 9 a.m.

- Brookdale Team #1 will meet today.
- Please see the 2017 sign up sheets in the hallway on ways you can help serve!
- Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting canned beans/ranch-pinto and deodorant (non-aerosol). Please place the items in the hallway container.
- There will not be a Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal this month due to Ladies' Day.

MAKE ME A SERVANT

MIDTOWN'S LADIES' DAY
Saturday, January 21, 2017

Registration: 9-9:30 a.m.
Lunch provided.

Speakers:
Kori Wilson
of La Vernia, TX &
Pat McDonald
of Livingston, TX



Keep in
PRAYER



MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Dee Gilpatrick

Betty Key
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glen Pitts
Angela Sneeringer-
Gonzalez
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Amber Brown,
friend of Leta Reeves
Glena Coon,
sister-in-law of Peggy Matlock
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel
Janell Marshall
mother of Karon Barton's
sister-in-law

Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Madeline Posey,
family of Julie Posey
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Polly Ray,
aunt of Connie Cleveland
Scott Reeves,
son of Sam and Leta
brother of Sherry Lynch
Gary Rush,
friend of the Arnots
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory