

Youth NEWS



Thank you to the Jobs Family for hosting the Youth Family Devotional. We appreciate you!

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, January 29 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Christian Morality." A recent poll found three-fourths of Americans saying moral values in the United States are getting worse. Why is America becoming more immoral? We want to explore the causes of America's moral decline and what we can do about it.

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

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

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www.midtowncoc.org

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"SPIRITUAL OG" by Ronnie Scherffius

On December 29, 1987, a Soviet cosmonaut returned to the earth after 326 days in orbit. He was in good health, which wasn't always the case in those voyages. Five years earlier, touching down after 211 days in space, two cosmonauts suffered from dizziness, high pulse rates and heart palpitations. They couldn't walk for a week, and after 30 days, they were still undergoing therapy for atrophied muscles and weakened hearts.

American astronauts have also suffered adverse effects from the weightlessness in the absence of gravity (commonly known as zero gravity or 0G). The most significant effects of long-term weightlessness are muscle atrophy

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."

James 1:2-3

(degeneration) and deterioration of the skeleton. Other significant effects include a slowing of the cardiovascular system, decreased production of red blood cells, bal-

ance disorders, and a weakening of the immune system. Lesser symptoms include loss of body mass, nasal congestion and sleep disturbance. However, it is worthy to note that these effects begin to reverse quickly upon return to the Earth.

Why is it the case that at zero gravity the muscles of the body, in fact the body itself, begin to waste away? The answer—no resistance! Think about that, in the absence of struggle and conflict the body begins to deteriorate. To counteract this, scientists and engineers developed space suits laced with elastic bands that resist every movement the astronauts make – forcing them to exert their strength.

There is a very valuable spiritual lesson for us here. We often feel that God is not

watching over and protecting us when we face difficulties in our lives. The truth is that by allowing us to endure these struggles God is helping us not only to sustain but also to increase our faith and spiritual stamina. James wrote, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into diverse temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:2-3). The Greek word translated *patience* in this passage is defined as "the characteristic of a man who is unwavering from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings" (*THAYER'S GREEK-ENGLISH LEXICON OF THE NEW TESTAMENT*). In Paul's letter to the Romans this same term is translated "patient continuance" (Rom. 2:7) and in Thessalonians as "patient waiting" (2 Thess. 3:5). One commentator refers to it as "staying power."

It is significant that when astronauts return to earth where their bodies are opposed by gravitational forces that "these effects begin to reverse quickly." The absence of trials and tribulations in our lives which challenge our faith should not necessarily be welcome circumstances. We should neither have a desire for trials that challenge our faith, nor should we seek them out, but neither should we pray for a removal of such difficulties in our lives. Instead, like those early Christians of centuries past we should be thankful when we are counted worthy to suffer for the cause of Christ (Acts 5:41) and to pray, "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word" (Acts 4:29).

It is the struggles of life's difficulties that help produce in us the staying power and spiritual endurance needed to overcome the world. In the face of severe persecution Peter encouraged the brethren by instructing them that the trial of

their faith was "much more precious than of gold that perisheth" (1 Pet. 1:7). Echoing the words of James, Paul wrote, "we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience [tried and approved character—RLS]; and experience, hope" (Rom. 5:3-4). Spiritual 0G will cause our faith and spiritual "staying power" to deteriorate! We should thank God for the difficulties we face in this world and we should pray that we will continually walk with Him as we endure and grow from them. May God bless us as we strive daily to live for Him.

Thank you to all who contributed their time and talents to help with the success of MidTown's Ladies' Day yesterday!



Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
JANUARY 15, 2017

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....115
Sunday Morning Assembly.....NA
Sunday Evening Assembly.....NA
Wednesday Attendance.....114

Offering: \$5,802.30

News & ACTIVITIES

MEN'S MEETING:

Today, there will be a monthly Men's Meeting at **2 p.m.** at the building to discuss the website.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

A Leadership Development class will take place each Thursday at 7 p.m. at the building. All men (young/old) are invited to attend. Our purpose is to help men develop into leaders of our congregation (elders/deacons) and better leaders in their homes and communities. Hope to see you there!

Week of January 30

Please make note that the AC will be worked on during this week.

Saturday, February 4

There will be a Men's Breakfast at 8 a.m.

- Brookdale Team #4 will meet today.
- Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting canned beans/ranch-pinto and deodorant (non-aerosol).

Keep in PRAYER



MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key

Kathy Laws
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glen Pitts
Angela Sneeringer-Gonzalez
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
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