

## Youth NEWS

### Saturday, February 11

Mark your calendar for a Jr/Sr High Progressive Dinner starting at 5 p.m. More details to come!

**Sunday, February 12** The monthly Jr/Sr High Devo will be hosted by the Verma's at their home following evening services.

**February 17-18** Jr/Sr High girls are invited to Young Ladies' Day hosted by University church of Christ in San Marcos. See Athena for more information.

## Education NEWS

### In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, January 29 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "At Your Word." Does God speak seriously? Many today have dismissed the teaching of God for what they personally think or what society feels is right.

Should we follow the Lord Jesus Christ, when He speaks something that goes against human thinking?

### SUNDAYS

**Bible Classes .....9:00 AM**  
**Morning Worship .....10:00 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](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

JANUARY 29, 2017

### "TO THEM GAVE HE POWER"

by Ronnie Scherffius

There are few in this world who have great power. Of some it may be said that they have unlimited power; unfettered unrestricted power to rule, build up, or to destroy. While this power is certainly not unlimited in the sense of God's omnipotence, there are some in places of authority where their power to rule is unrestricted by other men.

Then there are those who have limited power. These have been authorized by heads of state or other forms of governing bodies and have power to serve in an administrative role. For these individuals powers to some degree have been vested but they are bound by regulations and restrictions because unlimited power is not inherent in their office.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:1

Whether one's power is unlimited or restricted, with power and authority comes the right or the ability to do a certain thing or things. John, in his historical account of the life of Christ, continually empha-

sized the fact that while many rejected Jesus as Christ there were some who received Him.

From the beginning of his book, John indicated that all who received Christ received a certain power or right: "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). The significance of this statement is often overlooked and underemphasized. In this short statement John forever exposes the fallacy of the sectarian doctrine of salvation by faith apart from obedience to God's commands. Let's consider this verse within its context and see just how much force it has against this damnable heresy that has deceived so many.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>The same was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made by him; and

without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life; and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. <sup>8</sup>He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. <sup>9</sup>That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup>He came unto his own, and his own received him not. <sup>12</sup>But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:” (John 1:1-12)

In the opening statements of John’s gospel account He affirms the following: the eternity, personality, deity, and holiness of Jesus (1-4); mission of John the baptist and origin of that mission (5-8); Jesus not John was deity in the flesh (9); in the person of Jesus, deity was in this world but was rejected by His own people—the Jews (10-11); not all rejected the Messiah and those who received Him were given power to become God’s people (12). These five truths are very clearly stated and each very important to the understanding for one’s faith in Christ.

Note especially the fact that those who received Jesus as Deity in the flesh were given “power” to do a certain thing. The word *power* in this verse is translated from a Greek term meaning “power of choice, liberty of doing as one pleases; leave or permission” [Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon] and in this particular verse the word addresses one’s power to become a child of God. The translators of the New King James translated the verse this way: “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the **right** to become children of God, to those who believe in His name” (NKJV). With this understanding the

sense of the verse is very clear. To all who receive Jesus as deity in the flesh; to all who believe that Jesus was/is the prophesied Messiah of God, those and those only, are given the power or right to become the sons (or children) of God! It is extremely important to understand that belief (faith) in Jesus does not make one a child of God but rather gives one the ability or right to become a child of God. This is also seen in the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch: “And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest.” (Acts 8:37) Philip, clearly establishes that for one to have the right or power to be obedient to the gospel he must first have faith!

It is therefore seen, that in order to become a child of God one must have the right to do so—that right comes with faith. Having faith, one has the power, right, or privilege to become a Christian. It takes obedience to God’s commands (including repentance, confession, and baptism) to become a child of God. Any who have faith without baptism never becomes a child of God and those who are baptized apart from faith have not the right. Do you have faith? If so, you have the right to become a child of God. Have you exercised that right through repentance, confession of your faith and obedience to the command of baptism into Christ? If not, why not do so now!

Records You Helped Make For the Week of JANUARY 22, 2017	
<b>Attendance</b>	
Sunday Bible Class.....	123
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	163
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	96
Wednesday Attendance.....	98
<b>Offering: \$5,173.58</b>	

## News & ACTIVITIES

### Thursday, February 2

All men are invited to attend a weekly Leadership Development class here at the building at 7 p.m.

### Saturday, February 4

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

### Sunday, February 5

The monthly Men’s Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

### Sunday, February 26

The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal this month will be held following evening services and will include the annual chili cookoff!

- Brookdale Team #5 will meet today.
- Please make note that the AC will be worked on this week.
- Sunny Glen Children’s Home is requesting canned beans/ranch-pinto and deodorant (non-aerosol). Please place items in the boxes in the hallway.
- Mark your calendar for a baby shower honoring Trisha Foerster on Saturday, February 25. More information to come!

## Keep in PRAYER

### RESPONSES:

Please keep **Angela Sneeringer-Gonzalez** in prayer who responded Sunday.



### 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,  
Bo Dykes and Doris  
*family 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*