

Youth NEWS



Mark your calendar for the next Family/Youth Devotional on Saturday, June 24 hosted by Bob &

Yvonne Smith at their place by the river, 658 Cypress Valley road (map will be provided). Enjoy watermelon and sandwiches!

- The next area-wide Thursday Jr./Sr. High Summer Series “Putting God First” will be June 22 at Mathis church of Christ.
- **Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp** July 16-21

The next Jr./Sr. High Devotional will be hosted by Adrian and Melissa Cannady on Sunday, July 2 following evening services.



Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord’s Way

The lesson for Sunday, June 25 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, “Does Jesus Care?” Life can suddenly become harsh, causing us to question whether the Lord cares about us. However, a sparrow cannot fall from the sky without the Lord’s knowledge. He knows and cares for us through every storm of life.

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

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

JUNE 18, 2017

“CHRIST CRUCIFIED”

by Ronnie Scherffius

In writing to the church at Corinth the apostle Paul declared, “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness” (1 Cor. 1:23). When the Gospel was preached for the first time in Jerusalem some three thousand were obedient to it: “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

Later in that same city Peter and John preached to another multitude and again a great multitude of people believed and obeyed: “Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand” (Acts 4:4). It would seem that the whole of the Jewish nation was turning from the law of Moses which had been “nailed to the cross” (Col. 2:14), to the Gospel of Christ, becoming New Testament Christians. However, the time at which these sermons were preached was during the time of the Pentecost in the great city of Jerusalem. During this time there were as many as one million Jewish men in the city for all were required by the Law of Moses to attend the great feast (Deut. 16:1, 16). Indeed 8,000 is a great multitude of people but compared to 1,000,000 it is only a drop in the bucket (less than 1%!!). So even though there were many precious souls of the Jewish race

who received the word of God there were multitudes more who rejected it.

Likewise, as Paul traveled through on his missionary journeys preaching to the Gentiles he met with great success. At times “the whole city” came out to hear Paul and Barnabas preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 13:44). Multitudes of Gentiles in many cities were obedient to the faith, in fact, during the first two-hundred years after the establishment of the church, many of the heathen temples became virtually deserted before persecution caused some to return to idolatrous worship. Pliny the younger (61-113), who served as magistrate of Bithynia during the reign of the Roman emperor Trajan, wrote: “the temples, which have been almost deserted, are beginning to be frequented once more, that the sacred rites which have been long neglected are being renewed, and that sacrificial victims are for sale everywhere, whereas, till recently, a buyer

was rarely to be found.” (*THE ETERNAL KINGDOM, F. W. MADDOX, P. 37*). Yet, just as the majority of the Jews rejected the Gospel, even so the Gentiles rejected the Gospel in masses.

While both the Jews and the Gentiles rejected Jesus as the Redeemer of mankind, each had a different motivation for their rejection. Paul clearly defines the mind set of both Jew and the Gentile when he wrote to the Corinthian saints declaring “But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness” (1 Cor. 1:23). Here is seen not only the reason for the rejection of Christ by many in Paul’s day but of men of our time as well.

For the Jews, Jesus Christ, a crucified Savior was a stumblingblock. A stumblingblock is simply that which is put in the path of a person which presents a barrier. The word is applied to Jesus because the nature of His work and person was so contrary to the expectation of the Jews that they forthrightly rejected Him as the promised Messiah and “judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life” (Acts 13:46). The same scenario is played out today before our eyes in the lives of those to whom Jesus is a stumblingblock. Indeed they are religiously minded people who affect many good works and live morally good and respectable lives, but because of their insistence upon a literal earthly reign of Christ, they reject outright the kingdom of God and all for which it stands. Because of this prejudicial and dogmatic mind set, the preaching of Jesus Christ as the resurrected Savior of the one body, the church is a stumbling block to them.

For the Gentiles, a crucified savior was nothing short of pure madness. As Paul declared the gospel of Christ to Agrippa, “Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad” (Acts 26:24). In Athens, the chief seat of Greek learning and civilization, Paul was considered a “babbler” and was mocked by the Greek philosophers who considered themselves superior because of “knowledge and wisdom” (Acts 17:18, 23). The wise men of Paul’s

day could not conceive of one who had been put to death as a savior of mankind. How could anyone so despised and hated by his own people, a man who had been rejected and murdered be the redeemer and savior of the world! Such an absurdity was so beneath the Greeks and their philosophical achievements that to believe such would be foolishness. This mind set is also seen in men today. Many disregard the Bible as nothing more than fairytales or story book fables differing nothing from such books as Homer’s *Odyssey* or Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*. The idea of Deity existing, much less Deity taking on the form of man in order to save man from his sins, is pure foolishness to the world. Intellectuals declare that all who are deceived by the words of the Bible are lacking in reason, intellect, and pure common sense.

There are some people in this world who will never obey the gospel of Christ either because of their preconceived ideas concerning Christ or because of their own worldly wisdom. To these individuals, the preaching of the cross is foolishness, “but unto us which are saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:19).

2017 MIDTOWN SUMMER SERIES

“HEAVEN’S VOCABULARY: Words & Phrases of Spiritual Significance”

6/21 Jake Fox, “Grace”

6/28 Daniel Garza of Adams Street church of Christ, “The Precious Blood of Christ”

7/5 Justin Guess of Mathis church of Christ, “Heaven/Hell”

News & ACTIVITIES

Sunday, June 25

- The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal will be held following evening worship. Please bring a potluck dish.
- You are encouraged to submit bible questions in a “mail box” in the foyer to be answered during the monthly Q&A session.

Thursday, June 29

MidTown will host the area-wide Thursday Jr./Sr. High Summer Series.

- Brookdale Team #3 will meet.
- Sunny Glen is requesting liquid laundry detergent and popcorn. Please place items in the hallway

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
JUNE 11, 2017

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....110
Sunday Morning Assembly.....138
Sunday Evening Assembly.....80
Wednesday Attendance.....89

Offering: \$4,193

Keep in PRAYER



MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Faye Henderson
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key

Kathy Laws
Susie Mesa
Betty Mabe
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Mickey Tisue
Clark Withers
Billy York

& Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
Gillette Ferguson,
brother in Vernal, Utah
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Keith Lempa,
son-in-law of Larry Nuckles
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel
Janell Marshall
mother of Karon Barton's
sister-in-law

Amanda Mueller
sister of Amy Harris
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
Harish Reddy,
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
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
Carson Stickland,
friend of Cleveland Family
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory