

Youth NEWS



- Today following evening service is the Jr./Sr. High Monthly Devo. Boys please bring drinks and girls bring desserts.

- There will be a Fall Retreat, Nov. 10-12 for grades 6-12 hosted by University church of Christ at Peach Valley. For more info & to register go to: www.univcofc.org \$15 per person

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, October 15 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "The Resurrection." What is the resurrection and when will we be raised? How will the resurrection affect me personally? What kind of body will we have in the resurrection? In this lesson, we'll explore what the Bible says about resurrection.

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

Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.
India

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Student Support
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

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The **Midtown** CHURCH OF CHRIST

Messenger

OCTOBER 8, 2017

"NECESSARY STRUGGLES"

by Ronnie Scherffius

Walking around his backyard, a man found a cocoon of the Buckeye Butterfly. Having some interest in these particular matters he decided to take it into the house so that he could observe it emerge. After preparing an "indoor habitat" for his project he kept a regular check on the cocoon so as not to miss the grand event, after all, how many people have watched the birth of a butterfly!

After many days he noticed a small opening had appeared in the cocoon and for several hours the interested observer watched as the butterfly struggled. But the longer he watched the more concerned he became because the butterfly could not seem to force its body past

and swollen and its wings were small and shriveled. Expecting that in time the wings would spread out in their natural beauty, he continued periodically to observe the butterfly with great anticipation—he would be disappointed.

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience."

James 1:2-3

a certain point. Deciding something was wrong, the man took a pair of scissors and snipped the remaining bit of cocoon. The butterfly emerged with ease, but its body was large

Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the butterfly spent its life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings. It turns out that the constricting cocoon and the *necessary struggle* to pass through the tiny opening forces fluid from the body into the wings. The act of kindness to relieve the struggles of the butterfly was in reality a great injustice that prevented what would have produced great beauty.

Though we may not fully understand why we must endure difficulties in life, perhaps these struggles are what we need to produce

in us the strength, temperament, and character to be the best we can be. We often wonder why God allows us to endure trials and tribulations in this world. After all, as loving parents we strive to protect our children from the pitfalls of life—why would our loving God not do the same?

Throughout the Bible we find many examples of those who endured great difficulties, which difficulties prepared them for a great work later in their life. **Joseph** endured the hatred of his brothers, being sold into slavery, being falsely accused of immorality, and being forgotten and left in prison. But each of these were but events in his life that prepared him to be the man who would save his family from the starvation of a great famine and even save the Egyptian empire from passing into history because of the dearth in the land.

The prophet Hosea endured the bitterness of an unfaithful wife and the knowledge that the children born of his wife were product of her unfaithfulness (Hos. 1-2). Still these great trials and difficulties enabled him more fully to preach to ancient Israel and to make known to them their sin of idolatry and the great love of God to take them back if they would only repent.

The apostle Paul endured great hardships (2 Cor. 11), suffered the loss of all things (Phil. 3:7-8), was unjustly beaten and cast into prison (Acts 16:16-24), and at one time even beaten and left for dead (Acts 14:19). This history of Paul is not shocking to us for we are greatly familiar with the life of this apostle to the Gentiles and of the great persecution he endured as a great soldier of the cross. But on one occasion Paul became sick, so sick in fact that he had to pause his travels. How could this be?! How could God allow such a thing to come upon the apostle Paul who was doing the

work of spreading the gospel to a lost and dying world! Nevertheless, Paul took advantage of his circumstances and preached the gospel to those who perhaps otherwise would never have heard the name of Jesus! (Gal. 4:13-14)

And though we may not consider it—the sufferings of our Lord Jesus perfected Him to be our Savior and High Priest: “For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation **perfect through sufferings.**” (Heb. 2:10); Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And **being made perfect, he became** the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:8-9).

From the struggles we endure today we gain strength, knowledge, and wisdom. Furthermore, such difficulties serve to temper our faith and to create in us a steadfastness that will not only allow us to face even greater struggles, but also to be a source of strength and comfort for others as they struggle to overcome the challenges of this life.

Jesus did not promise that as Christians we would have ease of life. In fact He commanded that we must “Strive [agonize] to enter in at the strait [narrow/difficult] gate:” (Luke 13:24). James wrote: “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:2-4 — NKJV). We should neither doubt nor wonder when we face struggles in this life, but rather trust in God and allow those struggles to produce in us the beautiful Christian character that will bring praise and glory to our heavenly Father.

News & ACTIVITIES

Sunday, October 22

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.
- Listen to lessons from MidTown’s gospel meeting by visiting the website at www.midtowncoc.org

Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
OCTOBER 1, 2017

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....112
Sunday Morning Assembly.....155
Sunday Evening Assembly.....106
Wednesday Attendance.....88

Offering: \$5,236

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSE:

Please keep **Brant Jacobs** in prayer who responded Wednesday.

MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Faye Henderson

Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Kathy Laws
Susie Mesa
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Paul Purswell
Mickey Tisue

& 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
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Barbara Lopez,
mother of Rosalba Barton
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel

Janell Marshall
family of Karon Barton
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Harish Reddy,
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Brian Rutherford,
Nephew of Clifton
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory