

Youth NEWS



Today!

The November Jr./Sr. High Devotional and the Family Youth Devotional will be hosted by the Pitchford and Randle Families on Sunday, November 12 following evening services.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, November 19 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Be Thankful."

The heart of Christianity begins with counting our blessings and being grateful for everything God has done for us. Let us consider our spiritual and physical blessings, and may they move us to commit ourselves to the Lord.

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

ELDERS

Will Cleveland
Tom Pitchford

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
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VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030
www.midtowncoc.org

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

NOVEMBER 12, 2017

"AN APOSTOLIC ASSESSMENT"

by Ronnie Scherffius

I want to take a moment to encourage all who are able, to make a concerted effort to attend our *Men's and Ladies' Tuesday Bible Studies*. These classes begin at 10am each Tuesday and are a great way to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2 Pt. 3:18) and to "be strengthened with might" by the Spirit of God (Eph. 3:16). The ladies have recently begun a study of the book of Deuteronomy and our dear sister Barbara Withers is teaching this class. Our men's class is directed by our brother Jim Hutt and this class just began a study of 2 Thessalonians. The men's class is based on the DVD series produced and distributed by WVBS (brother Don Walker, present director of Southwest School of Bible Studies is the teacher on this DVD series).

For the purpose of encouragement, I would like to share three key points that especially stood out to me in our class this past Tuesday—

"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;"

2 Thess. 1:3

points emphasizing the character of the Thessalonian church. In the introductory verses of this epistle, Paul gives an *Apostolic Assessment* of this young but growing body of Christians. Let's note together how that Paul prayed, portrayed, and appraised the character of the Thessalonians.

Note first in Paul's assessment of the Thessalonians, his emphasis of their *faith and love*: "We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;" (2 Thess. 1:3). Paul was bound, i.e., he felt obligated to give thanks to God for the great faith and love which characterized this young church. When compared to the churches of Galatia (Gal. 6:1-10), one can certainly understand Paul's thankfulness for the faith of the brethren! Some in the churches of Galatia had "soon remo-

ved” themselves from the gospel because of the enticing words of the Judaizers. But the faith of the Thessalonians was characterized, not by moving away, but rather *growing exceedingly!* Brother Walker’s study of the Greek term translated “groweth exceedingly” demonstrated the true reason for Paul’s thankfulness—their faith was not simply growing but was to be characterized by a Greek term meaning *super growth*. Paul further demonstrates the *superlative nature* of the Thessalonians saints, speaking of their love for one another as *abounding* — the Greek term here having the sense *to super abound*. Contrast this character of the Thessalonians to the saints at Corinth where the report of some was of growing division and contentions (1 Cor. 1:10-12). What an assessment of these brethren! What a delight it must have been for Paul to pray with thanksgiving for these young enduring Christians.

Next consider that assessing the faith and love of these brethren, Paul was able to portray them as an example to be followed to other churches: “So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God [*boast of you among the churches of God - NKJV*] for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure” (2 Thess. 1:4). The persecutions faced by the young Christians in Thessalonica is evident: “And when they [*unbelieving Jews in Thessalonica*] found them not [*Paul and his company*], they drew Jason and certain brethren [*new converts to the faith!*] unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also; ⁷Whom Jason hath received: and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, one Jesus” (Acts 17:6-7). On this occasion the persecution was financial—an unknown sum had to be paid to secure their release (Acts 17:9);

while Paul and others were quickly sent away for their safety. How severe the persecution became for the Thessalonian Christians is seen in Paul’s first letter: “For ye, brethren, became followers of the churches of God which in Judaea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also have suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews” (1 Thess. 2:14). Yet, their suffering did not turn them from the love of Christ, but an enduring faith in the face of such persecution caused Paul to boast of them and to direct other churches to look to the Thessalonians as an example to follow.

Finally, we see Paul’s appraisal of their spiritual state: “Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer” (2 Thess. 1:5). The enduring faith of the Thessalonians, if maintained, would allow them to be “counted worthy” of the joys and blessings of the eternal kingdom! To their persecutors God would reward tribulation for the troubling of His people, but the faithful endurance of the Thessalonians would be granted a peaceful rest (2 Thess. 1:6-7).

From this *Apostolic Assessment* of the Thessalonians, we find these brethren were of such character that Paul could pray to God with thanksgiving for the incredible growth of their faith and the exceptional love they had for one another; he could delight to portray them to other churches as an example to be followed of enduring faith through persecutions and trials; and he could praise them for their spiritual state—counted worthy of the kingdom of God! May we learn from our Thessalonian brethren and strive to be worthy of such an evaluation, not simply of men but especially in the eyes of God!

Hope to see you in class Tuesday!

News & ACTIVITIES

Sunday, November 26

Ronnie Scherffius will answer bible questions placed in the mailbox in the foyer every fourth Sunday evening.

Wednesday, November 29

There will be a Fifth Wednesday Singing.

Friday, December 8

The Annual Ladies’ Christmas Ornament Exchange will be held on Friday, December 8 at 6:30 p.m. More details to come!

- Mark your New Year calendar for Mid-Town’s Ladies’ Day Saturday, January 20.
- This month there will not be a Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal due to Thanksgiving.
- The Tuesday Bible Studies will not meet on November 21.

Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....	113
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	152
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	108
Wednesday Attendance.....	106

Offering: \$5,841

Keep in PRAYER

IN SYMPATHY:
We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Prem Verma, father-in-law of Archana.**



MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey
Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Faye Henderson

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

& Friends Family:

Mary Lou Arguelles,
sister of Virginia Escojido
Victor Benitez,
brother of Virginia Escojido
Cheryl Dobbs,
friend of Pam Clifton
Jennifer Dobbs,
friend of Pam Clifton
Bert Haynes,
father of Pam Stryker
Kim Neel-Farthing,
daughter of Joyce
June Green,
mother of Janice FitzSimmons
Rose Leske,
sister-in-law of Sandra Marie
Liz Lopez,
friend of Nina Siegel

Janell Marshall
family of Karon Barton
Susie Mesa
former MidTown
Fred Porter,
brother-in-law of Della Rampley
Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Harish Reddy,
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Sammy Snead,
brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius
Cynthia Sneeringer,
mother of Angela
Prem Verma,
father-in-law of Archana
Kennedy Young, Sr.,
uncle of Naomi Flonnory