

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

April 1, 2018

Issue 3

## *IT WAS THE SAND IN MY SHOES*

Ronnie Scherffius

Imagine the obstacles one might face, the barriers and difficulties one would be forced to overcome if he took up the challenge to walk from New York City to San Francisco. Matt Mattingly does not have to imagine it because he did it! In his book, *The Long Walk Home*, Mattingly chronicles his 3,507 miles/117 days odyssey across America from near the Statue of Liberty in New York City to the Golden Gate Bridge of San Francisco. As he travelled the highways and byways he made note of what he observed, from the number of Coca-Cola cans he saw in ditches to the number of sneakers he wore out on the journey. When asked to tell of his greatest hurdle he gave a rather surprising answer. According to the then 59 year old Mattingly, the toughest part of the trip was not traversing the steep slopes of the mountains or crossing hot dry barren stretches of desert. “The thing that came the closest to defeating me,” Mattingly explained, “was the sand in my shoes.”

Incredible! More than 3,500 miles on foot in extreme climate across extreme geographic structures, and sand, small insignificant rock particles, is what almost brought the journey to an end! How similar it is for many spiritually. We prepare for the mountains; we build storm shelters; we are ever on the lookout for extreme attacks on our faith. We are certain to know book, chapter, and verse to defend the truth of baptism and to confound the error of faith only salvation (Mt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; James 2:17, 22, 24, 26), the weekly observance of the Lord’s Supper (Mt. 26:26-29; Mt. 28:18; Acts 2:42; 20:7), and a cappella in our worship without the accompaniment of mechanical instruments (Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16-17). We

have studied and can accurately use the Word of God to demonstrate the inspiration of the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16-17) through the fulfillment of prophecy (Ezek. 26; Psalm 22; et al) and the demonstration of scientific foreknowledge (Isa. 40:22; Job 28:25; Eccl. 1:7; et al). Without the slightest hesitation we can weave together Old Testament prophecy and New Testament fulfillment showing without fault the truth that the kingdom of heaven is the church and that Jesus is even now reigning as King (Joel 2:28-32; Isa. 2:2-3; Dan. 2:44; Zech. 6:12-13; Mark 9:1; Luke 9:27; 24:44-49; Acts 1:8; Acts 2; 1 Tim. 6:15), and Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ of God (Isa. 40:3; John 1:19-29). We have prepared our hearts to be able “to give a defense to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Pt. 3:15). But are we overlooking the sand in our shoes—those small day to day temptations that we determine insignificant and perhaps never even give them a second thought?

Might it be the case that one is so bold as to believe that one innocent little click on a link to a “questionable” website will have no effect on their heart and mind? How many men and women, co-workers, daily throw caution to the wind as they innocently pass flirtatious remarks or send texts that are too personal and put in jeopardy their marriage, family, and eternal soul? Perhaps the music to which we choose to listen is filled with lyrics about drinking, carousing, unfaithfulness, and worldliness in general—and we never consider that we are numbing ourselves to such sinful deeds. How many times has a Christian brother or sister been overtaken in a fault that began with just one drink? How often is it the case that a brother

or sister becomes overwhelmed with an addiction initiated by the purchase of an innocent five dollar lottery ticket? How many souls will be lost because of that tiny insignificant grain of sand we have indiscriminately labeled a “little white lie?” How wise the warning—Beware the little things, for the small things in life are often what bring spiritual giants to their knees!

How vital are the words of Peter and how desperately we ought to give heed in ALL areas of our lives: “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pt. 5:8). The attacks or our adversary are not always in the form of a ferocious lion! Many temptations appear as a wolf in sheeps clothing, a cat among the pigeons, or as sand in our shoes. Let us heed the words of our beloved brother Paul, “watch thou in *all* things” (2 Tim. 4:5).

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### ***THE WORLD THAT WANTS EVERYONE TO BE “RIGHT”***

By: Brett Petrillo

“Two men who lived in a small village got into a terrible dispute they couldn’t resolve. So they decided to talk to the town sage. The first man went to the sage’s home and told his version of what happened. When he finished, the sage said, ‘You’re absolutely right.’ The next night, the second man called on the sage and told his side of the story. The sage responded, ‘You’re absolutely right.’ Afterward, the sage’s wife scolded her husband. ‘Those men told you two different stories and you told them both they were absolutely right. That’s impossible — they can’t both be absolutely right.’ The sage turned to his wife and said, ‘You’re absolutely right.’”

We all wrestle with indecisiveness. Sometimes it’s just tough to make a firm decision. Especially with Google at our fingertips and social media giving everyone a microphone, we can get bombarded with so many different opinions and takes on a topic that it makes it hard to come to our own decision. This is especially true on matters of extreme importance, like truth. We’re just scared of making the wrong choice.

There are, what seems like, millions of different opinions on Scriptural truth. There are views on salvation. There are ideas on the church. There are feelings on just about every other topic in the Bible. However, the most tragic part is nearly every opinion people put out there is coupled with a blatant disregard for what God actually says in His word. Worst of all, we’ve reached a time when people don’t even care all that much about truth. People are more interested in being “accepting” and “non-judgmental” than in discovering the truth. In other words, our world thinks that everyone is “right” in their own way and our time is better spent in total acceptance of each other, no matter our differences.

The bottom line is, not all opinions can be right. There can only be one right choice, one truth. And this truth can only be found through a diligent, careful, and honest study of God’s word. This means we have to check our opinions and personal biases at the door. This means we have to be willing to accept something that might differ from what we thought was right. This means we have to understand that some of our closest family and friends might be wrong. Sad as it is, the majority of people are not willing to accept the path of truth, but instead go with the easy path with the majority (Matthew 7:13-14, 21-23).

In the end, the only thought that matters on any religious topic is God’s. He breathed out (“inspired”) every single word in the Bible, which makes every word important (2 Timothy 3:16-17). He provided us with every single verse we need to show us how to be godly and to behave in this life (2 Peter 1:3). He even made it clear that Jesus is the only way to get to God, the only source of truth, and the only way to receive eternal life (John 14:6).

Let’s be careful not to fall into traps that pull us away from the truth. The truth may not always be popular, but it’s always right. The truth may not always be accepted, but it’s still the truth regardless. In our increasingly resistant culture, let’s have the courage to accept the truth, speak the truth, and stay with the truth.

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of April 1, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran  
Scripture Reading: Curtis Scherffius

### **Lord's Supper & Offering**

Bread: Tom Pitchford  
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford  
Offering: Mark FitzSimmons  
Assist: Richard Tisue; Bryce Dolan; Sammy Scherffius

**Sunday Evening:** Tom Pitchford; Clifton Rutherford

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Lupe Escojido  
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson  
P.M. Opening: Don Lynn  
P.M. Closing: Steve Randle

**Ushers:** Steve Randle  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Lupe Escojido

**Open/Close Building:** Will Burleson

**Sound System:** Bryant Siegel

### **Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Steve Randle

Prepare Communion: Sneeringer-Gonzalez

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### PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED:

Our pantry is in need of canned vegetables. Please see Nina Siegel if you would like to donate.

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## *YOUTH NEWS*

Be making plans for F.U.E.L. April 20-21, 2018! Todd Clippard of Hamilton, AL, will be our speaker at this year's annual youth rally and our theme is: **In The World But Not Of The World.** An itinerary for the weekend and a sign-up sheet is in the Jr/Sr High class room—please sign up if you will be attending AND note how many guests you will be bringing.

Peach Valley Youth Camp—July 22nd-27th! All interested in attending this summer need to see Doug Jobs for an application.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

TRENTON JENKINS who is in the hospital in Houston; JEFF & MELINDA HAMMOND, from Beeville Church of Christ, for the loss of their son Jared.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 3: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class (10am)  
April 8: Jr./Sr. High Devo @ Wayne & Janie Martin's home (294 Dreyer Lane); Boys bring desserts and girls bring drinks  
April 10: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class (10am)  
April 17: Men's & Ladies' Bible Class (10am)  
April 20-21: F.U.E.L. Youth Rally; speaker: Todd Clippard  
April 22: Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal

## IN THE AREA

April 21: Riverside Church of Christ (in Corpus Christi) Ladies Day @ 9am  
May 6-9: Gospel Meeting @ Port Lavaca; various speakers 7pm nightly  
May 5-10: Focal Point @ University (San Marcos)  
May 23-28: Young Men's Development Conference @ Bryan-College Station

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Sandy Malone, Parker DeDear, Trisha Foerster, Josiah Rodriguez (2); Jeff Cannady (3); Scott Barton and Jennifer Miles (7)

## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Sandy Malone
Les Daltry	Ann Pantel
Pat Davis	Glenodine Pitts
Dee Gilpatrick	Bob Smith
Lucille Hawkins	Clark Withers
Faye Henderson	

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Mary Lou Arguelles (sister of Virginia Escojido)	Cole Ohrt (friend of Ann Pantel)
Bert Haynes (father of Pam Stryker)	Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Mary Younglove (grandmother of Naomi Flonnory)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Cynthia Sneeringer (mother of Angela)
Scarlet O'Neill (friend of Yvonne Smith)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)
Sarah Randle (mother of Steve)	Alene Turner (mother of Steve Turner)

# MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Elders:

Will Cleveland  
Tom Pitchford

## Deacons:

Adrian Cannady  
Mark FitzSimmons  
Doug Jobs  
Bryant Siegel

**Minister:** Ronnie Scherffius

**Secretary:** Nina Siegel

### TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM  
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM  
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

### RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of March 25, 2018

Bible Class.....134  
A.M. Worship.....159  
P.M. Worship.....105  
Wednesday Bible Study.....91

Offering      \$4,837.30

## GROWING IN KNOWLEDGE

Did you know that devoting 30 minutes each day you can read through the New Testament in one month? Here is a schedule to help you get started:

- Day 1: Acts 8-14
- Day 2: Acts 15-20
- Day 3: Acts 21-28
- Day 4: Romans 1-8
- Day 5: Romans 9 – 1 Corinthians 4
- Day 6: 1 Corinthians 5-14
- Day 7: 1 Corinthians 15 – 2 Corinthians 9



### SUPPORTED WORKS

- India - Mani Pagidipalli
- New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock
- Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore
- Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

### GO PAPERLESS!

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or visit [www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

## MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main  
Victoria, TX 77904  
(361) 573-0030  
[midtowncoc2017@gmail.com](mailto:midtowncoc2017@gmail.com)

