

# Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

July 1, 2018

Issue 16

## **SALT MAKES ME THIRSTY**

*Ronnie Scherffius*

A family was sitting together for their evening Bible study. The text was very familiar: “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matt. 5:13). After reading the passage and giving what he thought was a well spoken explanation, the father asked for some suggestions from his children. One suggestion after another was made as to what it meant to be *salt* in the lives of others.

“Salt imparts a desirable flavor,” said one.

“Salt preserves from decay,” another suggested.

Then at last, the youngest of the children spoke and said, “Salt makes me thirsty.”

A silence fell across the room as everyone considered the thought, “Have I ever made anyone thirsty for Jesus Christ?”

**The steadfastness of our faith can make someone thirsty for Jesus Christ.** The steadfastness of Daniel caused Kings to acknowledge the God of heaven. Nebuchadnezzar declared “Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings” (Dan. 2:47). Steadfast in his life of prayer, even in the face of certain death, Daniel was delivered from the lions, and steadfastness and deliverance by God caused King Darius to decree “That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is the living God, and steadfast forever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who

hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions” (Dan. 6:26-27). Imagine the desire for Jesus Christ we could instill into the hearts of others by living a steadfast Christian life.

**The change in our lives as Christians, demonstrating the power of God, can make someone thirsty for Jesus Christ.** Peter wrote “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you” (1 Pt. 4:3-4). A Christian lady was enjoying a dinner with some old friends. When the waiter asked what she wanted to drink she replied, “Water, please.” Her friends commented, in a half sarcastic tone, how she used to be the one who was the drinker among them and now she was ordering water! The Christian lady stated simply, “That is the power Jesus Christ has in the lives of those who come to Him.” After the meal, one by one the friends exited the table until there was only the Christian lady and one of her friends: “Tell me more about this Jesus,” her friend inquired. “I have really been struggling with some things and could use such a power in my life.” Living the Christian life with neither shame nor fear, demonstrating the great power Jesus has had in our lives will certainly make others thirsty for Jesus.

**A positive Christian attitude will certainly make one thirsty for Jesus Christ.** Beaten and imprisoned, Paul and Silas “prayed and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.” (Acts 16:25). Not only did the prisoners hear but their jailor also and he

was converted at the preaching of the gospel, no doubt at first impressed by the attitude and character of these men who rejoiced though suffering. While we may not suffer such persecution for our faith we do face challenges in this life, some due to our faith and others simply because we live in a world where trials exist. How do we react to day to day life? Do we like the world cry “Poor pitiful me”? Are we hyper-critical about the situations and circumstances that surround us? Perhaps we respond with the ever familiar, “God is really putting it on me!” Who would desire to come to Christ when they see one following Him with such an attitude? As Christians, we have been redeemed (1 Pt. 1:18-19). As Christians we are the “sons of God” (1 John 3:1). As Christians, we have remission of sins, which sins God will remember no more (Acts 2:28; Heb. 8:12). Is there any difficulty in this world that can take away the joy of such blessings?! Paul put it this way: “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom. 8:18). Whether the *sufferings* are due to our faith or simply the difficulties of day to day life—how we respond to those sufferings can cause others to be thirsty for Jesus Christ.

“Salt makes me thirsty.” Christian, have you ever made one thirsty for Jesus Christ?

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### Thoughts On Discouragement, Mean People, And Wanting To Just Give Up

By Ben Giselbach

It's easy to get discouraged by some of the things that go in our local congregations and in our brotherhood as a whole. When you've been hurt or discouraged by someone, don't associate the bad taste in your mouth with the Lord's Church. Because in reality, the pure Bride of Christ is *never* discouraging – it's the sin that's present within the Lord's Church that brings us down. Redirect your depression, anger, and hurt feelings toward Satan. He's the culprit. It's all him. If you're like me, from time to time you get discouraged. Maybe somebody you respected said or did something that knocked the wind out of you. Maybe you feel like you're not making an impact on the Church. Maybe you feel like you're just wasting your time. And when you're discouraged, usually no one knows about it (except your spouse, if you're married). But, again, if you're

like me, those are the times you most need the encouragement of others.

**A Challenge**—Next time you're down, follow the Golden Rule (Matt. 7:12) and give encouragement to other Christians. That's what you need from them, right? Train yourself to build others up when you need to be encouraged yourself. After all, it is when you're discouraged that you are most aware of the hurting and the pain going on around you.

**Encourage Your Spiritual Giants**—Who's made the biggest spiritual impact in your life? Who do you most admire? That person is your spiritual giant. Now tell them that's who they are to you. Let them know they are making a difference. And don't restrict yourself to only telling *them* how much you admire them. Brag on them to *others!* Just because someone is spiritually strong doesn't mean they never wrestle with discouragement. In fact, Satan is waging a tough war against them too, and from time to time they get burnt out, just like you. Your spiritual giants need *you* to encourage them!

**Encourage People At Church**—Satan loves discouraging us, and he uses it to fool us into withdrawing ourselves from the Church. Don't fall into his trap; become an active encourager of the Lord's body! In the words of Paul, “strive to excel in building up the church” (1 Cor. 14:12). Talk to the people at church to whom you don't normally talk. Express interest in their lives. Encourage them to be more faithful. Offer to help them. Send them a note in the mail.

**Encourage Your Enemies**—All of us know hurtful and discouraging people. Some are just downright mean! Not to justify them, but there's usually a reason mean people are mean. And if you knew more about what they've been through, I guarantee you'd want to be nicer to them. The Bible tells us how to treat our enemies:

*If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you. (Proverbs 25:22, ESV)*

Our enemies get discouraged from time to time too, and how powerful would it be for them to be encouraged by people they've hurt!

So what's stopping you? Drop a short note in the mail to someone today. Really, how much effort would it take? What's keeping you from sending your preacher an encouraging E-mail right now? How hard would it be to send your elder, spiritual giant, or someone else at church a Facebook message letting them know you appreciate them? What if *everyone* did this? What would the Church look like?

## PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 1, 2018

### **Sunday Morning:**

Announcements: Jeff Harris  
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

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

Bread: Tom Pitchford  
Fruit of the Vine: Clifton Rutherford  
Offering: Lupe Escojido  
Assist: BJ Davis, Scott DeDear, Sammy Scherffius

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

### **Prayer**

A.M. Opening: Kevin Sheeran  
A.M. Closing: Robert Powers  
P.M. Opening: Don Lynn  
P.M. Closing: Steve Randle

**Ushers:** Don Lynn  
Allen Clifton

**Wednesday Devotional:** Ronnie Scherffius

**Open/Close Building:**

**Sound System:** Trenton Jenkins

### **Greeters:**

Will Cleveland  
Allen Clifton  
Don Lynn

**Prepare Communion:** Dolan Family

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Some people plan to obey the gospel at the eleventh hour and then die at ten thirty.

Yesterday is only a memory; tomorrow is only a vision; today well lived will make every yesterday a memory of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope.

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July 15th—There will be a house warming party for Patrick & Josha Gooch at the building after evening worship.

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Sunny Glen Children's Home is requesting the following items: Salad Dressings & Gallon Freezer Bags. Please place the items in the donation box in the hallway.

## IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

DAMIAN BENITEZ JR., nephew of Virginia Escojido, who is recovering from knee surgery; PAT ATKINSON, who was in the hospital last week with high blood pressure; REX HORST, who will be having medical tests done this week.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

July 1: 55+ meeting after evening worship  
July 4: Wed. Summer Series—Ronnie Scherffius  
July 6: Singing at the Pitchford's @ 6:30pm (bring lawn chairs)  
July 8: Jr/Sr. High Devotional  
July 11: Wed. Summer Series—Doug Jobes  
July 15: Gooch's house warming party at the building  
July 18: Wed. Summer Series—Tom Pitchford  
July 22: 4th Sunday Fellowship meal  
July 28: Midtown hosts Summer Youth Series @ 5pm

## IN THE AREA

July 12: Summer Youth Series @ Portland  
July 13: Friday Night Singing @ Flour Bluff  
July 19: Summer Youth Series @ Weber Rd.  
Aug 5-10: Evidence for Life gospel meeting @ Riverside

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Leon Morales, Scott DeDear (2), Della Rampley, Josha Gooch (7)

## KEEP IN PRAYER

### MIDTOWN MEMBERS

Jeff Cannady	Ann Pantel
Dee Gilpatrick	Della Rampley
Sandra Marie	Clark Withers

### SHUT-INS

Lucille Hawkins	Sandy Malone
Faye Henderson	Bob Smith

### FRIENDS & FAMILY

Victor Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Bert Haynes (father of Pam Stryker)

Vikram Gottam  
(brother-in-law of Archana Verma)

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

# 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 June 24, 2018

Bible Class.....113  
A.M. Worship.....152  
P.M. Worship.....88  
Wednesday Bible Study.....101

Offering \$3,742

**QUICK REFERENCE**

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

**Divorce**

One man/woman.....Mat. 19:3-9

Divorce .....Mat. 5:31-32

Rom. 7:1-4; 1 Cor. 7:10f; Mal. 2:16

**SUPPORTED WORKS**

India - Mani Pagidipalli

New Zealand - James &amp; Emily Cammock

Bible Land Passages - John &amp; Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

**GO PAPERLESS!**

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