

Midtown Messenger

Volume 1

July 8, 2018

Issue 17

MORE THAN ANYONE THOUGHT POSSIBLE

Ronnie Scherffius

In 1972, NASA launched the exploratory space probe *PIONEER 10*. According to *Time Magazine's* Leon Jaroff, the primary mission for the project was to reach Jupiter, photograph the planet and its moons, and beam data to earth about Jupiter's magnetic field, radiation belts, and atmosphere. Scientists regarded this as a "bold plan." There was much doubt and skepticism. At that time no satellite had gone beyond Mars and most feared the asteroid belt would destroy the satellite before it could reach its target.

But *PIONEER 10* accomplished its mission **and** much much more. Swinging past the giant planet in November 1973, Jupiter's gravitational forces shot *PIONEER 10* at an increased rate of speed toward the edge of the solar system. At one billion miles from the sun, *PIONEER 10* passed Saturn. At some two billion miles it cruised past Uranus, Neptune at nearly three billion miles, and Pluto at almost four. By 1997, twenty-five years after its launch, *PIONEER 10* was more than six billion miles from the sun, and throughout its journey *PIONEER 10* continued to beam back radio signals to scientists on Earth. "Perhaps most remarkable," reported Jaroff, "those signals emanated from an 8-watt transmitter which radiates about as much power as a bedroom night light."

The "Little Satellite That Could" was not built to do what it did. Engineers designed *PIONEER 10* with a useful life of just three years. But it kept going, and going, and going. What an example for us regarding our work for the Lord! While others may doubt AND though we ourselves may often consider that we have little to offer, if we will but strive to the

best to our abilities to labor in the kingdom of God, who knows how God will use us to accomplish much good for the cause of King Jesus!

On multiple occasions the disciples wondered at the impossibility of Jesus' words. The Lord responded "with God all things are possible" (Mt. 19:26; Mk. 9:23; Mk. 10:27). To Jeremiah the Lord inquired, "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for me?" (Jer. 32:27) When taking note of the work to be done in the church, how often do we predetermine that the work will never be completed? The reason—we consider ourselves with all of our limitations and shortcomings and fail take into consideration the *true power* behind our efforts?! Moses, as great a man as he was, (and he was indeed a man with great abilities and accomplishments - Acts 7:22) with his own abilities would never have been able to deliver Israel out of Egyptian bondage! But by the mighty hand of God great wonders were seen that caused Pharaoh to let the people go (Ex. 3:20; 6:6; 7:5; et al).

Why do we shrink with great fear when we consider the task set before us of taking the gospel to a lost and dying world? God committed the gospel into our hands—He has confidence that we can do it! What is holding us back?! Do we believe the gospel too weak to accomplish God's purposes or are we thinking of our own limitations? Can you grow an apple tree? You can if you plant an apple seed. Can you grow an orange tree? You can if you plant an orange seed. Can you save a lost soul? You can if you plant the Word of God into a good and honest heart! The apple or orange tree does not grow simp-

ly because one puts the seed into the earth **but** because the power and laws of God are behind it! Even so, a Christian is not born by the inestimable skills and talents of the one teaching, but the power of God's Word will convict one of their sin and bring them humbly to their Savior. We need simply to plant the seed!

If man can build a satellite that transmits pictures from billions of miles from earth, on the power of what is equivalent to an 8-watt night light, imagine what can be accomplished by our simple efforts when we rely on the power of God! What can we do together with God? More than anyone thought possible!

What Will Make Me Happy?

August 1, 2016 by Caleb Colley

Everybody wants to be happy. The question is, "What will make a person happy?"

The book of Ecclesiastes is remarkable because it provides a detailed account of a wealthy, powerful man pursuing various supposed means of becoming happy, or contented. Solomon tries every main category of secular pursuit. That is, he looks for happiness "under the sun" or without taking the will of the supernatural God into consideration.

Solomon attempted to find happiness in wisdom, or learning (Ecclesiastes 1:13-18). And, although Solomon found that there is more to be gained in wisdom than in folly (2:13-14; 7), he concluded that "in much wisdom is much vexation, and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow" (1:18).

Solomon attempted to find happiness in wealth (Ecclesiastes 2:1-11; 5:8-6:12). But, he found that "He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor

he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity" (5:10).

Solomon attempted to find happiness in various pleasures (1:17; 2:1-11). But, he found that "all was vanity and striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun" (2:11).

Solomon attempted to find happiness in power (1:12-13; 2:9). But yet again, he found that "all is vanity and a striving after wind" (1:14), because even the powerful die and are forgotten (1:3-4, 11; 2:18-23).

Finally, Solomon recognized that true satisfaction is to be found only in God: "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil" (12:13-14).

Humans are created to love God, and when we fulfill this function, we will be satisfied. Notice that to live life in fellowship with God is not to eliminate all learning, wealth, pleasures, or power from our experience. (In fact, Ecclesiastes discusses the relative value of earthly goods and noble, secular pursuits.) Rather, living life with God is to subject everything to Him in Whom we can be fully satisfied (Matthew 6:25-34; 11:29-30; John 10:10; Romans 12:1-2).

If we learn from Ecclesiastes, then we can find satisfaction in God without looking for happiness in all of the wrong places.

NEW CELL PHONE NUMBER:

Peggy Matlock: 361-649-4547

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of July 8, 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: Will Cleveland
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P.M. Opening: Lupe Escojido
P.M. Closing: Anthony Scherffius

Ushers:

Don Lynn
Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional:

Doug Jobes

Open/Close Building:

Cannady Family

Sound System:

Trenton Jenkins

Greeters:

Will Cleveland
Allen Clifton
Don Lynn

Prepare Communion: Dolan Family

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

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.

A lack of food will cause a nation to lose the fight in time of war; a lack of spiritual food will cause the Christian to lose his battle with the devil.

Wonder why we don't jump at opportunities as quickly as we jump to conclusions.

- selected-

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

TAM ARCHER, who was baptized last Monday night; REX AND MARILYN HORST, who responded to the invitation last Sunday evening; PAM STRYKER, on the passing of her father last week.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8: Jr/Sr. High Devotional @ the building. Boys bring drinks, girls bring desserts
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 25: Wed. Summer Series—Ron White
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
Sept: 15: Ladies' Day @ Southwest C of C

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Mike Page (8); Braxton Flonnory (13); Pat Davis (14)

Happy Anniversary: Les & Sandra Daltry (8); Mark & Nia FitzSimmons (9); Bryant & Nina Siegel (13)

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)	Vikram Gottam (brother-in-law of Archana Verma)
Kim Neel-Farthing (daughter of Joyce)	Antonio Benitez (brother of Virginia Escojido)

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 July 1, 2018

Bible Class.....107
A.M. Worship.....145
P.M. Worship.....101
Wednesday Bible Study.....92

Offering \$5,560.27

QUICK REFERENCE

Use this quick reference to help you grow in knowledge:

Enemies

Hate & curse you.....Mat. 5:43-44

Mat. 10:22; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Cor. 10:13



SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

New Zealand - James & Emily Cammock

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Cody Kilgore

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MidTown Church of Christ

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