

Youth NEWS

The Jr./Sr. High Devo will be hosted by the FitzSimmons Family today following evening services. Boys bring drinks and girls bring desserts.



Young Ladies' Day

University church of Christ in San Marcos invites middle school and high school aged girls to a Young Ladies' Day entitled, "We are Family!" on February 23-24. See Athena Scherffius for details.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, February 18 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "True Success." When God's favor was with His servants, they prospered in everything they did; but when people lifted themselves up as great successes, God humbled them. We must remember all we have comes from God.

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

DEACONS

Adrian Cannady
Mark FitzSimmons
Doug Jobes
Bryant Siegel

EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

John Moore
Bible Land Passages

Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.
India

Student Support
Southwest School of Bible Studies

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www.midtowncoc.org

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST

Messenger

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

"UP FROM THE GRAVE"
The Resurrection of Jesus Christ
by Ronnie Scherffius

The genuineness of the Christian faith stands or falls on the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The supreme importance of the resurrection to the Christian faith is clearly demonstrated in Scripture. When questioned regarding His authority for His actions, Jesus stated darkly: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). The full meaning of His statement was not understood by His disciples *until* His resurrection: "When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said" (John 2:22). The fact of Jesus' resurrection is mentioned no less than twelve times in the first four chapters of the book of Acts and it is the very foundation of the first gospel sermon! With great clarity the apostle Paul noted the essentiality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, affirming that the exceeding greatness of God's power to fulfill His promise of an eternal inheritance is predicated on the the resurrection of Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:18-20) and that coming judgment was assured by the His resurrection (Acts 17:30-31). Paul penned to the Romans that Jesus was "declared

to be the Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:4) and by epistle he sternly rebuked the confused Corinthians, "if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain" (1 Cor. 15:17). How significant and consequential the truth of the resurrection of Jesus Christ to the Christian faith!

BUT just how might we, living nearly two-thousand years after the fact, confirm and have an unshakeable faith in the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth? The answer lies in the empty tomb. Where is the missing body of Jesus Christ? In truth there are but three possibilities: 1) the enemies of Jesus stole away His body; 2) the disciples removed and hid His body; 3) Jesus was raised up by the power of God.

How likely is it that the enemies of Jesus removed His body from the grave? Such a conclusion is indefensible! His enemies wanted His body to remain in the tomb: "Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, ⁶³Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again. ⁶⁴Command therefore that the sepulchre be made sure until the

third day, lest his disciples come by night, and steal him away, and say unto the people, He is risen from the dead: so the last error shall be worse than the first” (Mt. 27:62–64). Further, if the enemies of Jesus had possession of His lifeless corpse would they not have produced it immediately? Such a move would have been devastating—and silenced at once the “sect of the Nazarenes.” The weight of the evidence demands that it was *not* the enemies of Jesus who removed His body from the tomb.

Who then? Could it have been the disciples who removed the body of Jesus from the tomb, laying a foundation for the greatest “religious fraud” ever perpetrated on the hearts and minds of men? This was the accusation made by the guards put in charge of safe-keeping the body of Jesus (Mt. 28:11-14), but such a notion is false on its face. Matthew wrote: “So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch [*guard - NKJV*]” (Mt. 27:66). The Greek term translated “watch” refers to a sentry of Roman soldiers numbering up to fifteen that were rotated every six hours. How hardly could we believe that a collection of eleven Jewish men overpowered (or even snuck past!) a Roman guard and removed the body of Jesus. Further, the testimony of the guards must at once be thrown out, as it is founded in bribery and conspiracy!

Another valid question raised when considering the charge of the disciples taking/hiding the body of Jesus is, “What was their motive?” There was no expectation of a resurrection of Jesus among the disciples: Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus sought the body for burial (John 19:38-40), and the women brought spices to anoint the body for a “proper burial” (Mark 16:1). The apostles themselves were in mour-

ning and weeping when they received the news of the resurrection and even then did not believe when they heard it: “And their words seemed to them as idle tales [*wild talk of those in delirium or hysteria*], and they believed them not” (Luke 24:11). Even after Jesus appeared to His apostles, Thomas, who had not been present, refused to believe (John 20:24-25). These men had supposed an earthly king with an earthly kingdom (Luke 24:21; Acts 1:7), and never contemplated a resurrected Savior *until* the resurrected Jesus appeared to them!

Finally, how can the change of attitude of the apostles be explained, but for the resurrection of Jesus Christ? Before the resurrection: the apostles fled at Christ’s arrest (Mark 14:50); John and Peter were the only apostles at Jesus’ trial and Peter (reluctantly present) denied Jesus (John 18:16); and at the cross only John was present. But what a transformation after they witnessed the resurrected Savior: “Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, **ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain**” (Acts 2:23); “But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; **And killed the Prince of life**” (Acts 3:14-15); “The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, **whom ye slew and hanged on a tree**” (Acts 5:30). For preaching the resurrected Christ, these men, who in fear fled from His presence only a few days before, were beaten, imprisoned, and even put to death—could they have stolen the body of Jesus and so diluted themselves to die for a lie?

The weight of evidence is compelling, and the testimony of Scriptures convincing—Jesus was raised up from the grave by the power and for the glory of God!

News

& ACTIVITIES

Today!

Today is the deadline to bring items for Sunny Glen Children’s Home. Please place picante sauce and sandwich bags in the boxes in the hallway.

Sunday, February 25

The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal will be held following evening services and will include the Annual Chili Cookoff! If you would like to enter your chili in the competition, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway. Please bring a dish, sides, desserts.



Records You Helped Make

For the Week of
FEBRUARY 4, 2018

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....	104
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	156
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	NA
Wednesday Attendance.....	96

Offering: \$6,816

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSE:

Please keep **Archana Verma** in prayer who responded Sunday.

MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Jan Farris
Dee Gilpatrick
Lucille Hawkins

Faye Henderson
Sandy Malone
Ann Pantel
Glenodine Pitts
Bob Smith
Clark Withers

& Friends Family:

Mary Lou Arguelles
sister of Virginia Escojido
Buster Bailey
former MidTown
Victor Benitez
brother of Virginia Escojido
Kim Neel-Farthing
daughter of Joyce
Veto Finley
father of Gayla Pitchford
Susie Mesa
former MidTown

Scarlet O’Neill
friend of Yvonne Smith
Sarah Randle
mother of Steve
Cole Ohrt
friend of Ann Pantel
Harish Reddy
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Cynthia Sneeringer
mother of Angela
James Tipton
father of Randy Tipton