

## Youth NEWS



Thank you to the FitzSimmons' Family for hosting the Jr./Sr.

High Devo last Sunday. We appreciate you!

### 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 25 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Will God Hear?" Most people pray every day. Even people who do not believe in God will sometimes pray. We wonder, "Will God hear my prayer? Will my prayers make a difference?" Faithful Christians can trust God to keep His promises.

### SUNDAYS

Bible Classes .....9:00 AM  
Morning Worship .....10:00 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  
*Education*  
Mark FitzSimmons  
*Benevolence & Missions*  
Doug Jobes  
*Youth & Family Ministry*  
Bryant Siegel  
*Finance & Worship Assembly*

### EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

### SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock  
*Hamilton, New Zealand*  
John Moore  
*Bible Land Passages*  
Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.  
*India*

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN, VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030  
[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

FEBRUARY 18, 2018

"THE POWER OF INFLUENCE  
THE IMPORTANCE OF REPUTATION"

by Ronnie Scherffius

What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? <sup>5</sup>And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. <sup>6</sup>And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. <sup>7</sup>I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." (Luke 15:4-7)

In multiple passages of Scripture we discover the power of influence. Jesus warned, "It is impossible but that offences will come [occasions of a reputation for persecuting Christians: "And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him" (Acts 9:26), but because of the good reputation of Barnabas, Saul was soon received: "But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles" (Acts 9:27). The ability one has to influence others is determined by their reputation.

Since the power of our influence is directly related to our reputation, it is of the utmost importance that we keep our reputation pure.

Solomon, a man whose wealth has rarely been equaled, wrote: "A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor [in the eyes of others] rather than silver and gold" (Prov. 22:1). Here, a man whose wealth was beyond measure, affirmed that a good name, i.e., a good reputation, is of greater value than earthly wealth! Why?! Because, by our good name, through our influence on others, we will either bring glory to our heavenly Father (Mt. 5:16) or we will bring slander to His name. To the Romans Paul sternly rebuked: "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not com-

mit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? *For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you*" (Rom. 2:21-24).

But just how do we influence others? We influence others by what we say (Eph. 4:29), by what we do (Phil. 1:27), by how we love (John 13:35), in the faith we have (James 2:18), and in the spirit we manifest (Luke 10:27). And our influence, thought it goes before us in life, remains after death: "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: *and by it he being dead yet speaketh*" (Heb. 11:4).

For many years Monterey, California, was a pelican's paradise. As the fishermen cleaned their fish, they cast the remains to the pelicans. The birds grew fat, lazy, and contented. Eventually, however the offal was utilized, and there were no longer snacks for the pelicans. When the change came the pelicans made no effort to fish for themselves. They waited around and grew gaunt and thin. Many starved to death. They had forgotten how to fish for themselves. The problem was solved by importing new pelicans from the south—birds accustomed to foraging for themselves. They were placed among their starving birds and the newcomers immediately started catching fish. In a short time the hungry pelicans followed, and through the influence of their cousins their lives were saved.

We all have an influence in the lives of someone. Our influence to do the greatest good is determined by our good name and reputation. May we ever guard our reputations so that our abilities to influence others to the cause of Christ is not diminished.

## OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD



*You are invited to MidTown's Spring Gospel Meeting*

**March 11-14**

**Presented by David Jones**

- *Sunday, March 11 at 9 a.m.*  
**GOD'S DESIRE FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH MANKIND**
- *Sunday, March 11 at 10 a.m.*  
**A Christian's Relationship to God as SAINTS**
- *Sunday, March 11 at 1 p.m.*  
**A Christian's Relationship to God as SONS OF GOD**
- *Monday, March 12 at 7 p.m.*  
**A Christian's Relationship to God as SERVANTS**
- *Tuesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.*  
**A Christian's Relationship to God as SOLDIERS**
- *Wednesday, March 14 at 7 p.m.*  
**A Christian's Relationship to God as SOWERS OF THE WORD**

## News

### & ACTIVITIES

**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.

**Sunday, February 25**

Ronnie will answer bible questions every Fourth Sunday evening. Please place questions in the 'mailbox' in the foyer.

- Thank you to all who helped bring items for Sunny Glen!
- There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway for anyone who would like their photo updated on the picture directory.
- Southwest church of Christ will host the Arise Spiritual Growth Workshop on March 1-4. See the hallway flyer for more.

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
FEBRUARY 11, 2018

#### Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....|24  
Sunday Morning Assembly.....|45  
Sunday Evening Assembly.....99  
Wednesday Attendance.....|11

**Offering: \$7,253**

## Keep in PRAYER

### RESPONSE:

Please keep **Pam Clifton** 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*  
**Mary Younglove**  
*grandmother of Naomi*  
**Kim Neel-Farthing**  
*daughter of Joyce*  
**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*