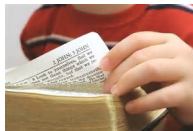


Youth NEWS



The March Sr./Jr. High Devotional will be hosted by

Ron & Mary Jo White at their home on Sunday, March 18 following evening services. Boys please bring drinks and girls bring desserts.

Education NEWS

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, March 18 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "Jesus Understands." Have you ever felt misunderstood, that no one knew what you're going through? We're happy to say there is Someone who understands our temptations trials and struggles. Because He has been there, He can help us.

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
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

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

MARCH 11, 2018

"LETTING EXCUSES BECOME REASONS" by Ronnie Scherffius

We all do it. We all do it often. We all do it often without giving it a second thought. We all do it often without giving it a second thought and without any apologies. What is this that we all do...make excuses. Children make excuses for not brushing their teeth (I forgot), cleaning their rooms (I didn't hear you say that), doing homework (I don't know how), and cleaning their plates at supper (my stomach hurts). Adults make just as many excuses as children: "I'm too busy," "I'm too tired," "something came up," "I know I promised but (fill in the blank)." Then we go about our day doing what we *want* to do, and that we can *now* do because we used an excuse to get us out of doing what we were *supposed* to do.

An excuse is simply an explanation put forward to defend or justify a fault or offense. And generally, an excuse is offered when one fails (either by forgetting or purposely putting off) to fulfill his obligation. George Washington Carver is noted as saying, "Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses." Benjamin Franklin wrote, "He that is good for making excuses is seldom good for anything else." People who are known for making excuses are generally known as unreliable and often find themselves dependent on others for even the most basic necessities. As one man said, "When you're good at making excuses, it's hard to excel at anything else."

One area of life in which we tend to make excuses more than any other, is in our Chris-

tian lives. Think about it, we seldom miss work, are rarely absent from school, we provide for our family what is needed and most of what is wanted, and generally speaking those things that need our time and attention around the house get attention. But when it comes to our spiritual growth and matters pertaining to the cause of Christ, we often find excuses to let them pass unattended. BUT, here is the sad fact — not only do we make excuses, we also allow those excuses to become *reasons* so that we feel at ease in our minds about the lack of growth in our spiritual lives, and involvement in the work of the church! Anyone ever said this regarding spiritual matters, "I don't have time"? How much time and true effort do we give each day to *studying our Bibles* and deepening our knowledge of God's Word? Surely we recall the Hebrews writer's rebuke of those first century Christians who failed to grow and the dire warning for failing to grow: "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Heb. 5:12-14) BUT we will find some *excuse* that we will give as a *reason*, such as, "I don't have time" and then find the time to do something else!

We find *reasons* for not attending Bible classes on Sunday (too early; my only morning to sleep in; only day off I have; I'm not feeling well, etc.) and Wednesday (too late; kids have homework; too close to time I get off work; too tired; etc.). We find *reasons* for not attending worship services on Sunday evening (I am so behind on work around the house; I have some shopping to do; that is the only time I have to myself; I already "went to church" this morning; etc.). We find *reasons* for not being a part of our Education/Bible Class Program (I don't know enough; I don't feel comfortable; that's not my thing; I've never done anything like that; etc.). We find *reasons* for not visiting (I'm not good at that sort of thing; I feel awkward talking to people; I never know what to say; etc.). We find *reasons* for our lack of evangelism (I don't know enough about the Bible; I don't know how to start that conversation; I am afraid they will ask a question I can't answer; etc.). We find *reasons* for not increasing our contribution (times are tough; economy is bad; inflation; cost of living; unexpected expenses; etc.). But isn't it amazing how all of our *reasons* for not being more actively involved in the cause of Christ vanish away when something that we *want to do* comes along! IF we wanted to go on a fun trip with our family and had to get up early, put off work around the house, research to gain knowledge, ask people we didn't know questions to gain information, cut corners to save money so we could make the trip — we would do it!

The point is, we allow excuses to become reasons *because* sometimes our hearts just are not in the right place — we do not have priorities in order! Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Mt. 6:19-21)

Do we sometimes allow excuses to become reasons? Where are our hearts? What are our priorities? What do we treasure? Imagine where we would be if Jesus made excuses?!

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

Today!

MidTown's Spring Gospel Meeting entitled, "Our Relationship to God" will be presented by David Jones. There will be a potluck luncheon and evening services have been moved to 1 p.m. from 5 p.m.

Tuesday, March 13

David Jones will speak at the Tuesday Bible Class at 10 a.m. Please stay for a luncheon.

- Please make note that Glenodine Pitts is back in Victoria at Elmcroft.
- There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway for anyone who would like their photo updated on the picture directory.

Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
MARCH 4, 2018

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....	126
Sunday Morning Assembly.....	156
Sunday Evening Assembly.....	115
Wednesday Attendance.....	102

Offering: \$5,438

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSES:

Please keep **Bryce and Barbie Dolan** in prayer who responded Sunday.

MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Pat Davis
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
Vikram Gottam
brother-in-law of Archana Verma
Cynthia Sneeringer
mother of Angela
James Tipton
father of Randy Tipton