



Archana Verma will host the August Family Youth Devotional. More details to come!

- **There will not be a Thursday area-wide Summer Youth Series this week. The last of the series will be held August 13 at 7 p.m. and entitled, "Who Will Follow Jesus?"**

EDUCATION

In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, August 9 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "God the Father." The Lord Jesus taught us to pray, "Our Father, who is in heaven." (Matthew 6:9). Who is the Father in heaven and what can we know about Him? Our Father is not visible to us, but He has revealed Himself in many ways.

SUNDAYS

Bible Classes9:00 AM
Morning Worship10:00 AM
Evening Worship 5:00 PM

Mondays (every first and third week)
Ladies' Bible Study 7:00 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

EVANGELIST

Clay Bond

SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock
Hamilton, New Zealand

Cecil Shaw
Ocho Rios, Jamaica

Mike Batot
Southwest School of Bible Studies

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

AUGUST 2, 2015

"THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE" by Clay Bond

The Psalmist declares, "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture" (Psalm 100:3). The behavior of sheep and people is very similar therefore it is not surprising that throughout the Old and New Testaments God refers to His people as sheep (Psalm 95:7; Matthew 9:36). Let us consider some of those similarities.

"Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture"

Psalm 100:3

First, sheep require more attention than any other live-stock animal and need a shepherd. In Psalm 23:1 and John 10:11 we learn that the Lord is our shepherd. Jesus, as the Good Shepherd, is not like the hireling who deserts the sheep when the wolf comes, instead He cares for His sheep (John 10:11-12). We have to remember that our Shepherd

will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5-6). He is there to comfort, protect and lead us. Our part is found in John 10:27-28 where Jesus said, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

Secondly, sheep have a poor sense of direction and can easily wander away from the fold and get lost. The prophet Isaiah wrote "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;" (Isaiah 53:6). Jesus, seeing the multitudes, "was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shep-

herd” (Matthew 9:36). Spiritually speaking, we are not capable of guiding our own steps. The prophet Jeremiah said, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). Solomon also said, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). God has given us His Word to guide our steps and lead us away from danger and into safety. David said, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” (Psalm 119:105). He also said to God, “Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me” (Psalm 119:133).

Thirdly, sheep are near sighted and cannot see far off. In like manner, when we are lacking spiritual perception we too can become blind and even develop spiritual amnesia (2 Peter 1:9). It is so important that we grow by adding to our faith the Christian virtues found in 2 Peter 1:5-7. The key to developing spiritual perception is keeping our eyes on God’s Word. Solomon’s wise words to his son were, “My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye” (Proverbs 7:1-2). As God’s people, we need to challenge ourselves to spend more time studying God’s word so that it will open our eyes. Like David, we must ask God to open our eyes so we can see the wondrous things that are in His word (Psalm 119:18). According to the apostle Paul, the gospel has the power “To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among

them which are sanctified by faith that is in me” (Acts 26:18).

Fourthly, sheep are vulnerable and are in need of constant oversight and protection from danger. As we relate this to Christianity, we are reminded that our adversary the devil is like a roaring lion who is trying to kill us (1 Peter 5:8). The devil is also known as the tempter who tempts us with “the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (1 John 2:16). We are vulnerable to the Devil’s temptations, but as long as we are faithfully walking in the light and resisting the Devil’s temptations by allowing God’s word to defend us, the Devil cannot touch us (1 John 1:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Psalm 119:9).

As long as we are following our Shepherd, Jesus Christ, the Devil can never pluck us from His hand (John 10:28). Understanding the analogy that we are “the sheep of His pasture” helps us to be aware of our own weakness and our constant need for Jesus Christ who cares for and loves His sheep. Can we like the Psalmist say, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want” (Psalm 23:1).

Records You Helped Make
For the Week of
JULY 26, 2015

Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....137
Sunday Morning Assembly.....166
Sunday Evening Assembly.....107

Offering: \$4,363

News
& ACTIVITIES

Sunday, August 9

Please bring baby wipes and 8 gallon trash bags for Sunny Glen Children’s Home by Sunday, August 9.

Thursday, August 20

The monthly Young Ladies’ Potluck Luncheon will be held at Noon.

Sunday, August 30

The Fourth Sunday Fellowship Meal has been moved to the fifth Sunday this month to recognize children earning Bible memory work awards during the Summer Series.

September 18-20

MidTown will host a marriage seminar entitled, “Traveling the Road of Marital Joy.” Guest speakers are John and Carla Moore. Preregister by emailing ccbond@email.com

- Homewood Team #1 will meet today.
- The Tuesday Morning Bible Studies will resume on September 8.

MEN’S MEETING:

Today, the Men’s Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. at the building.

Keep in PRAYER

RESPONSES:

Please keep **Richard and Mickey Tisue** in prayer as they are concerned about her health.

MidTown Members:

Jeff Cannady
Dee Gilpatrick
Betty Key
Sandy Malone

Bob Neel
Mickey Tisue
Ann Pantel
Glen Pitts
Rex Sims
Etta Williams

& Friends Family:

Cynthia Barrett,
daughter of Dee Gilpatrick
Sandra Barton,
sister-in-law of Karon
Josephine Escojido,
mother of Lupe Escojido
Dee Ann Eridsley
niece of Jerri Jeffres
Pam Hawkins,
daughter-in-law of June
Jim Hinchey,
brother-in-law of Lupe Escojido
Amy Jamison,
daughter of Terry
Perliene Johnson,
mother-in-law of Steve Randle
Dorothy Koenig,
mother of Mickey DeDear
Dorothy McCarn
aunt of Pam Clifton
Edna Randall,
aunt of Randy Tipton



Sarah Randle,
mother of Steve
Ernest Rundzieher,
brother of Jackie Rutherford
David Smith,
brother of Bob Smith
Richard Smith,
uncle of Les Daltry
Ray Shannon,
son of Donna
Mark Withers,
nephew of Clark
Ray Williams,
son of Etta
Martha Young,
friend of Elana Carroll