



Midtown Messenger

Volume 4

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Issue 26

Necessary Struggles

By: Ronnie Scherffius

Few things in life are guaranteed. But with great confidence, we can be assured of struggles and difficulties. Job lamented, “Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble” (Job 14:1). Solomon reflected: “For what hath man of all his labour, and of the vexation of his heart, wherein he hath laboured under the sun? For all his days are sorrows, and his travail grief; yea, his heart taketh not rest in the night. This is also vanity” (Eccl. 2:22–23). Even those striving with unequalled zeal to live righteously will face trials in life (Jn. 16:33). Still, difficulties are not necessarily a bad thing.

James instructed, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing” (James 1:2–4). Brothers and sisters, we need to understand the purpose of and learn to be thankful for the struggles of this life. Trials make us stronger. Trials give us the strength we need to endure. Uncertainties deepen our faith and trust in God. Uncertainties focus our hope and desire on the promise of things to come. Paul admonished the Philippians saying, “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” (Phil. 3:20–21). In a very true sense, this life, with all of its struggles, is preparing us for the life to come. The following illustration

demonstrates the purpose and blessings of “necessary struggles.”

A man found a cocoon of the emperor moth and took it home to observe the moth emerge. One day a small opening appeared, and for several hours the moth struggled but could not seem to force its body past a certain point. Supposing something was wrong, the man, with a pair of scissors, cut away the restraints of the cocoon. Free from the difficulties and struggles, the moth emerged easily. However, its body was swollen and its wings small and shriveled. Never having witnessed a moth emerge from a cocoon, the man expected that within a few hours the wings would spread in their natural beauty. He watched with eager anticipation. He would be disappointed.

Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the moth spent its life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings. The constricting cocoon and the necessary struggle to pass through the tiny opening forces fluid from the body into the wings. The “merciful” relief provided by the helpful onlooker was, in reality, cruel.

Brothers and sisters, sometimes the struggle is exactly what we need. Let us praise our God who allows us to endure the necessary struggles of life. Be thankful and rejoice, for these difficulties will help us become what God desires us to be.

We Are Not Doing Right (2 Kings Ch. 7)

There was a famine in Samaria and everyone was desperate. The need for food was more pressing than the danger they faced in looking for it. Elisha predicted the end of the famine but Jehoram's right hand man refused to believe it could happen so quickly. The prophet tells him he'd see it happen but that he would not eat of it (2).

Four lepers decided to throw themselves on the mercy of the Arameans, but God caused the besieging army to hear the sound of enemy armies. They imagine the worst and leave their camp in pursuit. So, when the lepers arrived at the camp, it was abandoned. They found food and riches beyond their wildest imagination. They start to hoard and gorge themselves, then had second thoughts. They say to each other, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, but we are keeping silent; if we wait until morning light, punishment will overtake us. Now therefore come, let us go and tell the king's household" (9). Several things stand out here.

THESE MEN HAD GOOD NEWS.

IT WAS WRONG FOR THEM TO KEEP SILENT ABOUT IT.

THEY EXPECTED PUNISHMENT IF THEY DIDN'T URGENTLY SHARE IT.

THEY ADMONISHED EACH OTHER TO TELL IT.

They did and they helped save the nation. God caused it to happen but He worked through these four lepers. The famine ended (and the royal officer was trampled at the gate—he saw the famine end but died before it could benefit him).

I am reminded of my task as a Christian, one spiritually sick with sin but in a simi-

lar situation. I have found good news. It is wrong for me to keep silent. I must not just share it but do so urgently! I also need to admonish you to realize you are in the same predicament as me. You cannot afford to keep silent! A feast awaits!

-Selected-

Falling Up

When I thought, "My foot slips,"
your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up.
Psalm 94:18

Have you ever fallen up?

Though you may not remember it, you have. When you were a toddler and only just learning to walk, your parents would take you by the hand to steady you, and when they sensed that you were about to fall they instinctively lifted you up so that you would not fall.

God is our heavenly Father and he has actually done this for you numerous times throughout your life. You have made plenty of bad decisions and not suffered the full consequences of those choices. When you should have fallen hard on your face, God has intervened and caused you to fall up.

The apostle Peter knew what it was like to fall up. He was often thoughtless, impulsive, and foolish. He fell often, perhaps more than any other disciple. Yet, the Lord was always there to pull him back up.

Perhaps this is why Peter would write later, "And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5:10-11)

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of June 27, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Bryant Siegel
Scripture Reading: Kirk FitzSimmons

Lord's Supper & Offering:

Communion: Lupe Escojido
Offering: James Cammock

Prayer:

A.M. Opening: Dale Hill
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P. M. Opening: Bryce Dolan
P. M. Closing: Steve Randle

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Fred Scherffius
Sun. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wed. P.M.: Doug Jobes

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo:

Open/Close Building:

Sermons are available on our website

www.midtowncoc.org

**MidTown's Bible Classes and Worship services
can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search
MidTown church of Christ Victoria.**

New Members:

Please welcome Lloyd & Yvonne Flores, Ken & Nancy Dorries, and Vergie Shelton to our congregation. We look forward to working with them under the oversight of our Elders.

Address labels for them are located on the table in the foyer.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Elana Carroll, who is having medical tests done in Houston. Mike McVey who is in PAM rehab.

Happy Birthday: Peggy Matlock (28); Zane Harris (29); Laura Purswell (30); Leon Morales, Scott DeDear (July 2)

Happy Anniversary: Rick & Rieke Bass (27); Harvey & Della Rampley (28)

Upcoming Events:

TODAY—Men's meeting today at 4pm at the building.

Sunday, July 4—Potluck luncheon after morning worship and afternoon service at 1pm.

Area Events:

June 26-30th—God Cares for You (Gospel meeting, Door knocking campaign and Ladies Day) at Natalia church of Christ.

July 9-11—Traveling the Road of Marriage seminar with John and Carla Moore in Georgetown, TX. Flyer is in the hallway.

August 7-8—Discipleship University. See flyer in hallway for details.

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Scott DeDear
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MidTown Church of Christ

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MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Mark FitzSimmons

Ronnie Scherffius

Ron White

Deacons:

James Cammock—Evangelism

Lupe Escojido—Benevolence

Bryant Siegel—Education & Finance

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class:	7:00 PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of June 20, 2021

A.M. Bible Class.....	71
A.M. Worship.....	83
Sunday Afternoon Worship.....	53
Wednesday Bible Class.....	68
Offering :	\$4,752

Reading for this week:

“Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear;
not only to the good and gentle, but also to the forward [crooked or unfair].” 1 Peter 2:18

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony
Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

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