



Midtown Messenger

Volume 3

December 13, 2020

Issue 50

A Little Encouragement Goes A Long Way

By: Ronnie Scherffius

One morning a man opened the door to get his daily newspaper. Prepared to walk to the curb he was surprised to see a little dog sitting at the front door, tail wagging with the newspaper in his mouth. At first he was a bit taken back and even thought of scolding the dog for “messing with my newspaper,” after all “that dog could have ripped this paper to pieces,” he said to his wife. However, on reflection he realized the dog had simply done him a good deed. Reconsidering, he spoke kindly to the little dog, expressing his appreciation with both kind words and a comforting tone. The following morning the man was shocked to see the same dog sitting at the front door again, wagging his tail, this time surrounded by eight newspapers!

The power of encouraging words is seldom put to use. The English novelist, Joseph Conrad noted: “He who wants to persuade should put his trust, not in the right argument, but in the right word.” Words have the power both to encourage and to discourage; to build up and to destroy. Christians should ever strive to encourage and build up one another with words of encouragement.

From the first book of Scripture to the last, examples of encouragement abound. When Abraham was in fear for his life God encouraged him: “Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward” (Gn. 15:1b). Moses was admonished to prepare Joshua for his work with words of encouragement: “But charge Joshua, and encourage him, and strengthen him: for he shall go over before this people, and he shall cause them to inherit the land which thou shalt see” (Dt. 3:28). King Hezekiah took time to encourage

the Levites whose life was wholly dedicated to God (2 Chron. 30:22) as did King Josiah encourage the priests in their work: “And he set the priests in their charges, and encouraged them to the service of the house of the Lord” (2 Chron. 35:2).

In the New Testament we discover how Blind Bartimaeus was encouraged by his fellows to approach the Christ when called: “And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee” (Mk. 10:49). In a similar fashion, the early Christians were encouraged to faithfulness and steadfastness by Paul and Barnabas, even in the face of certain difficulties: “Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22).

It is amazing what a little encouragement will do! Brother, Sister—do we use words of kindness to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ, or have we become busy complaining and criticizing? Solomon wrote: “Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones” (Prov. 16:24). The wiseman further noted the benefit of kind words adding: “Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man’s friend by hearty counsel.” (Prov. 27:9)

Brethren, let us strive to put aside negative words and harsh criticism. Let us cease from being fault finders and become faultless encouragers. What great things God can accomplish by us if we will but seek to strengthen and encourage one another in Christ.

Only Our Boast

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...
Galatians 6:14

Isaac Watts penned the words to this famous hymn:

When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of Glory died;
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

In this world we tend to define ourselves by our accomplishments in life.

- The wealthy boasts in his riches.
- The educated boasts in his knowledge.
- The entrepreneur boasts in his businesses.
- The salesman boasts in his sales.
- The coach boasts in his victories.

The parent boasts in his children.
But everything changes when one comes to the cross. First of all, there is a sacrificing of all we have. This does not necessarily mean we leave our vocation (1 Corinthians 7:20), but it does take on a different meaning. Instead of life being dedicated to a vocation, our vocation serves Christ who is our life (Colossians 3:4).

This change in perspective actually makes us work harder. We become a better parent, a better employee, a better coach, a better student, etc. Our hard work, however, will not be focused on selfish interests or glory, but rather it is completely directed and dedicated to the Lord.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were an offering far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

-Selected-

The Blessing of Struggle

For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
2 Corinthians 12:10

A boy once noticed a butterfly that was struggling to escape its cocoon. It couldn't quite squeeze through the narrow opening. Trying to help the poor creature, he tore the cocoon open so it could get out. However the body of the butterfly was swollen and its wings were shriveled. It couldn't fly.

The struggle to get out of the cocoon was taken away from the butterfly. The restricting cocoon and the effort required to get through the narrow hole is God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly out into its wings so that it can fly.

Effort and struggle and perseverance serves a similar purpose in our spiritual lives. Our lives are filled with selfishness and pride, but the discipline of God through hardships and trials is intended to help force out our self-centeredness. Trials are not pleasant but they are a necessary part of the Christian life.

Father, we thank you for discipline. Help us be trained by it so we may be partakers of your holiness.

-Selected-

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE

Week of December 13, 2020

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Jeff Harris
Scripture Reading: Fred Scherffius

Lord's Supper & Offering

Communion: James Cammock
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Doug Jobes
A.M. Closing: Mike Atkinson
P. M. Opening: Fred Scherffius
P. M. Closing: Lupe Escojido

Song Leaders:

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

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devo: Doug Jobes

Open/Close Building: Dolans/Burleson

To Our Visitors: We welcome you to our service. Perhaps this is the first time you have visited us. It is our desire to have you return often and give us a chance to become better acquainted with you. You will find visitor cards on the back of the pew in front of you. Please fill one out.

**Sermons are available on our website
www.midtowncoc.org under Resources.**

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

Please check the 2021 working copy of the Pocket Directory in the foyer. Make any corrections and if everything is correct, put a check mark by your family name. Thank you!

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please continue to pray for those affected by the Corona Virus. Desmon Flonnory, Ronnie and Curtis Scherffius, Bennie Jamison who have COVID. Allen Clifton's brother, Randy Clifton, who is in Hospice Care.

Happy Birthday: Steve Randle (13); Harper Stryker (13)

Upcoming Events:

Dec. 13: Men's Meeting at 3pm

*Dec. 13: Youth Devo after evening worship.
Please bring \$2.00 each for pizza. Individual drinks, chips and desserts would be appreciated.*

Feb. 13, 2021: Ladies' Day hosted by Midtown.

Janet Morales will be taking family pictures for our Bulletin Board on January 3rd & 10th, 2021.

*****FRIENDLY REMINDER TO CONTINUE
PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING*****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
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

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 December 6, 2020

A.M. Bible Class.....	81
A.M. Worship.....	105
Sunday Evening Worship.....	82
Wednesday Bible Class.....	30

Offering : December 6, 2020.....\$3,871

Reading for this week:

But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of
our Lord Jesus Christ...

Galatians 6:14

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony
Scherffius

GO PAPERLESS!

Want the digital version?

Email us at midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

To receive the MidTown Messenger in your inbox
or visit www.midtowncoc.org

MidTown Church of Christ

5901 N. Main

Victoria, TX 77904

(361) 573-0030

midtowncoc2017@gmail.com

