

Remember

By: Cory Waddell

Is it important to remember life-changing or defining moments? Of course, it is. Keeping such things in our memories allows the substantial impact to remain with us. They keep us focused on what is important and snap us back to reality when we begin to lose our way.

One of our more common methods of remembrance is to establish memorials. Memorials tend to be erected to commemorate events and interactions that left lasting impacts on those who raise them. These are events a generation wants to remember personally, but also that they want future generations to understand the magnitude of.

I recall being in Europe in the summer of 2001, just months before the 9/11 attacks and seeing various memorials to those who died in WWII on the beaches of Normandy, France. Some were very purposeful and well-designed, like the statue “Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves.” Other memorials are simply relics left behind from the catastrophic events of those days, landing craft.

We see this practice from Israel as well in the scriptures. The most meaningful ones came in the form of altars because they commemorated the places where God intersected their lives. For them, these altars were signs of religious allegiance and devotion to God who had impacted their lives so deeply.

A few examples include:

Genesis 8:20 – Noah built an altar after God saved him from the flood

Genesis 12:7 – Abram built an altar after the promise of descendants from God

Genesis 26:25 – Isaac built an altar when God protected his freshly dug well

Genesis 35:7 – Jacob built an altar when he returned to the place God where had previously revealed himself.

Exodus 17:15 – Moses built an altar when God miraculously helped Israel defeat Amalek

Joshua 8:30 – Joshua built an altar when Israel renewed their covenant with God after defeat of Ai.

Judges 6:24 – Gideon built an altar when he was charged by God to lead Israel in battle.

For Christians, physical altars no longer play a role in our religious devotion to God. We do

not worship at or place sacrifices upon them. However, we do still have concrete reminders of those moments God intersected our lives in meaningful ways. Our baptism is given to us as a definitive event when we can look back and say, “That’s the moment God gave me a clean conscience and bestowed his grace” (1 Pet. 3:20-21). The Lord’s Supper is a unique memorial of Jesus’ saving sacrifice because it is consumable. Paul tells us that every time we participate in this memorial, we “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” (1 Cor. 11:26).

Consider, also, that we keep personal items that serve as special reminders for such moments in our lives. My office bookshelves contain several items from special times when God felt especially close. Items from retreats, mission

trips, and even from personal relationships through the years. I even have a chunk of rock from the very first mountain I climbed, which was a very spiritual experience with the group I was with.

Today, I challenge you to take inventory of the things you have that regularly remind you of those important moments when God touched your life and shaped you into who you are? When was the last time you purposefully reflected on that event? When was the last time you thanked God for that impact? Are you still living in a way that demonstrates that influence? Take a look - Hold it in your hand - Remember

How Do I Experience God?

Selected Article

The population of this world often runs through their routines without acknowledging the presence and activity of God. Perhaps that very reality is the most unsettling truth of all. Even those who claim to be religious will buffer it by saying they are “non-practicing” — the equivalent of having a gym membership but not going. Like a bullet train passing through city buildings, so too the pursuits of man blaze past monuments that are intrinsic to the Mighty Creator. So, we are faced with a dilemma, and that dilemma revolves around the inquiry of how man can encounter God. Consider Psalm 136 as a remedy for such a conundrum.

God can be experienced in:

Creation (Ps. 136:4-9) — In this beautifully composed Psalm, the participant of praise is immediately directed to God’s work in creation. Ceasing our motion of pursuit, we come to a position of observation. Looking, hearing, smelling, feeling, and even tasting aspects of creation bring about a natural progression of looking to the Creator. One of the most obvious places to look when seeking God is the world, we live in.

Deliverance (Ps. 136:10-15) — After graduating from a simple observation of God’s power, we tend to understand the magnitude of experiencing God’s power. Such is the case for

our deliverance in this life. Can you recall all the ways that God has delivered you? Brought you out or through a situation? For the Israelites, Egypt was ever-present on their hearts. What is your Egypt? What did God save you from?

Prosperity (Ps. 136:16-25) — The easy highway to travel in this life is one of victimhood. Blaming, whining, and criticizing are all actions that demonstrate ingratitude. It is impossible to speak words of grumbling synonymously with an attitude of gratitude. Letting the sorrows of life completely veil the blessings is a way that God can be hidden from the sight of man. But when we remain constant and consistent in thanksgiving, God is more present in our life.

Love (Ps. 136:1-26) — 26 times. 26 times the phrase “His love endures forever” bears down in this emphatic worship to proclaim the wonder of God. The selflessness, care, blessing, patience, endurance, and foresight of God all bolster the love that surpasses the capacity of the human mind. Find those who are *truly* living the life of a Christian, not those who just wear the title; far too many wear “Christian” as a toll pass to get by. Associate yourself with the authentic Christian and you will see how the love of God vicariously works through humanity. It is through God’s love that we fully experience His inviting presence.

Upcoming Events

Sat. Dec. 17: Monthly youth devo with a holiday activity here at the building at 12 noon.

Sun. Dec. 18: White Elephant gift exchange after evening services. Please bring finger foods and a wrapped gift if you would like to participate in the exchange.

Sat. Feb. 4: MidTown will host Ladies Day with our sister Candice Starling as the speaker. Save this date Ladies!

Area Events (More info on the bulletin board in the hallway):

March 2-5, 2023: Arise and Overcome at South-west church of Christ.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Mary Younglove, Naomi Flonnory’s grandmother, who is in the hospital.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Les Daltry, Kin and Sandra Marie, Ann Pantel, Veronica Serenil, Clark Withers, Dee Gilpatrick, Faye Henderson.

Service Roster

Week of December 11, 2022

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....Jack Jobes
Song LeaderRick Bass

Opening Prayer..... Jeff Cannady
Closing Prayer.....Ken Dorries

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Lupe Escojido
Cup..... Bryant Siegel
Offering.....James Cammock
Assist..... Bill York
Assist..... Dan Fielder
Assist..... Jeff Cannady

Sunday Evening

Song LeaderKirk FitzSimmons

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Dan Fielder

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido/
Bryant Siegel

Wednesday Evening

Adult Class..... Brandon Starling
Song Leader Brandon Starling
Devotional Mark FitzSimmons

Other

Prepare Communion Debra Sanchez

Congregational News

Birthdays

Steve Randle.....Dec. 13
Harper Stryker.....Dec. 14

Food Helpers for the month of Dec. - Team B.

If you have any prayer requests or upcoming events to be announced, please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Preacher

Brandon Starling

Weekly Reading

“Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust.”
Psalm 16:1

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of December 4, 2022

A.M. Bible Class.....73
A.M. Worship.....96
P.M. Worship.....68
Wednesday Bible Class.....61

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*
B.K. York *Southwest School of Bible Studies*

midtown
CHURCH OF CHRIST

5901 N. Main
Victoria, TX 77904
361-573-0030

midtowncoc.org

Weekly Communication! To receive the *Midtown Messenger* and other congregational news to your inbox each week, please email events.midtowncoc@gmail.com.