



# Living By Faith

*"The just shall live by faith." Romans 1:17*

May 2, 2010

## 4th & Stewart Church of Christ

### Contact Us:

3201 4th Street  
Brownwood, TX 76801  
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### Meeting Times:

#### Sunday:

Bible Study..... 9:45 AM  
Worship..... 10:40 AM  
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM  
Redstone Service..... 2:30 PM  
Worship..... 6:00 PM

#### Tuesday:

Redstone Class ..... 9:30 AM

#### Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class..... 10:00 AM  
Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM

### Elders:

Gene Bannister ..... Billy Chism

### Deacons:

Mike Bannister ..... Jim Moore  
Don Smith..... James Thomas

### Preacher:

Ryan Smithey .....

### Works We Support:

Belize Mission & Kindergarten  
Cherokee Home for Children  
Eric Henry, SWSBS  
Food Pantry  
Gospel Broadcast Network  
Gospel Chariot Missions  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
Lake Cisco Camp  
Mission Printing  
Rohan Jones, Africa  
The Truth in Love  
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study the Bible to know more about Christ and His Church.

### Welcome!


We welcome you to our Spring Gospel Meeting that is beginning today and runs through Wednesday night. We hope that you will look at the schedule below and join us every opportunity that you possibly can. We especially want to greet those of you who may be visiting with us today and invite you worship God with us and examine the things done and taught to see that they are according to God's Word (John 4:24; Acts 17:11).

We are delighted to be joined by John Moore, the preacher for the Dripping Springs congregation just outside of Austin. John is first and foremost a Christian but also a husband to Carla; a father to three boys; a preacher in local congregations, gospel meetings, and mission work for over 24 years; a student that is well trained in Bible and education; a teacher both of the Bible but also has experience as a public school teacher and administrator; and a worker! Among his many accomplishments and credits to his great work has to be his work with World Video Bible School as narrator and author of both the book and video, *Searching For Truth*, which is, in my estimation, one of the greatest and most needed works in the Lord's Kingdom in many years. This is a great study tool for anyone to be able to sit down and study God's Word, whether in a group setting, one-on-one Bible study, or individually and come to know God's plan of Salvation and what one must do in order to be saved. Indeed John has done and continues to do much good for the cause of Christ and to bring honor and glory to God (Matthew 5:16).

I say all of that not to inflate his ego, but to whole-heartedly commend John to you as a student, worker, and preacher worthy of attention. Please join us and study along in the Bible as he presents these lessons to us concerning areas of history, science, archaeology, and geography which are designed to challenge our thoughts and strengthen our faith in God and the Bible.

Also please remember that all sessions are recorded and **CD copies are available free of charge** so you can study them further, hear one you may have missed, or share them with others! Just fill out an attendance card and indicate your desire to receive them (along with an address) and we will get them to you.

*~Ryan Smithey*

## EVIDENCE

**That Demands A Verdict**

- Sunday, May 2:  
9:45 AM: The Bible and Its Influence  
10:40 AM: I Know That God Exists  
6:00 PM: "And the Walls Came Tumbling Down"
- Monday, May 3:  
7:00 PM: Tell Me The Story Of Jesus
- Tuesday, May 4:  
7:00 PM: Why I Believe The Bible Is The Word of God
- Wednesday, May 5:  
11:00 AM: The Bible Land: A Testing Ground Of Faith  
7:00 PM: Did Jesus Really Rise From The Grave?

Make sure you join us for lunch following Wednesday morning's class as well.



*Be not wise in thine own eyes;  
fear the LORD, and depart from evil.  
It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.*

*Proverbs 3:7-8*

## THE TESTIMONY OF AN ANCIENT TUNNEL

by John W. Moore

The water was cold and the tunnel was small; so small that I walked for almost half of the way, hunched over and with shoulders touching each side of the tunnel wall. The tunnel traversed from left to right for over 580 yards until I once again saw the precious light of day. It was a walk through history that has been forever imprinted upon my mind.

Dug nearly 2700 years ago, Hezekiah's tunnel still carries water from the Gihon Spring, located in the Kidron Valley, just east of the ancient city of David, to the well-known Pool of Siloam. The tunnel is an ancient landmark and testimonial to a long-ago king of the nation of Judah.

In the eighth century before Christ, neighboring countries were threatening the borders of the once-united Israel and Judah. Judah, under the capable leadership of Hezekiah, built a reservoir and tunnel to bring water inside the walls of its capital city Jerusalem (2 Kings 2:20; 2 Chron. 32:3-4, 30). This tunnel ensured a constant supply of water for the city's inhabitants during any possible lengthy siege of an opposing army. The planning and preparation paid off when in the late eighth century B.C. the Assyrian monarch Sennacherib, moving through and conquering most of Palestine, encircled Jerusalem, caging it like a bird. However, Sennacherib failed to conquer Jerusalem or weaken its inhabitants, in part because they had a flourishing water supply and could remain indefinitely within the city walls. Jerusalem and the nation of Judah were ultimately spared, while their northern brothers Israel were taken captive.

The testimony of the ancient tunnel is one more proof of the Bible's accuracy and validity. It demonstrates that the events and people of the Bible were real and credible. Not only does the tunnel exist, just like 2 Kings reveals, but the Bible accurately pinpoints its location as well. Second Chronicles 32:30 cites the flow of the water from east to west and places its pooling area west of the city of David. Archaeologists have excavated a part of the ancient city of David and its remnants and have placed its southern tip between the Gihon Spring and the Pool of Siloam. The pooling area would have been inside the wall of the city for easy access by the Jerusalem citizens. Today that pool still exists as it did in both Hezekiah's reign and during the Lord's public ministry. Once again, the Bible's accuracy continues to be upheld. It is not only accurate in its general stories, but gives us detailed and specific information which can be verified even 2700 years later.

## ARE YOU GROWING IN FAITH?

by John W. Moore

In 2 Thessalonians 1:3 Paul commended the church for its growing faith. He said, "your faith groweth exceedingly and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth." Even in the midst of trouble and trials, these newborn babes were making spiritual progress. Wouldn't it be great if this could be said of you and me? Growing in faith is necessary and vital to our salvation. But, what does it mean to grow in faith? Growing in faith involves at least three basic elements.

First, growing in faith demands that we **listen** to the will of God. Paul wrote that faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17), and so to grow in faith one must study the pages of Holy Writ. We will never possess assurance or confident trust in God if we do not participate in a proper and diligent study of the Bible. We will never grow if we do not desire to be fed with the Word. As milk is essential to the growth of a baby, so is the milk and meat of the Word essential to the growth of a Christian (1 Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14). Saving, active, and growing faith cannot be sustained without a steady diet of Bible study. The Christian who is growing in faith has abundantly filled his life with the words of Christ (Col. 3:16). The weak Christian lacks the strength to quench the fiery darts of the wicked because he has neglected to take up the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16). Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4), but it is only victorious when it grows (2 Pet. 3:18); and it grows by the means of the knowledge of God's will.

Second, growing in faith demands that we **live** the will of God. Faith apart from works is barren, useless, and dead (Jas. 2:14-26). It will never save. If you want to make your calling and elec-

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Television	God's Plan for Redeeming Man	Bible Reading Schedule
<p>The Truth In Love (Eddie Parrish) Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB</p> <p>In Search of the Lord's Way (Mack Lyon) Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB</p> <p>Gospel Broadcasting Network Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org</p> <p>Good News Today: Sunday @ 6:00 am on Dish: 259, DirectTV: 364, Harris: 208</p>	<p><b>Hear</b> Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).</p> <p><b>Believe</b> Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)</p> <p><b>Confess</b> Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)</p> <p><b>Repent</b> of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)</p>	<p>Sunday... 1 Sam. 20-22; Luke 20:1-26</p> <p>Monday... 1 Sam. 23-24; Luke 21:1-24</p> <p>Tuesday... 1 Sam. 25-26; Luke 21:25-38</p> <p>Wednesday... 1 Sam. 27-29; Luke 22:1-23</p> <p>Thursday... 1 Sam. 30-31; Luke 22:24-53</p> <p>Friday... 2 Samuel 1-3; Luke 22:54-71</p> <p>Saturday... 2 Samuel 4-6; Luke 23:1-25</p>
<p><b>Radio</b></p> <p>Preaching the Word (Michael Light) Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3</p>	<p>Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being <b>baptized</b> for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)</p>	<p><i>Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Tim. 2:15)</i></p>

# News & Notes

## 1st Sunday

Remember that this Sunday not only begins our gospel meeting but also is the 1st Sunday of May which means it is time for our monthly potluck meal. We hope that you join us for lunch following this mornings worship service.

## Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ **May 9-12:** Gospel meeting with David Baker at the Mesquite & Rusk congregation in Ranger.
- ◆ The **Ladies Class** will meet for the last time before the summer break next Wednesday, May 12, at 10 AM. After class, those that can are invited to go out to eat with the group. The class will resume in the Fall.



## Thank You...

- ◆ **Bernice Perkins** asked me to express her gratitude to everyone for all of the cards, visits, and calls given to her as wells as the prayers offered on her behalf.
- ◆ **Lu Whitsett** called saying “Thank you so much for you loving care during these difficult circumstances and ask God’s blessings on you. I appreciate everyone.”
- ◆ We thank everyone who contributed items for the food pantry at **Cherokee Home for Children**. Those items were delivered yesterday at their annual open house.

## Summer Camp Applications

**Applications for summer camp** are at the back of the auditorium and need to be **submitted as soon as possible**.

## Hearing Assistance Available

Having a hard time hearing in the auditorium for class, sermons, prayers, etc.? You may be benefited by our new hearing assistance system which transmits the same sound coming out of the speakers to wireless receivers connected to headphones allowing you to regulate the volume as needed to suit you. If you would like to give this a try, please see Ryan.



## Volunteer Opportunity Available

Are you looking for an opportunity to help young people and have a potential impact on their future for eternity? Don Smith has been informed there is a need for faith-based mentors at the Texas Youth Commission facility. Anyone (or a pair of volunteers) can be used, no special requirements are needed. If you would be interested and want more information, please see Don.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY TO:

**May Birthdays:** Barbara Bannister (10); Nita Boyd (14); Kami Hardy (14); Pam Teague (14); Caitlin Barnum (15); Billy Chism (15); Zelma Leslie (16); Peg Moore (17); Randy Brubaker (23); Ryan Smithey (23); Peggy Luker (28); Grace Hardy (30).



*“Rejoice with those who rejoice...” (Romans 12:15)*

*Mistakes? Left Out? Let Ryan know...*

Recent Records	April 18, 2010	April 25, 2010
Bible Class	63	56
AM Worship	81	69
PM Worship	49	52
Wednesday PM	50	53
Contribution	\$1548	\$1577

Privileged to Serve	05/02/10 - AM	05/02/10 - PM	05/09/10 - AM	05/09/10 - PM
<b>Greeters</b>	Gene & Barbara Bannister		Mileen & Ashley Kahlich	
<b>Scripture Reader Scripture Reading</b>		James Fuller Joshua 21:43-45		Michael Fuller
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Paul McClung	Michael Bickford	Hank Wheeler	Billy Chism
<b>Wait on Table</b>	James Thomas*, John Barnum Gene Bannister, Hank Wheeler	James Thomas	Allen Griffith*, Don Smith Tom Wilcox, Garrett Barnum	Allen Griffith
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Ken Makuta	Matthew Churchwell	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister
<b>Attendance Cards</b>	Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey		Chase Churchwell Seth Smithey	
<b>Wednesday Devotionals</b>	May 5 Gospel Meeting	May 12 Jim Moore	May 19 Don Smith	May 26 James Fuller

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tion sure, then your faith must grow by adding to it the Christian graces (2 Pet. 1:5-7). You must acquire knowledge and learn to use it wisely and with all patience, godliness, and brotherly kindness. A growing faith is active, doing, and responsive. Only the man who believes and obeys can be blessed in his deeds (Jas. 1:25). Only the man who exercises his faith can be said to possess a growing faith (1 Tim. 4:7-8). Only when one acts upon what he reads can it be said that he possesses a growing faith.

Third, growing in faith demands that we **love** the will of God. "Perfect love casteth out fear" (1 John 4:18), and each of us should grow in faith enough to serve God because we love Him, instead of being entirely motivated out of a fear of going to hell. A Christian who has grown in faith does not view the commandments of God as grievous or burdensome, but as an honor and a privilege (1 John 5:3). He keeps the commandments because he loves God and seeks to please Him (2 Tim. 2:4). Those who keep the commandments of God out of convenience or for the favor of man (e.g., an individual who attends worship merely to

please his spouse or parents) or simply to avoid hell, do not possess a faith that groweth exceedingly. Growing faith learns the joy and happiness of serving God. It loves the will of God and will hunger and thirst for its precepts (Mat. 5:6). It yearns for its decrees and finds solace in its instruction. A growing faith discovers peace and strength inexplicable to the world (Phil. 4:7). A growing faith is manifested by the one who can, like the psalmist, say "Oh, how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." (Psa. 119:97).

Have you progressed in your faith enough to say that you listen to, live, and love the will of God? Has your faith grown exceedingly? If not, why not begin today to awaken your dormant faith. Study again the Word of God that it might cut to the thoughts and intents of your heart and motivate you to experience, once again, the graciousness of God (1 Pet. 2:3). May your faith grow exceedingly. May you then "continue in the faith, grounded and settled...not moved away," so that on that great and final day, Christ may present you holy and unblameable, and unreprouvable before our grand and glorious Judge (Col. 1:23).

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Return Service Requested