

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



November 17, 2019

Contact Us:

3201 4th Street
Brownwood, TX 76801

325-646-7102

www.4thstreetcoc.org
office@4thstreetcoc.org

Meeting Times:

Sunday:

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

Wednesday:

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

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Don Smith

John Barnum

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
World Bible School

Go Into All the World

What would you do if you could visit every nation on earth, even if it took years and years to complete that list, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe?

Some might just want to visit and have their passport stamped. After all, how amazing would it be to say you had set foot on every nation!

Some might want to buy a small trinket or souvenir to have proof of their visit to every nation.

One British man, though, recently completed a very different type of world-wide tour. In the city of Athens, he ran a marathon. That run added Greece as the 196th—and final—nation (recognized by the United Nations) that he had not only visited, but had run a 26.2 mile marathon course in! That's right: he has run a marathon on the soil of every nation in the entire world!

What an achievement! While many people like to run—even marathons—to even have such a goal is remarkable. To accomplish it, though? It is nothing short of mind-boggling, when you consider all the logistics in addition to the physical ability to complete this goal.

But what would you do if you could visit every nation in the world? Would you ever conceive of trying to hold one Bible study in every nation? Or handing out at least one piece of Bible literature in every country? Or teaching one Bible class?

It seems that some type of goal along those lines would be the greatest possible goal a world traveler could ever have!

Jesus made it clear that "*all nations*" are to be taught the Gospel (Matt. 28:19). For that to be accomplished, some need to teach the person next door. Some need to teach their own children. Some need to teach a person across town. Some need to go to other parts of their own country. And, yes, some need to travel to other areas of the world.

But, wherever we go—whether it is up and down our street or to every nation on the face of the earth—our goal should simply be to take the Gospel with us.

After all, feet that run marathons in all 196 nations may be strong and athletic, but only those feet that share the gospel are considered beautiful by the Lord Himself (Rom. 10:15).

Go into all the world...not just to see the world, but to take the Gospel to the whole world. Where will you "run to"...even today?

Adam Faughn (faughnfamily.com)



Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest. How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep—so shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, and your need like an armed man. **Proverbs 6:6-8**

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

You Can't Use Google to be an Effective Elder

Over the past fifteen years I have had the privilege to meet more than 1,000 elders scattered across the United States and abroad. I have worked with many of these men in planning Gospel meetings, Origins seminars, youth rally's, etc. Yes, there are some elders serving who are not qualified, who are poor leaders, who do not know the Word, or simply enjoy the title. But most elders I have met serve because they love souls, they love the bride of Christ, and they love their church family. These are the ones who wear the deep wrinkles, gray hair, and other "scars" from truly worrying about the souls of their sheep.

I have watched on multiple occasions elders get so choked up, as they prayed for those who responded to the Lord's invitation, that they had to stop and wipe away tears. I have listened to men share the ongoing heartache they feel having counseled broken families. I have seen firsthand visible bags under the eyes of men who stayed up late into the night praying for a specific member of their church family. I have counseled elders who desperately want to give the right counsel to members who find themselves in ethical dilemmas, such as new fertility practices.

I cannot count the number of meals I've eaten with elders who—with pain in their voices—discuss the apathy among their church family. I have been asked numerous times what resource is out there that can help get people more involved or help their members evangelize better. I have watched elders who have had to gently but firmly correct someone in a Bible class who was teaching error. And I can't imagine the number of "fires" these men have had to put out between silly squabbles in their own congregations.

But the reality is these men are rapidly getting older.

Many are very close to their reward.

Some have already died out.

And while we often view the appointment of elders as a lifelong appointment, like the Supreme Court, the reality is there comes a time when men are no longer "able to teach," "hospitable," "desire the work," or "the husband of one wife" (1 Tim. 3:1-7). In Titus, one of the qualifica-

tions is that they are to "hold fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able to exhort and convict those who contradict" (Titus 2:9, emp. added).

In other words, an 85 year-old elder who can no longer hear well, has not taught a class in over a decade, misses most elders meetings because of poor health, does not actively feed the sheep, and only holds the title elder because he was appointed 25 years ago, is no longer qualified. (I realize that this is a sensitive topic in many congregations, but the reality is the qualifications still exist even after the person has been appointed.)

As a result, in the next ten years we are going to have a massive amount of seats become available in elderships all across this land. In many congregations we either don't have enough elders to truly protect and feed the sheep, or we don't have any because "we don't have anyone qualified." I know of many congregations that only have two elders, and one is already gravely ill.

So who is going to fill their shoes? Have we honestly been training the next generation of men to take care of the bride of Christ? In Titus 2 we read, "Likewise, exhort the young men to be sober-minded in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works, in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you" (Titus 2:6-8). What are we saying when a congregation goes 10-15 years without having men qualified to be an elder? Why are we not training men for this position?

Add to this, that many congregations are missing an entire generation (20-35 year-olds). What is going to happen when it becomes time for the millennial generation to step up and lead the church?

Have you ever watched how a 20-30 year-old person solves dilemmas? Almost universally they will take out a smartphone and ask Google (or Siri or Alexa) for an answer.

"Hey Siri where is the closest gas station?"

"Hey Google, how do I get a ketchup stain out of a hemp shirt?"

"Hey Alexa, how do I make turtle cheesecake?"

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Television

In Search of the Lord's Way (Phil Sanders)

Sunday @ 7:30am on KTAB

Life In The Light (Chris McCurley)

Sunday @ 10:00am on KTAB

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)

Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

Internet

TheGospelRadioNetwork.org

Gospel Broadcasting Network (Gbnv.org)

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).

Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)

Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)

Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)

Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Reading Schedule

video.wvbs.org/access/interactive-bible-reading-plan/

Nov. 17 Jeremiah 13—15

Nov. 18 Jeremiah 16—18

Nov. 19 Jeremiah 19—21

Nov. 20 Jeremiah 22—24

Nov. 21 Jeremiah 25—27

Nov. 22 Jeremiah 28—30

Nov. 23 Jeremiah 31—33

Nov. 24 Jeremiah 34—36

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15)



Visitation Meeting

◆ Last week **38** contacts were made.

Upcoming Special Events at 4th & Stewart

◆ March 15-18—Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Richard Massey.

(Continued from page 2)

Friends, you can't use Google and be an effective elder.

Oh sure, you can ask Google some questions about qualifications or duties of an elder. But being an effective elder is more than simply asking your phone for a solution.

There are many things your smartphone cannot teach you. Like for instance:

- Google can't tell you how to properly console a mother who has just lost a child. Only time, experience, God's Word, and loss can teach you that.
- Google can't tell you how to give comfort and counsel a woman whose husband is addicted to pornography.
- Google can't identify false doctrine or teach you when you should speak up and correct someone.
- Google can't pray for your congregation.
- Google can't figure out how to resolve squabbles among your members.
- Google can't instruct you on when (and how) to use church discipline.

And while your smartphone may have a Bible on it, it can't get that information into your head and heart. Only time and study does that.

I fear that the younger generation does not want to receive instruction from the older generation—after all, they can just Google it. But as I mentioned above, there are many things Google cannot teach you. Google cannot tell you how to most effectively feed the sheep in your congregation, because Google does not know all of the intricate details about your sheep.

If we are going to preserve the bride of Christ in America we must start teaching the younger generation how to be effective leaders. We need to start mentoring the 20-30 year olds. The younger generation must humble itself and be willing to learn. Find out what caused the wrinkles and the gray hair, and listened to what they did right and what they did wrong.

I believe there is a great future for many congregations in America—as I have met some incredible men who are exactly what I believe God expects in an elder. But if we are going to pass that on and improve, then we need to put down our phones, open up God's Word, and learn from those who already walked down that path!

Brad Harrub (focuspress.org)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

November Birthdays: Linda Jimenez (8), Tammy Rudloff (8), Emilee Evetts (13), Randy Huckaby (15), Marcia Turnbull (24).

November Anniversaries: Gene & Barbara Bannister (6), Coyce & Connie Reed (7), **Charles & Bennie White (19)**.

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...



Records

	Nov. 3, 2019	Nov. 10, 2019
Bible Class	42	48
AM Worship	54	69
PM Worship	33	34
Wednesday PM	26	31
Contribution	\$2,030	\$1,919

Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work," (Titus 3:1)

	This Week: 11/17/19	Next Week: 11/24/19		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	November 2019 Make Announcements: James Fuller Prepare Communion: Tom and Carol Wilcox Clean Building: Dennis Family December 2019 Make Announcements: Don Smith Prepare Communion: Allen & Linda Griffith Clean Building: James & Cindy Fuller	
Greeters	Maninger Family	James & Cindy Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Joe Dennis	Allen Griffith		
Communion	Ryan Rudloff*, Caleb Dennis Chase Churchwell, Coyce Reed	Joe Dennis*, Randy Huckaby Vernon Zier, Kevin Ross		
Closing Prayer	Ken Maninger	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Aaron Smith	Ian Barnum		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: James Fuller	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Allen Griffith	James Fuller		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Ryan Rudloff	Joe Dennis		
Closing Prayer	Tom Wilcox	John Barnum		
Wednesday Devotionals:	November 20 Rafe Smith	November 27 Don Smith	December 4 Prayer Night	December 11 Joe Dennis

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of November 17, 2019

Sunday Class *1 Corinthians 7:21*
 Wed. Class *Servant Training: Making a Talk*

<p style="text-align: center;">Proverbs of Contrast: Laziness vs. Work</p> <p>I. Praise of Diligence (Eccl. 9:10). A. The only opportunity we have for achievement is now (Jn. 9:4). B. In the book of Proverbs, <i>diligence</i> merits several rewards. 1. <i>Material gain</i> (10:4; 13:11). 2. <i>Honor</i> (22:29). 3. <i>Spiritual gain</i> (13:4). C. "Diligence is man's precious possession" (12:27; Heb. 11:6)).</p> <p>II. The Folly Of Laziness. ("I saw a really lazy man today." "How lazy was he?") A. <i>He was so lazy that he did not want to get up out of bed</i> (6:9-11). B. <i>He was so lazy that he refused to go outside— for safety's sake</i> (26:13). C. <i>He was too lazy to work or plow</i> (20:4). D. <i>He was so lazy that he did not take care of his property</i> (24:30-34). E. <i>He was too lazy to do any work</i> (21:25). F. <i>He was so lazy that he could not do any assigned job well</i> (10:26). G. <i>He was so lazy that he would not even go out and hunt for food</i> (22:13). H. If he found food, <i>He was so lazy that he refused to prepare it to eat</i> (12:27). I. If the food was prepared, <i>He was so lazy that he could not even complete the action of eating!</i> (19:24; 26:15). J. <i>He was so lazy that he could only dream of possessing what honest toil would provide</i> (13:4).</p> <p>III. Sins Associated With Laziness. A. <i>An excuse maker.</i> B. <i>Brings shame upon others</i> (10:5). C. <i>A talker, not a doer</i> (14:23). D. <i>Life is fraught with problems at every turn; a bad influence on others</i> (15:19). E. <i>A destroyer</i> (18:9). F. <i>Despite all of these negatives, he has a good self-image</i> (26:16).</p> <p>IV. Spiritual Application. A. <i>The Folly of Spiritual Laziness.</i> B. <i>Sins Associated with Spiritual Laziness.</i> "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, provides her supplies in the summer, and gathers her food in the harvest" (6:6-8).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The Model Church: A Strong Conversion (1 Thess. 1:5-10)</p> <p>The Thessalonian church was a model; examples not only to the heathen, but also to other Christians.</p> <p>I. The model church had ministers who preached the gospel as it should be preached (5). A. Paul went to Thessalonica for one purpose: to preach the gospel and minister to the spiritual needs of people. B. Three observations. 1. <i>Paul did not preach in word only</i>; that is, he did not preach mere words, depending upon his own ability to influence people. 2. <i>Paul preached in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance.</i> 3. <i>Paul lived what he preached:</i> The brethren at Thessalonica knew "what kind of men [Paul, Silas, and Timothy] were among [them]".</p> <p>II. The model church received the Word despite opposition and persecution (6). A. <i>Despite opposition and persecution, the gospel still bore fruit.</i> B. <i>The Holy Spirit rewarded the Christians' commitment to Christ</i>; giving them full assurance of their eternal salvation and deliverance from death. C. <i>The Christians became "followers of us [Paul, Silas, Timothy] and of the Lord".</i> 1. The word "followers" means to imitate. 2. Our converts today will naturally imitate us.</p> <p>III. The model church became examples to other believers (7-8). A. This young congregation was so committed to the Lord that their testimony spread all over the world. B. The Thessalonians became followers of Paul and his coworkers (6), and then they themselves became an "example" to Christians in nearby provinces. 1. "The word of the Lord" (the gospel), as well as their "faith toward God" had "sounded forth". 2. The message had been carried so far that Paul and his companions did "not need to say anything".</p> <p>IV. The model church turned to God from idols (9-10). A. <i>They had turned to God from idols</i> (not from idols to God). B. <i>They had turned to God because of the promise of Christ's return.</i> C. <i>They had turned to God to escape the wrath of God.</i></p>
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