

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13

March 16, 2021

Update

Covid & Our Assemblies

As of today (Tuesday), Sacramento County is in the red tier. Technically, this does not change the capacity percentage for church assemblies; it is still 25%. It will change to 50% when we get into the orange tier and that may happen in a couple of weeks. The elders will be meeting tomorrow night to discuss all of our options as things improve in dealing with Covid-19.

Covid cases have dropped dramatically in the past 5-6 weeks and vaccinations are on the rise. As of this morning, California is one of seven states in the yellow (next to best) tier on the NPR “heat map” at 9 cases per 100,000 (see <https://tinyurl.com/yesrr749>). California is the most populous state but we have fewer daily cases per 100K than Florida, Texas, New York and New Jersey. In Sacramento County, ICU capacity is up to 23.5% and the positive test rate is 3.8%. If the positive test rate was the only measurement, we would be in the orange tier now. The good news is that cases are trending down rapidly and the “blueprint” for the assignment to tiers is now tied to completed vaccinations (in certain sections of the county).

The elders are also working on beginning classes “for all ages” on Wednesday nights by April 7th. We are confident we can get those going by then, regardless of our tier assignment. We’ll give update you on that very soon.

In Other News

Our friend and fellow Christian David Edwin (“Ed”) Harrell passed on to his home in heaven yesterday afternoon. I considered him one of my “mentors-at-a-distance” since he lived in Alabama and, later, Jacksonville, Florida. Our paths crossed several times, however, in meetings and at the FC Lectures and other venues. I heard him preach many years ago at the Fairview Lectures and appreciated his down-to-earth approach and sense of humor. He preached meetings for us here at Folsom a couple of times and we thoroughly enjoyed those occasions.

While he was one of the editors of *Christianity Magazine*, Ed took time to help us when we were publishing *Focus Magazine* and later was instrumental in helping us expand our subscription base. He and I had several conversations over the years, all to my benefit. Some of you who heard him preach in

his matter-of-fact, “country” style may not know that he was a genuine scholar. Here is an excerpt from his obituary in the *Florida Times-Union*. (For all his accomplishments, note, especially, the last paragraph that spells out what was most important to him):

Dr. Harrell attended the U.S. Naval Academy and David Lipscomb College before earning his Ph.D. at Vanderbilt University. He taught as a teaching fellow at Vanderbilt for four years and began his full-time teaching career at East Tennessee State University. He went on to teach at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, the University of Georgia in Athens, the University of Alabama in Birmingham, the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, and ended his career as the Daniel Breeden Eminent Scholar at Auburn University from 1990 to 2005 in Auburn, Alabama.

During his career, he authored eight books, one of which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, co-authored several books including *Unto a Good Land*, a college textbook, and wrote for a number of journals, encyclopedias, etc. As a noted expert in the field of American religious history, Dr. Harrell made numerous television appearances and was frequently contacted by media members for additional insights and historical commentary.

Dr. Harrell taught as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer from 1976 to 1977 at Allahabad University in Allahabad, India. He returned to India in 1993 as the Director of the American Studies Research Center in Hyderabad where he served in that position until 1995. Both residencies were through the Fulbright Program.

He lectured for the State Department in numerous countries in Asia and Africa. As a result of this work, he was listed in *Who's Who in the World*.

An avid golfer with a handicap of six, Dr. Harrell played on five continents

and at the highest golf course in the world in East Sikkim, India in the Himalayan Mountains.

Dr. Harrell's travels in his professional capacity allowed him to work in what he considered the most important of his life's labors: preaching the gospel, edifying the saints worldwide, and establishing New Testament churches in the farthest corners of the globe. His love for God and his love for his fellow man motivated him to work diligently to spread the news of salvation through Christ. This was the work that defined him. He was one of five men who founded and edited *Christianity Magazine* for seventeen years. His greatest desire was to be a humble servant. Baptized into the Lord's body at the age of 13, he was a constant worker in a local church of Christ wherever he found himself. Most recently, he was a member of the South Jacksonville church of Christ on Parental Home Road.

