



# Truth for Today

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## Wash Your Hands Daily

by Don Hooton

The Coronavirus has held international headlines captive for several weeks now – and now it’s a thing for the US. But how did we get here, why am I discussing a health crisis in the bulletin and what can we learn?

Investigators in South Korea allege that people who claim to follow Jesus are largely to blame for the rapid spread there of COVID-19, the illness that results from the coronavirus. It is alleged that the group led by Lee Man-hee, 80, the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, a secretive religious sect often described as a cult, is largely responsible for the outbreak of more than 5,000 people and at least 28 deaths to date in South Korea (france24.com).

Patient No. 31, a 61-year-old woman, is a member of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus in the city of Taegu who, according to authorities is linked to one in five infections. On February 7<sup>th</sup>, she went to the ER after a minor traffic accident. During exam, she complained of throat pain. She returned a few days later for treatment of a persistent fever. Doctors twice recommended that she submit to coronavirus screening which she refused both times, as reported by the *New York Times*. Her health deteriorated and ten days later, she could no longer refuse testing; on the 17<sup>th</sup>, doctors examined her more closely and diagnosed a COVID-19 infection.

While her reluctance to be tested is significant to what exacerbated the breakout, it is reported that she managed twice to leave the hospital to attend Sunday gatherings of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus. Each time, she had contact with a thousand fellow faithfuls, the Japan Times noted. “Her behaviour is not surprising to people familiar with the church,” said Chung Yun-seok, a South Korean expert on religious cults. Her cultic fear of exclusion if she did not attend and church teaching that sickness is the direct result of sin all moved her to leave medical quarantine that later exposed many to the infection.

Engaging life and discipleship in the shadow of epic medical issues is nothing new. We have had different “epidemics” in years past – and this may be no different. But we should address the reality of infection and how it impacts our discipleship with Christ.

In 1527, less than 200 years after the Black Death killed about half the population of Europe, the plague re-emerged in Luther’s hometown of Wittenberg and neighboring cities. Here is what Luther thought Christians

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed. However, the CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask. The CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

For more information please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

should do: We “must remain steadfast before the peril of death. The sick and dying need a good shepherd who will strengthen and comfort them...” But in his essay *“Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague,”* Luther does not encourage his readers to expose themselves recklessly. His letter straddles the two competing goods: to honor the sanctity of one’s own life to honor the sanctity of those in need. Then, the struggle was how many Christians exposed themselves to serve the sick and how Luther urged, as much as he could, a balanced view of doing good without causing harm to yourself.

Yet, these concerns are about thoughtlessly infecting others. The standard CDC warnings in the box above are useful advice to keep you from being infected – without the exposure of trying to help the sick – since today we live in a culture that has medical teams trained to treat the infected and to prevent exposure to themselves.

But here is the rub and why it’s here in the bulletin. Instead of reporting that Christ followers are infected because of their efforts to help the dying when no one would, some who profess discipleship are now the causes of some of the outbreak. Only God knows ultimately, I suppose, but there is an important lesson here.

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Kathy Austin** will have a follow-up procedure on Monday.
- **Maureen Chegin** has been recovering from bronchitis.
- **Kelly Cowart** is expecting their second child very soon, March 28! Pray for both.
- **Steve Dargan** hurt his back.
- **Doug and Mary Lou Hall** have increasing difficulties with mobility, preventing them from being able to attend services. A special card or call would be welcome.
- **Bill Hooton** is in Brightpointe of Rivershire skilled nursing, #127.
- **Dehbrenda Preuss** remains at Houston Med Center Methodist. Some difficulties and lots of pain. No visitors.
- **Marissa Suarez's** paternal grandmother, 98, passed away last Sunday.
- **Jon Banks'** condition has gotten to a state where the family has called hospice to his care. The family is taking it day to day, and prayers for healing—as well as prayers for comfort—are most certainly welcome.  
—See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **SPRING ADULT CLASSES**
  - **ROMANS** | SUNDAY in the Auditorium
  - **TURNING POINT** | SUNDAY in Classroom #5
  - **THEN SINGS MY SOUL - PSALMS TO SING TODAY** | WEDNESDAY
- **TUESDAY CLASS (LUKE)** | 10:30 am, class # 5.

- **OUTREACH MEETUP** | Mondays, Panera, 7 pm.
- **BARNABAS GROUP** | See Leo Betancourt
- **SONG LEADER TRAINING** | 3/15, 4:00 pm.
- **YOUNG ADULTS** | Fri., 3/20, 6:30 pm. (Potters)
- **TEEN DEVO** [12-18] | 3/28, 6:00 pm with the adult study at the Chapman's.
- **ADULT STUDY** [30/40] | 3/28, 6 p.m., C/T Chapman's.
- **BUILDING A GODLY HOME** | 4/6, 4 pm., auditorium
- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | 4/6, 4:00 pm. classroom #9
- **TEENS STUDY** [13-18] | 4/6, 4:00 pm. class #5
- **DEACON MEETING** | 5/3
- **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** | 5/31
- **VBS** | FOCUS ON FAITH | Mon-Thurs., 6/22-25, registration opens March 15.
- **WORKDAY** | 8/1
- **YOUTH LECTURES** | Sat-Sun, 8/8-9
- **MEETING** | with Ben Hall 9/13-16/2020
- **LADIES DAY** with Sarah Lyon | Sat., 10/10, 10-noon.
- **MENS DAY** with David McClister | Sat., 11/7, 10-noon.

## AREA EVENTS

- **MEETING** | Spring Woods church of Christ | Houston | 3/13-15
- **MEETING** | Kleinwood church of Christ | Klein | 3/20-22
- **MEETING** | CyFair church of Christ | Cypress | 3/29-4/1

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- **PHOTO DIRECTORIES** The most recent printed directory is in the foyer for members. Changes? See Brian Clark for any corrections or changes. **We would like all families** to update their information and ALL worship leaders to do the same. If you have any questions about the DIRECTORY application of our website, be sure to see Brian Clark.

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS for 2020**, including Communion Prep, visitor greeting and bimonthly building lockup.
- **DO YOU EXCEL in SOCIAL MEDIA?** Don is looking for some volunteers to co-manage the INSTAGRAM and TWITTER accounts with him. If you are interested, be sure to message Don or text him.
- **WOULD YOU TEACH?** John Beighle is looking for teachers for the summer quarter (Jun-Aug). Email or text him if you would like to teach.
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in encouraging our visi-

Attendance	Last Month Avg	Last Week
Sunday Bible Class	116	118
Sunday Worship AM	159	165
Sunday Worship PM	97	91
Wednesday PM	78	81

Sunday AM Worship	3/8/2020	3/15/2020	Communion Preparation
Song Leader	Alan Stilts	Steve Dargan	March— Brenda Swann
1st prayer	Craig Preuss	Al Suarez	Visitor Hospitality
Scripture Reading	Lyn Ray — 1 Peter 3:8-17	Brian Clark—Prov. 12:17-22	March—
Lord Supper Lead	Kaku Barkoh	Barrett Blankenship	Elders
Bread	Dwight Haas	Alan Stilts	Keith Arrants 936.582.1244
Fruit of Vine	Stuart Jones	Leo Betancourt	George Chapman 281.298.1303
Offering	Nathan Shows	Jacob Cowart	Norman Davis 832.326.2966
Helper	Al Suarez	Granville Betton	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Helper	Steve Dargan	Craig Preuss	Deacons
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	John Beighle 806.367.3389
Usher	Jeremy Crump	Leo Betancourt	Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093
Closing Prayer	Dwight Osteen	Stuart Jones	Brian Clark 281.513.0706
Announcements	Barrett Blankenship	Brian Clark	Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262
Sunday PM Worship	3/8/2020	3/15/2020	Craig Preuss 832.477.0578
Song Leader	Adam Bohanan	Hayden Clark	Evangelists
1st prayer	Jay Dulin	Alan Stilts	Don Hooton 936.443.6230
Scripture Reading	Dwight Osteen -Matt 5:17-26,38-48, Matt 8:31 - 9:1	Michael Henss—Matthew 8:31-9:1	<p>You can also find us here...</p> <p> <a href="http://WOODLANDSCHURCHOFCHRIST.org">WOODLANDSCHURCHOFCHRIST.org</a></p> <p> <a href="https://facebook.com/woodlandschurchofchrist">facebook.com/woodlandschurchofchrist</a></p> <p> @woodlandscc</p> <p> woodlandschurchofchrist</p> <p> woodlandschurchofchrist</p>
Lord Supper	Stuart Jones	Chris Chapman	
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	
Closing Prayer	Paul Harshman	Nathan Shows	
Wednesday	3/11/2020	3/18/2020	
Song Leader	Norman Davis	Steve Dargan	<p><b>SCHEDULE OF SERVICES</b></p> <p>Worship Assemblies Sundays at 10:20 am &amp; 5:00 pm</p> <p>Bible Classes for All Ages Sundays 9:30 am &amp; Wednesdays 7:00 pm</p>
Invitation	Alan Stilts	Keith Arrants	
Closing Prayer	Gary LeBlanc	Dwight Osteen	
Announcements	Craig Preuss	George Chapan	