



# Truth for Today

August 16, 2020

1500 Wellman Road | Shenandoah | 77384 | 281.367.2099

Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

## We are All Capable of More.

By Don Hooton

Recently, Wilson Adams posted about a 12-hour weekend course that he attended on "Recovery Through Christ Facilitator Training" with Jaime Harper from Mt. Juliet, TN where they discussed helping people survive depression, addiction, and trauma. He noted seven things that resonated with him. I have added my thoughts below:

### 1. "The loneliest place in the world is often... church."

When you arrive, do you seek out the down-trodden, the discouraged or just friends? Do you lift heavy hearts? When you feel this loneliness, do you reach out for help – and guidance? *We are all capable of more.*

### 2. "Congregations never exceed the mindset of their leadership."

Speaking as an elder, this challenges me. The manner and attitude of a group is often the reflection of its leadership. For an elder, it is a big thing to burden but an exciting thing to enable. We recognize our own shortcomings and strive to improve by God's mercies. We should expand our vision of what God intends to accomplish through all of us from God all the way down. *We are all capable of more.*

### 3. "A lot of people are hurting; it's just that we'd rather not talk about it."

How often do we fulfill James 5:16, "Confess your sins to one another?" Is it rare because we have been burned or burned other people by our petty tattling, gossip and revenge. "Brothers, it ought to not be this way." We cannot heal what we do not know needs to be bandaged. We cannot calm what we do not know needs to be quieted. Each one should care enough to ask and to have compassion enough to bear the burden *quietly* and *without* judgment. *We are all capable of more.*

### 4. "The opposite of pain, hurt, addiction, struggle, and suicide is... connection."

Fellowship is a partnership, not joined by a bank account, but by hearts. So, what can you do to connect? Can you contact Christians who are alone or grieving? Can you invite Christians to dinner ---- or a Zoom party? The list is endless of what just one person can do – because one person matters. *We are all capable of even more.*

### 5. "Have we turned the church into a Country Club for saints rather than a hospital for sinners?"

Do we count it success to "impress" the community with 'important' people in our membership? **Do we realize the impression the community needs to see in us:** "the brandmarks of Jesus" (Gal. 6:17). This word was used to describe marks put on a slave to identify his owner. While we may not bear *literal* body-marks, people should see our Owner in all of our actions and attitudes: "Always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in [y]our body" (2Cor 4:10). *We are all capable of more.*

### 6. "Studies show that unless church newcomers build 6 different relationships within a year, they will leave."

The "One Anothers" mentioned often in Scripture affirm that we

need each other. I believe we all know that. So, choose today to be one of the six to your new brother. It is *your* calling – not just the other person's. And for those who are new, you will also need to be one of the six to another soon. *We are all capable of more.*

### 7. "What if God chose to see us only for the hurt we caused Him – kind of how we choose to see people only for the hurt they've caused us?"

Take a look at the world and start looking at your brother the way God looks at you. Does God reject you because you fail? Does God reject you because you have hurt Him? Does God never forget? "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more" (Heb 8:12). *We are all capable of more.*

Adams concluded, "Many are crying and dying. As I scan the 2020 horizon, it pains me to say it, but I think we're only seeing the tip of a very big iceberg." *We are all capable of more so* "Excel still more" (1Thes. 4:1, 10).

## From Nurses, to Teachers, to Christians.

Someone shared this. And I share it with every Christian wondering what tomorrow will look like:

Dear Teachers,

*We were terrified. We were not ready. We didn't know what was to come. We did not want to change our ways. We couldn't imagine what each day would look like. We were stressed, exhausted, overwhelmed, and anxious. **But fast forward 5 months...** We are ok. We have adapted. We are stronger together. We are essential. We feel our worth. We make a difference and others know it. We are proud to go to work. I know many of you return to work this month and it is scary but I promise it will be okay. Be flexible, be strong, be creative, and be proud! You are so needed and remember that now more than ever these kids need your love and support. We've got this (teachers and nurses) and this too shall pass! Just thought you could use a little encouragement from some people who have felt what you feel.*

Love, Your Nurse Friends!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

*I can understand your weakness because I was "tempted in every way, just as [you] are—yet did not sin." "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" and I promise, that when you "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, I will give you rest." "I am not ashamed to call [you] brothers and sisters." **But fast forward...** "I will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, [those] who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet [Me] in the air. And so, [you] will be with [Me] forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words."*

Love, Your Eldest Brother

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- **Morgan Potter and Trevor** are the proud parents of a beautiful girl, Josie, born on early Monday, 7lbs, 7oz, and 20.5" long. Everyone is healthy and resting.
- **Becky Stilts** gave birth to to Mason Phoenix-Stilts on Wednesday at 12:45 pm. Both are doing good.
- **Dehbrenda Preuss' dad**, Bill Harrison's recent tests showed an increase in cancer markers and the tumor has grown, although less than expected. If they can keep his strength up, he begins a new IV treatment and oral medication.
- Connor Foster, boyfriend of **Preuss' daughter Lindsay** is in TIRR and improving slowly.
- **Ross Randow's father**, Paul Randow, had cancer surgery on Tuesday and it was successfully removed. He was scheduled to go home Tuesday.
- **Rommie Back** is scheduled for a second opinion this past week on a bypass surgery option
- **ECONOMIC CHALLENGES.** There are still some of our church family who have had pay-cuts, furloughs and job loss. Please let the Elders know. There are many who are ready to help.

—See Enews for Ongoing Prayer List

## GATHERINGS UPDATE

- Beginning September 6, we will adjust the seating arrangements. Seating will change from reserved for specific people to reserved for a maximum number on a first come-first seated basis. In other words, pews will be marked with a maximum seating (and a chart will be emailed to you as well as posted in the members only area in the website) and is available for whoever arrives first. No seat will be assigned to a specific family after August.
- Also, in light of the still effective mask order from Governor Abbott that we overlooked,

and the individuals who expressed strong concerns about being inside with unmasked people, we are rescinding our previous proposal for September regarding offering a "masks optional" section in worship seating. We will move ahead with the unassigned seating for maximum seating on individual pews; however, we will move to masks optional when we believe we are acting in the right interest of all.

- If you would like to mail your contribution, send to 1500 Wellman Road, Shenandoah, TX 77384.
- **UPDATE on Mid-Week Bible Classes:** Beginning in September, our weekly Bible classes that meet on Tuesday morning and Wednesday nights will resume, with the same recommendations for safe gatherings. What this means:
  - ◊ The Tuesday class will meet in the auditorium seated in recommended spacings.
  - ◊ The Wednesday Night Bible Class for the Adults will meet in the auditorium self-seated in recommended spacings.
  - ◊ The Classes for children and young people will meet in their rooms that will be adjusted to enhance social distanced seating as well as sanitized regularly. The decision was made primarily because some schools are resuming in-class instruction. We will, however, watch carefully to keep safety as our top protocol

## VIRTUAL SCHEDULE (through August):

- Sunday Worship | LiveStream on Sundays, 8:30 a.m.
- Kids Bible Class Material is available for pickup outside the classes in the hallway outside classroom #1
- Sunday Class | Songs Outside the Psalter | LiveStream on Sundays, 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday Class | 119: The Psalm of the Word | LiveStream on Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m.
- High School Classes (ages 13-18) | Available via ZOOM.
- "Building Strong Families" Monthly Class | contact the elders for more info.

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- 2:52 Kids Class [2-12] | (TBA)
- TEENS STUDY [13-18] | (TBA)
- YOUNG ADULTS | (ZOOM study TBA)
- TEEN DEVOS [12-18] | (TBA)
- ADULT STUDY [30/40] | (TBA)
- BARNABAS GROUP | See Leo Betancourt
- MEETING with Daniel Broadwell | 9/14-16
- WOMEN'S DAY with Carmen Betton | 10/10
- MEN'S DAY with David McClister | 11/7

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- VOLUNTEER SIGN UPs. See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett Blankenship know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE? See Leo Betancourt about getting involved in Barnabas Group.
- HOSPITALITY? Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for the family at a funeral.

## WEEKLY BIBLE READING

- **Week Thirty-Four** (beginning 8/23)
  - Read Psalm 33, 83, 134
  - Memorize Psalm 133: 1-3
- **Signup for weekly reminders at** <https://www.remind.com/join/weeklymemo>

| Attendance         | InPerson Average Last-Month | Virtual Average Last-Month | InPerson Last Week | Virtual Views Last Week |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| High School ZOOM   | n/a                         | n/a                        | n/a                | n/a                     |
| Sunday Adult Class | n/a                         | 11                         | n/a                | 13                      |
| Sunday Worship AM  | 95                          | 24                         | 123                | 42                      |
| Sunday Worship PM  | n/a                         | n/a                        | n/a                | n/a                     |
| Wednesday PM       | n/a                         | 16                         | n/a                | 24                      |

| NEXT WEEK'S SERVICE & WORSHIP ASSIGNMENTS | 8:30 AM   Aug 23          | 10:00 AM   Aug 23               | Contact Information              |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <i>Communion Preparation</i>              | G/L Chapman               | G/L Chapman                     | <b>Elders</b>                    |
| <i>Sound Booth</i>                        | C. Latson                 | C. Latson                       | Keith Arrants 936.582.1244       |
| <i>Foyer 1/Greeting</i>                   | A. Bohanan                | S. Jones                        | George Chapman 281.298.1303      |
| <i>Foyer 2/Usher</i>                      | L. Betancourt             | J. Crump                        | Norman Davis 832.326.2966        |
| <i>Song Leading</i>                       | H. Clark                  | D. Haas                         | Don Hooton 936.443.6230          |
| <i>1st Prayer</i>                         | B. Blankenship            | N. Shows                        | <b>Deacons</b>                   |
| <i>Scripture Reading</i>                  | J. Dulin—Ephesians 1:3–13 | T. Chandler—Philippians 3: 1-11 | John Beighle 806.367.3389        |
| <i>Communion</i>                          | B. Blankenship            | D. Haas                         | Adam Bohanan 281.798.1093        |
| <i>Bread</i>                              | n/a                       | n/a                             | Brian Clark 281.513.0706         |
| <i>Fruit of Vine</i>                      | n/a                       | n/a                             | Gary LeBlanc 281.292.0262        |
| <i>Contribution</i>                       | n/a                       | n/a                             | Craig Preuss 832.477.0578        |
| <i>Assist</i>                             | n/a                       | n/a                             | <b>Evangelists</b>               |
| <i>Assist</i>                             | n/a                       | n/a                             | Don Hooton 936.443.6230          |
| <i>Preaching</i>                          | D. Hooton                 | D. Hooton                       | <b>Website</b>                   |
| <i>2nd Prayer</i>                         | R. Randow                 | A. Suarez                       | www.woodlandschurhofchrist.org   |
| <i>Announcements</i>                      | G. Chapman                | B. Clark                        | <b>Office Phone</b>              |
| <i>InterService Clean—Foyer /Bath</i>     | K/N Davis                 | B/T Clark                       | 281.367.2099                     |
| <i>InterService Clean—Auditorium</i>      | N. Enright                | M/C Chandler                    | <b>Church Email</b>              |
| <i>Doors Open @8   Lockup @11:30</i>      | S. Dargan                 | G. Chapman                      | woodlandschurhofchrist@gmail.com |