

NEWS

Myles Alexander Dow was born August 1 to Josh and Alyssa Dow in San Antonio, TX. Congratulations are in order for them and for Grandparents Derinda and Roger **Lambert** and John and Maria Dow, and Great Grandparents Leon and Alma Goff—**Kenneth and Beverly Amerson** continue to do reasonably well. Kenneth has some bad days from time to time—**Judy Hinson** had a bad day Thursday. She called her doctor in Dallas and he was able to give her medication to help with the pain. Tumors have returned and she will be taking chemo treatments again soon—**Tonette Harrel** has (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Richard Montgomery—
936-577-4819

DEACONS:

Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday

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

PREACHERS:

Drew Nelson 254-541-3815
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

August 16, 2020

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture:

Sunday Evening

PRAYERS

Sun. AM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

PM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—

P.M.—

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Think It Over—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

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Repentance

By Randy Harshbarger

“Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, do you suppose that these Galileans were greater sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish” (read Luke 13:1-9 NASV).

Tragedies, either deliberate or by accident, generally pique the interest of those who were involved in the episode; or, some just wanted to talk about what had happened. Some came to Jesus, talking about Pilate killing some Galileans and mixing bloody sacrifices. Where and when did this happen? No one knows. Then, a tower in Siloam fell, killing eighteen men. Jewish thinking in the 1st C. blamed the sins of those involved, then it must have been because thy had in some manner violated God's will. Did Rome really have the right to go around killing people? Would Jesus take sides in these matters? Did He even care about these events and the personal trauma that came to those involved?

Jesus' call to repent was meant to force His listeners to focus on their own lives and on their own relationship with God. The Galileans and those killed by the falling tower were dead; they could not be brought back; they could no longer serve God and repent. Maybe they needed to repent; maybe they did; we don't know. That is not the point. Those who listened to Jesus could repent. They could follow Jesus and become part of His kingdom. Repentance had been the constant cry of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The tragic death is when the deceased leaves this world unprepared

for judgment. A tragic death can only be averted now, in this life, by following the Lord. Sin is associated with death; sin brings death; we must face our mortality. Disaster always follows failure to repent.

You may have an accident and lose your life; this may be through no fault of your own. You may make certain choices (bad, good, neutral) that may end you life. The point is: When will these things happen? Do you know? We must be prepared to leave this old world at any time. The problem is that we continue to live not thinking about what Pilate might do to us or about a tower falling on us. When something happens to someone else, we take some notice. But until we repent, we really haven't been serious about truly following Jesus. We haven't noticed anything at all.

Death is coming to all. The only thing that will make a difference in your life at that time is repentance. Repent or not, you are going to die. Repent or not, a tower might fall on you. Repent or not, an accident might take your life. It is not when we will die; it is that we will die. That is the value of Jesus' call to repent. He wants us to be ready to meet Him on the last day. What about the Galileans and those killed by the tower? What about their spiritual condition? We don't know. The question is: What about yours?

Latest Barna Research Reveals 1 In 3 Christians Stopped Attending Church During Pandemic

(By Mark White)

Barna Research is a well-known group of religious researchers who generally have their finger on the pulse of what modern "Christians" are doing and thinking. Now, I must clarify that "Christian" means something different to Barna Group than to those of us who are members of the New Testament church. Barna uses the term broadly, including all people who claim to be evangelical Christians in our culture. Yet, Barna is highly regarded among sociological researchers as both accurate and objective. All that said, pay close attention to their latest findings looking at changes in church attendance after the COVID-19 pandemic grew in the United States. **Their result reveals that one in three "practicing Christians" has stopped attending church services in any form, amid the pandemic.** Many churches switched from in-person services to online varieties of some sort or a combination of these options because of coronavirus. The switch was well-received by some "Christians", but unpopular with others. The poll released last week (July 8, 2020) found that 35% are still attending their pre-COVID church; 32% are no longer attending church in any form; 14% have switched to a new church; and, 18% are watching worship services from different churches each month. Barna's research also showed a pattern between the differ-

ent generations of practicing Christians who attend church online: 50% of **Millennials** (those born between 1981 - 1996) have stopped attending church of any sort; 17% of **Generation X** (those born between 1965 - 1980) are now attending a new church; and 40% of **Baby Boomers** (those born between 1946 - 1964) stayed at the same church. According to Barna, it is difficult to determine what caused believers to stop participating online or to change churches, but it is obvious the pandemic has upended so many of life's routines, including church attendance. Despite the pandemic, however, many Christians remain close to the church and turn to their faith family for support.

What does this polling mean for us? Several things come to mind. One, we need to be carefully looking out for our own brethren (Gal. 6:1,2). Two, we need to realize that this is a time when we might have greater opportunity to evangelize (**2 Tim. 4:2**). Three we must be cautious to remember "*let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*" (1 Cor. 10:12). We would certainly hope that our own congregation would fare better than this Barna poll indicates. We also know that our adversary the devil will take advantage of this unusual health threat to also threaten the faith of some of us. How is your faith doing?

Paul Coffman Update

On Friday I enjoyed studies and working with 12 gospel preachers and making plans for the weeks ahead. We are getting them into a

WhatsApp kenya workgroup where they have for almost a year received daily Bible studies designed to build Scriptural sound teaching as well as an outreach tool. In the plans each day the 12 will receive, study, and send to 20 friends. These 20 will be a mix of members currently those in home studies and newly converting them. We talked about the studies and home studies could increase as the messages continue through email and multiply though village and rural areas where they can get local contact and more studies. They viewed 20 as a small amount but from the few quickly expands into almost 5,000. I am set for home studies Saturday and Sunday travel to one of the 6 new congregations who also received food and Bibles recently. I was happy to hear since I left that they have had almost 60 Baptized into Christ. The joy of babes in Christ bringing friends and family to hear the words of life. Indeed the Word has not returned void. God bless, brother paul

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NEWS (continued from back page) had 3 radiation treatments and has 30 more to go. She is having her treatments here in Mt. Pleasant. She seems to be doing well—I am doing well with my therapy. I plan to be in church this Sunday—Remember **Charles Davis, Rance Hockaday, Kenneth Amerson, Kenny Ferguson, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Betty Rust, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown**—Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust, and Marion Shurtleff.**