

### Bright Lights

In the summer of 2015, a group from our church was sobered by what we saw in Mathare, one of the slums in Nairobi, Kenya. We visited a school with dirt floors, rusting metal walls, and wooden benches. But against the backdrop of extremely humble surroundings, one person stood out.

Her name was Brilliant, and the name couldn't have fit her better. She was an elementary school teacher who possessed joy and determination that matched her mission. Colorfully dressed, her appearance and the joy with which she instructed and encouraged the children were stunning.

The bright light Brilliant brought to her surroundings resembles the way Christians in Philippi were to be positioned in their world when Paul wrote to them in the first century. Against the background of a spiritually needy world, believers in the Lord Jesus were to shine "like stars in the sky" (Philippians 2:15). Our assignment hasn't changed. Bright lights are needed everywhere! How encouraging it is to know that through the One "who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose" (v. 13) believers in Jesus can sparkle in ways that fit Jesus's description of those who follow Him. To us He still says, "You are the light of the world. . . . Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:14-16). ~Arthur Campbell

***14You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16In the same way, let your light shine Before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matt. 5:14-16)***

### Kennewick Church of Christ

3926 W. Kennewick Ave. Kennewick, WA 99336

509-783-4013

Website: [www.kennewickcoc.com](http://www.kennewickcoc.com)

Facebook page: Kennewick Church of Christ

Church Email: [kencoc@gmail.com](mailto:kencoc@gmail.com)

### Meeting times:

#### Sunday:

Sunday Bible Study 9:30 am

Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 am

Sunday Night Worship 6:00 pm

#### Wednesday:

Wednesday Night Bible Study 7:00 pm

#### Elders:

Clarence Botts: 509-521-3344; [ccbotts@hotmail.com](mailto:ccbotts@hotmail.com)

LaVern Engelke: 509-783-6479; [vern.engelke@gmail.com](mailto:vern.engelke@gmail.com)

#### Minister:

Dustin McCrickard 509-579-9068

Open Congregational meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday at 5:00 pm. All are welcome

Attendance 03/24: 59 | Budget \$2400.33 | Contribution 03/24 \$2540.00

March 31, 2019

### Kennewick Church of Christ

### Broken-Hearted Because of Lost Souls

The God of heaven is devastated when humans refuse to submit to Him and accept His salvation. In speaking about the rebellious Jews of Ezekiel's generation, God said, "...because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols..." (Ezek. 6:9). Man's sin crushes God's heart.

Do you recall how Jesus wept over the city of Jerusalem because its inhabitants would not accept Him as the Messiah, and by rejecting Him brought condemnation on their souls? As he approached the city in what some call His "Triumphant Entry," despite the excitement of some, His heart was broken. Luke's concise record says, "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it" (Luke 19:41). A few days later, as He was drawing ever closer to the cross, the sadness in His heart sound forth in these words: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stoneth them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together; even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!" (Matt. 23:37).

God's servants are broken-hearted, too, when people are lost. Jeremiah is labeled as "the weeping prophet" because we read about how his tears flowed due to the Jews' choice not to obey the Lord God (Jer. 9:1).

Have you ever paid attention to the following statement which the writer of the book of Psalms made to God? "Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law" (Psalm 119:136). It is not revealed whom "they" were or what specific transgressions they had committed, but the Psalmist's heart was devastated by their disobedience and what each did to their relationship with the Lord.

Among the early Christians, more than once we read about the apostle Paul being moved to tears because of false teachers and departures from the faith. As he was telling the shepherds of the church in Ephesus about a future departure from the truth, he reminded them that for three years he had warned them night and day with tears (Acts 20:31). While in chains in Rome, he wrote a letter to the saints in Philippi, warning them about enemies of the cross. As he brought up that unpleasant topic, he said he was weeping as he wrote (Phil. 3:18). The man was broken-hearted because of sin and its affect on people's eternal destiny.

Some look at the masses of the world who are steeped in spiritual darkness and just seem to shrug their shoulders with the observation, "Well, it always has been like that; there is not much we can do about it." Perhaps others of us have become desensitized to sin. We see it and hear it so much that it kind of feels like it is no big deal. May God help us if we ever get to the point we view sin as a small matter. And, God help us if we do not share His broken heart when people live and die separated from Him.

Compassion causes Christians to communicate to lost people what they need to hear, which is God's eternal soul-saving truth. "Oh, will you not tell it, today?" ~Roger Campbell

<b>Keep These Dates in Mind</b>	<b>April Birthdays and Anniversaries</b>	
03/31 Fifth Sunday Singing <b>04/07</b> First Sunday Potluck 04/13 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship 04/14 Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 04/19 Family Fun Night 6:00p <b>05/05</b> First Sunday Potluck 05/11 Men's Breakfast and Fellowship Open Congregation Meeting 5:00p 05/15 Soup Night 05/24 Family Night 6:00p	Avi Botts 4/3 Betty VanVorst 4/6 John Hopkins 4/8 Al & Pat Lindsay 4/12 LaVern & Sammie Engelke 4/18 Eunice Petross 4/25	<i>Lord, Today give me the courage To live boldly, To stand firm in my convictions And To remain faithful to you. Amen</i>
	<b>Bible Studies</b>	

Are we ready to follow Christ?  
To truly seek out the lost for their Salvation?

<b>Adult Bible Classes</b>	<b>Youth Classes</b>	<b>Ladies Class</b>
Sunday am.–O.T. Beginning in Gen 12 Wed pm – Shadows of the church from the O.T	Classroom Wing <b>Teen Class</b> - Teen Room	Thursday 10:00a.m – 11:30a.m.



**Issues (ongoing):** Karen McBurney, Bob Childers, Shirley Childers, Kaleb McCrickard, Sue Aldrich, Marji Lindholm, The Johnson family, Marilyn Davis, Randy Hargus, Eunice Petros, Tami Pennington

**Bob Childers** has been moved to Hospice care. Please Keep him and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Keep **Jim Preston** in your prayers as he continues to heal and go through therapy for his knee,

Our Lectureship **Humble Beginnings** is only a month away. Make your plans now to attend and to invite a friend. May 1 – May 5

### **Our Ministries**

#### **Mountain States Children's Home**

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world. (James 1:27)

#### **Peru Ministry** – Oscar and Anna Maria in Peru

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and of the Holy Spirit

#### **Food Pantry** - Our food pantry is located in the small room next to the library.

"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed." (Proverbs 19:17)

#### **Austin and Kennadie McCrickard** – Bear Valley Bible Institute

"And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

### **Faithfulness and Foolishness**

Jeremiah was a prophet of fearless integrity. Spokesmen like this faithful prophet are sorely needed today. Dryden is quoted as saying, "To take up half on trust, and half on try, name it not faith, but bungling bigotry." Jeremiah was not one to only trust half-way in Jehovah!

God told his mouthpiece, "Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word (Jer. 26:2). The Lord's house is the last place one should seek to diminish the Word of God! What the "cities of Judah" needed was strong proclamation of God's truths so they might "turn every man from his evil way" (Jer. 26:3). Jeremiah knew that professed proclaimers of truth who were afraid of offending the princes of the people were like salt that had lost its savor. Such salt is not fit for land nor dunghill (Luke 14:34), and is "cast out and trodden under the foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

It is no different today with the Lord's church! Professed preachers who attempt to modify the force of God's Word because of fear of losing members should be rebuked by godly elders. In far too many instances, however, those who are called "elders" have no desire to "cross" the people in the pew. Preachers and elders who do not want "the whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27) taught to the congregation and refuse to repent will see God take their part "from the tree of life, and out of the holy city" (Rev. 22:19). Christians are commissioned to teach and honor all of God's Word!

"Thou shalt say unto them, thus saith the Lord; If ye will not hearken to me, to walk in my law, ... to hearken to the words of my servants the prophets, ...I will make this...city a curse to all the nations of the earth" (Jer. 26:4-6). Unbelief and disobedience have a way of catching up with people. It is a terrible thing for people to have no interest in God, but it is especially tragic when the light of truth grows dim in God's house.

The Lord's church today is a disgrace and a curse upon society when it will not stand for the truth. A terrible thing it is when ten righteous people cannot be found (cf Gen. 18:32). A congregation is of no value to the city or community when it is no longer a beacon of light (truth) to a lost and dying world.

"When Jeremiah had made an end of speaking all that the Lord had (him) to speak unto all the people, that the priests and the prophets and all the people took him, saying, thou shalt surely die. Why hast thou prophesied in the name of the Lord, saying, This house shall be like Shiloh and this city shall be desolate without an inhabitant? And all the people were gathered against Jeremiah in the house of the Lord" (Jer. 26:8-9). God's spokesman, Jeremiah, clearly shows they were dishonoring and degrading both the "house" and the "city." This was more than their pride could bear, and they turn on Jeremiah. But God's house and His city are worth nothing if its occupants are living in sin!

To kill Jeremiah would not kill God's purpose. Neither will dismissing faithful preachers of the Gospel deter the purpose of the Lord!

Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The Lord sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard. Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God; and the Lord will repent him of the evil that he hath pronounced against you" (Jer. 26:12-13). A faithful mouthpiece of God can take back nothing that has been proclaimed. The "house" and the "city" can only be saved by the people's repentance and steadfast obedience to God's Word.

If congregations today are to be delivered from desolation and destruction, the voice of Jehovah must be obeyed. No comfort will be forthcoming to those who hear God's Word but refuse to obey it!

~Martin L. Weir