

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XX

July 19, 2015

Number 27

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Mary Byars
 Cradle Roll 2: Larry Byars
 Sun. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
 Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of July 12, 2015

Sunday School ----- 17
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 31
 Sunday Evening Service ----- No Service
 Wed. Eve. Service, 07/15/15 ----- No Service

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of July 12, 2015

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,288.15
 Total Received for Week of 07/12/15: \$ 1,288.15

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed
 to operate the church EACH WEEK,
 as a minimum = **\$ 1,400.00**



CRADLE ROLL

OUR VERY NEWEST :

Julia Grace White

Born to Seth and LeAnna White
 June 23, 2014
 8 pounds, 2 ounces

CONGRATULATIONS!

AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH -

Sunday, July 12, 2015

Mr. Doug Everett ----- by Letter

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. *Admit that you are a sinner.*
2. *Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.*
3. *Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.*
4. *You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).*
5. *By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.*



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
 ----- Greeter
 Shayne Hooper, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Ella Allen ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford



Gypsy Smith
1860 - 1947

And Lot Lifted Up His Eyes

*"And Lot lifted up his eyes" - Genesis 13:10
 by Evangelist Gypsy Smith*

Lot's mistake and the consequent loss of his wife and possessions and family followed, when he pitched his tent towards Sodom.

You remember that interview with his uncle Abraham. They were living together and their stock and herdsmen were becoming too many to live together peaceably. Lot was the younger of the two and should have revered the opinions of his old uncle.

Abraham said unto him, "Choose." He gave him the choice of the watering places and fertile grazing fields. Why didn't Lot say to his uncle as he should have said, "Uncle, give me your advice; you are an older man than I." But he didn't do that - he settled it himself. He looked toward the well watered plains of Sodom and selfishly chose them. He pitched his tent towards Sodom and in that way lay danger.

Don't pitch your tent towards Sodom - the next step you will be in Sodom. No man who professes to believe in Jesus Christ can go into Sodom without one of two things happening: either you must make Sodom better or Sodom will make you worse. You can settle that once and forever. Either you will uplift Sodom or Sodom will lead you far from the path in which you can walk and talk with Jesus.

To begin with, if you are a Christian, you have no right in Sodom unless you go there to preach the Gospel - unless you go there to preach and interpret God's mind and Word.

But That Was Not Lot's Purpose in Going to Sodom.

- He went there because his heart was there.
- He liked the ways of the people of Sodom.
- He liked the glitter and the flash and the sparkle of society there.

The Bible calls Lot righteous later on. If he is called righteous, it is because when God forgives a sin, he does it wholly and completely. Lot showed very little of virtue in Sodom. He did not hurt himself trying to make it a better city.

If you take your family to the Devil, do not be surprised if the Devil damns them. Don't tear God from the hearts of your children and be surprised some day if the Devil gets the vacant place.

I have known many a mother come to me and ask me to pray for her boy. And I know she is living a worldly life, and how can she expect her boy to become a dutiful Christian?

"How old is your boy?" I asked that woman.

"He is about twenty-one years of age," she said.

"How did you live when he was a little fellow?" I asked her. And I knew that she was not the mother she ought to have been. If you mix up with the doubtful and the frivolous things don't be surprised if some day you wake up to find you are the parent of half-damned children.

The other night I was spoken to by a woman who said, "I am the mother of four children; my husband was unconverted when I married him."

I replied, "You were a contracting party; you were disobedient.

What right had you to marry an unconverted person when God had said distinctly and definitely to you, ***'Be ye not unequally***

yoked together with unbelievers., ‘Many sorrows shall be to the wicked.’”

If people will choose their own way and pitch their own tents toward Sodom, they must expect trouble. And if you don’t expect it, it will come. The unalterable law of disobedience is the hiding of God’s face.

If you pitch your tent toward Sodom, you are going to have trouble. If you choose the well watered plains of Sodom, because it will bring you social prominence, it will bring you trouble, that is all. It means the loss of the fellowship of God. Your windows ought to be opened towards Jerusalem. They can’t be opened towards Sodom.

- That way lies pleasure,
- That way lies self-indulgence;
- That way lies the world;
- That way lies darkness,
- That way lies guilt;
- That way lies the wrath of God and fire of God.

Don’t Pitch Your Tents Towards Sodom!

I have known mothers and fathers, church members, who have stood in the way of their children’s service to God. I have been preaching long enough to know these things. I have seen mothers and fathers who were church members who would not approve of their daughters becoming missionaries, but who were quite willing for them to marry men who were morally rotten because they had money. They were willing to sell them for an automobile.

I am talking to women who will spurn a sister-woman if she falls, but will take back the man who ruined her. They will bring him into their homes and jazz with him. Jazz with a man like that! You church women will do that. That is looking towards Sodom! You will let your pure daughter jazz with a moral leper and you will kick the woman who has been ruined by that moral leper out of your home, out of your presence, out of your Church!

But God’s sympathies are with the poor woman who is kicked into the gutter. His lips never said an angry word against the woman who had fallen. His withering sarcasm was hurled at the hypocrites who condemned her.

You Remember Lot’s Wife and What She Stands For. She Stands for Sodom.

- She stands for the things some of you are standing for.
- She stands for some of the things you are clinging to.

You have got Prohibition - why don’t you prohibit? Why are you not loyal Americans and stand by the Eighteenth Amendment? If you expect America to stand by you and protect you and your family, why should not you keep all its laws and be loyal or leave the country?

Do you know what you Christian mothers ought to do? You ought to make it so hot in your city that bootleggers couldn’t exist. You want the strong drink put away from your sons, don’t you? You want the saloons closed, don’t you? Well then, close

your cellars and sideboards!

If you are what you ought to be, you will not taste or handle it yourself, or be guilty of the awful crime of giving alcohol to any human being in God’s earth. You are helping Sodom, that is all. I don’t care who you are. I don’t care what your social position is. You represent Sodom. If you are allied with the forces of evil in any shape or form, you belong to Sodom!

Remember the Wrath of God on the People of Sodom.

There is nothing much said of Lot here. But I should think enough has been said of him. If you go to Sodom, you ought to make it better than it is.

When Jesus accepted an invitation to a worldly feast or social function, He preached a sermon or worked a miracle; He turned the occasion into one of healing, helping or the saving of some one or the delivery of a message which made some poor, broken heart glad.

Where you have one friend, I have thousands. But nobody invites me to a wine supper. Nobody invites me to a dance or to play cards. And I am as lively as any of you. Don’t you think there isn’t a bit of skip in me because then you wouldn’t know me. I am tempted by the same things that you are. Why don’t they invite me to dance? Why don’t they invite me to wine suppers and to play cards? Why not?

You say, “Oh, Mr. Smith, it is obvious —

You think I wouldn’t go.”

And you won’t go either, IF you are the Christian you ought to be!

Oh, my God, make us out and out anew! Turn your faces on Sodom and look towards Jerusalem. Dare to be a Daniel. You know how Daniel acted at that court. The men who hated him said, “We shall never catch him unless we catch him at his prayers.”

Then they went and said to the King, “Oh, King, live forever.” That is the way we always approach those we want to get something of by flattery. They said, “We want you to make a decree that nobody shall pray in this city for so many days, or be cast into the den of lions.”

The King signed the decree. But Daniel went just as before to his knees and he kept his window open toward Jerusalem. And he prayed.

My brother, my sister, only prayer will make you strong, and noble, and true, and constant, and faithful, and Christlike in the midst of the unreality and sham of the superficial life about you. And if you try to go with one and hold to the other, well, you will come to grief. If you pitch your tents towards Sodom, and then get there, you will lose your soul. If you are saved as by fire, it won’t be a very glorious salvation. The world will lose more than you gain because of your inconsistency.

You may be saved by the skin of your teeth, but what about your family you left in Sodom? ■

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

❑ ***JIMMY CARTER SAYS JESUS WOULD APPROVE GAY “MARRIAGE”*** - In a July 7 interview with HuffPost Live, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said: ***“I think Jesus would encourage any love affair if it was honest and sincere and was not damaging to anyone else, and I don’t see that gay marriage damages anyone else. I believe Jesus would approve gay marriage. That’s just my own personal opinion.”***

Jimmy Carter is a longtime Sunday School teacher at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, though he doesn’t believe the Bible. In 1997, Carter rebuked the Southern Baptist Convention for targeting Mormons with the Gospel. Carter loves modernistic theologians such as Barth and Brunner who denied the infallible inspiration of Holy Scripture, the virgin birth of Christ, and other cardinal doctrines. After his election to the presidency, Carter appointed pro-abortion activist Sarah Weddington to the position of Assistant To The President. He has been promoting homosexual rights since the early 1990s.

To say that Jesus would approve of gay marriage is ridiculous, since Jesus defined marriage as one man and one woman as “at the beginning,” referring to Genesis 2. ***“Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”*** (Jesus Christ, Matthew 19:4-5).

❑ ***CANADA COURT UPHOLDS HOMOSEXUAL AGENDA OVER RELIGIOUS FAITH*** - The Ontario Superior Court has upheld the decision to deny accreditation to a Christian law school because of its stance against homosexuality.

When the 4,000-student Trinity Western University in Vancouver, British Columbia, wanted to open a law school a couple of years ago, the Law Society of Upper Canada barred accreditation. The Ontario Court ***“found that the denial of accreditation did violate Trinity’s freedom of religion, but that this violation was acceptable because of the greater good of protecting equality”*** (“Canada Court Denies Christian Law School Accreditation Due to University’s Rule against Gay Sex,” The Stream, July 5, 2015).

This is the latest in a series of attacks on religious liberty in Canada. Ken Ham rightly observes: ***“[We] have been warning that legalizing gay ‘marriage’ is only the beginning of an agenda. From what we’ve seen and know about the LGBT movement, the leaders don’t just want legalization of their immoral behavior, but also want to force acceptance of this on everyone. They want everyone not just to tolerate their position, but to accept it while they themselves show intolerance for those who do not hold to their views”*** (Around the World with Ken Ham, July 7, 2015).

❑ ***BAYLOR UNIVERSITY DROPS BAN ON HOMOSEXUALITY*** - The following is excerpted from “Baylor University Drops Ban,” Houston Chronicle, Jul. 7, 2015:

“The world’s largest Baptist university has dropped a ban on

‘homosexual acts’ in its sexual conduct policy. After years of appeals from students, alumni and others, Baylor University revised its policy, dropping the ban on gay sex to ‘state more plainly the expectations of the university,’ a Baylor spokeswoman said Tuesday. ***‘These changes were made because we didn’t believe the language reflected Baylor’s caring community,’*** spokeswoman Lori Fogleman said in an email. ...Baylor’s previous policy called ‘homosexual acts’ a misuse of ‘God’s gift,’ along with sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, incest and adultery. ...

The school’s updated policy, approved by Baylor’s board in May, is far more vague than it’s last one. It says the university will be guided by ***‘the biblical understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God.’*** Sex, the policy says, ***‘is to be expressed in the context of marital fidelity.’”*** Concluding Comment: It is not an act of “care” or compassion to authorize something that God plainly forbids. Furthermore, it is impossible for homosexuals to express their sexuality “in the context of marital fidelity” when the Bible only endorses such a context for a man and a woman.

❑ ***THE LOCATION OF SODOM*** - Dr. Leen Ritmeyer, architect and archaeologist, has made three reconstructive drawings of the ancient city of Sodom and its gate based on research done over the past two decades by Dr. Steven Collins, Dean of the College of Archaeology and Biblical History at Trinity Southwest University, Albuquerque, New Mexico. We understand that Ritmeyer has assisted some in the excavation.

They believe that Sodom was located at Tel el-Hammam, almost due east of Jericho on the eastern side of the Jordan. This is in the plain of Jordan, which is the area where the Jordan flows into the Dead Sea. It fits the Bible’s description of Sodom’s location in Genesis 13:10-11. Lot lifted up his eyes from Bethel, which is west of Jericho, and saw the region to the east, describing it as ***“the plain of Jordan.”*** From Bethel, Lot journeyed east to Sodom. The Hebrew word for “plain” in Genesis 13 is “kikkar,” which refers to a circle, a perfect description of the plain of Jordan. Ritmeyer reports, ***“During the excavations of Tall el-Hammam in 2013, a large gatehouse with pillars was found behind the main entrance to the Middle Bronze Age city. This reconstruction drawing shows what the main gate of Tall el-Hammam would have looked like. The drawing shows a right angled pathway through the gatehouse with a space at the side where the elders and judges of the city would have congregated. Many other exciting finds were made, such as melted potsherds and burnt skeletons, that testify to a terrible and fiery destruction, reminiscent of that described in Genesis 19.”***

Whether or not Tel el-Hammam is Sodom, there is no doubt that Sodom and its sister cities were located somewhere in that area. Dr. Ritmeyer’s reconstructive drawings are based on actual archaeological research and are beautifully done, bringing ancient Bible history to life. ■