

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of April 25, 2021

Sunday Morning Service -----	28
Sunday Evening Service -----	20
Wed. Evening Service, 04/28/21 -----	10

AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

Week of April 25, 2021

- Number of people who connected with our services on Facebook -

Sunday Morning Service:

216 Views 80 Engagements 450 People Reached

Sunday Evening Service:

53 Views 53 Engagements 61 People Reached

Wednesday Evening Service:

36 Views 32 Engagements 41 People Reached

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of April 25, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,022.31
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 66.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/25/21:	\$ 1,088.31

- Week of April 18, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 921.28
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 10.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/18/21:	\$ 931.28

- Week of April 11, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,025.21
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 30.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/11/21:	\$ 1,055.21

- Week of April 4, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,074.54
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 40.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 04/04/21:	\$ 2,114.54

- Week of March 28, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,899.30
Church Insurance Fund -----	\$ 30.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 03/28/21:	\$ 1,929.30

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

**PLEASE BE FAITHFUL TO GIVE,
- ESPECIALLY NOW**

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.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part this pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE DURING THIS CRISIS:

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

**WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD &
STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE! YOUR
GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND
CONTINUE OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS!**

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianist/ Organist
Mickie Shatwell -----	Evening Pianist
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Larry Byars -----	S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain -----	Outreach
Bertha Segebarr -----	Custodian
Flowers -----	Shirley & Brenda White
Sound/Video -----	Seth White



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 05/05/21-----	\$ 537.92
Amount Received To Date -----	\$ 106.00

TOTAL STILL NEED BY MAY 5, 2021: ----- \$ 431.92

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XXVII

May 2, 2021

Number 16



After \$40,000,000 in fines, Police To Lock Doors and Take Over Canadian Church

A judge has ordered a Canadian church to cease worshipping together in their church building, granting the province of Ontario the authority to bar the doors and prevent any congregants from entering. This is the end result after months of fines and threats of fines have proved unsuccessful in coercing the church to cease gathering together as one, an act that is in contravention to provincial lockdown orders that limit church gatherings to 10 people for both indoor and outdoor services regardless of size or capacity limits.

In many ways, Trinity Bible Chapel (TBC) in Waterloo, Ontario has faced the most opposition and steepest price out of any church in North America for being open. GraceLife Church in Alberta had their pastor arrested and spend over a month in jail, and their church is likewise now taken away, but TBC has endured absolutely brutal, punishing, unending fines for being open.

They're facing 40 million dollars in potential fines right now. And while the large multi-million dollar fines might possibly be appealed if granted - some of their large fines like the \$83,000 given for a single service cannot be waived, removed, or appealed. These crushing tickets are not just to the Church entity, but parishioner after parishioner is being handed crushing fines for daring to attend. These are crippling numbers, but they have not bent the will of the church.

So now they are having the church building taken away from them.

The judge in the case, Justice John Krawchenko, noted in his decision that the church must be locked up because if it remained open, "the risk of irreparable harm would be too great to ignore."

In a public statement that everyone should read in full titled *We Lost the Building but Kept the Church*, Pastor Jacob Reaume recounts how they prayed for their own building for years and finally moved into it in the middle of the pandemic, sharing how "It was a time of great joy, and we looked forward to serving our community and worshipping our Saviour in this facility."

"But now: We have around 600,000 people who live in this region. There are 588 active cases of COVID in the region, with 32 people in the ICU with COVID. That's enough to deem the public worship of Jesus Christ dangerous and enough for the Province of Ontario to kick us off our land and bar our doors shut... Our experience (with COVID) doesn't line up with the hysteria whipped up by government and media, nor do the numbers warrant turning control of the Bride of Christ over to the Premier of Ontario."

"The purpose of this seizure is to prevent us from meeting as a church. They believe that we will continue meeting in our facility, no matter the fines or the public shame heaped on us. We are willing to pay any price necessary to worship our Saviour because He is worth it. He died for us, and we want Him to receive a reward for His suffering. Churches used to sing songs like Charles Wesley's 'O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing' and mean it. We still do."

"But it's now cost us our facility. That's after policemen sat outside our lot in cruisers on Sunday to chase our people down and ticket them after the service for gathering to worship. That's after each elder received a ticket this past week for opening the church. That's after the church itself received a ticket this week. That's after we were convicted of our second count of contempt of court today. That's after we've now received so many dozens of charges I've actually lost track. Combined, we are facing over \$40 million in fines with jail time. *That's not enough, so they've taken our building...* because they think that will stop us from worshipping. For twenty years our church has worshipped together each Lord's Day, and we've only met in our own building for eleven months. So the best part of our history we have not owned a building. We managed just fine to gather together without our own building, and now we don't have our own building again. During that season we could have complied with all the nonsense protocols. But if we had done that, we would have already conceded the facility to the Province. The Province would have essentially owned not only our building, but also our fellowship and also our worship. We did not let them own our building. We did not let them own our worship. We did not let them own our fellowship. So, they stole our building, at least temporarily. *We'll keep our worship. And we'll keep our fellowship.* Many churches around these parts think they still own their buildings, but they already voluntarily handed their buildings and their people and their worship over to Caesar months ago. We just forced Caesar to come and take the building, but we've kept the church.

"Caesar can have the brick and mortar. We've kept the church for Jesus. He who seeks to preserve His church will lose it, but he who loses the church for Christ's sake will keep it." ■

A REGENERATE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

by Evangelist David Cloud
(continued from last week)

In his book on church discipline, James Crumpton divided discipline into constructive church discipline, corrective church discipline, and punitive church discipline, and he said that constructive church discipline begins with care in receiving members.

“A very important measure in constructive church discipline is that of exercising care in receiving members into the church. The devil could tuck his horns behind his ears, walk down the aisle of the average church, ask for membership, and be received without one dissenting vote. ... To bring the person seeking membership in one of the local churches of our Lord Jesus Christ face to face with what church membership really means is for his good, the good of the church, and the glory of the Saviour. Many churches receive members, never telling them that they have a covenant. With too many of our day, church membership has degenerated into a trivial ceremony that has absolutely no place of value or lasting interest in their lives. Folk by the hundreds and thousands join the church yet never support it with their testimony, time, money, talents, presence, influence, labor, or prayers. Therefore, the purpose of constructive church discipline is to so change this sad state of affairs that being a church member will really have a vital meaning” (James Crumpton, *New Testament Church Discipline*).

Charles Spurgeon’s Care in Receiving Members

Charles Haddon Spurgeon began pastoring the Metropolitan Tabernacle of London, England, in 1853 at age 19, and was the senior pastor until his death in 1892. His superlative preaching drew massive crowds, and the church grew from two to three hundred to a membership of over 5,300.

Spurgeon believed in a regenerate church membership and was very careful in this regard.

He didn’t give invitations to come forward after his sermons. Instead, he invited seekers to meet with him at his office on Monday morning. He wanted to deal with seekers carefully and properly.

Prospective candidates for baptism and membership went through a multi-step process:

1. The enquirer met with one of the elders or deacons to share his or her testimony.

Following is an account of this from Wonders of Grace: Original testimonies of converts during Spurgeon’s early years (compiled by Hannah Wyncoll, copyright 2016 by Wakeman Trust).

“On a weeknight evening each week church elders would see enquirers at the Tabernacle. For each one they would write an account of their spiritual journey. Often the discernment they exercised can be seen in the advice given, and in further visits over weeks or months until they were sure that the enquirer was

truly saved. The core of the testimony would need to show that the person was relying only on the blood of Christ for salvation. They would also be asked if they understood the need for the imputed righteousness of Christ. They would talk about the doctrines of grace and whether they would-be member was looking only to Christ rather than their own merit. If the applicant was not quite clear on some things, the elders might give further questions to be answered, Bible passages to be read and prayed over, or as one elder put it, he ‘prescribed her some pills of precious promise with a little draught of sympathetic experience to wash them down.’ They might be given the Baptist Confession of Faith to study, or be directed to attend one of the Bible classes to help them further. ... The *Sword and the Trowel* of 1865 says that elders look for four things: Tenderness of conscience, attachment to the means of grace, desire to come out of the world, and deep interest in the unconverted.”

2. If the elder or deacon was satisfied with the testimony, the enquirer was recommended to meet with Spurgeon.

“If satisfied, an interviewing elder would give a card, with the number matching the report, for the enquirer to see C.H. Spurgeon” (*Wonders of Grace*).

3. If Spurgeon was satisfied, he nominated someone to visit the candidate “to enquire as to the moral character and repute.”

“Spurgeon would spend several hours every Tuesday afternoon seeing many such people, taking a brief interval to compare notes with his elders. He would then appoint an elder or deacon to visit to ensure the applicant was living a consistent, godly life at home. Attendance at as many meetings as possible on Sundays and during the week was seen as a sign of true Christian life. Many were in service and had very little free time away from their work, but their new Christian instinct should be seen--to assembly together whenever possible. ... [A] theme which shines out distinctly in the vast majority of records is the forsaking of worldliness at conversion. All is changed for the convert. Worldly pleasures are given up and the life devoted to Christ and his people from that time on. Pursuits such as the penny theater, public houses, music parties, the use of popular songs, and gambling are spoken of repeatedly as holding no pleasure for the new believer. The markedly different life of believers is often mentioned as instrumental in bringing others to enquire into Christian things. The change was not limited to church attendance, but extended to all areas of life” (*Wonders of Grace*).

4. If the home visitor was satisfied, he invited the candidate to attend a special congregation meeting to appear before the church family. There the candidates would again give their testimonies and answer any questions from church members. These meetings were not rushed and could last several hours, beginning at 2pm and sometimes “lasting till a late hour at night.”

5. The church then voted whether to receive the candidate as a member.

6. If approved by the vote of the church, the candidate was

baptized and received into membership and participated in the next communion service.

This process began during the earliest days of Spurgeon’s pastorate at Metropolitan. During the first six and a half years, there were 1,442 new members, most by baptism. “That’s 1,442 membership interviews by a deacon, 1,442 meetings with Spurgeon, 1,442 membership visitations, 1,442 testimonies before the congregation, and 1,442 approvals by the congregation (not to mention over a thousand baptisms, as most of these were new converts)” (“Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon’s Metropolitan Tabernacle,” *The Spurgeon Center*, Feb. 8, 2018).

To maintain church membership required faithfulness to the Lord’s Supper. “Upon joining the church, members were given a communion card, divided by perforation into twelve numbered parts, one of which was to be delivered every month at the communion. These tickets would checked by the elders and if any member was absent more than three months without any known cause, the elder in whose district he resides is requested to visit him, and send in a report.’ Often, in these visits, the elders would uncover pastoral needs. This enabled the church to work towards meaningful membership by providing better care and discipleship, or by removing those members from the membership” (“Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon’s Metropolitan Tabernacle”).

Spurgeon preached against the practice of puffing up the church’s membership roles with people who are not present and active. “Let us not keep names on our books when they are only names. Certain of the good old people like to keep them there, and cannot bear to have them removed; but when you do not know where individuals are, nor what they are, how can you count them? They are gone to America, or Australia, or to heaven, but as far as your roll is concerned they are with you still. Is this a right thing? It may not be possible to be absolutely accurate, but let us aim at it... Keep your church real and effective, or make no report. A merely nominal church is a lie. Let it be what it professes to be” (Spurgeon’s final message to the Pastors’ College, cited from “Meaningful Membership at Spurgeon’s Metropolitan Tabernacle”).

- continued next week

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☛ ***SOUTHERN BAPTIST PASTOR APOLOGIZES FOR CREATIONIST WHO DEFENDED THE BIBLICAL SEXUAL ETHIC IN HIS PULPIT*** - Answers In Genesis (AiG) [has been] ‘deplatformed’ by a church! And what issues do you think [caused] this ‘deplatforming’? Well, LGBTQ and the age of the earth/universe issues! ... Here is Dr. Terry Mortenson’s report in his own words:

‘Sunday morning [Grace Point Church, Bentonville, Arkansas, on Jan. 17, 2021], I gave a message on the ‘relevance’ of Genesis, similar to what Ken Ham and all our speakers present for a first presentation in a church. I explained that Genesis 1–11 is foundational to the rest of Scripture and showed that the

acceptance of millions of years and evolution undermines the Bible’s teaching on sin, marriage, death, the gospel, and morality.

With respect to marriage, after quoting Jesus in Matthew 19:4–6, I said that adultery, fornication, pornography, homosexuality, and transgenderism are all wrong because they are contrary to God’s created order and commands.

During the last song, the pastor asked me to go backstage to a room. He told me that what I said about the moral issues (especially my brief LGBT comment) was not what he wanted and that I needed to change the message before the second service and essentially replace that marriage section with comments about God’s greatness and design in creation. ... I found out that the next week in his sermon, the pastor apologized for what I had presented the previous Sunday morning. And all my presentations had also been removed from the church’s website and Facebook page.”

☛ ***ALBERTA PASTOR KICKS HEALTH OFFICIAL & POLICE OFF CHURCH PROPERTY AGAIN*** - The Polish pastor who went viral after forcefully ejecting police and health officials from his church in Calgary, Alberta, on Good Friday received another visit from them on Saturday, prompting him to kick them off church property again.

Pastor Artur Pawlowski, who recorded the incident, went on to warn his viewers against what he believes is growing state tyranny in Western countries done in the name of public health....“I do not cooperate with Gestapo,” Pawlowski told the health inspector, who was flanked by several armed, black-clad Calgary Police officers. “I do not talk to the Nazis. You came in your uniforms like thugs. That’s what you are. Brownshirts of Adolf Hitler. You are Nazi Gestapo, communists, fascists. I do not cooperate with Nazis. Talk to my lawyer. You are not allowed here, you are not welcomed here, and I’m not going to cooperate with Gestapo like you, okay?”

The health inspector and police slunk away after Pawlowski made clear he was not interested in having a conversation. “You are sick, that’s what you are!” he yelled as they left. “And rightfully so you change your uniforms to black, because you are exactly acting like the Gestapo of old.”

...“If Canadians will not rise up and stand up, if they will not come to their senses while there is still time, while there is a time to wake up and push this evil, there will be absolutely no, no rights whatsoever,” Pawlowski continued. “If they can get away with this, they’re going to come anywhere else. And, you know, that’s what people do not understand. They think that this is some kind of a game. Do you think that they are here for your health? Seriously?”

Pawlowski, who grew up under the jackboot of the Soviets behind the Iron Curtain in Poland, said, “I have been warning you for 16 years about what’s coming, and it’s here. And it’s up to you. Either you are going to keep pushing as hard as you can, or you are going to be [swallowed] by those people. The history is teaching us that those types of people will never stop.”