

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of August 22, 2021 -

Sunday Morning Service -----	32
Sunday Evening Service -----	21
Wed. Evening Service, 08/25/21 -----	11

AND THE PEOPLE "TUNED IN"...

- Week of August 15/2021 -

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

Sunday Morning Service:

63 Views 78 Engagements 85 People Reached

Sunday Evening Service:

47 Views 49 Engagements 45 People Reached

Wednesday Evening Service:

37 Views 43 Engagements 64 People Reached

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.

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of August 22, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 613.46
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/22/21: \$ 613.46	

- Week of August 15, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 877.09
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/15/21: \$ 877.09	

- Week of August 8, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,082.38
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/08/21: \$ 1,082.38	

- Week of August 1, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,017.38
Love Offering, Dr. Phil Stringer ----- \$ 1,137.18	

TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/01/21: \$ 2,154.56

- Week of July 25, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 634.06
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/25/21: \$ 634.06	

- Week of July 18, 2021 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,085.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 07/18/21: \$ 1,085.00	

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



CHURCH INSURANCE FUND

Monthly Premium, Due 09/05/21 ----- \$ 537.92
Amount Received For Sept. ----- \$ 0.00

AMOUNT STILL NEEDED FOR SEPT., 2021: -- \$ 537.92

Thank You For Your Faithful Help With This Need!

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

Volume XXVII

August 29, 2021

Number 33

CHRISTIANS IN DIRE DANGER IN AFGHANISTAN



A member of Taliban stands guard as people walk at the entrance gate of Hamid Karzai Int'l Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 16, 2021.
(Reuters photo)

As the Taliban tighten their grip on Afghanistan, Release International warns attacks on Christians are likely to rise across the region as the Taliban's swift advance emboldens extremists. Afghanistan's major cities have fallen like dominoes before the Taliban, in the drive by the militants to create an Islamic emirate.

One church leader in Afghanistan said Christians were living in great fear. Some who worked for the government now face reprisals, and any identified as Christians could be killed. Christians risk betrayal, even from their own family members.

A Christian contact of one Release International partner describes the situation as "dire." Says "Micah":

"Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are. In the areas that the Taliban now control girls are not allowed to go to school and women are not allowed to leave their homes without a male companion."

...To be exposed as a Christian risks being charged with apostasy, which is punishable by death or imprisonment. There have also been honour killings of Christians by their families. ... In May 2021, the Taliban bombed the Sayed Ul-Shuhada High School in Kabul, killing at least 85, mainly schoolgirls. The previous year the Taliban staged a shooting at a maternity clinic, killing women, children and babies.

...Thousands of Afghans, including Christians, are seeking refuge in neighbouring Pakistan. But the Taliban are growing in influence there, too. Some observers say Pakistan has provided a safe haven for the Taliban and has supplied them with weapons and finance. Before the Afghan president fled, he accused Pakistan of permitting thousands of jihadi fighters to cross its border to support the Taliban.

- from "Taliban in Kabul," Release International, Aug. 16, 2021

Church Directory

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

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

□ **COURT OVERTURNS CALIFORNIA LAW THAT CRIMINALIZES PRONOUN MISUSE** - A California law that criminalized “misgendering” and the misuse of pronouns is unconstitutional under the First Amendment, according to a new decision by the state appeals court.

At issue is a 2017 multi-faceted California law that placed new restrictions on long-term care facilities and was geared toward protecting LGBT residents. It was dubbed the “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Long-Term Care Facility Residents’ Bill of Rights.” Last week, a three-judge panel of the California Court of Appeals unanimously struck down a section of the law that prohibits employers from using the wrong pronouns. Violating the law could subject the employer to criminal penalties, including fines and jail time.

... [the court ruled], “the First Amendment does not protect only speech that inoffensively and artfully articulates a person’s point of view. At the very least, willful refusal to refer to transgender persons by their preferred pronouns conveys general disagreement with the concept that a person’s gender identity may be different from the sex the person was assigned at birth.”

... The section in question makes it unlawful to “illfully and repeatedly fail to use a resident’s preferred name or pronouns after being clearly informed of the preferred name or pronouns.” Eugene Volokh, a professor of law at the University of California-Los Angeles, wrote on his blog that the decision is “significant and worth noting.”

□ **AMY GRANT TELLS HOMOSEXUALS “IT DOESN’T MATTER HOW WE BEHAVE OR HOW WE’RE WIRED”** - Amy Grant, known as “the Queen of Christian Pop,” recently said in an interview of Apple Music’s LGBT-themed Proud Radio, “None of us are a surprise to God. ... I was invited to a table where someone said ‘don’t be afraid, you’re loved.’ ... Gay. Straight. It does not matter. It doesn’t matter how we behave. It doesn’t matter how we’re wired” (“CCM Icon Amy Grant,” Relevant Magazine, July 12, 2021).

This is a dangerous error that ignores repentance and the new birth. God does love every sinner, but He doesn’t accept sinners on their own terms. The Bible plainly says that homosexuality is a sin against the God who made man “male and female.” Jesus Christ said, “*I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3). The members of the early churches came from every type of sinful background, including homosexuality, but they had repented of their sins and been converted by God’s Spirit. Paul was very clear on this matter. “*Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such WERE some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God*” (1 Cor.6:9-11).

Amy Grant well represents the field of Contemporary Christian Music in that she follows her own heart rather than the Word of God, and she has been doing that for a very long time.

□ **TALIBAN KILLING PEOPLE FOUND WITH BIBLES ON THEIR PHONES** - (Breitbart) The Taliban is killing people in Afghanistan they find with copies of the Bible on their mobile phones, a Christian non-profit announced on Tuesday.

The Taliban, a radical Islamist terrorist organization, seized leadership of the country on Sunday after surrounding the nation’s capital, Kabul, prompting former President Ashraf Ghani to flee. The Taliban ruled Afghanistan until 2001, when the United States invaded the country, and established a brutal regime that regularly persecuted political dissidents, religious minorities, women, and anyone considered to be violating Islamic law, or sharia.

According to SAT-7, an organization that broadcasts Christian programs to churches and Christians in the Middle East and North Africa, the Taliban is using “spies and informants” to persecute the Christian minority in the country.

“We’re hearing from reliable sources that the Taliban demand people’s phones, and if they find a downloaded Bible on your device, they will kill you immediately,” said SAT-7 North America President Dr. Rex Rogers told Religion News Service. “It’s incredibly dangerous right now for Afghans to have anything Christian on their phones. The Taliban have spies and informants everywhere.”

Other Christian nonprofits and ministries that specialize in assisting persecuted Christians around the world have been sounding the alarm as well, emphasizing the ruthless nature of Taliban leadership. A Christian contact of one Release International partner described the situation as “dire” in a report published Monday. Release International is a Christian ministry that also assists persecuted Christians around the world. “Our brothers and sisters in Christ are telling us how afraid they are...

□ **ELEMENTARY TEACHER ‘MISPLACES’ AMERICAN FLAG, HAS KIDS PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO TRANS PRIDE FLAG INSTEAD** - In a further sign of the times demonstrating that faithful believers need to pull their children out of the indoctrination machines that are (most, but not all) government-run public schools ASAP, a teacher has posted to TikTok a story of how she lied to her students about misplacing an American flag, on accounts of it making her feel “uncomfortable,” and instead had children pledge to the LGBTQQIP2SAA flag instead. The teacher, who has not been identified yet, explains:

“Okay, so during third period, we have announcements and they do the Pledge of Allegiance. I always tell my class ‘stand if you feel like it, don’t stand if you feel like it, say the words if you want, you don’t have to say the words’. So my class decided to stand, but not say the words. Totally fine, except for the fact that my room does not have a flag. It used to be there, but I took it down during COVID because it made me uncomfortable. And I packed it away, and I don’t know where, and I haven’t found it

yet. But my kid today goes ‘hey it’s kind of weird that we just stand and then you know, we say it to nothing.’ And I’m like, ‘Oh, well, you know, I gotta find it. Like I’m working on it. I got you.’ In the meantime, I tell this kid, we do have a flag in the class that you can pledge your allegiance to, and he like looks around. He goes. Oh, that one?” (Insert Laughter here)

Brainwashing at its finest.

□ **JOHN MACARTHUR’S CHURCH SET TO WIN \$800,000 SETTLEMENT FROM COUNTY FOR SHUTDOWN SCHEME** - The legal battle between John MacArthur and Los Angeles County is set to come to a close next week, with the government poised to pay Grace Community Church \$800,000 in legal fees and compensation for repeatedly taking them to court last summer and seeking to shut them down.

Last year, MacArthur and Grace Community Church (CGC) made national news and became the face of the movement of congregations that refused to shut down its services, insisting on having them in person, in their church building, unmasked, in violation of California lockdown laws.

In response to their biblical and principled stand, the County got a court order against GCC, demanding they stop. Instead of submitting to the government’s will, the church deliberately continued to have church services and disregarded an injunction issued against them. The County wanted them to be found in contempt for flouting the injunction, but the church argued that the injunction was granted on the faulty premise of an unconstitutional order, and should have rightly been ignored.

Rather than adjudicate the contempt charges, GCC lawyers argued that MacArthur and GCC were first entitled to a full-blown trial on the merits of their lawsuit challenging Gavin Newsom’s shutdown orders, proposing that “a final determination on the constitutionality of the orders must occur before the County could seek contempt against MacArthur for merely holding church.” The Judge agreed, allowing GCC to continue meeting while the contempt charges were pursued, which took several months. Before the case could be adjudicated, the Supreme Court ruled that California’s lockdown rules against churches were indeed unconstitutional, effectively ending the ability of the County to come against them.

But MacArthur and GCC did not simply passively defend against the lawsuit when they were first threatened, but also countersued the state and city officials, claiming that their first amendment rights were violated.

They’ve now seen the fruits of their labor. In a recent letter to supporters of the John MacArthur Charitable Trust, MacArthur called the County’s decision to back down, pay all their legal fees, and drop all charges a “monumental victory for Grace Community Church” and explained that “We know that there is no circumstance that can cause the church to close. The church is not only a building but is the bride of Christ and exists to proclaim the truth.” ■

BE MORE SPECIFIC

A hobo came up to the front door of the neat looking

farmhouse and knocked gently on the door. When the owner answered, the hobo asked, “Please, sir, could you give me something to eat? I haven’t had a good meal in several days.” The owner said, “I have made a fortune in my lifetime by supplying goods for people. I never give anything away for nothing. However, if you go around the back, you will see a gallon of paint and a clean paint brush. If you will paint my porch, I will give you a good meal.”

So, the hobo went around back and a little later he again knocked on the door. The owner said, “Finished already? Good. Come on in. Sit down. The cook will bring your meal right in.” The hobo said, “Thank you very much, sir. But there is something that I think you should know. It’s not a Porch, it’s a BMW...”

SMART ALECK

An elderly lady was stopped to pull into a parking space when a young man in his new red Mercedes went around her and parked in the space she was waiting for.

The little old lady was so upset that she went up to the man and said, “I was going to park there!”

The man said, “That’s what you can do when you’re young and quick.

This really upset the lady even more, so she got in her car and backed it up and then she stomped on the gas and plowed right into his Mercedes.

The young man ran back to his car and asked, “What did you do that for?”

The little old lady smiled and told him, “That’s what you can do when you’re old and rich!”

WHO?

Fred Somebody, Thomas Everybody, Peter Anybody, and Joe Nobody were neighbors, but they were not like you and me. They were odd people and most difficult to understand. The way they lived was a shame.

All four belonged to the same church, but you would not have enjoyed worshiping with them.

Everybody went fishing on Sunday or stayed home to visit with friends.

Anybody wanted to worship but was afraid **Somebody** wouldn’t speak to him. So guess who went to church - uh, huh - **Nobody**.

In reality, **Nobody** was the only decent one of the four.

Nobody did the visitation. **Nobody** worked on the church building.

Once they needed a Sunday school teacher. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** would do it, and **Anybody** thought **Somebody** would do it. And you know who did it? That’s exactly right -- **Nobody**!

It happened that a fifth neighbor (an unbeliever) moved into the area. **Everybody** thought **Somebody** should try to win him for Christ. **Anybody** could have made an effort. You probably know who finally won him:

Nobody!