

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XV

September 22, 2019

Number 36

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of September 15, 2019

Sunday School ----- 17
Sunday Morning Service ----- 24
Sunday Evening Service ----- 20
Mon. Evening Service, 09/16/19 ----- 24
Tue. Evening Service, 09/17/19 ----- 26
Wed. Evening Service, 09/18/19 ----- 18

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of September 15, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 782.50
Love Offering, Evangelist Rodney Woodcock ----- \$ 797.00
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 15.00
Total Received for Week of 09/15/19: \$ 1,594.50

- Week of September 8, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,143.50
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 40.00
Total Received for Week of 09/08/19: \$ 1,183.50

- Week of September 1, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 580.00
Total Received for Week of 09/01/18: \$ 580.00

- Week of August 25, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 602.00
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 50.00
Total Received for Week of 08/25/19: \$ 652.00

- Week of August 18, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 59.00
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 10.00
Total Received for Week of 08/18/19: \$ 69.00

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



AUDITORIUM AIR CONDITIONER REPAIR FUND

Total Repair Cost, unit repaired 05/17/19 ----- \$ 4,800.00
Amount received thusfar ----- \$ 1,022.38
TOTAL AMOUNT STILL NEEDED TO PAY OFF: \$ 3,777.62

Thank You For Your Generous Help With This Need!

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
Volunteer Needed! ----- Greeter
Larry Byars ----- S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Susan Strain ----- Outreach
Bertha Segebarrt ----- Custodian
Flowers ----- Shirley White



American Seminary Prays and Confesses Sins To Plants At Chapel Service

Union Theological Seminary in New York recently announced that they brought plants into their chapel service, at which point their faculty and students bowed down before the flora and confessed their sins.

This is not satire.

In a "tweet" on Twitter, they said -

"Today in chapel, we confessed to plants. Together, we held our grief, joy, regret, hope, guilt and sorrow in prayer; offering them to the beings who sustain us but whose gift we too often fail to honor.

What do you confess to the plants in your life? pic.twitter.com/tEs3Vm8oU4

— Union Seminary (@UnionSeminary) September 17, 2019"

What do we confess to the plants in our life? We **eat** them. Some of them with turn into medicine. Some of them we turn into clothing.

They are **plants**. God made them on the third day of creation and not the sixth because they are lower than man, **not greater**. Plants exist for us to exploit for our selfish purposes. They are **not** be prayed to like Northern European pagans or Canaanites worshipped trees.

Union Theological Seminary is known as the home of Black Liberation Theology through their most prominent student, James Cone. Cone's work is promoted and taught at the progressive Southern Baptist school, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary (SEBTS).

It is unknown if SEBTS is yet worshipping plants. Give it a decade, and they probably will.

At least one man in the crowd looked dumbstruck by the idolatry, as pointed out by a commenter on Twitter, who said, "He's being held against his will!"

Many have made fun of the plant-worship on Twitter, but the seminary has also received defenders who are happy to see plants idolized as gods.

The scene was reminiscent of this classic YouTube video of environmentalists apologizing and crying to trees.

The difference is that this is a supposed **Christian** seminary.

After various news outlets reported that Union University brought in plants to worship and confess their sins to during a chapel service, they have responded in a bizarre string of tweets that don't exactly make things better.

Union Seminary responded with a bizarre line of tweets that indicate they really are venerating flora, and calling it a "beautiful ritual."

(continued inside)

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 We've had many questions about yesterday's chapel, conducted as part of @ccarvalhaes' class, "Extractivism: A Ritual/Liturgical Response." In worship, our community confessed the harm we've done to plants, speaking directly in repentance.

This is a beautiful ritual. /1
 11:35 AM · Sep 18, 2019 · Twitter Web App
 7 Retweets 15 Likes

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 Replying to @UnionSeminary
 We are in the throes of a climate emergency, a crisis created by humanity's arrogance, our disregard for Creation.

Far too often, we see the natural world only as resources to be extracted for our use, not divinely created in their own right—worthy of honor, thanks and care. /2
 1 6

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 We need to unlearn habits of sin and death. And part of that work must be building new bridges to the natural world.

And that means creating new spiritual and intellectual frameworks by which we understand and relate to the plants and animals with whom we share the planet. /3
 4 1 8

Assume that the environment is in "crisis" regardless of lacking empirical scientific data? **Check.**

Assume climate change is caused by humans? **Check.**

Capitalize Creation to deify the word, the same way orthodox Christians capitalize Creator? **Check.**

Support your new, freaky theology by calling it a "new spiritual and intellectual framework"? **Check.**

By the way, Union Seminary is the home of Black Liberation Theology, the wellspring of Critical Race Theory (CRT). The Southern Baptist Convention just voted affirm CRT as a "framework" and "analytical tool" to understand race.

Hopefully, the code-words are not lost on you.

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 Churches have a huge role to play in this endeavor. Theologies that encourage humans to dominate and master the Earth have played a deplorable role in degrading God's creation.

We must birth new theology, new liturgy to heal and sow, replacing ones that reap and destroy. /4
 1 1 8

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 When Robin Wall Kimmerer spoke at Union last year, she concluded her lecture by tasking us—and all faith communities—to develop new liturgies by which to mourn, grieve, heal and change in response to our climate emergency.

We couldn't be prouder to participate in this work. /5
 1 6

Uh...God himself encouraged humans to dominate and master the Earth. It has a name. Theologically it's called the **Dominion Mandate** and it's from the Bible.

All things, including and especially plants and animals, are given to men that we might use and exploit them, or "dominate and master" them.

"And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat" (Genesis 1:29).

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 And here's the thing: At first, this work will seem weird. It won't feel normal. It won't look like how we're used to worship looking and sounding.

And that's exactly the point. We don't just need new wine, we need new wineskins. /6
 2 1 7

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 But it's also important to note that this isn't, really, that radical a break from tradition. Many faiths and denoms have liturgy through which we express and atone for the harm we've caused. No one would have blinked if our chapel featured students apologizing to each other. /7
 1 1 8

We wouldn't have "blinked" if Union had students apologize to each other (assuming there was something to apologize for) because students can **talk back to each other.**

Plants don't talk back. Besides, plants **don't think.** Ergo, it's weird to talk to plants.

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 31m
 What's different (and the source of so much derision) is that we're treating plants as fully created beings, divine Creation in its own right—not just something to be consumed.

Because plants aren't capable of verbal response, does that mean we shouldn't engage with them? /8
 2 1 11

Union Seminary @UnionSeminary · 29m
 So, if you're poking fun, we'd ask only that you also spend a couple moments asking:

Do I treat plants and animals as divinely created beings?
 What harm do I cause without thinking?
 How can I enter into new relationship with the natural world? /9
 10 3 11

We are thinking it's crazy to "engage" with plants instead of eating or wearing them. What do you think?

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NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

' "VULNERABILITY" WITHOUT REPENTANCE - The Apostle Paul describes the love of money and its consequences. **"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and**

into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows" (I Timothy 6:9-10).

Note that they **"pierced themselves."** They are not *victims.* The many sorrows come because of a **sinful lifestyle.**

Many contemporary churches offer grace and forgiveness without repentance and supernatural conversion. They have church members who live the unholy rock & roll lifestyle and pursue wealth in the midst of the filthy pop music/entertainment industry. Invariably, they pierce themselves through with many sorrows in that context, but they consider themselves victims. Instead of repenting of their sin, they become "vulnerable" by sharing their problems before the church. They don't distinguish between suffering that comes because of sin and suffering that comes in the will of God.

Pop star Justin Bieber is an example. He is a member of the contemporary Churchome in Beverly Hills, California, pastored by a husband wife team. He told the church, **"It says in the bible count it ALL JOY when you face trials of various kinds. Sounds insane considering when u face trials u feel terrible. But if we are grateful and worship god for what we do have in that season there is so much power in that... whatever pain you are going through just keep telling yourself THIS WONT LAST!"** ("Justin Bieber Leads Worship," CBN News, Aug. 30, 2019).

Note that he says **nothing** about faith in the blood of Christ or sin or repentance or conversion. Everything is generic and undefined. He spends a lot of time justifying himself by the fact that he was plunged into popularity at a young age.

In contrast, Peter makes a sharp and repeated distinction between suffering for Christ's sake and suffering for sin. **"If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters" (I Peter 4:14-15).** See also 1st Peter 2:19-20; 3:17.

The great promise of Romans 8:28 is not for anyone in any circumstance. It is for those who **"love God, who are the called according to his purpose."** It is for those who are born again by repentance and saving faith and are walking according to God's calling and will.

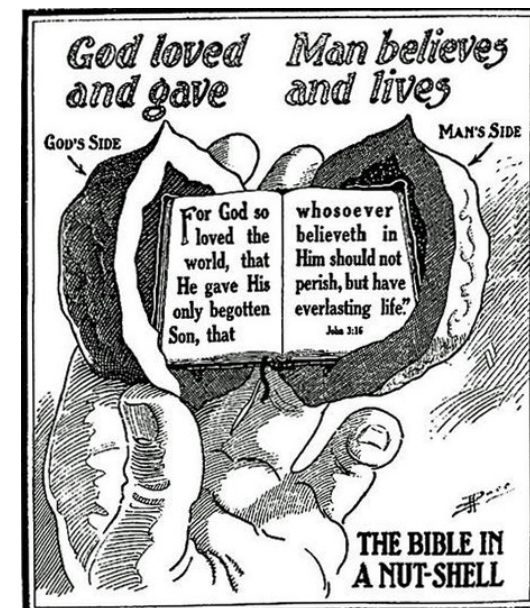
' HILLSONG PUTS ON A CIRCUS - Hillsong is a coalition of churches, loosely headquartered at Hillsong Sydney (Australia) where Brian and Bobby Houston are the senior co-pastors. The Hillsong churches produce some of the most popular and influential contemporary worship music, but their brazen worldliness is breathtaking.

In August 2019, Hillsong Gold Coast in Australia put on a worldly circus. **"Level-headed biblically-minded Christians have**

oft referred to Hillsong as a circus. But what they may not realize is that Hillsong isn't just a circus metaphorically speaking--Hillsong is literally a circus. Hillsong Gold Coast, led by James & Elida Turner, recently put on a circus performance at their campus. Not kidding. In a program they call #SundayNightAtTheMovies, they put on such an outlandish and ridiculous stunt that even the most biblically-ignorant unbelievers can look at this and tell it has absolutely nothing to do with Christianity. It's a freak show" ("Hillsong Puts on Circus Performance," Reformationcharlotte.org, Aug. 23, 2019).

In May 2016, Hillsong New York City hosted a Hillsong Women's Conference that featured, among other things, scantily-dressed 'cheerleaders,' an Elvis impersonator, and a naked cowboy wearing only a cowboy hat, boots, and a guitar. The cowboy was Hillsong New York City's own youth pastor, Diego Simla.

This year (2019) Yelp identified Hillsong Los Angeles as one of the top ten "gay friendly churches" in the city. "This says something about Hillsong. A homosexual can walk in, sit down, be entertained, and not have their conscience pricked by the preaching of the biblical gospel and a call to repent of sins and come to Christ" ("Hillsong Listed in Top Ten," Reformationcharlotte, Sept. 3, 2019). ÷



JOIN US TONIGHT AS WE STUDY -

