



# The Pearland Harvester

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE, BUILDING UP  
THE BODY OF CHRIST

## THE VALUE OF THE GOSPEL

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As we watch the world markets and listen to the economic news, we often hear about countries like China which devalue their currency. Devaluation isn't accidental nor is it a normal part of the market ups and downs within a free trade environment. It is intentional. By definition, it is something that only a government can do in regard to

its own currency. Someone might ask, "Why would they do that?"

While there are a lot of inherent risks involved, some governments do decide to lower the valuation of their own currency to make products they export cheaper. If the currency is devalued in China, the cost to produce and then export a television made in China also drops. That television then becomes more appealing to a consumer in Texas who wants a bigger screen with which to watch the Super Bowl. Additionally, the cost to export a television made in this country to a market in China just increased. Chinese workers, whose currency has just been devalued, have no incentive to buy an expensive import. Thus, goods made in China have no real competition from world markets. True, eventually the strategy fails because without competition manufacturers have no incentive to improve their products; but until that happens, it can be a very appealing concept.

Men have been doing that with the gospel of Christ for a long, long time. The true head of the church is Christ (Eph. 5:23), and He has never devalued the gospel. But for centuries, men have invented churches which are then promoted as the Lord's church. "We're all a part of the body of Christ" and "Good people of all denominations will be saved" are a few of their convincing selling points. When people decide to give their lives to Christ but are deceived into doing so through the teachings of a church invented by men, they are almost always assured that the price of redemption is far cheaper than it really is.

The issue is confused with Scripture quotations like, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8), which seems to say that it costs you nothing to be a Christian because

the price of redemption was paid in full by Jesus. But that's a bit deceptive.

Yes, it is true that none of us can purchase our own redemption because we have nothing of value to give in exchange. It is also true that Christ, whose blood was the proper value for salvation, demands from us something that we can give and must give—self. Jesus said we must deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow after Him (Lk. 14:27). Counting the cost of being His disciple is what the Lord requires (Lk. 14:25-35). If salvation is sold as something that is free to the sinners, requiring little or nothing from them, then it is illegally devalued by men!



The greatest harm of this strategy is, of course, a false sense of salvation based on faulty teachings. But there are other harmful effects as well. Those same man-made churches are now seeing empty pews. The number of congregants who are no longer present or even a part of that denomination is increasing every year, and so the price of salvation continually gets slashed—but the strategy isn't working. And in the kingdom of the Lord, membership is also declining. You can't live between Wal-Mart, Target, and the "Dollar Store" for 30 years and not be tempted to buy from them—any more than you can raise your family in an environment where religion is cheap and makes no demands on personal commitment without its own devastating effects! Not only are numbers decreasing, the levels of participation and commitment are also down. And this is a top-to-bottom phenomenon. Elderships have lost sight of what shepherding is and exchange it for management strategies. Preachers and teachers are looking for anything that will get members back in the pews and will keep them there. Competing with a false gospel of cheap salvation often means that the pulpit is more a venue for entertainment than a Christ-centered message of change. Worship is geared to the tastes of those who will attend instead of the demands of the Savior. Families are not looking for a church home where Christ is served but where there are things offered for their children, etc. Competing with denominations in these areas is both futile and suicidal. Devaluing the gospel is devastating!

Keep studying and keep serving! ✍️ DC Brown ©2016

**Weekly Bible trivia question.** Please submit answers to the elders. The first correct answer reported to the office will be recognized and published in the next bulletin. Here goes...*My great-grandfather was a boatwright and what was once mine became Assyria. Who am I?*

**Daily Bible chapter reading schedule,** beginning Thursday, March 3, 2016:

Thursday—Romans 7-8

Friday—Genesis 12-15

Saturday—Joshua 16-20

Sunday—Psalms 9-11

Monday—Job 7-8

Tuesday—Isaiah 18-22

Wednesday—Matthew 8-10

The first correct answer to last week's question was given by Debbie Brown: Lappidoth's spouse was Deborah, a female judge and prophet of Israel (Judges 4:4).

## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



Grayson & Candice Townzen  
Audrey, Emily, & Daniel

New address will be published in about  
a month.

Grayson - 940-585-9565  
Candice - 806-474-4108

### KEPT IN PRAYER

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Tami Donaldson**, who passed away February 18, 2016. Tami was Amanda McCartney's mother.

**Ed Jones's** heart surgery went very well yesterday.

### Continuing Need:

**Our Members:** Sheila Banyai, Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Evelyn Cordell, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Minnie Harris, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Von Knight, Wanda Knight, Jan Lemoine, Mary Means, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville.

**Others:** Brianna Aaronson, Mary Alford, Leona Anderson, Timothy Anderson, Harold Anglin, Mike & Cindy Barnhill, Ted Bowers, Margaret Brown, Catina Davis, Brooke Dempsey, Billie Dykes, Marcia Ellison, Linda Evans, Richard Fairservice, Darrell Farmer, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Bo Herrington, Cody Holcomb, Robert Holmes, Charles (Huck) Huckabee, Carol Jackman, Ed Jones, Bartis Knight, Charles Layton, Sr., Kerry Lemoine, Dave Manley, Blake McAdams, J. S. Miller, Pat Miller, Steve & Gayle Miller, Lauren Murphy, April Parker, Carolyn Cheshier Peters, Jillian Polete, Susan Priel, Cloey Pruitt, Jayson Romano, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Frank Staten, Margie Stephens, Rick Stone, James Thabiso Taylor, Heather Thomas, Larry Thornhill, Pedro Vasquez, Kinnie Warren, Anna Young.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

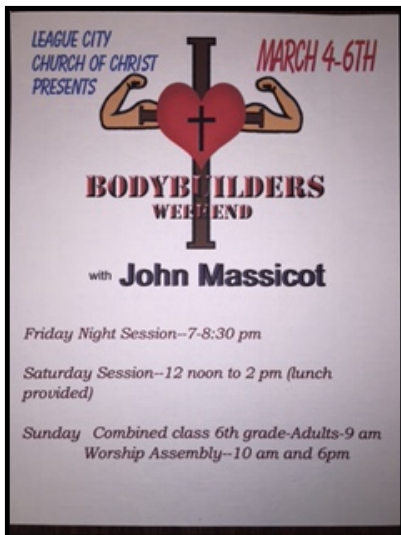
Kevin Scarsdale is our contact elder for **March**. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see **Kevin**.

Jr. & Sr. High School Retreat at Camp Hensel is scheduled for March 25-27, 2016. See Paul for applications. Scholarships are available. Sign-up deadline is March 16, 2016.

Camp Bandina (for 7th-12th graders) will be June 5-11, 2016. Applications are available from Paul, or you can register online at <https://campbandina.wordpress.com/full-registration/>. Please sign up quickly, as space is filling up fast. First cut-off is April 10, 2016, before moving to a waiting list.

**March 2016**

- 2 Wednesday Night with the Master—Pancake supper will be served in the Annex at 6 PM followed by areas of service.
- 9 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 10 Secret Sisters—6:30 PM— Jodi Briand's home, 205 Greenbriar Ave, Friendswood TX 77546. The hostesses (Jodi, Heather, April) are furnishing the baked potatoes and salad dressing, but are asking everybody else to bring sides; i.e., shredded cheese, sour cream, chives, bacon bits, maybe 2 salads, and desserts.
- 12 Ladies' Prayer Breakfast—8 AM—Kelley's
- 12 Elders-Deacons-Ministers Meeting—9 AM—Elders' Conference Room
- 14 Golden Agers' Luncheon—TBD.
- 23 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex



The church-wide encampment is set for April 22-24, 2016, at Cagle Recreational Area which is 6 miles west of New Waverly on FM 1375. Take I-45 north to New Waverly, take FM 1375 west for 6 miles to Cagle Rd. All sites have water and electricity for tents and full hookup for RVs. Two nice bathhouses, hiking trails and paved roads throughout. The campground is 80 miles north of Pearland. Each camper is responsible for making reservations.

Westside Church of Christ in Alvin TX will have its Spring Gospel Meeting on March 4-6, 2016. A detailed schedule is on the bulletin board. The speaker will be Kent Allen.

Mainland Church of Christ in Texas City is having a Ladies Day on April 2, 2016. A flyer is on the bulletin board. Mary Allen is the speaker. RSVP requested by March 25, 2016.

**March Birthdays**

4	DC Brown	5	Christi Hines
6	Taylor Cuellar	7	Ramón Sanchez
12	Ashley Hundley	13	Bennie Sue Galindo
17	Pat Wagoner	19	Trudy Knight
19	Sandy Stone	22	Appeal Byers
25	Evelyn Cordell	25	Demetris Kelly II
27	April Cartwright	29	Judy Indest
30	Candice Townzen	31	Heather Cook
31	Mary Holmberg		

**March Anniversaries**

9	DC & Debbie Brown	14	Jeff & Gena Coe
16	Grayson & Candice Townzen	22	Greg & Linda Fabian
22	Gene & Stephanie Forster	22	Larry & Delores Truelove
31	Russell & Canova Genaro		

**PLEASE SAVE APRIL 16 & 17, 2016, FOR THE PEARLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST HOMECOMING FOR CURRENT & FORMER MEMBERS.**  
If you would like to contribute to the Homecoming fund, please give your money to Gretchen Whitmire.

# Those to Serve

## *Pearland Church of Christ*

...equipping the saints for the work  
of service, building up the body of Christ...

2217 N. Grand Blvd.

**Pearland, TX 77581 • 281-485-2436**

Wednesday Evening March 2	Wednesday Evening March 9
Building Lock Up—Scarsdale <b>WNWTM</b>	Building Lock Up—Adams

Morning Worship March 6	Morning Worship March 13
Opening Prayer      Demetris Kelly	Opening Prayer      Bob Williams
Song Leader          Gary Adams	Song Leader          Paul Cartwright
Communion	Communion
<b>Presiding:</b> Bobby Parker	<b>Presiding:</b> Zack Williams
Jimmy Terry          Paul Hamilton	Tom Langford          Jacob Carriere
Charlie Story          Bob Williams	Daniel Brown          Phil Godwin
Nathan Scarsdale      Matthew Fabian	Demetris Kelly          Gheath Alatrash
Announcements      Kevin Scarsdale	Announcements      Kevin Scarsdale
Closing Prayer	Closing Prayer
Nursery Attendants	Nursery Attendants
Angela Parker      Molly Godwin	Laurie Maxcey
Ushers (*indicates head usher)	Ushers (*indicates head usher)
*James Maxcey, Brandon Stafford, Russell Genaro	*Lynn Adams, Clifford Layton, Josh Hundley
Greeters	Greeters
Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale	Clifford & Nina Layton
Audio—Projector for AM	Audio—Projector for AM
Mauney	Mauney
Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Adams	Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Fabian
Evening Worship	Evening Worship
Opening Prayer      Daniel Brown	Opening Prayer      James Maxcey
Song Leader          Greg Fabian	Song Leader          Paul Cartwright
Communion          Bob Williams, James Maxcey	Communion          Daniel Brown, Charlie Layton
Closing Prayer      Kevin Scarsdale	Closing Prayer      Kevin Scarsdale

### ELDERS

*Gary Adams      281-997-3790*  
*Greg Fabian      713-305-1626*  
*Chris Lindelof   281-224-2183*  
*Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866*

### DEACONS

*Bobby Parker*  
*Charlie Story*  
*Bob Williams*

### MINISTERS

*D.C. Brown      Pulpit Minister*  
*Paul Cartwright   Youth & Family Minister*

### MISSIONARIES

*Benin, West Africa:*  
*Paul Tohionon - Bohicon*  
*Pascal Djedatin - Dassa*  
*Blaise Atta - Bétérou*  
*Clément Djebede - Okéwo*  
*Boniface Yantekoua - Kaboua*  
*Joachim Tounou - Abomey-Goho*  
*Gaston Nda - Natitingou*  
*Valentine Ndimonte - Natitingou*  
*André Assogba - Savé et Kokoro*  
*Dorotheé Tchekpo - Savé et Bessé*  
*Paul Kouagou - N'Dali*  
*Jonas Sambieni - Glazoué*  
*Gabin Agbeci - Savalou*  
*Portsmouth, Dominica, West Indies*  
*Lewis Romain*

### Worship Times:

#### *Sunday*

Bible Study .....9 am  
Morning Worship.....10 am  
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm