



The Pearland Harvester

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

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SILENCE

one of the great challenges in all of Scripture has got to be Elijah’s challenge to Israel when they gathered at Mt. Carmel. **Elijah came near to all the people and said, “How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him” (1 Kings 18:21a).**

I’ve often thought about the phrase, “all the people.” Though Keil and Delitzsch have proposed a location on the Mt. Carmel promontory that would be visible to a multitude (K&D, *Commentary on the Old Testament*. Vol. 3), it is hard for me to imagine that literally every man, woman, and child of Israel abandoned their homes, fields, shops, and pastures or that so many assembled people could have seen and heard all that took place. My thought is that a very large crowd was present and that, at the very least, it would have included all the royal court, its armies, as well as all the leadership throughout the kingdom of Israel. Whether this was literally all the people or a representative multitude of leaders and influential people, it is nonetheless a crowded scene.

I think of how courageous anyone would have been to answer Elijah’s challenge. With the pagan priests who ate at Jezebel’s table present, with the armies under Ahab’s command present, with the watchful and suspicious eyes of court officials and with every economic advantage these people might have had being threatened if they spoke up, it is easy to understand their silence. Life itself hung in the balance. Obadiah had a great position of influence and power in Ahab’s court, and yet he feared greatly for his life. Already he was under suspicion because it was known that he had hidden 100 prophets of the Lord in caves (18:12-14). What might Ahab do if any of these people stood in public and pledged themselves to Jehovah?

And so, one of the greatest challenges in Scripture was met in this way: **But the people did not answer him a word (1 Kings 18:21b).** How discouraging and disappointing that must have been to the prophet of God!



Silence is one of the ways we express fear, but it is also one of the ways we express disdain. While some in the crowd might have chosen silence out of fear, many more would have chosen silence out of disdain for God and the man of God.

Communication is essential to any successful effort. Can you imagine a company that is wildly profitable, yet its board members won’t talk to each other nor does management speak to the ones who do the work? Could any organization including the local church grow if leadership chose to be silent? Can the people of God, be it Elijah’s generation or ours, have a relationship with God while never speaking to Him?

I think the mettle of Elijah was tested sorely on that day! Their silence, regardless of motive, was a repudiation of God and of the prophet of God. Though the outcome of the contest was never in question and Jehovah won the day, you find Elijah on the run and deeply depressed 24 hours later. I can’t help but think that the silence of the multitudes still stung. As Jezebel threatens his life and Elijah flees in fear, I can’t help but think he chose the inhospitable desert because he couldn’t feel safe hiding among the people.

Why do we prefer silence to joyful affirmation? How often has a good work died or failed to launch because silence is no encouragement to anyone? Two Christian women answered the challenge of last Sunday’s lesson to be workers. Please encourage them and keep them in prayer. We need more like them.

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...Whose hand was touched resulting in healing and was also confirmation of prophecy?

Answer to last week’s question: a myth (2 Tim. 4:4). Connie Powell submitted the first correct answer.

Daily Bible chapter reading schedule, beginning Thursday, January 19, 2017:

- Thursday—2 John
- Friday—Deuteronomy 26-28
- Saturday—Nehemiah 10-13
- Sunday—Psalms 143-145
- Monday—Song of Solomon 3-4
- Tuesday—Revelation 7-11
- Wednesday—Acts 23-24

Please contact Kristin Alatrash or the elders if you’re interested in preparing and/or delivering food when needed (births, deaths, illnesses, etc.).

There will be a short business meeting after the morning sermon on January 29, 2017, to discuss financials and elect trustees.

| For the Record—1-15-17 | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Sunday AM | 134 |
| Sunday PM | 44 |
| Wednesday (1-4-17) | 50 |
| Contribution | \$4,161 |
| Weekly Budget | \$5,800 |
| YTD Contribution | \$14,131 |
| YTD Budget | \$17,400 |

2017 sign-up sheets for communion preparation and sound/projector are on the bulletin board. We are also in need of more volunteers for nursery duty and leading the youngsters in song before the services.

KEPT IN PRAYER

Visitation with **Tex Greene’s** family will be in a separate room from 12 noon to 2 PM on Friday, January 20, 2017, at Forest Park East (21620 Gulf Fwy, Webster TX 77598); the memorial service will follow immediately at 2 PM in the Forest Park East chapel.

Continuing Need:

Our Members: Fran Barnhill, Annette Bumpers, David & Libby Clayton, Jeff Coe, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Matthew Fabian, Bennie Sue Galindo, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Kaliya Kelly, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Jo Knight, Wanda Knight, Clifford Layton, Jan Lemoine, Valerie McHargh, Becky Nicholson, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, Chase Shelton, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville, Angela Terry. **Others:** Carol Addison, Leona Anderson, Catherine Bailey, Octaline Beaupierre, Jeffrey Buesch, Raquel Castillo, Debbie Cook, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Larry & Carla Doolen, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Roger Farmer, Gwen Fikes, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goeman, Robert Hudman, Sharon Johns, Nelderine Johnson, Kerry Lemoine, Martha Locke, Austin, Celia, & Doug Matthews, Jim & Julie Maxcey, Mary Means, Pat Miller, Scott & Cindy Miller, Lewis Moss, James Navarro’s son, Jean Nudelman, April Parker, Mark Pridgen, Cloey Pruitt, Alice Puckett, Ryan Rangel, Trenna Russell, Sandra Brown Ryan, Butch Sapp, Shirley Scarsdale, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Tony Smajstrla, Andrew Smith, Michael Smith, Rick Stone, Erin & Elijah Timmons, Leon Vanderveer, Bennett Vincent, Alexis Anderson Washington, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Anthony Young, Lesli (friend of Heather Brown’s friend).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greg Fabian is our contact elder for January. If you would like to schedule a meeting, please see Greg.

Please note the following schedule of services:
 Sunday, February 5, 2017: Classes, morning service, and evening service at usual times. No Super Bowl party is planned.

January 2017

- 25 Ladies' Bible Class—10 AM—Annex
- 28 Bamboozled Escape Room—5 PM. Zack Williams is coordinating this event. Please contact him ASAP to sign up.

Friends



January 29, 2017

Invite someone to be your guest and to stay for a great meal!



Family Day

January Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Jared Johnson | 4 Wanda Kirby |
| 4 Branden Shelton | 8 Jeanette Hays |
| 14 Valerie Lee-McHargh | 17 Tom Langford |
| 20 Bobby Parker | 22 Cameron Alatrash |
| 25 Ethan Brown | 27 Meredith Williams |
| 28 Terri Bumpers | 29 Dawn Bell |
| 30 Lindsay Parker | |

January Anniversaries

- 17 David & Libby Clayton

You are invited to a wedding shower for Lindsey Davenport and Drew Carson on Sunday, January 22, 2017, from 2 pm to 3:30 pm at Westside Church of Christ, 831 Heights Rd, Alvin TX 77511. They are registered at Bed Bath & Beyond and at Kohl's.

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 January 18 | Wednesday Evening January 25 |
| Building Lock Up—Gary Adams | Building Lock Up—G Fabian |

| Morning Worship January 22 | Morning Worship January 29 |
|--|--|
| Opening Prayer Zack Williams | Opening Prayer Bobby Parker |
| Song Leader Gary Adams | Song Leader Greg Fabian |
| Communion | Communion |
| Presiding: Gheath Alatrash | Presiding: James Maxcey |
| Josh Hundley Jake Satterwhite | Zack Williams Paul Hamilton |
| Tom Langford Grayson Townzen | Charlie Story Bob Williams |
| Russell Genaro Jimmy Terry | Jacob Carriere Phil Godwin |
| Announcements Greg Fabian | Announcements Greg Fabian |
| Closing Prayer | Closing Prayer |
| Nursery Attendants | Nursery Attendants |
| Appeal Byers Lianne Biegay | Nina Layton Molly Godwin |
| Ushers (*indicates head usher) | Ushers (*indicates head usher) |
| *Lynn Adams, Matthew Fabian, N Scarsdale | *Clifford Layton, Daniel Brown, Blake Williams |
| Greeters | Greeters |
| Clifford & Nina Layton | Kevin & Maresha Scarsdale |
| Audio—Projector for AM | Audio—Projector for AM |
| Mauney | Mauney |
| Building Lock Up for AM & PM—G Fabian | Building Lock Up for AM & PM—Chris Lindelof |
| Evening Worship | Evening Worship |
| Song Leader Greg Fabian | Song Leader FRIENDS & FAMILY DAY |
| Communion Russell Genaro, Jimmy Terry | Communion |
| Closing Prayer Greg Fabian | Closing Prayer NO PM SERVICES |

Worship Times:

Sunday

Bible Study9 am
Morning Worship.....10 am
Evening Worship.....6 pm

Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm

ELDERS

*Gary Adams 281-797-2575
Greg Fabian 713-305-1626
Chris Lindelof 281-224-2183
Kevin Scarsdale 713-447-1866*

DEACONS

*James Maxcey
Bobby Parker
Charlie Story
Bob Williams*

MINISTERS

*D.C. Brown Pulpit Minister
Zack Williams Youth Minister*

MISSIONARIES

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