



# The Pearland Harvester

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

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- WHY SOME DISCIPLES FALL AWAY FROM CHRIST** 1
- KEEP IN PRAYER** 2
- BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES** 3
- UPCOMING EVENTS** 3
- THOSE SERVING** 4

## WHY SOME DISCIPLES FALL AWAY FROM CHRIST

JOHN WADDEY

**Weakness of character and purpose.** Some folks find it hard to live a disciplined life, to set a goal and pursue it, and to be faithful unto death (Rev. 2:10). They start with good intentions, but falter and fall along the way.

**False expectations of the church and their fellow-Christians.** They expect perfect churches and Christians, and are disheartened when they find that all are imperfect just as they are.

**Poor experiences in worship and instruction** in the church cause some to go astray. Lackluster worship, poor quality preaching that lacks a solid Biblical basis, and sermons that are filled with personal opinions and thoughtless assertions leave folks hungry and thirsting for righteousness until they go elsewhere to find it.

**Disillusionment with Christianity in general and the church in particular.** This affects many of our contemporaries.

**Worldly influences that draw them away from Christ and His church,** such as worldly friends, lodges, clubs, and recreation. They don't have enough time left in their lives for Christ and the church.

**Bad experiences with one or more Christians** that hurt them and caused them to wrongly conclude that all Christians were like that.

**Lack of encouragement in their early days in Christ,** or when they went through some trying times. Like babies, most of us need help in learning to walk with Christ (Gal. 6:1-2).

**Lack of proper and appropriate teaching and indoctrination** that would root and ground them in the faith (2 Pet. 3:18).

**Teachers from their former religious connections.** Not knowing how to explain their new-found faith or respond to the false teaching, they are ensnared.

**Giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils** causes many to go astray (I Tim. 4:1). Some are confused by television preachers or denominational books and literature they read.

**A failure to break their ties with influential worldly people** who eventually draw them back into sin. This might include some family members, and especially social ties (I Cor. 15:33).

**A lack of genuine repentance towards their old life and true, heart-changing conversion.** They never died to sin (Rom. 6:2). In time, sin reasserts itself and sweeps them away (Rom. 7:9).

**A rebellious heart** that was never brought into full subjection to Christ, His Word and His Way.

**Stubbornness** causes some to fall away. They hate to give up cherished beliefs or activities that are detrimental to faithfulness. They resent correction.

**A desire to be like the world about them** (I Sam. 8:5). When their spiritual leaders and teachers reprove them for their worldliness, they become enraged and refuse to continue in the church.

**False pride,** which makes some feel they should be able to tell the church what to believe, teach and practice. When their ideas are rejected, their pride is wounded. Then they go elsewhere hoping to be able to assert themselves.

**Advanced worldly education and attainments** that make some feel too knowledgeable or too important to stay with people who are simple and old-fashioned enough to strictly follow the Bible pattern.

**Wealth and high social position** makes some uncomfortable associating with humble, ordinary Christians. Their desire for fellowship with a higher social set draws them away from the church to some group that offers what they want.

**Legalism, judgment and self-righteousness on the part of church members** will drive away those who long for a peaceful, devout spiritual environment.

**Skeptical, liberal preachers,** who lurk among us like wolves around sheep, undermine some who have had their faith in the Bible, the church, and her Bible-based doctrine and worship.

**Some have been overtaken in transgression,** and no strong Christian stopped to rescue them and get them back on the straight and narrow way (Gal. 6:1).

Our task is to restore such brothers and sisters in a spirit of gentleness, looking to ourselves lest we also be tempted.

# TRIVIA

CHALLENGE

What was unique about this man whose first name was the same as the eleventh son of Jacob, and was surnamed Justus?

Answer to last week's question: an earthquake (Revelation 11:8-13)

Daily Bible Reading Schedule	
Beginning Thursday, September 21, 2017:	
Thursday	—1 Timothy 1-3
Friday	— Numbers 1-4
Saturday	— 1 Chronicles 5-9
Sunday	— Psalm 96-98
Monday	— Proverbs 17-18
Tuesday	—Daniel 7-12
Wednesday	— John 5-6

For the Record—9/17/2017	
Sunday AM	145
Sunday PM	44
Contribution	\$3,763
Weekly Budget	\$5,800
YTD Contribution	\$158,917
YTD Budget	\$214,600

**KEEP IN PRAYER**

- **Jan Lemoine** has been in the hospital since Monday after experiencing sharp pain. She was given antibiotics and the pain has subsided, but it seems that kidney stones may be the cause. She will be in the hospital until at least tomorrow, but has requested no visitors. Please pray for a correct diagnosis and her full recovery.
- Update: after a followup with a lung doctor, **Lianne Biegay** found that the abnormality on her lung was a scar. She will have a checkup in three months to be sure nothing changes. Lianne would like to thank her church family for their prayers and concern.
- **Sarah Brown** will be having her baby earlier than expected. Please pray for the health of Sarah and baby **Prudence**, and for the rest of their family.
- **Daniel Ingram**, son of Jennifer and Mike Ingram, is experiencing undiagnosed seizures. He is 27 and lives in Alabama. Please pray for Daniel.
- Please pray for **everyone who was affected by Hurricane Harvey**.

**Our Members:**

Bennie Sue Galindo, Fran Barnhill, Dawn Bell, Haley Biegay, Annette Bumpers, David Clayton, Jeff Coe, Daisy Dees, June Evans, Ross Genaro, Dorendia Hamilton, Charlyne Harper, Murrell Hill, Judy Indest, Wanda Kirby, Dorothy Kirkland, Jo Knight, Wanda Knight, Clifford & Nina Layton, Jan Lemoine, Valerie McHargh, Harold & Alice Moore, Adam Parker, Vi Price, Betty Pridgen, Chase Shelton, David Smith, Loma Stone, Sandy Stone, Doris Stuteville, Angela Terry.

**Others:**

Judy Moore, Thomas Mauney, Mike Humphries, Michael Smith, Jim Alford, Leona Anderson, Catherine & Cecilia Bailey, Octaline BeauPierre, Erica Matte Blair, Jeffrey Buesch, Linda Bynum, Raquel Castillo, Debbie Cook, Evelyn Cordell, Ray Craycraft, Judy Dame, Billie Dykes, Linda Evans, Roger Farmer, Gwen Fikes, Glenda Garner, Betty Goad, Sarah Goe-man, Robert Hudman, Kaliya Kelly, Elaine King, Kerry Lemoine, Martha Locke, Austin & Celia Matthews, Jim & Julie Maxcey, Shirley McWhorter, Mary Means, Pat Miller, Lewis Moss, Jean Nudelman, April Parker, Wilma Parker, Mark Pridgen, Alice Puckett, Ryan Rangel, Trenna Russell, Everett Sanderson, Butch Sapp, Henry Schaefer, Don Scott, Sherly Scott, Andrew Shock, Tony Smajstrla, Andrew Smith, Michael Smith, Rick Stone, Erin and Elijah Timmons, Leon Vanderveer, Mary White, Wanda Williams, Anthony Young, Lesli (friend of Heather Brown's friend).



## 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**

<b>Wednesday Evening    September 20</b>	<b>Wednesday Evening    September 27</b>
<b>Building Lock Up—G Adams</b>	<b>Building Lock Up— C Lindelof</b>

Morning Worship    September 24	Morning Worship    October 1
<p><b>Opening Prayer</b>    Zack Williams</p> <p><b>Song Leader</b>        Gary Adams</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communion</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Presiding</b>    Chris Lindelof</p> <p>Jeremy Brown        Jimmy Terry</p> <p>Alan Pearson         Josh Hundley</p> <p>Jake Satterwhite    Chris Wallace</p> <p><b>Announcements</b>    Kevin Scarsdale <b>and Closing Prayer</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nursery Attendants</b></p> <p>Appeal Byers        Laurie Maxcey</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ushers</b> (* indicates head usher)</p> <p>*Lynn Adams, Jacob Carriere, T Langford</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Greeters</b></p> <p>Kevin &amp; Maresha Scarsdale</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Audio/Projector</b></p> <p>Grayson Townzen, Daniel Brown</p> <p><b>Building Lock Up AM /PM — C Lindelof</b></p>	<p><b>Opening Prayer</b>    Daniel Brown</p> <p><b>Song Leader</b>        Gary Adams</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Communion</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Presiding</b>    James Maxcey</p> <p>Grayson Townzen    Gheath Alatrash</p> <p>Blake Williams       Phil Godwin</p> <p>Wendell Romain     Nathan Scarsdale</p> <p><b>Announcements</b>    Chris Lindelof <b>and Closing Prayer</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nursery Attendants</b></p> <p>Lianne Biegay        Candice Townzen</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ushers</b> (* indicates head usher)</p> <p>*Paul Hamilton, Z Bryant, A Bryant</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Greeters</b></p> <p>Kevin &amp; Maresha Scarsdale</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Audio/Projector</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">VOLUNTEERS NEEDED</p> <p><b>Building Lock Up AM/PM— G Adams</b></p>

Evening Worship	Evening Worship
<p><b>Song Leader</b>    Gary Adams</p> <p><b>Communion</b>    Bob Williams, Bobby Parker</p> <p><b>Closing Prayer</b>    Kevin Scarsdale</p>	<p><b>Song Leader</b>    Gary Adams</p> <p><b>Communion</b>    Jimmy Terry, Alan Pearson</p> <p><b>Closing Prayer</b>    Kevin Scarsdale</p>

<p>Worship Times:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday</i></p> <p>Bible Study .....9 am</p> <p>Morning Worship.....10 am</p> <p>Evening Worship.....6 pm</p> <p style="margin-top: 20px;">Wednesday Bible Study.....7 pm</p>
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### ELDERS

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

### DEACONS

*Bobby Parker*  
*Bob Williams*

### MINISTERS

*Ralph Bryant                    Interim 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*