



August 23, 2020

**Sunday
Bible Classes**

www.facebook.com/swcocada
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**Morning Worship
10:00 a.m.**

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**Tuesday
Ladies Bible Class:
CANCELLED**

Wednesday
www.facebook.com/swcocada
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Elders
Jeff Butler
Scott Estes
Greg Hatton
David Hendricks
Richard Howard
Brent Lowe
Butch Platt

Ministers
Brian Lewis
David Dirrim
Kyle Wilson

Secretary
Dana Chilcoat

Office:
505 W. 17th
Ada, OK 74820
580-332-3430
office@swcocada.com

The Southwesterner

Dumbfounding!

**“I will not execute the fierceness of My anger, for I am God, and not man.”
(Hosea 11:9)**

How close to unbelievable is that? For more than seven chapters (4-10) God scathes Israel for its life of crass betrayal in their running after other gods and then what do we get? Hosea 11:9! We would have expected the opposite! “Enough! Who do they think I am? I understand they’re sinners, but this nation has gone too far! I’ll obliterate it! Instead of that, we have the dumbfounding conclusion. The wind has risen to a deafening roar and suddenly: silence. That’s **Hosea 11:9**

That God will not pour out His destructive wrath is confounding enough but look how He vindicates this decision: “I’m God! Not a man!” What has He said here? “If I were a man, I would utterly obliterate them!” But I’m not a man—I’m God! This is not any God. This is the Holy One of Israel. This is the God who said, “You be holy for I am holy!” Since that’s true how did Hosea 11:9 get in the Bible? Did God cease to be the Holy One? Did He become soft on sin? Or have we missed the richness of Godlike “holiness”?

Had I been a man I would have ended Israel for their addiction to treachery, said God. In my own life I’ve known those who are very like God, who forgave great wrongs and in that respect were not like a “man”. Certainly, the prophet Hosea knew better than I how to forgive a very great wrong. Didn’t he marry Gomer who became adulterous and didn’t he go looking for her, found her and brought her home? I also know that there are many who are very much like a “man” while they still profess to be Godlike and to be His friend.

There was an older brother who wouldn’t forgive his wayward brother, nor would he forgive his father for forgiving his brother and rejoicing when the previously selfish brat came home to a loving father who always wanted him back. All this father wanted was the right to be happy that the younger son was home. He wanted the right of a loving father to love his son.

This is the point of the three parables in **Luke 15**. The central truth here is this: Had the Pharisees been friends of God, they would have been able to rejoice at what Jesus was doing. The woman fully expected her friends to rejoice with her finding her lost treasure. The shepherd fully expected his friends to rejoice that he had found his lost sheep and the prodigal’s father fully expected his older son to rejoice with him. “He’s your brother! He’s my son! How can you not understand that? God throws a party in heaven; it’s right that we should throw a party on earth.”

We need to remember that Jesus spoke one of the most scathing passages in the Bible in Matthew 23 (“Woe to you...”) and yet it ends in profound sadness; “Oh, Jerusalem, Jerusalem....” Yet, it was always the policy of Jesus to throw his weight on the side of the vulnerable and against hard-hearted powerful people. Why? Because God is a great lover of the oppressed and downtrodden and He has appointed a day when that will be made clear to the world! (**Acts 17:31**)

Wasn’t it Coffin who said something like, “Not to choose sides is in effect to take the side of the predatory powerful”?

(Edited and submitted by David Dirrim from jimmcguiggan.wordpress.com)

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CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PLAN UPDATES

Update: There are now three ways you can join us for worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

- Mask-optional service in the auditorium
- Mask-required service (live on video) in the fellowship building
- Live streamed service online

On Wednesdays we will meet at the building at 7 pm for the summer series speaker in the auditorium. This lesson will also be live streamed. There will be no other classes.

All Bible classes except the teen class are available at facebook.com/swcocada or youtube.com/swcocada.

Sunday: Baby Bible Class, Children's Bible Class, & Adult Bible Class - Study of Luke taught by Jeff Butler
Facebook Live Young Adult Class - David Dirrim at 9:00

Wednesday: Summer Series
Youth Group Zoom Bible Study - Sundays at 7:00 p.m.

Servers Scheduled for 10 am Sunday, August 23rd:

Song Leader - Richard Howard
Opening Prayer - Jack Cadenhead
Closing Prayer - Greg Hatton
Communion Thoughts - Kyle Wilson
Attendance Counting - Chuck Love
Safety Team Walk - James Bryant & Bradley Butler
Safety Team Camera - Hunter Nickell
Service Coordinator - Bart Conley
Sound Booth - Drew Adams & Russell Neill
Elder of the Month - Scott Estes



Family News & Updates

Carla West had some chest x-rays and tests run last week and she found out that she has an enlarged heart. She also had surgery Friday to remove some mesh from a previous surgery. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Connie McKinney had cancer surgery done on Monday and is home recovering. Please keep her in your prayers.

Barbara Maloy was released from the hospital on Tuesday. She is at home and is doing better. Please keep her in your prayers.

Sherika Carrethers, from the Hammond Heights congregation, is requesting our prayers. She has been diagnosed with colon cancer and is undergoing chemotherapy.

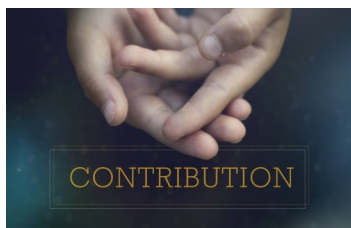
Congratulations to the proud parents, Drew and Danielle Adams, on the birth of their new baby girl, Elizabeth Rose Adams! She was born Wednesday, August 19th at 10:19 am and weighed 8 lbs. 7.8 oz. and was 19 inches long. She joins her big brother, David Adams.

Farewell Wishes: This will be Karen Guthrie and Janell Streeter's last Sunday with us on a regular basis. They are moving to Shallowater, TX. We greatly appreciate the many things they have done to help the work here at Southwest over the years and they will be greatly missed. We wish them well in their move and know they will continue to be a blessing to the church there in Shallowater. Thank you Karen and Janell for being such a good example to all of what a servant of Christ looks like.

The Yellow House will give out food tomorrow from 8-10 am. Workers this month are: Kristen Neill, Bill & Jan Young, Joni Vass, Janell Streeter, and Don and Pam Kite.

To our SW Family, Thank you for the cards, flowers and kind words of encouragement during and before the passing of Butch's dad, Herman. Special thanks to Brent and Diana Lowe, Brian Lewis and David Dirrim for coming to the service. Seeing you when we pulled up made us feel so comforted. You are our "family" and we love you all. We will miss Herman, he was a kind, loving and Godly man, but we know he is resting now with no more pain. Our Love, Butch, Denise, Ashlee, Heather, Jennifer, Michael, Jason and Jarrad and our slew of grands!

Please Continue to Pray For: Connie McKinney, Jessica Lee, Katie Meaders, Patsy Hill, Verna Cannon, Johnnie Sing, Alyene Sims, Z.D. Parker, Joe Don Harrison, Joe Medlock, Jim Begin, Jeannie Wingard, Mildred West, Cherry Bennett, Shirley Gatewood, Shirley Perry, Sherry Price, Pattie Mitchell, Debbie Harber, Donna Love, Thayne Consequellos, Joy Crowell, Lewis & Lea Crain, Warner Fleck, Jessie Glover, Randy Wilson, Paul & Shirley Love, Steve, Jana & Stacey Stewart, & Bill Scott.



Week of August 16th
\$9,620
Weekly Budget
\$12,821
swcocada.com/giving

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

24 Donna Duncan,
(A) Charles & Barbara Maloy
25 (A) Justin & Ashley Dansby
26 Karan Huddleston
28 Brian Lewis, Bobbie Rutherford,
Jarrod Tollett,
(A) Jim & Martha Begin
29 Jered Cartwright, Lauren Chilcoat,
Denise Platt, Kaylyn Rowsey

Pray For Our Service Men:

Daniel Hataway, Clay Patterson,
Michale Perry, Chanse Alexander,
Dawson Hendricks, Frank Holsapple
Jr., & Jonathon Wingard.

If you have a family member or know of someone you would like to add to our prayer list let the office know.