



The *Southwesterner*

VOLUME XLVIII | NUMBER 35

THE END OF EXILE

This week our Living in Exile series comes to a close. The end of the series has me thinking about the end of exile. Israel may have marked that by returning to Jerusalem, rebuilding the wall or rebuilding the temple. But did they feel for the generations to come like the exile was really over? Biblical scholar, N.T. Wright, has shared a theory that even in the time of Jesus, the Jewish people had many of the same struggles with Rome that their ancestors had with the time in exile. Exile had come to them. As we have mentioned during the series, sometimes we might feel as if exile has come to us.

In the book, *Exile: A Conversation With N.T. Wright*, several scholars interact with Wright's concept of exile during the New Testament. Scot McKnight writes about what would signify the end of exile.

"The southern tribe, Judah, was sent by God into exile to Babylon as discipline for unfaithfulness. In Babylon the ideas of ending their exile and returning to the land converged into a story of hope. Some seventy years later the exiles returned, but not all of the promises were fulfilled when they returned. So Wright argues that even though the children of Israel were back in the land, the exile had not yet completely ended. The question then is this: When would it end? When God once again sat on the throne and ruled the land. The exile will only truly end when God rules, when the glowing words of Isaiah 40–66 are more than glimpsed in the realities in the land, when—in other words—the damage of 1 Samuel 8 is undone and redeemed. Until Jerusalem is ruled by God and God alone, the exile is still on."

We have been reminded several times this summer that God was sovereign through the entire exile and return, and He is still sovereign today. But since Israel first demanded a human king in 1 Samuel 8, people have sought someone else to be in charge. As God warned them in verse 18, "And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day." They would cry out because of their own king and the kings who would make their exile so difficult.

The exile ends when God rules. Applying that idea to the walk of Christians in 2023, until we are "ruled by God and God alone, the exile is still on." Like Israel, we must remember that God is our king, and there can be no substitute. He gives us life, freedom and hope.

- Brian

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." - Matthew 6:9-10

September 3, 2023



Elders

Jeff Butler

Greg Hatton

David Hendricks

Richard Howard

Brent Lowe

Butch Platt

Ministers

Brian Lewis

David Dirrim

Thorin Turner

Kyle Wilson

Secretary

Dana Chilcoat

Family Matters

Ried Duncan will be having a procedure done on Thursday, September 7th. Please keep him in your prayers.

Jeannie Wingard's brother-in-law, Garry Higginbottom from Pauls Valley, was diagnosed with AFib and congestive heart failure. Please keep him in your prayers.

Travis Wingard's heart cath went well. They found no blockages. Please keep him in your prayers.

Our sympathy goes out to Chelsea and Brad Butler and their family on the passing of Chelsea's grandfather, Virgil Parks, who passed away last Saturday. Please keep Chelsea, Brad, and their family in your prayers.

The church office will be closed Monday, **September 4th**, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

Maui Fire Relief: Southwest mailed a check this past week to the Maui Church of Christ for Maui Fire Relief Support. The amount sent was \$8,075.00. That was a combined total of what the elders decided to donate from the Southwest general fund and also from what various Southwest members wanted to donate. Thank you to all that chose to help with this effort!

The Wednesday evening men's Bible class will begin again on **September 6th**.

We, along with our families, lovingly invite you to the wedding of Dalee Deanna Barrick and James Tanner Weston on **September 29th** at 6:30pm at the Lazy A Ranch in Allen, OK. Reception to follow.



Ladies Bible Class

Begins
Tuesday, September 5th at
10:00 in the Fellowship
Building

We'll be studying the Sermon
on the Mount.

Please come join us!

1 Thessalonians 5:17

*"Pray without
ceasing."*

Please continue to pray for...

Mary Barrett, Nash Gilliam, Paula Hatton, Lea Crain, Betty Gerth, Barbara Hataway, Barbara Cannon, Sherry Price, Floyd Kaiser, Dona Phippen, Barbara Lewis, Randy Hall, Ronald Trent, Jesse Nickell, Sue Silkey, Shirley Love, Gerald Joliff, Katie Meaders, Johnnie Sing, Cherry Bennett, Shirley Perry, Pattie Mitchell, Debbie Harber, Warner Fleck, Randy Wilson, Thayne Consequellos, and Steve, Jana & Stacey Stewart.

Happenings

Church Events & Announcements

Wednesday Night for the Master meal will start back up on Wednesday, **September 6th**, at 5:45pm in the fellowship building. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer at the Welcome Center.

Ladies' Night at Little will be Friday, **September 8th**, at the Church of Christ at Little. Registration and dinner starts at 5:30pm.

The Golden Doers Lunch will be on Sunday, **September 10th**, in the fellowship building after morning services. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center in the foyer. We will kick off with hamburgers with fixings. If you are 60 years of age or older, please come join us.

Ladies Prayer Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 4pm. They will meet next on **September 10th**.

Please join us after evening services on **September 10th** for an Ice Cream Supper in the fellowship building! Please bring your best homemade ice cream or dessert (or both)!

Widowers and single men's breakfast will be Tuesday, **September 12th**, in the fellowship building. Coffee will be ready at 7:30am and breakfast will be served at 8:00am. See James or Glinda Byers for questions.

North MacArthur Church of Christ is inviting all former members to join them for their worship service to celebrate 50 Years of Proclaiming The Gospel on Sunday, **September 17th**. Bible class starts at 9am. A catered meal will be available after worship for all in attendance.

HOPE CAMPAIGN 2023

HOPE

GOAL: 800,000 BIBLES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24


@EASTERNEUROPEANMISSION

 EEM

Please make your check out to **SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST & memo the check as "EEM"**. If you donate **online** for this please make sure to put a note that it is for **EEM**.

Yellow House

September 25





September at a Glance

- 03 Class Promotion, You. Meal/Fel.
- 04 Labor Day (Office Closed)
- 05 Ladies Bible Class Begins
- 06 Wednesday Nt. for the Master,
Men's Class Begins
- 08-10 Move Conference (OKC)
- 10 Ladies Prayer Group,
Golden Doers Lunch,
Ice Cream Supper
- 12 Widower's Breakfast
- 14 College Meal/Devo (Hensley)
- 17 AWTG (Blanchard)
- 21 College Meal/Devo (Lampkin)
- 24 EEM Million \$ Sunday,
Ladies Prayer Group,
Youth Meal/Fellowship
- 25 Yellow House
- 28 College Meal/Devo



TEENS AND YOUTH

September 3rd

Sunday Night Youth
Meal & Fellowship

September 8th - 10th

Move Conference (OKC)



September 14th

College Meal & Devo
(Hensley)



- 09/03 Rachel Conley,
Diana Hatton,
Kelli Simpson,
Teresa Strong
- 09/06 James Garberick,
Aaron Lane
- 09/08 Leon Hughey,
Levi Jonka,
Pam Kite
- 09/09 Bob Fennell

BUT SEEK THE WELFARE
OF THE CITY WHERE I
HAVE SENT YOU INTO EXILE,
AND PRAY TO THE LORD
ON ITS BEHALF,
FOR IN ITS WELFARE
YOU WILL FIND YOUR WELFARE.

LIVING
IN EXILE

JEREMIAH 29:7

PRAY FOR OUR SERVICE MEN & WOMEN

Heaven Tamayo
Josh Higginbottom
Frank Holsapple Jr.
Clay Patterson
Michale Perry
Clay Wilson Jr.

Bible Classes

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Adults

Jet McCoy

Auditorium

Jeff Butler

1st Corinthians

Old Kitchen Classroom

David Dirrim

Lessons From the Parables

SW Corner Classroom

College Group

Kyle Wilson

Library

Youth Group (7th-12th Grades)

Thorin Turner

Youth Classroom

Elementary (K-2nd & 3rd-6th)

North Hall Classrooms

Preschool (2 Year Old & 3-4 Year Old)

South Hall Classrooms

Baby Class (Under 2 Years Old)

For the Record: 08/27/2023

Bible Study	179
AM Assembly	275
PM Assembly	142
Wednesday PM	161
Contributions	\$14,185
Budget	\$13,779

SERVING THIS WEEK

Sunday AM:

Song Leader: Jack Cadenhead
Opening Prayer: Thorin Turner
Closing Prayer: Ronnie Osborn
Scripture Reading: Jag Frye
Lord's Supper Thoughts: Brent Lowe
Communion: Steve Black, Toker Dennis, Joe Dirrim,
Justin Lane, Chuck Love, Brent Lowe, Trever Manuel,
Tommy Vass
Alternate Communion: Trent Barrett & Tim Hensley
Balcony Communion: Trenton Hensley & Tommy Myers
Attendance Counter: Keith Nail
Safety Team Walk **AM/PM:** Hunter Nickell
Safety Team Camera **AM/PM:** Nathan Lewis
Coordinator **AM/PM/Wed:** Jared Griffin & Beau Griffin
Sound Booth **AM/PM/Wed:** Caleb Estes & Russell Neill

Sunday PM:

Song Leader: Brad Trekell
Opening Prayer: Mark Clark
Closing Prayer: Drew Adams
Attendance Counter: Brad Butler
Communion: Casey Farrar & Trevin Vass

Wednesday PM:

Song Leader: Nathan Lewis
Announcements/Opening Prayer: Kyle Wilson
Closing Prayer: Kerry White
8 Minute Devotional: Ried Duncan
Attendance Counting: Drew Graham
Safety Team Walk: Kevin Graham
Safety Team Camera: John Eck

September Contribution Counters:

Bill Young, Chuck Love, James Byers, Ried Duncan

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome

"Come Thou Almighty King"

Scripture Reading: Ezra 6:22

Prayer

"O Worship the King"

"We Praise Thee, O God"

"Wonderful, Merciful Savior"

Thoughts From the Cross: Brent Lowe

"In Christ Alone"

Lord's Supper

"Thank You, Lord"

Contribution

"Sing and Be Happy"

A.M. Lesson: Celebration in Exile

"I Am Resolved"

Announcements

"The Joy of the Lord"

Prayer

P.M. Lesson: Atonement

An elder and his wife are available in the classroom of the middle hallway of the building during each invitation.

Shepherd for September: Richard Howard
Supporting Shepherd & Wife: Greg & Diana Hatton

SOUTHWEST CHURCH OF CHRIST

505 WEST 17TH

ADA, OKLAHOMA 74820

580.332.3430

OFFICE@SWCOCADA.COM

WWW.SWCOCADA.COM

ONLINE GIVING



Sunday

Bible Classes - 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Evening Worship - 5:00 p.m.

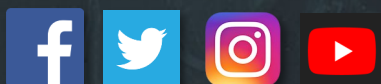
Wednesday

Bible Classes - 6:30 p.m.

Worship & Classes Online

facebook.com/swcocada

youtube.com/swcocada



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