

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

- Week of September 10, 2023 -

Sunday School -----	38
Sunday Morning Service -----	46
Sunday Evening Service -----	30
Wednesday Eve., 09/13/23 Service -----	25

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of September 10, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,369.32
Love Offering, Daniel Charland -----	\$ 650.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/10/23:	\$ 2,019.32

- Week of September 3, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 2,040.32
Children's Sunday School -----	\$ 5.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 09/03/23:	\$ 2,045.32

- Week of August 27, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,220.30
Children's Sunday School -----	\$ 2.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/27/23:	\$ 1,222.30

- Week of August 20, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 1,736.42
Children's Sunday School -----	\$ 5.00
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/20/23:	\$ 1,741.42

- Week of August 13, 2023 -

<u>Undesignated</u> Tithes & Offerings -----	\$ 595.00
Church Porch Restoration -----	\$ 135.64
TOTAL RECEIVED FOR WEEK OF 08/13/23:	\$ 730.64

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed for church operating expenses EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,600.00



FRONT PORCH RESTORATION FUND -

Amount Received, Week of 09/03/23: \$ - 0 -

TOTAL RECEIVED, THUSFAR: \$ 720.64

LISTEN TO -



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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, Who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



THANK YOU For Your Continued Faithfulness In Giving!

During the early part of the pandemic, we were unable to meet in the church-house. But - that did not mean that the expenses of having a church-house were suspended. We still had bills to pay - electricity, gas, water, trash pickup, phone, internet, facility insurance, copier lease, office supplies, etc., and, praise the Lord, His people kept praying, watching online, & supporting their church with their giving.

Sadly, some people only give when they are in attendance at church - sort of like paying for "services rendered" - but the truth is that they are robbing THEMSELVES of God's blessings when they withhold their tithes and offerings and only give when they are here (see Malachi 3:10). Thankfully, most of our people have remained faithful, in so many ways, during this crisis, including financially.

WE HAVE 3 WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

1. **By mail** - 23 East Wells Blvd., Sapulpa, OK 74066
2. **Drop it off** - call the Church Office to arrange it. 224-1924
3. **Online** - Go to the link below and give electronically:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=433047>

WE ARE GLAD WE CAN NOW GATHER TOGETHER TO PRAISE GOD & STUDY HIS WORD TOGETHER IN THE CHURCH-HOUSE! YOUR FAITHFUL AND GENEROUS GIFTS WILL HELP US KEEP UP WITH THE BILLS AND CONTINUE OUR RENEWED OUTREACH EFFORTS!

Church Directory

Todd W. White -----	Pastor
Debra Carlton, Mickie Shatwell, Lois Mae Floyd -----	Pianists
Derek Quinnelly -----	Greeter
Kim Phillips; Shirley White/LeAnna White; Berdena Bergman/Debra Carlton; Daniel Avery/GiGi Avery; & Todd W. White -----	Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars -----	Outreach
LeAnna White -----	Custodian
GinaMarie Shufelt -----	Flowers
Seth White -----	Sound/Video

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY
REMINDER

Volume XXIX

September 17, 2023

Number 37



CALLING GOOD EVIL: WHY CHRISTIANS ARE BEING LABELED THE NEW TROUBLERS OF SOCIETY

by Dr. Tim Moore

Are Christians the troubles of society? That's the question that has echoed down through the ages, all the way back to when the prophet Elijah showed up at Mt. Carmel and King Ahab bitterly asked him, "Art thou he that troubleth Israel?" (I Kings 18:17). Well, we've come full circle, as many in our society would label Christians as the new troubles of our society. Christians are being accused of holding back the "progress" Progressives believe they are making.

All throughout the history of the Church, somewhere Christians have lived under persecution. Even the New World was founded by Christian Separatists and Puritans who needed to escape religious persecution. Americans have been so blessed since the 1600s to live in a country that historically has stood on Judeo-Christian values. Therefore, Christians in this country have felt safe. But, no longer. Many Christians in the West are not feeling particularly safe anymore. Today's society is instead defined by people calling good evil and evil good, as Isaiah 5:20 warns.

Even non-Christians have understood that for many years the Christian foundations of America have provided liberty to all. Jewish commentators such as Dennis Prager have spoken about how Christianity has been a very positive influence on society, providing both moral and legal foundations that guide how we interact as a civilization. Prager also warns that as our Judeo-Christian foundations are broken down, the result will be our society pitching over into chaos. Our society is indeed breaking down, and not just in the "crazy corners" of America, but in places that are quite surprising.

Yes, for example, earlier this year, a school district by a vote of their board disassociated itself from a Christian university. The article from the New York Post reads, "Cat-ears-clad school board member says the district should not hire teachers from Christian university." The article by Hannah Grossman of Fox News reveals that the Washington Elementary School District in Phoenix, Arizona had held a five-year contract with Arizona Christian University for student-teacher placement. One of their three LGBTQ+ board members, Tamillia Valenzuela, blasted the university over its Christian beliefs and said she was disheartened by their relationship with this Christian school.

Valenzuela, who claims she is "a bilingual, disabled, neurodivergent, Queer Black Latina who loves a good hot wing," went on to claim that people should be able to have religious freedom and practice whatever faith they have. (Yeah, right, I don't believe her.) She went on to express her concerns regarding the Christian university and suggested it was a good time for the board to take a moment to see "where our values lie." So here's where our society's values lie, according to her, despite a teacher shortage across the nation, our society's values should NOT reflect Arizona Christian Universities' "commitment to Jesus Christ, accomplishing His will and advancing on Earth as is in Heaven." So, she has a problem with Christianity having an influence in society. She goes on to reveal her bias that Christianity is hostile to LGBTQ+ people and Judeo-Christian values are hostile towards her and the other two gay board members. She supplants what the Bible would deem pagan values over biblical morality.

Christianity being kicked out of school boards is not just happening in Phoenix, Arizona, but everywhere. I read in the L.A. Times about a Los Angeles community that became outraged that a church that had for years been meeting in a school facility on the weekend. The church had been renting space from the school on the weekends when there were no students or teachers present to hold their worship services. The church had invited a speaker, a lady who had self-identified as gay but had come out of that lifestyle, to testify how she felt that she had been deceived into the gay lifestyle. She recognized that to gain a right relationship with

(continued inside)

God she had to put aside the false ideology of her LGBTQ+ identity and embrace Jesus Christ. Her testimony, of course, outraged some among the leftists in Los Angeles, and they told the school they couldn't possibly allow this church to continue meeting on school property. Although, there is clear court precedent that if the school is going to allow anybody to meet, it **cannot** exclude churches and religious organizations. Despite churches meeting at schools being quite legal, the school will simply disallow anyone to meet out of fear of LGBTQ+ activists and the Gospel being preached on their campus.

This slide of our schools away from appreciating and adhering to our Judeo-Christian heritage goes all the way back to a Supreme Court case that pulled the Ten Commandments out of our schools. Back in 1980, the United States Supreme Court decision in *Stone v. Graham* struck down a Kentucky law requiring that a copy of the Ten Commandments be posted in every public school classroom. It was like the Supreme Court was saying, "We're afraid that if the Ten Commandments were to be posted children might read them and adhere to the Ten Commandments, and we just can't have that."

What kind of craziness denies churches from meeting in schools after hours, but allows satanic groups access? Reminds me of how before the Grammys this year, the network CBS tweeted "Let's worship!" knowing a satanic drag song was going to be performed.

And then the deputy police commissioner in Queensland, Australia linked the belief in Premillennialism with terrorism, calling it an "**extremist ideology.**" This stemmed from a police raid that resulted in a big shootout where two cops died, along with the whole family that was being raided. Deputy Commissioner Tracy Linford blamed the death of the police on a Christian fundamentalist belief in Premillennialism. ***In one fail swoop, those Christians who find hope in the promise of Jesus Christ's soon return were lumped in with cop killers.*** Such an ignorant statement shows she has no idea what Premillennialism believes. We believe that Jesus Christ will return to set up His kingdom on this earth for a thousand years ushering in an age of peace, righteousness, and justice. There's ***no*** violence in this belief whatsoever! And, the police ignored the fact that the shooter was off-balance and had a violent past.

Christianity is often tied to right-wing extremism these days. Australia banned private gun ownership, so they see anything involving gun violence must be connected to Christianity. What did we see in Australia during the Pandemic? Australian society didn't have guns to defend itself from its own government overreach.

SOURCE OF THE HATRED

A lot of this disdain for Christianity and Christians really goes back to what the Bible says in John 3:19: "***And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***" We're back to where man calls evil good and good evil. We've found ourselves in the downward phase in a society where what

is good is considered evil, and therefore, Christianity **must** be considered evil.

We certainly are there. Our public officials are turning against Christianity, and it's happening all over the world. The entire world has become increasingly hostile to Judeo-Christian values.

This reminds me of what Jesus said in John 15:18: "***If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.***" The world loves their sin and so doesn't want to hear the Gospel. Satan is raging right now because he knows that his time is short.

Let's face it - if we think things are bad now, can you imagine what the world is going to be like when the restraining influence of the Church is removed by the Rapture? Imagine all of these corrupt officials and these pagan ideology advocates have free reign of the world.

It'll be like back to the early days of the Roman Empire after the Church had been formed. The new Christians were blamed for everything. Nero blamed the Christians for the burning of Rome. Christians were sacrificed to lions and thrown into gladiator combat. Christians were blamed for the ills of society. They were cut out of commerce and business, which is what we're just beginning to see in our society today. So, the hatred of Christ and Christians is nothing new. The pagans hate the Lord and so they are going to hate His representatives as well.

LIVING IN A HOSTILE SOCIETY

How do we as Christians thrive and survive in a world that is hostile to our faith? Well, first of all, we keep our focus on Jesus Christ. Trust that Jesus has overcome the world. Knowing this, we do not let our hearts be troubled. Rather, we speak out, acting as salt and light in an increasingly dark place. Until the Rapture occurs, this is our responsibility. We're not to cower and hide, rather we're bold about our faith and are ready to give a defense to anyone who asks why we believe what we do. ***Our faith is not based on opinion, rather it's based on the Word of God, and THAT has power.***

While we are being faithful in sharing the Good News, we know that life is going to get more difficult until the moment of the Rapture. But then, heaven help those who have not placed their faith in Jesus Christ and so will live into the time of the Tribulation. They will witness the world becoming exceedingly hostile to anybody who would seek to place their faith in Christ.

So, do not delay! Do not wait another day or hour! You're not guaranteed that you will live through the Tribulation and have another opportunity to embrace Christ.

And, for those of us who advocate for the Christian faith, Christians need to be advocating for and perhaps even running for office. Let's engage the political realm so it will be filled by people who follow and adhere to the word of God and who live according to Christian principles.

Christians, we are the people who have our fingers in the dam stopping it from bursting. By the Holy Spirit, we are holding back the tide of evil. But, one day soon, when the Lord takes us home, the dam is going to burst, and evil will pour out and deluge the entire world. We don't want anybody to be left behind by the

Rapture to endure those horrors, so put your trust in Jesus Christ today.

- Tim Moore is a retired Air Force Colonel & the CEO and Senior Evangelist of Lion & Lamb Ministries

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

☐ ***FINLAND PROSECUTING CHRISTIANS FOR QUOTING THE BIBLE*** - The following is excerpted from "*Newest NATO Country.*" The Federalist, Sept. 1, 2023:

"In an appeals court Thursday, Helsinki's top prosecutor said publicly quoting the Bible and publishing a booklet about Christian sexual ethics violates Finland's 'hate speech' law. The appeal escalates this U.S. ally's prosecution of dissidents from leftist politics, a marker of repressive regimes. The prosecutor has charged Member of Parliament Paivi Rasanen and Bishop Juhana Pohjola for writing and publishing, respectively, a booklet supporting natural marriage. 'This [case] is a God-given wake up call for Christians and others worried about the direction our society is going,' Pohjola said in a post-court press conference Friday morning U.S. time. He noted convicting a religious leader for publishing theological documents would in effect criminalize Christianity in Finland and encourage similar oppression worldwide.

Rasanen is also criminally charged with posting a Bible verse to X (formerly Twitter) and stating Christian theology in a radio interview. The prosecutor wants all recordings of the radio interview taken down and the booklet to be unavailable online, and fines levied against both Christians. ... 'The content of my writings and my speeches represents the classical Christian view of marriage and sexuality, the same as the Churches have generally taught for two millennia,' Rasanen said in a statement. 'I do not condone insulting, threatening or slandering anyone, and my statements have not included content of such a nature. I consider this matter to be a theological discussion that should not be in a courtroom.'

... Friday morning, [prosecutor Anu] Mantila argued, 'There is material in the Bible that contradicts principles in our society. This is why the interpretation of the law against discrimination must be applied effectively.'

... Due to Communist influence, much of the West has enacted speech restrictions similar to Finland's. That includes dozens of U.S. states and cities. All it would take is courts to interpret hate speech laws the way these Finnish prosecutors are arguing to criminalize Christianity across the West."

☐ ***OKLAHOMA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL HIRES DRAG QUEEN AS PRINCIPAL*** - The following is excerpted from FoxNews, Sept. 7, 2023:

"The principal of John Glenn Elementary School, Oklahoma City, Shane Murnan, is a drag queen who goes by the name 'Shantel Mandalay,' Fox News Digital can confirm. ... Dressed as a drag queen, Murnan has read books to children to celebrate Pride for the Metropolitan Library System. According to the Facebook page, Murnan was employed as a drag queen at a venue called 'The Boom.' Ryan Walters, superintendent of [education for] the State of Oklahoma, called on Western Heights School

District to immediately terminate Murnan. 'It's outrageous to have a drag queen running a school, you know, here in Oklahoma that doesn't line up with Oklahoma values, This individual is not fit to lead a school district,' Walters said. 'What they are doing is injecting this ideology for an end goal here. Their end goal is to absolutely break down a child's mind, break down the classroom, break down the family, and you see the results that have come from this. They want kids to turn on their parents and only listen to their leftist ideology.'"

Earlier, Newsweek reported, "The hiring drew further attention when Libs of TikTok, an account on X, formerly Twitter, on Wednesday posted photos of Murnan's personal Facebook page, his alleged drag queen persona, and past news stories of the child pornography allegations he was charged with. Murnan's personal Facebook page has appeared to have been deactivated" ("School Investigated," Newsweek, Sept. 1, 2023).

☐ ***HILLSONG MUSICIAN SAYS GOAL OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC IS TO "ENTER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD"*** - In an interview, Matt Crocker, worship leader and longtime musician for Hillsong United, said, "My goal is to create an atmosphere for people to be able to enter into the presence of God and then hear the message of God through the actual speaking of it. I love the idea of teaming up with someone to create that atmosphere. It allows people to encounter His presence" ("Seeing the World in Wonder with Hillsong United's Matt Crocker," WorshipMusician.com, Jul. 21, 2017). This is a clear and accurate description of the objective and essence of contemporary worship. It's about a ***feeling***, which is why it incorporates the backbeat, beat anticipation, and other forms of rock & roll dance syncopation, as well as unresolving chord sequences and other musical elements that have a sensual effect. Contemporary worship music's objective is in great contrast to sacred music, which works through the edification of the mind and heart. In the New Testament's teaching about worship music, there is not a hint of "entering into an experience with God," which is a nebulous thing that can easily lead to spiritual deception.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord" (Colossians 3:16).

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Peter 5:8).

***TAKE YOUR FAMILY
TO CHURCH...***

