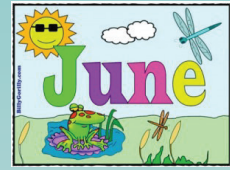




SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH  
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 36 YEARS  
1982- 2018



# THE CORNERSTONE

June 2018



## Sugar Land Bible Church VBS

June 25th - June 29th

**Time: 9am-12 Noon**

VBS will be here before you know it. Have you signed your children up?

This will be an exciting and fun week for them.



Looking forward to sharing the Love of God and His care for you .

Information:

E-Mail: [office@slbc.org](mailto:office@slbc.org)

## Missions for the Month



### Capturing Poland for Christ

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.” II Cor. 4:7 (NIV)

### Ministry to Lithuania: April 27- May 1

Our planned revival in Lithuanian churches was moved to the last of April. This time two churches in Kaunas and one in Ukmerge invited me to come and serve their people. Their pastors, Arturas Narbutas, Vladas Sereda and Kestats Kulakauskas are great faithful ser-

vants. Their churches are rather small and are weak in the field of evangelism. I preached on Saturday and Sunday at their churches, strengthening the body of believers.

Then on Monday and Tuesday I spoke in the local prison. Pastor Kestas, who is the chaplain, introduced me to the prison near Kaunas and we were there for two days ministering to the prisoners. As during previous years, I had a better response to the Gospel among prisoners than church people. I have learned that when people are in need they are more open to the Gospel and a Comforter and Savior.

On Monday, April 30th, along with pastor Kestas, we visited six different small (7-12 people) groups of prisoners for an hour each. Again this year we brought Bible tracts and shared with prisoners. Many prisoners asked us to pray for them and were moved to tears.

In the first group there were three who made decisions, asking us to pray for them: Rolandas (28 years old) sentenced for 7 years, Davidas (29) sentenced for 10 years and Mantas (22) sentenced for 4 years. In that group of young men was also Domantas (19) sentenced for 4 years. His father is concerned for him and asked chaplain Kestas to take special care of his son because Domantas wants to commit suicide. He was sentenced for drugs and he is new in prison, depressed and broken without any hope. Please pray for him. I'll be in touch with bro. Kestas asking him to take spiritual care of this young man.

In another group we met a prisoner named Henryk (35 years old). He is already 8 years in prison and still has 5 more years. He is one of the bosses in the hierarchy there. His mother was Polish and he opened his heart to us speaking and praying in Polish with me in the chaplain's office.

In another group decisions were made by a young man named Stas (24 years old) and his friend Jon (26). They will be leaving prison in one year. They are kept under tough rigors, are not allowed to leave their cells and to walk outside for more than one hour a day. I preached to them about the prodigal son from the Gospel of Luke chapter 15, asking them to repent and humble themselves before God, asking Him for forgiveness. They were willing to pray with me.

### Ministering at the Prison

I am so grateful to the Lord for opening for me the door to minister in Lithuania. Ministry there is not easy, with poor accommodations and food. Pastors are on rather low budgets and have large families and small apartments. For instance, Pastor Kestas has 6 children, all at home from age 5-19, two sons and 4 daughters. Since Lithuania gave up their currency and transformed their



**Andy Woods—Pastor**

## SALVATION LESSONS FROM THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

[Luke 23:39-43](#) records the famous death-bed conversion of the "thief on the cross." There were *seven* truths that the repentant thief understood. Studying these truths is important since they are the same realities that all must embrace to gain peace with their Creator. These verses say:

One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, "Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!" But the other answered, and rebuking him said, "Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he was saying, "Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!" And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

*First*, the repentant thief recognized the brevity of this life. He understood life's temporal nature because he was dying. The Bible is clear on the topic of the brevity of this life ([Ps. 103:15-16](#); [Jas. 4:14](#)). Thus, all of us should be concerned regarding what will happen to us when this life ends.

*Second*, the penitent thief understood the reality of the afterlife. In other words, he understood that life after death was just as real as the present life. This understanding explains why the repentant thief spoke with such confidence about Christ's [coming kingdom](#) (verse 42).

The [Scripture](#) teaches the reality of the afterlife. Because God has designed the soulish or immaterial part of man to live forever ([Eccl 3:11](#)), all people will exist forever, either with God in His kingdom or forever separated from Him in a place of conscious torment ([Dan. 12:2](#); [Matt. 25:46](#)).

*Third*, the repentant thief understood his guilt before God. This understanding is evidenced by his statement in verse 41, "And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds." He obviously understood the reality of his own guilt since in the first-century Roman world, the reason someone was sentenced to hang on a cross was because he had committed a capital offense. However, it is not just those who have committed terrible crimes who are guilty. The Bible says in [Romans 3:23](#), "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." In other words, every member of humanity stands guilty before God because of our sin and our position in the first sinning man, Adam.

*Fourth*, the thief on the cross understood the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Verse 40 says, "But the other answered, and rebuking him said, 'Do you not even fear God?'" Here is an indication that he understood that Jesus Christ was God. Verse 41, about Jesus, he said, "but this man has done nothing wrong." Thus, perhaps the penitent thief understood something about Christ's sinless



economy into the Euro, people became poorer as prices went up significantly. For groceries many families travel to Poland to purchase food. I brought food with me to the Kestas family along with used clothes. Jolanta, the pastor's wife, was so thankful with tears in her eyes. As their family could no longer live in a small apartment Kestas sold it and purchased a little farmhouse 20 km away from Ukmerge. Kestas (46) is busy. It is 20 km to his church and more than 60 km to the prison where he serves three days a week. All of his children are at school and one son is in kindergarten. Jolanta works 20 km away from home, going to the city by bus back and

forth 5 days a week. Friends, the communist system not only destroyed the economy of the nation, but also depressed people socially, leaving them with very low resources for living. I want to return to Lithuania in September-October this year to minister with Kestas and others.

## Expository Preaching Training

I am involved with a program to train Polish pastors in expository preaching started by Leadership Resources Int., a ministry from Palos Heights, Illinois. It's a 4 year program designed to train pastors not only to be better preachers but also to train others to teach them expository preaching. We will meet twice a year for three days each time. Please pray for necessary finances as I want to sponsor two other emerging leaders-pastors for the program. I want to invest in the younger generation just as somebody invested in me when I was young.



*With pastor Kestas in front of his house.*

## Prayer Requests:

1. Pastors in Lithuania, for their endurance and faith to preach.
2. For open doors to prisons. I want to bring more pastors from Poland in the fall.
3. For prisoners like Stas, Domantas, Rolandas for their faith in Christ.
4. For necessary finances for the ministry, gifts to the pastors in Lithuania.
5. Bring new pastors into the Expository Preaching Program.
6. For my and Grazyna's health to go on and continue God's given ministry

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God- not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2: 8-9)

In His Name,

Piotr Wiazowski

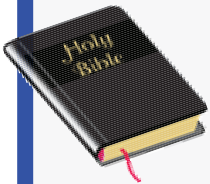
**Ministry announcements due on the 19th of each month:**

**Please contact Patricia Chandler at: [earl-budc@att.net](mailto:earl-budc@att.net) if you wish to put an article in the monthly newsletter.**

# Kids Klub 2018



## Scripture for the Month:



### John 3:16-18

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.



perfection. He recognized that Christ was different than any man he had ever encountered. Of course, this too is a reality that people must understand to be saved. Jesus is not one among equals, but the unique God-Man ([John 8:58-59](#); [20:30-31](#); [Rev. 19:16](#)).

**Fifth**, the thief understood that Christ had the power to save him. Not only did he understand his own guilt, but he also understood that Jesus, this extraordinary man, could do something to help him with his specific predicament. Thus, in verse 42, he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom!" Jesus not only claimed to be God, but He also claimed to have the ability to help men with their primary problem: their guilt and sin before a Holy God. The solution to this dilemma is found in Christ alone ([John 14:6](#); [Acts 4:12](#); [1 Tim. 2:5](#)).

**Sixth**, the repentant thief understood that he could not be saved through his own good works or any act of self-righteousness. Self-righteousness means that human beings can do something to merit favor from God. Since this thief was nailed to a cross, what acts of self-righteousness could he do? He could not join a church, do good deeds, or even be baptized. He was in a helpless position. We also are in a similar helpless position since we are incapable of doing any sort of righteous act to merit God's favor. God sees our acts of self-righteousness as a filthy garment, if we are using them to gain favor from Him ([Isa. 64:6](#)).

**Seventh**, this thief understood that it is never too late to ask God for [salvation](#). Although he knew that his death was imminent, he still believed it was not too late to cry out to Christ for mercy. Although guilty of a capital crime and dying, he did not believe that it was too late for him to experience divine grace. The thief's persuasion proved correct as Christ gave him immediate validation of salvation, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise" (vs. 43). No matter what you have done, or how long you have lived, or how close you are to death, it is never too late to ask God for salvation ([2 Cor. 6:2b](#)). However, once you die and you pass into the eternal realm, then it is too late ([Luke 16:19-31](#); [Heb. 9:27](#)).

Do you know these spiritual realities? Do you understand the brevity of this life, the reality of the afterlife, your personal guilt before God, Christ's uniqueness and power to save you, the impotency of self-righteousness, and that it is not too late to trust Christ for salvation? If so, do what the penitent thief did and trust in Christ alone for your salvation.

