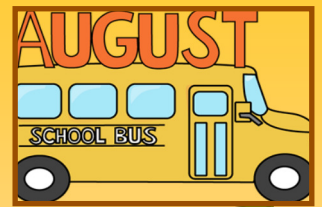


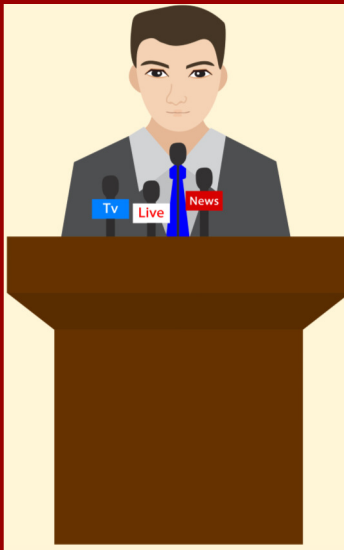


SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 36 YEARS"
1982-2018



THE CORNERSTONE

AUGUST 2018



SLBC MEDIA MINISTRY UPDATE

I am excited to share with you the latest data from SLBC's outreach via our media ministry. It has been four years since we launched the video part of SLBC's AV ministry. The impacts are both seen and unseen. The chart below includes only data for video downloads from the SLBC Sermon Archive and from the Sermon Audio website, and from audio downloads from Sermon Audio only. It does not include data from audio downloaded from SLBC's Sermon Archive or video downloads from SLBC's Facebook page. The latter data are stored on separate file servers and are not in the same format as Sermon Audio's data. Also not included with the data in the chart are CDs and DVDs, which are duplicated and distributed. In summary, the chart does not include all of the download data. But it does tell a remarkable story.

The following is a summary of the media outreach since we began video recording and webcasting in July 2014:

- In our first month of video production (recording and webcasting), we had downloads from 16 states and 5 countries, with 84 total downloads. Bear in mind, we did not have an extensive archive for followers to draw from. We had no viewers via live streaming until the following month, which then averaged 2 connections per session. Note: A connection may have more than one viewer, so that term is used.
- At the end of the first year, during the month of June 2015, we had downloads from 38 states and 15 countries, with about 700 total downloads for the month. We had an average of 14 webcast connections for each Sunday sermon.
- At the end of the second year, for June 2016, we had downloads from about 45 states and over 30 countries, with about 2500 downloads for the month. We had about 20 webcast connections for Sunday sermons. This was our last month before we started live streaming on Facebook in addition to Sermon Audio.
- At the end of the third year, for June 2017, we had downloads from about 42 states and about 20 countries, and still about 2500 downloads per month. Sermon Audio webcast connections increased to about 30 for Sunday sermons. We did not track the Facebook connections. Our fourth year started out the same as the third year. Then we saw a sharp rise in downloads starting in October. By the end of June 2018, we have online followers in all 50 states and about 40 countries. Downloads from Sermon Audio alone are recently over 17,000 a month and total about 200,000 in four years! Of course, the sermon archive is much more extensive now (408 sessions), so there is more material and completed series for viewers, students, missionaries, and pastors to learn from. So we should expect there to be more downloads than when we started

Missions for the Month

VILLAGE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



The following are just a few of the highlights from VMI's April newsletter.

Goods News & Pizza

Editor's Note: Although Christmas seems like it was a long time ago, for our ministry partners it is one of the highest points of the year and we want to share with you how our loved ones in Belarus used this not only as a celebration within the church but also as an opportunity to minister in their community.

For the Christmas Eve service, the entire church gathered for a special program, which included acting out the nativity story. This is always a highlight for the children and their parents and the kids are always adorable in their costumes.



Many of you may recall that a charity, Helping Hands, was set up for children from the Mogilev region who were affected by the Chernobyl disaster. In the late 90's this charity became a secular organization, due to immense pressure, and was given to our British friends to operate. Helping Hands is still working today - sending groups of children to spend one month each summer in Great Britain to have time away from the environmental radiation. Liliya is a translator for one of these groups each summer and we decided to



Andy Woods—Pastor

Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 1)

One of the most rudimentary distinctions that the child of God needs to learn to rightly divide God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) is the basic distinction between Israel and the Church. A common mistake in Bible interpretation is to take God's promises that are aimed at national Israel and instead to indiscriminately apply them to the Church and consequently the Church Age believer. The big question is this: Is the Church Israel? Many will tell you, "yes, the Church *is* Israel." However, such an assertion is far from accurate. In fact, the name "Israel" is mentioned 73 times in the New Testament and *every* single time this term means "Israel." Arnold Fruchtenbaum, in his masterful book entitled *Israelology, the Missing Link in Systematic Theology* (see pages 684-690) has a wonderful word study on the word "Israel" as found throughout the New Testament. Here, he convincingly demonstrates that every single time the word "Israel" is used in the New Testament it always refers to the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In other words, the word "Israel" is a technical word, meaning it always refers to the same thing every time it is used. Thus, according to the New Testament "Israel" always means Israel. Therefore, the New Testament never changes this stable meaning as the word is developed throughout the Old Testament.

What am I getting at? Israel in the New Testament always means Israel. This word is never used as a synonym for the Church, not even once. Additionally, it's never used as a synonym for Gentile believers. This principle holds true even in the famous Galatians 6:16 verse where the Church is seemingly called the "Israel of God." When you study this verse carefully, the Church is not called the "Israel of God." Why not? There is a double *epi* present in the original Greek text. This oft misquoted verse says, "peace be upon (*epi*) them and upon (*epi*) the Israel of God" (NASB). Thus, when Paul uses the expression "Israel of God" in Galatians 6:16 he is not referring to the *whole* Church. Rather, he is referring to the Hebrews-Christians *within* the Church. That is what he means by the expression "Israel of God." It is a very limited term to mean a subset of Christians within the Church who happen to be Jewish.

Beyond all this, when you get into the Book of Acts it is also important to note that Luke never merges the nation of Israel and the Church together. Keep in mind that the Book of Acts records Church history right up to Paul's first Roman imprisonment beginning in A.D. 60. This imprisonment was before the nation of Israel pushed into worldwide dispersion by the Romans in A.D. 70. Why is that significant? The Book of Acts was written during a time when Israel was functioning in unbelief and the Church was simultaneously functioning but in belief. Both institutions were functioning side by side throughout the Book of Acts. In that book Israel is mentioned 20 times and the Church, which is the Greek word *ekklēsia*, is referred to 19 times. Thus, the two entities of Israel and the Church are always kept separate and distinct, and Luke always honors their individuality. Such distinction is always respected throughout the entire New Testament. Israel is never used as a synonym for the Church. Israel always means Israel.

With all of this in mind, it is important to realize that there are at least 24 differences between the Church and Israel. I received the basics of these 24 differences from Lewis Sperry Chafer. See Lewis Sperry Chafer, *Systematic Theology*, 8 vols. (Dallas: Dallas Seminary, 1948; reprint, [8 vols. in 4], Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1993), 4:47-53. In this presentation, I have tweaked a few things from Chafer's list here and there. The diligent Bible student could probably find more differences as they study this issue on their own. However, there are, at a bare minimum, at least 24 differences between the Church and Israel. At the risk of sounding overly allegorical, to create a memory connection, how many elders are there in heaven representing the Church in the Book of Revelation? There are 24 (Rev. 4:4). So, we have this connection between 24 elders and 24 differences between the Church and Israel. The purpose of this series is to highlight these basic 24 differences between Israel and the Church.



invite last summer's group of children to our church for a special Christmas program. We organized a program of Bible lessons and enjoyed pizzas and sweets together. These children are in great need and this day was a very special event for them that they much enjoyed.



Finally, our church supports a small church in a rural village. We have people from our church go to worship alongside them almost every Sunday. We participated in their Christmas celebration including having some of our young people sing some special music.

Please continue to pray for our ministries, especially our music and Sunday school program.

Andrey, Belarus



Neighbors in Need

As you may have heard in the news, there has been another wave of refugees out of Cameroon into Nigeria. The churches in Obudu, Nigeria have donated supplies and sent teams up to a refugee camp. The camp that the Grace VMI church is supporting is home to more than 3,000 people forced to flee the continued unrest in Cameroon. The church recently took two vehicles loaded with clothes, medication, soap, food, and water up to the camp.

The refugees are in need of many things including water, which the church in Obudu can provide from the well drilled last fall. It is a great blessing to share this pure water and share the message of the Living Water!

Please pray for the men and women of Grace VMI church who are ministering to their neighbors in need.

Mathias, Nigeria



Distinction Number 1: The Relationship with The Godhead

Israel is the wife of Jehovah. Isaiah 54:5 says, “For your husband is your Maker, whose name is the Lord of hosts; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel, who is called the God of all the earth.” The Church, on the other hand, is not the wife of Jehovah, but rather currently is the bride of Christ. Ephesians 5:22-23 reads, “Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the Church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.” Israel is pictured as *married* to God, but we as the Church are pictured as *engaged* to God. The Church has not yet gone through the formal marriage ceremony which begins with the rapture of the Church. Since the wedding ceremony has not materialized yet, we are not yet the wife of Christ, but rather we are now the bride. By the way, as the bride of Christ, how are we supposed to act? We are supposed to behave like any woman that is already spoken for.

Understanding our identity as the bride of Christ should have a dramatic impact upon the personal life of the Church Age believer in the present. For example, Paul writes to the Corinthians in Second Corinthians 11:2-3, “For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, so that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin. But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.” Paul’s point is that when a woman walks down that aisle she is wearing white for a reason. White speaks of purity. By clothing herself in white she is communicating, “I have kept myself sexually and morally pure for this man that I am about to marry.” Therefore, since we are engaged spiritually to Christ, we are to put aside sins that cause us to be unfaithful to the One we are engaged to. This realization explains why sin in the life of the Christian is analogized to fornication. James 4:4 bluntly says, “You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” What is Israel? Israel is the wife of Jehovah. What is the Church? The Church is the bride of Christ. This major distinction constitutes the first of the 24 differences that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)

Scripture for the Month:



2 Corinthians 12:9-10

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

"If (God) chooses to use us, of course we must be fit. And in truth, if we only knew it, our chief fitness is in our utter helplessness... Our strength is only a hindrance."
Hannah Whitall Smith 1832-1911 {The American Women's Bible}

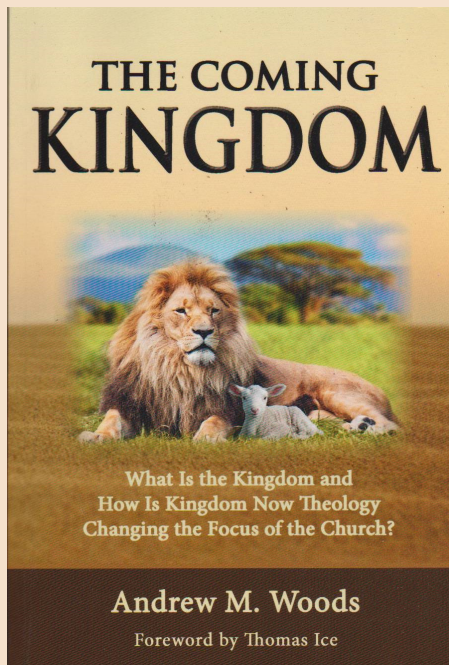
Ladies' Coming in the Fall of 2018

Ruth— a story of:

God's sovereignty at work
 in the lives of His people.



Regular Wednesday Night Activities Will
 Resume September 5, 2018



Andy Woods will continue in
 His teaching from His Book
 "The Coming Kingdom"

7:00 pm

Come early for Dinner at 6:pm

Kids Club at 6:30 pm.

Nursery will be available

four years ago. However, the increase in recent months is striking. The Lord is at work. For total webcasting/live streaming, Sermon Audio and Facebook have reached a combined 80 connections for the Sunday sermon.

Musings and Missives:

- This ministry extends accurate, expositional teaching far beyond the Houston metro area and presents a clear gospel to the lost. We thank our pastoral staff for adhering to SLBC's Purpose to facilitate spiritual growth, evangelize lost souls, and support missionary outreach.
- Our webcast/live stream audience is becoming more extensive. Viewers are from numerous states, regularly from Canada, UK, Croatia, and Australia. Those on Facebook seem to be building a comradery amongst themselves. They say hello to each other in Facebook comments when each session begins. And their "likes", comments, and "shares" extend the outreach of SLBC to many across the U.S. and the world.
- We know online followers who are using archived series or DVD sets for Bible study groups.
- Some online followers make periodic visits from long distances such as Louisiana, Florida, and Victoria, Texas to fellowship with us in person.
- 80 online connections represents a viewer size close to that of the SLBC membership itself. These followers contribute to SLBC with prayer and financial support, and are connecting with in their own periphery to tell others about SLBC and its ministry to them. Such support not only impacts SLBC in Sugar Land, but it also provides valuable support for our missionaries.
- One of the original goals for the video ministry was to provide spiritual sustainment and connection for those in our congregation who are unable to attend in person for short-term or long-term health reasons, or because of work-related travel, or temporary residence in distant locations. We have several in our congregation who fit into these scenarios. We are able to serve them with live and on-demand teaching, plus communion along with its worship music services.
- The AV ministry involves a small team of about eight people, who run lights, sound, video, announcements, upload media, duplicate and distribute, or mail, CDs and DVDs. This ministry also supports ad hoc events such as weddings, memorial services, Ladies' Luncheon, graduations, VBS, and other special services. As an analogy to the church body, we might liken this ministry to the feet, which carry the message to others. Each one on the team participates in this ministry with joy in serving others.

God is definitely at work. We do not have a definitive answer for the rapid increase in online followers except to give credit to Him. We know there are many who hunger for teaching of sound Biblical truth. God knows where they are and will provide for them in His timing and in His way. We are excited when He leads them to SLBC. And it is encouraging to read their comments in emails, and on SLBC's Facebook page and live streaming sessions.

Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry to SLBC and for the worldwide outreach to Christians we will someday meet in heaven. Please also support Sermon Audio (www.sermonaudio.com) with your prayers.

Show original message

Kindly,

Dan Denham, SLBC Media Ministry



sermonaudio.com

"faith cometh by hearing"

June 2018 Sugar Land Bible Church

Listen to our church's sermons every week for free:
www.sermonaudio.com/sugarlandbible (Code #96547)



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Total MP3 Sermons Downloaded For June, 2018: 10,120

Grand Total MP3 Sermons Downloaded To Date: 69,880

Total VIDEOS Downloaded For June, 2018: 6,604

Grand Total VIDEOS Downloaded To Date: 124,747

.. of the downloads, total via mobile phone for June, 2018: 5,304

Grand Total Downloaded via Mobile To Date: 107,599

This month, your listening audience covers 50 states and 35 countries.

We are currently broadcasting a total of 408 sermons for your church 24-hours a day, 7-days a week.

We have provided this report to show you the effects of your church's sermon ministry through SERMONAUDIO.COM.

The geographical locations are only estimates since the Internet by nature does not allow for absolute geographical precision.

Top Audio Sermons Downloaded This Month

Title Speaker Total

1	The Coming Kingdom 047 - 5/23/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	394
2	Ecclesiology 024 - 6/3/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	386
3	Ecclesiology 023 - 5/13/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	378
4	The Coming Kingdom 046 - 5/16/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	375
5	Ecclesiology 022 - 5/6/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	374
6	Submit to the King - 5/27/2018	Alex Garcia	374
7	The Coming Kingdom 045 - 5/9/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	372
8	Daniel 061- Consecrated Temple - 5/6/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	370
9	Law & Grace 008: At Whom.. - 5/27/2018	James McGowan	370
10	The Coming Kingdom 044 - 5/2/2018	Dr. Andrew Woods	368