



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 37 YEARS"
1982-2019



THE CORNERSTONE

November 2019



Samaritan's Purse Ministries By Ashlynn Morris

Every year, the Children's ministry and the Youth group get involved with an exciting opportunity to send Christmas gifts to kids all over the world. As a tradition, the kids and youth get together and take toys, clothes, hygiene items, coloring books, and neat gizmos to bless underprivileged children who don't get Christmas presents.

Samaritan's Purse ministries has a program for kids (and adults!) called Operation Christmas Child, in which you pack shoeboxes full of blessings to send to kids all over the world. It all starts with kids, families, and church groups sharing their resources into packing boxes of blessings. You can include many things, and even a handwritten note and picture.

Every third week of November is the national pick-up week, when you drop off your boxes at the designated drop off location. The boxes arrive at a warehouse where volunteers inspect the boxes and add gospel tracts in specific languages, depending on where they are sending them. It takes a lot of volunteers to pull this off: over a thousand people volunteer every year! It's amazing to see what God can do. After the boxes are processed and inspected, they ship them to children in countries around the world. It is such a blessing to these kids and their families, because not only do they receive toys and gifts, but they receive the greatest gift of all time: the Gospel. At each un-boxing event, there is a pastor who gives the gospel message. Not only do the kids hear the good news, but their families as well. After the children are given these boxes, they are taught more and more about Jesus. Following the teaching, they get to graduate from Bible school. Then they get to participate in spreading the good news all around them.

Samaritan's Purse Ministries' goal is to reach people without the gospel. They live out the Bible passage Luke 10:30-37, in which Jesus is telling the parable of the good Samaritan. There is real pain and suffering in the world, and as Christians, we should help our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. That is why Samaritan's Purse is such a wonderful ministry. Their mission statement is this: "Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ. The organization serves the Church worldwide to promote the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ."

I would encourage everyone to pack a shoebox this year. The Children's Ministry and Youth group are excited to do their annual packing party coming up soon. There is a donation box in the foyer of the church and brochures with more information. Packing a shoebox is a great way to show God's love to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Missions for the Month



The Samuel Center in Guatemala

MEMORIES OF HISTORY, AS THE YEARS PASS

40 years have passed, almost 41, since the beginning of the children's ministry at this place. From the years 1978 to 1990, the ministry was only on weekends; from the year 1978 on until today a Vacation Bible School was always carried out with the help of God.

Compassion International came from 1990 to 1994, and we entered its program as a nutrition project. At this time the group of children was called the "Samuel" Children's Club. In 1995 the program changed its name and was called the "Samuel" Student Center. Compassion withdrew in 2005, but the program continues because GOD IS BIG, ... HAS BEEN WITH US, WITHOUT LEAVING US. Currently, visiting the facilities of the "Samuel" Student Center is like visiting a small Garden of Eden: there is a beautiful sanctuary, a three-level building, a library, a computer workshop, a typing workshop, a music workshop, a basketball court, playground, etc.



What can we say about such a blessing, since year after year the children come and leave because they have grown up? Most leave with Christ in their hearts. Actually, there are already many professionals who overcame poverty.

The buildings of the past have made history and left many memories in the life of the children's ministry. Today, after a few years, we can say with the song writer: "THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE WORK GOD CAN DO".

These buildings no longer exist, they belonged to the Ajquejay family, it is now GOD'S PROPERTY, the Ajquejay family has departed to eternity, but they have left a footprint of glory to the Lord, be-

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 16)

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. There are, at a bare minimum, at least *twenty-four* differences between the Church and Israel. The purpose of this series is to highlight these basic differences. In prior installments, we saw the following distinctions: while Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the Church is the bride of

Christ. Moreover, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Furthermore, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In addition, another very significant difference between Israel and the Church is that the two entities have different birthdays. While Israel started in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2. Moreover, while Israel is a political nation, the Church is a spiritual organism. Also, while Israel fought physical battles, the Church fights spiritual battles. Furthermore, although Israel is characterized by time texts and calendars, the Church has no similar timing characteristics. In addition, while Israel had a priesthood, the Church is a priesthood. Moreover, although Israel had a physical structure called the temple, today the temple of God consists of not only the believer's individual body but also the corporate gathering of God's people. Also, not only will Israel and the Church be resurrected at different times, but they will also be judged at different times and places as well. Moreover, Israel and the Church are different in the sense that both will comprise different features of the New Jerusalem, and initial membership is granted on a different basis. Membership to Israel is granted based on physical ethnicity while membership to the universal Church takes place only through regeneration or the new birth that is the result of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. In addition, Israel and the Church are different in the sense that each is governed by a different source of Scriptural authority. While Israel receives her primary cues from the Mosaic Law, New Testament revelation in general and the epistolary material are directly binding upon the Church. Moreover, Israel and the Church enjoy different relationships with the same Holy Spirit. Also, Israel and the Church have completely different farewell addresses. In addition, the Church and Israel are designated differently. Moreover, while information concerning Israel is found in both the Old and New Testaments, information about the Church is found only in the New Testament. In addition, the Church and Israel are designated differently. Finally, while information concerning Israel is found in both the Old and New Testaments, information about the Church is found only in the New Testament. In this installment, we will examine *one* further distinction.

Distinction Number 22: Evangelism

Israel's Divinely Given Evangelistic Strategy

God, when He created Israel, intended to bless the world through Israel. From her beginning Israel had an evangelistic calling. It is the exact same with the Church. God wants the Church to spread the gospel all over the world. In other words, both Israel and the Church have a missional calling, *but* a key difference is knowing that God gave each a different strategy to reach the world. The nation of Israel was given a "come and see" strategy. The whole strategy for Israel in terms of evangelism is, "if we build it, they will come," which is a modern slogan coming from the movie *The Field of Dreams*. In other words, let us build this beautiful edifice in all its riches and the world is going to hear about it, come and see, and they are going to learn about Yahweh when they get here. The Church, by contrast, does not have a "come and see" strategy. We have a "go and proclaim" commission. When the Church started it was a totally different strategy. In other words, the Church is all about getting people built up in the things of God (Eph. 4:11-16) and then getting them out of the four walls of the Church to go and reach the lost world. To be frank, a lot of mega

Churches need to better understand this because mega Churches are still operating under the old strategy. They are employing a “come and see” strategy or following a mindset of “if we build this beautiful building, even if it is made of pure glass, we are going to get the world in here.” That is *not* the strategy that God gave to the Church. That is the strategy that God gave to Israel.

The Abrahamic Promises and the Prophet Isaiah

The nation of Israel begins in Genesis 12, with Genesis 12:3 being given on Israel’s birthday. God called the patriarch Abram and began to give him certain promises. In Genesis 12:3, God specifically said to Abram, “And I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse and *in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.*” God’s intention for Israel from the beginning was to pour out His blessings upon them, and yet the blessings were not for Israel alone but for the whole world. By God’s design He wanted to use Israel as His vessel, or His vehicle, to bless all of planet earth and to spread the message of the good news about the Messiah. We see this, not just at the beginning of God’s dealings with Israel in Genesis 12:3, but the prophet Isaiah about 1,500 years later said the very same thing. Notice God speaking about His Servant in Isaiah 42:6, “I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, and I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, *as a light to the nations.*” It is evident that God always intended that the nations would see the light of Yahweh through Israel. This represents a reaffirmation of what God said to Abraham about 1,500 years earlier. Also notice that Isaiah 49:6 says the same thing, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; *I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.*”

The Queen of Sheba

Israel and the church may have different strategies, but they have a common goal. Israel’s strategy is a “come and see” strategy. In other words, God’s intention for Israel was to build a beautiful temple and the nations would flock to the temple who would see the detailed temple structure, the comprehensive temple building, and the fine temple architecture, which would lead them to inquire about this detailed-oriented God. This is why when we study passages like Second Chronicles 9:1-12 and First Kings 10:1-13 we learn that the Queen of Sheba, who was 1,200 miles removed from the land of Israel in modern-day Yemen, came to sit at Solomon’s feet and learn of his wisdom. This was obviously before there were airplanes, helicopters, luxury liners, and cruise liners. We can only imagine how arduous such a journey would be to travel 1,200 miles. The God-ordained Jewish strategy was not designed for the nation to go out to the Queen of Sheba. The Queen of Sheba was to come to the land of Israel. It literally was a “come and see” strategy.

The Prophet Jonah

When you go through the Old Testament and study the prophets, God never sent a single prophet to a foreign land, except for Jonah, who against his own will, was to go and preach to Nineveh. Other than Jonah being sent out in that one circumstance, the prophets never functioned that way. The prophets always ministered in and around the land of Israel. In the land of Israel, you did not have a “mission Saturday” or a “mission moment” where the sent missionary would come back from their removed part of the world and give an update concerning what their missionary activity is about. That was not the strategy that God gave to the nation of Israel. It was never a “go out” kind of strategy. It was a “come and see” strategy.

The Money Changers in the Temple

When you understand this, you will start to understand why Jesus was so upset with the money changers in the temple. Jesus, not once but twice, drove out the money changers from the temple. He did it at the beginning of His ministry, and when you put all the chronological pieces of the life of Christ together, you will discover that He did it *again* at the end of His ministry. You know the story, how He went into the temple

cause in this place hundreds of children have accepted the Lord Jesus into their lives and now are happily saved.

By God's mercy, a small multipurpose building is being erected to complement the construction work of this place, and also to manifest the GLORY OF GOD. In this third week of our national month here in Guatemala and Patzicía, the second phase of this construction will be starting with a cost of 30,000 Quetzales (\$4000).

May God bless all those who have placed their grain of sand in this place, since many brothers and friends have engraved their names in the saying of Jesus: IT IS MORE BLESSED TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE. Thank you, brothers and friends, for praying for this second phase; we will soon reach the goal if God places in your hearts to continue as partners for which we are already very grateful.



With God's help, we passed out the children's shoes, they are not all here, there are in total 58 children. Thank you for your prayers and greetings to all donors.

I also share that tomorrow, Monday, September 16, the construction work for the multipurpose building will begin, the bricklayer said that this second phase of placing the slab or terrace will be finished in 20 days and from there wait about 20 more days to remove the wood. I appreciate your prayers for this work.



Atentamente,
 Centro Estudiantil "Samuel"
 Administrador
 Enrique Ajquejay
 Cel. 55982545



Dear Church Family,

The Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry are partnering again this year as we get ready to bless children around the world this Christmas season through Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse ministry. Our goal this year is to fill at least 70 shoeboxes. We'd love for everyone to help in some way. First and foremost, please be in prayer for this major operation that reaches millions of children, asking that the Holy Spirit would minister to the hearts of the recipients. You can also help by donating items at the link below, joining us for an organizing party, or joining us for the grand finale: the packing party.

Please drop all donations off in the foyer by Sunday November 10th. The date for our organizing party will be forthcoming. Our packing party will be on Wednesday November 13th at 7:00 pm

PLEASE NOTE: We have carefully crafted a list of items that are approved which you will find at the below link. Please make sure all items donated are NEW and please don't include any of the following **prohibited items**: Candy; toothpaste; gum; used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; chocolate or food; seeds; fruit rolls or other fruit snacks; drink mixes; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol can.

Please direct any questions to [KC Cunningham](#) at 281-491-7773 or email at kc@slbc.org

CLICK HERE FOR LIST OF ITEMS NEEDED: <https://signup.com/go/cruvbtS>

Sign up for 2019 Operation Christmas Child Donations (<https://signup.com/go/cruvbtS>) on @SignUpdotcom today!

We are looking forward to this fun time of blessing others with our giving!🙏

KC Cunningham

Children's Director/Bookkeeper

Sugar Land Bible Church

281-491-7773

401 Matlage Way, Sugar Land, Tx 77478

Dear Ladies of the Congregation,

Sugar Land Bible Church has been blessed with a large group of amazing Young Mothers this year. Due to this fact, we have about 15-17 kids that we provide childcare for each week and need your help!



If you have some free time between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on Thursday mornings and are a kid at heart, please consider volunteering in our nursery! We have some infants that need cuddles and some primary-aged kids who would love to play with you while the Young Mothers have their Bible Study. Come for the fun, stay for the fellowship with the other nursery workers, and most of all, help fill a need we have in this ministry for these wonderful Young Mothers.

Please see KC Cunningham for more details.



Scripture of the Month

2 Peter 1:5-7

Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in *your* moral excellence, knowledge, and in *your* knowledge, self-control, and in *your* self-control, perseverance, and in *your* perseverance, godliness, and in *your* godliness, brotherly kindness, and in *your* brotherly kindness, love.

courts with a whip and overturned the tables. He was angry because they had taken the temple, which was supposed to be a light to the nations purposed after this “come and see” what God is all about evangelistic strategy, but instead they had turned it into a money-making operation. What are the nations supposed to conclude when they come and see *this*? They would errantly think that God is a God of greed and all He cares about is money. Therefore, when you understand the strategy, evangelistically, that God gave to the nation of Israel you will begin to understand why Christ overturned the money changers in the temple, not once but twice.

The Kingdom Age

Let me ask, through which city will the kingdom be established one day? The answer is the city of Jerusalem because this same strategy will also be in effect during the kingdom age. Notice the kingdom conditions in Isaiah 2:1-4, “¹The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the Lord will be established as the chief of the mountains and will be raised above the hills.” Jerusalem in the coming kingdom is going to be in a place of preeminence over the nations by the design of God. And notice what it says, “. . . and all the nations will stream to it.” That is the same “come and see” strategy that was going on with Solomon, and it is what is going to be happening in the future thousand-year kingdom. With Israel you do not have missionaries *going out*, instead you have people *going to* Israel. Continuing on in Isaiah 2 we read, “³And many peoples will come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths.’ For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ And He will judge between the nations and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.” Notice here in the kingdom you do not have missionaries from Israel going to the remote parts of the earth. Instead, you have the people from remote parts of the earth all going to Jerusalem to learn of God.

The book of Zechariah, chapter 14 and verses 16-18 also speaks of this “come and see” strategy. Zechariah 14:16-18 says, “Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up.” Why will they go “up?” Because Jerusalem is at a higher elevation geographically speaking. That is why there is a section in the Psalter called the Psalms of Ascent. Why are they called the Psalms of Ascent? Because these were the psalms that were sung by the Jews when they went *up* to Jerusalem, up to a higher elevation, to the celebrate various feasts.

Zechariah 14:16-18 continues, “Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went against Jerusalem will go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths.” Sadly, it is evident that some people will not want to go up to Jerusalem, and there will be a consequence for this decision. “¹⁷And it will be that whichever of the families of the earth does not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them.” God deals with them immediately in judgment if they will not go to Jerusalem to worship the King. “¹⁸ If the family of Egypt does not go up or enter, then no rain will fall on them; it will be the plague with which the Lord smites the nations who do not go up to celebrate the Feast of Booths.” What am I getting at here? I am getting at that the whole missionary mindset of Israel was a “come and see” strategy. That is how it was in the Old Testament, which explains the anger of Jesus in the temple, and that is how it is going to be in the future kingdom. Israel always had a missionary calling, but the strategy was to “come and see.”

In our next installment, we will explore in depth how Israel’s “come and see” evangelistic strategy is quite different from the “go and proclaim” evangelistic strategy given to the New Testament Church.

(To Be Continued...)