



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 38 YEARS
1982- 2020



March 2020



Sugar Land Bible Church Presents VBS June 8—12

Boys and Girls, Moms and Dads, prepare yourselves for a great adventure on the Rocky Railway Express. Your help is needed as we get ready for this year's VBS.

Help us stay on track for VBS!

Thursday, March 12th

Saturday, March 21st

Saturday, March 28th

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



Missions for the Month



Second Mile Mission Center

Community Service/Non-Profit

Address: 1135 Highway 90A

Missouri City, TX 77489

Phone No: 281-261-9199

www.2ndmilemissions.org/about-us/

FAITH & FINANCES FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Second Mile offers this 12-week financial education class designed for people with low incomes. The class meets once a week, with dinner and childcare (for select ages) provided. Participants work on goals such as building up their savings, paying off debt, increasing their income and more. Volunteer allies provide ongoing encouragement and communication with participants.

JOB TRAINING

Second Mile partners with local organizations who offer job training onsite at Second Mile. We also work closely with employers looking to fill positions at their company. A few members of our part-time staff receive on-the-job training as a foundation as they go on to the next step in their career.

NEIGHBOR CHOICE FOOD PANTRY

Our award-winning pantry serves around 50 families a day. Individuals select the items of their choice, with the quantity based on their family size. Items include frozen meat, produce, dairy, bread, nonperishable items, and hygiene items as available. Families can visit Second Mile once a month for food as needed. Our walk-in choice food pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Drive through service is available Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. On Saturdays, we host fresh produce fairs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as long as produce is available.

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Signs of the Times for 2020

(Part 1)

The Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return. Sadly, there are many "Christians" who say, "I don't care about the signs of His return." However, I would question the authentic love that such a person really has for Jesus. If we really love the Lord, we should be interested in His return and the events related to it. When I leave the house, my wife always wants to know when I am going to return. Why? It relates to her love for me. If she had no interest in the circumstances concerning my return, I would have grounds for questioning her depth of love for me. Similarly, if professing "Christians" develop a casual attitude about the return of Christ, do they really love Him?

The natural expectation of the believer is that they should be focused on the signs of Christ's soon return. Jesus, in Matthew 24:33, said, "so, you too, when you see all these things, recognize that He is near, right at the door." Luke 21:28 similarly says, "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Hebrews 10:25 also says, "encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." Thus, we can see His return growing ever closer.

Jesus was upset with the first-century Pharisees because the Old Testament had laid out signs related to His first coming, which they ignored. Matthew 16:1-3 says: "[1] The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. [2] But He replied to them, 'When it is evening, you say, *'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.'* [3] And in the morning, *'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.'* Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot *discern* the signs of the times?" So, "red sky in the morning sailor take warning." They knew how to interpret weather. They knew how to interpret signs meteorologically. They knew how to answer questions such as "is there going to be rain today?" or "is this going to be a good fishing day or a bad fishing day?" However, they did not know how to discern the circumstances concerning when their own Messiah was going to show up. Consequently, Christ rebuked them for that. There are people just like this today. They can give you all the trends for sports, interest rates, the stock market, and the economy. However, when you get into the subject of the spiritual signs and trends surrounding the return of Christ, they really do not know much. So, that is why this subject of the signs of the times is something we should all be interested in.

Galatians 4:4 says, "When the fullness of time came God sent forth His Son." In other words, Jesus, in His First Coming, was not dropped into history just at any random time. Rather, He was dropped into history at a specific time. It is a fascinating study to see how the Lord set the stage for the First Coming of Christ. Along these lines, we could discuss how that stage was set through things like universal peace, or *Pax-Romana*, universal Roman roads, and the worldwide spread of the Greek language. Thus, circumstances were perfect for the spread of the gospel and the written recording of the revelation of God's Son. If the Lord set the stage for the First Coming of Christ, does not it stand to reason that He would also set the stage for the Second Coming of Christ? Interestingly, the Bible reveals more signs about the Second Coming of Christ than it does about the First Coming of Christ.

By way of analogy, before you can watch a basketball game, the stage must first be properly set. For example, somebody must first come out and sweep the gym floor. Then, the bleachers must start to fill up with fans. Then, somebody else starts to sell popcorn. The referees then come out and then the competing teams come out and do warmup drills. As these things begin to transpire, you know that a basketball game is getting ready to begin. The same kind of thing is happening right now in our world. The Lord is setting the stage in preparation for one great final drama. The various pieces on the chess board are coming together as never before.

Since we just finished celebrating Christmas a few months ago, you remember when all the Christmas music came on the various radio stations? Then, Santa Claus displays became prominent in the department stores and people started putting up Christmas trees and hanging Christmas lights. All of this allowed us to

see that Christmas was coming very rapidly. Interestingly, they now start putting out all the Christmas decorations in the department stores in early November. As this transpired, we would say to ourselves, “if Christmas is coming and Thanksgiving comes even earlier on the calendar than Christmas, then Thanksgiving must be coming even faster.” Thus, the signs for Christmas not only reveal to us the reality that Christmas was near, but they also revealed to us that Thanksgiving was coming even faster since Thanksgiving occurs earlier on the calendar than Christmas.

In the same way, the model that we have for the end times is that the Lord is now setting the stage for the Tribulation period, which is a seven-year period (Dan. 9:27). If the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, which we believe it does, then the rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, these signs take on the significance for us to look up “for your redemption draweth nigh.” Luke 21:28 says, “And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”

With all of this being said, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? An important concession on my part is that I do not know how long the stage setting will continue. Because the Scripture forbids such a practice (Matt. 24:36; 25:13; Acts 1:6-7), I am not a date-setter. However, this reality notwithstanding, it looks to me, from my limited human point of view, that God is getting ready to wrap things up as He is aggressively setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period. What are some of those signs that He is putting into place? Because there are far too many signs for me to comprehensively cover, I have picked just the following seven as deserving of analysis:

Signs related to Israel

Signs related to international politics

Signs related to economics

Signs related to technology

Signs related to spirituality

Signs related to society

Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy.

When you get into this subject, people often ask, “but have not people always thought that their generation is the terminal generation when Christ will return?” Although that is probably true, the fact of the matter is I think our generation has more evidence than any other generation that has ever lived, of the soon return of Christ. Of course, if the Lord tarries, then the next generation will have even more evidence than we will have. The Bible has not left us in darkness about these matters. On the contrary, it has a great deal to say. With these thoughts in mind, this forthcoming series is dedicated to exploring the seven signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of this unique time period in which we now live.

(To Be Continued...)



Scripture of the Month

Psalm 19:7-11

The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord *are* right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the Lord *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord *is* clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord *are* true *and* righteous altogether. More to be desired *are they* than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant *is* warned, *And* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

FRESH PRODUCE FOOD FAIRS

We facilitate fresh produce food fairs both at Second Mile and with partners in Fulshear, Stafford and Rosenberg. The Houston Food Bank provides an 18-wheeler with 15,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables. With the help of hard-working volunteers, we're able to sort the produce and serve from 150 to 200 or more families in just a few hours.



PAT MCWATERS HEALTH CLINIC

Our Pat McWaters Health Clinic began more than 10 years ago. A group of health professionals witnessed the heartbreaking situations faced by uninsured adults in poverty. They wanted to do something about it. They started by serving people at their own private practice in partnership with Second Mile. Before long, volunteers built a health clinic at Second Mile's facility. The clinic includes three dental operatories and a reception area. This is the only free clinic in Fort Bend County.

MOBILE SECOND MILE

Transportation is one of the biggest challenges our neighbors in need face. Especially in rural areas of the county, our neighbors do not have places of assistance nearby or the gas money to drive far. Through Mobile Second Mile, we pack up bags of groceries and visit partner locations in Needville, Kendleton, and Fulshear. Families make appointments to pick up their groceries, without having to drive all the way to Second Mile. Many are shut-ins who are grateful that someone comes to where they are.

THE OPPORTUNITY SHOP RESALE

In 2015, Second Mile launched its first social enterprise, The Opportunity Shop. This is a resale store providing high quality clothing, shoes, and accessories. When we surveyed our clients about their greatest challenges, the No. 1 was finding a job. We opened the store to provide job opportunities, to provide revenues to serve more people, and to provide great clothing at great prices



MAKE A CONTRIBUTION & RENEW HOPE FOR SOMEONE TODAY

SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH APPS FOR MOBILE DEVICES

12 FEBRUARY 2020

Do you want to have an app on your mobile device that easily links to SLBC's audio and video files and to the church's website? You can go to Apple's App Store or Google's Play Store and download an app from Sermon Audio for your Apple or Android device. There are currently two apps to choose from: 1. *SermonAudio* and, 2. *MyChurch by Sermon Audio*. You may wish to have both apps on your device(s) as explained and shown below.\

1. The *SermonAudio* App

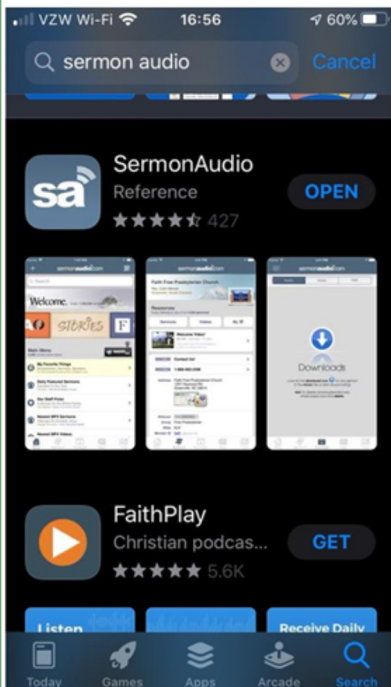
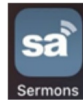


Figure 1. SermonAudio in the App Store

Go to your device's respective "store" and input the search term, *Sermon Audio*. Scroll down, as needed, to find the *SermonAudio* app as shown in Figure 1. Once you have downloaded the app and opened it, click on the *MyChurch* icon on the bottom of the screen, set your church by typing in *sugarlandbible* in the field and Save or *Remember* as instructed. You should see SLBC's page as shown in Figure 2. You can then scroll down as needed and make selections on this screen. You can also sign up for podcasts on Apple devices from this screen. Shown in Figure 3 below is a picture of the SermonAudio app on an iPad. It has the same functionality as the iPhone app, but the layout is somewhat different. You can watch the live webcast from this app.

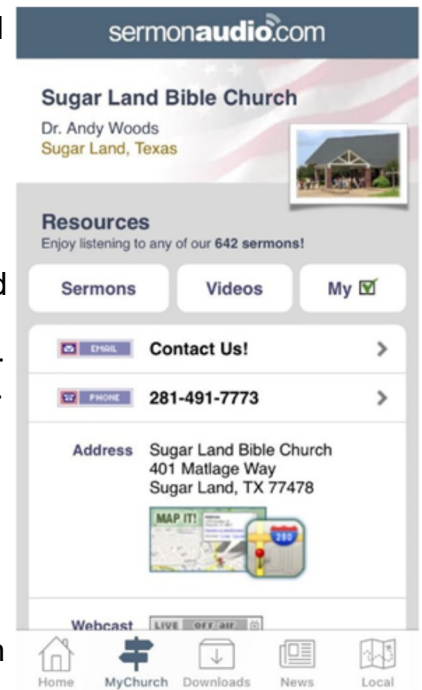


Figure 2. MyChurch screen in the SermonAudio app on an iPhone

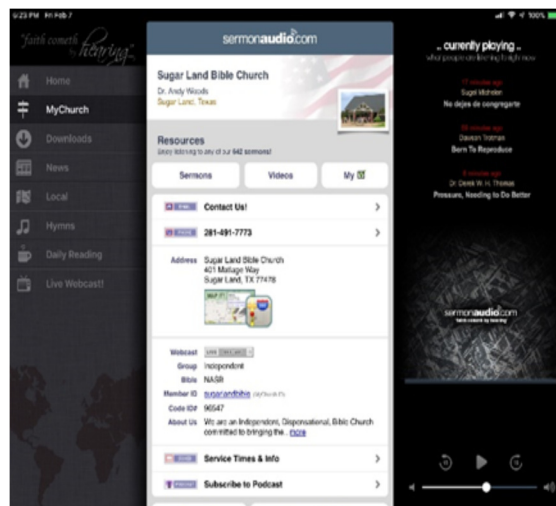


Figure 3. MyChurch screen in the SermonAudio app on an iPad.

2. The MyChurch by SermonAudio App

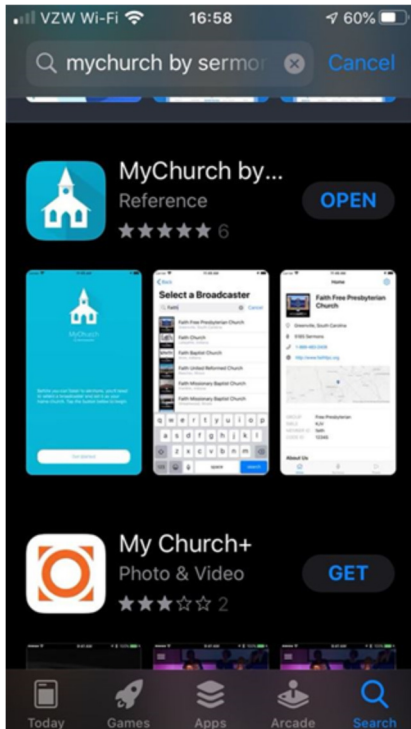
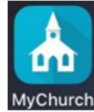


Figure 4. MyChurch by Sermon Audio in the App Store

Go to the respective store and input the search term, *MyChurch by SermonAudio*. Scroll down, as needed, to find the app as shown in Figures 4 or 7. Please note that you may find other apps also called My Church but are not by SermonAudio. Look for the logo and name exactly as shown to find the right one. Once you have downloaded and opened the app, set SLBC as your church by typing in *sugarlandbible* in the appropriate field and saving or remembering as instructed. It should then refresh the page as shown Figure 5. Shown below is picture of the result of searching for *MyChurch by SermonAudio* in Apple's App Store using an iPad.

You can view a list of sermons in this app by clicking Sermons on the bottom menu. This app is very simple and has much less functionality than the *SermonAudio* app above.

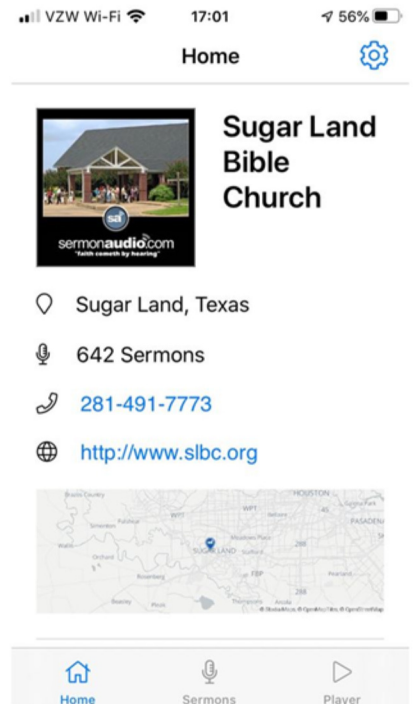
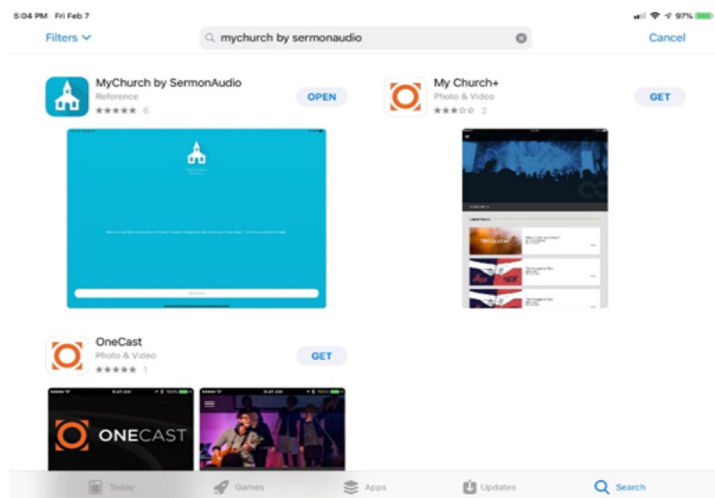


Figure 5. MyChurch by Sermon Audio app on an iPhone



EXTRA: SLBC's Home Page on Sermon Audio's Website

Shown below is SLBC's home page on Sermon Audio's website using a regular computer browser. You can see similarities between its user interface and the *SermonAudio* app in 1 above. You can reach this site on your computer at www.sermonaudio.com/sugarlandbible. You should set SLBC as *MyChurch* in the upper left of the web page. Type *sugarlandbible* in the blank field for My Church and press *Remember* just below the field. This will set your default starting page on Sermon Audio's site as SLBC's home page any time you go back to Sermon Audio's website on your computer.

