



# Truth for Today

March 14, 2021

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Published for the members and guests of the Woodlands church of Christ

## When Giants Go Home.

By Don Hooton

All of us have had people in our lives who have shaped our future with the iron of their character (Prov 27:17). They are the great host of witnesses, of whom the world was not worthy, who have commended life through the faith they lived in hope of the promises God has made (Heb 11:35-12:2). But, giants eventually go home.

I learned this week that Ed Harrell is waiting his final redemption with his family around him. Ed has been a social historian in academia with an impressive resume: professor at six universities including Auburn, University of Georgia and University of Alabama in Birmingham. He has written books, written in academic journals, spoken at history conferences and has been regarded an expert on Religious history as evidenced by interviews on national news programs. Yet, he has always been a preacher, a simple proclaimer of the good news.

I recall a moment when this young preacher was attending a series of lectures of which he was a part and was invited to sit with him and Dee Bowman and just listened. I didn't say much and Ed turned to me and said, "What do you think Don?" I paused; and not much came out as I recall. So I received a gentle rebuff to speak and to speak out for what I know to be truth of the Bible. He had a simple way because he served a simple Savior – a Master for people of the earth. I am sure he had faults. I'm sure he was weak – like all of us. But grace can make us sufficient when we need to be (2Corinthians 12:9).

Read what brother Ken Weliever wrote of him in 2018:

Last night our 88-year-old brother stood before us, some said for an hour (I don't know. I didn't look at my watch), and methodically detailed an impressive historical perspective regarding those who have gone before us seeking Truth. He spoke of those who bravely "set out to faithfully serve God" regardless of the personal consequences.

It was encouraging. Edifying. And uplifting. "We are not alone," Ed reminded us. From the inspired apostolic record of men like Peter, Paul and John to the secular

accounts of the courageous men of the Reformation Era to the American Restoration movement, we can find strength and courage in their quest for Truth... Ed encouraged us "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 4:11).

"Finding fellow travelers and heroes through the centuries assures us that We Are Not Alone," as Ed reminded us of the words of Paul from Philippians 3:12-15). The apostle walked that road. And as an aged man in a Roman prison was still pursuing that goal ahead—"the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Ed pointed out two important points from that passage. Like the apostle, "all of God's servants are imperfect." Honesty demands we admit them. Yet we are called "to walk in perfect unity in our commitment to speak as the oracles of God." When we do, Ed confidently assured us, "we join a great army of those whose stories, truly told, let us know that we are not alone."

Ed spoke of the famed men of history like Wycliffe, Luther, Zwingli, Faraday and Campbell whose collective works might well be summed up in Bernard Rothmann's affirmation in 1533, "It is essential that everything required or desired by men should be done in the name and at the command of God through the positive word of God as Peter affirms (1 Pet 4:11) and certainly we should discontinue everything else that God has not expressly commanded."

However, as I looked around the assembly I was reminded of those in addition to Ed Harrell who have taught, encouraged and strengthened my resolve to faithfulness and steadfastness... *I am not alone*. I thought of those who have gone to their reward who've made a difference in my life... *I am not alone*... Looking around, I saw young men and women in the prime of their youth who are virtuously, vigorously and valiantly opposing the errors of our age and standing firm for the righteousness of God. *I am not alone*... **\_We\_ Are Not Alone** (my emphasis, dh).

# NEWS & NOTES

## UPDATED PRAYER LIST

- Kathy Austin is scheduled for a knee procedure on Monday, 3/15.
- Paula Dobbs, in St Luke's over the weekend caused by pancreatitis, came home Monday and is doing much better.
- Donna Haas is doing well with mild symptoms and no one else at home is sick.
- Stacie Bohanan's brother, Patrick, remains in CCU and has made bug improvements this week.
- Christy Show's mother, Christina Robson's funeral arrangements are 3/19, 10:00 a.m. at the Fellowship of the Woodlands chapel.
- Marissa Suarez's dad's condition remains unchanged, and waiting for test results.
- MOMS-to-be: Reagen Reed (due April 12) and Alix Randow (due April 23).

## MEETINGS, EVENTS, SINGINGS & STUDIES

- **BUILDING STRONG FAMILIES** Bible Class (usually meets First Sundays) | **TODAY 3/14, 4:00 p.m.** (auditorium)
- **2:52 Kids Class** [2-12] | Bible Class on First Sundays | TBA
- **TEEN BIBLE CLASS** [12-18] | TBA
- **TEEN HOME DEVO** [12-18] | TBA .
- **YOUNG ADULTS HOME STUDY** | TBA
- **ADULTS HOME STUDY** [30/40] | TBA
- **GOSPEL MEETING with Ed Brand** | AND HE PREACHED JESUS TO HIM | 3/28-31
- **VBS** | 6/22-25\* (\*Tue-Fri)
- **YOUTH LECTURES with Caleb Churchill & Andy Harrison** | 8/7-8

- **GOSPEL MEETING with Mike Wilson** | 9/26-29
- **WOMEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 10/9
- **MEN'S DAY BIBLE STUDY** | 11/6

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

- **VOLUNTEER SIGN-UPS** See the Monthly Assignments and let Barrett Blankenship know if you cannot fulfill an assignment.
- **Willing to TEACH?** We now need teachers for Spring quarter. **Please contact Brian Clark if you are willing to teach.**
- **WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE?** See Leo Betancourt about the Barnabus group.
- **HOSPITALITY?** Maureen Chegin and Cecelia Neel will coordinate food for members who need assistance during an extended recovery period after surgery or for the family at a funeral.
- **HELP 4 UGANDA.** Many of you have helped individually with different needs that have arisen because our collective fellowship with the two preachers we help in support: Okello Ambrose Bob and Maliisa Sam Leonard. In these connections, we have become aware of more benevolent needs. One such need, especially prayers, is with the Omirambe family (who is known by Okello and Sam) and the children in the village where they live. It would be money for children needs in school supplies and the other need would be a tent for the meeting place for the church. If you would have an interest in participating with this individually, see Don.

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

- Contact Brian with updates or if you need a PDF of the directory.
- We are excited to announce that Garrett Gage will be joining us this summer for the preacher internship we have renewed for 2021. You can find him on Facebook.

## HOSTING THE SPEAKER

- A meal sign-up sheet has been posted in the foyer for Ed and Pat Brand.
- Also, Roxanne Hodges and her mother Anita Stirling are collecting for a care package for the Brands since Ed will return from overseas immediately here before the meeting. So thankful to them and those who are helping with this sweet surprise.

## THROUGH THE NT IN 2021

### MARCH

- 15 Hebrews 7
- 16 Hebrews 8
- 17 Hebrews 9
- 18 Hebrews 10
- 19 Hebrews 11
- 20 Pray and reflect
- 21 Pray and reflect

Attendance	In Person Average Last Month	Virtual Average Last Month	In Person Last Week	Virtual Views Last Week
Sunday Classes	74	25	36	13
Sunday Worship	91	64	117	37
Tuesday Adult Class	6	5	n/a	11
Wednesday Classes	56	26	60	11

SUNDAYS		10:00 AM - 3/14	10:00 AM - 3/21	CONTACT INFORMATION	
Foyer 1-Welcome	Craig Preuss	Hayden Clark	<i>Elders</i>		
Foyer 2-Ushering	Stuart Jones	Dwight Haas	Keith Arrants   936.499.2812		
Song Leading	Norman Davis	Dwight Osteen	George Chapman   832.764.2151		
1 <sup>st</sup> Prayer	Paden Reed	Nathan Shows	Norman Davis   832.326.2966		
Scripture	Timothy Chandler	Ethan Dulin	Don Hooton   936.443.6230		
Scripture Reading	1 Timothy 1:1-11	1 John 1:5-10	<i>Deacons</i>		
Communion Lead	Barrett Blankenship	Al Suarez	Adam Bohanan   281.798.1093		
Preaching	Don Hooton	Don Hooton	Brian Clark   281.513.0706		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prayer	Lester Cockrell	Granville Betton	Gary LeBlanc   281.292.0262		
Announcements	George Chapman	Norman Davis	Craig Preuss   832.477.0578		
Building Open/Lockup	Haas	Bohanan	<i>Evangelist</i>		
Sound 1	Chris Latson	Chris Latson	Don Hooton   936.443.6230		
Communion Prep	G & L Chapman	G & L Chapman	<i>Office Phone</i>		
Counting Contribution	Norman Davis & Michael Hens	George Chapman & Adam Bohanan	281.367.2099		
WEDNESDAYS		7:00 PM-3/17	7:00 PM-3/24	<i>Church Email</i>	
Song Leading	Adam Bohanan	Keith Arrants	woodlandschurchofchrist@gmail.com		
Invitation/Talk	Brian Clark	Barrett Blankenship	<i>Website</i>		
Prayer	Timothy Chandler	Lyn Ray	www.woodlandschurchofchrist.org		
Announcements	Norman Davis	Troy French			