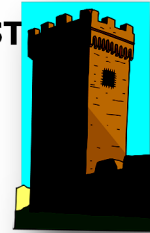


FORT DES MOINES CHURCH OF CHRIST

Love God Love People Serve Everyone

WWW.GODSFORT.ORG



Office:
515-285-1254

Fort Connections

Service Times:
Sunday School- 9 AM
Worship- 10 AM

Mike Demastus

September 2016

Truth in a culture of lies by Jack Cottrell



Sometimes we greet one another with this question: “How are things with you?” “*Things?*” What kind of “things”? Usually we mean, “How’s your health? How’s your family? How’s your job? What’s new in your life?” But what if we broadened the scope of the question, e.g., “In general, do you think *things* in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?” Here we would be asking you to give an opinion about “what’s happening” regarding such things as the respect for human life, the respect for private property, the respect for law enforcement, the effectiveness of our schools, the honesty of our politicians, the moral standards portrayed on

TV and in the movies, the respect for Christian beliefs and standards, racial relations, and the integrity of the family.

What would your answer be? For at least the last six years the people who do the “Gallup Polls” have asked the question above (“In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?”) at least 20 times. In 18 of these polls, over 60% said, “Wrong track!” In the last five polls, “Wrong track!” was the answer nearly 70% of the time. “Right direction” was the answer an average of less than 25% of the time.

This leads us to ask, what’s wrong with our country? Yes, it is a mess! But WHY are “things” so bad, and why are they getting worse and worse? Why is there so much violence, killing, stealing, lying, cheating, child abuse, spouse abuse, and no-limits, guilt-free sexual behavior? Why is our culture so committed to lawlessness and amorality? Why do so many people have no sense of right and wrong, and no conscience? Why these apparent philosophies of life? — “Do whatever you want, or whatever you can get away with!” “Might makes right!” “Anything goes!”

WHY? Why is this uncivilized, amoral, destructive *behavior* so openly approved and promoted by the media, the entertainment industry, our educational system, the cesspool of politics, and the “powers that be” in general? I suggest the following answer to the “WHY” question: *there is so much wrong BEHAVIOR, because there is so much wrong BELIEF.* A basic rule of life is that *behavior follows belief.* Put another way, *ideas have consequences.* Actions are determined by what one believes to be true, whether it is actually true or not. I believe that the source of our problem is wrong belief, and one wrong belief in particular. Our culture has more and more embraced a MONSTER LIE, one of the most destructive falsehoods the devil has ever concocted. For the last 150 years this evil lie has been growing in acceptance; and in the last 50 years it has come dominant in our part of the world, and has produced the moral and civil chaos that is threatening to destroy us.

What is this false belief? It is the widespread conviction that ***THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS ABSOLUTE TRUTH***—in other words, *relativism.* We have lost our sense of *truth.* You frequently hear someone say, “You can believe whatever you want, but what’s ‘true’ for you is not ‘true’ for me.” “That’s just your truth, not mine.” Such conscience-numbing relativism explains why people of all stripes can lie, steal, murder, destroy property, and do all sorts of evil *without feeling guilty!* If there is no absolute truth, then there is no absolute right or wrong! There are no laws; there are no rules. People are *ruthless* because they are *truthless.* Truthlessness begets lawlessness.

We have seen how, in recent times, many have objected to the posting of the ten commandments in public places or on public property, citing a conflict of the alleged principle of separation of church and state. I suggest that the underlying motivation for such objections is that our liberal, truthless society does not want to admit that there is such a thing as commandments or rules of any kind.

To remove your name from our mailing list, please notify us by e-mail secretary@godsfort.org or call 515-285-1254.



There will be a Missions Meeting at The Fort on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00! EVERYONE is invited to attend!



Mommy and Me will meet at Ashley Oakland Star Park on either Monday, September 12th or Tuesday, September 13th. The date and time will be announced soon.

Missions Ministry Update

By Jim Meisch



*Offering Help and Hope
to a Hurting World*

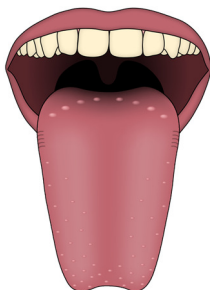
Imagine losing nearly everything you owned, including your house and basic necessities. In an effort to meet these needs IDES developed the Shed-Building Program. A group of 2 to as many as 30 volunteers can make an incredible impact on the work it takes to build the sheds. The tasks involved include cutting materials using a miter saw and track saw, assembling components like doors and trusses using pneumatic staplers and nails, and building wall and floor panels.

Once the components for 10 complete sheds have been assembled, they are shipped to local church partners within a disaster-zone anywhere in the US to be assembled on the property of families and individuals whose homes have been damaged. Every shed includes words of encouragement and verses of Scripture hand-written by IDES volunteers on the lumber. The purpose of the sheds is to store whatever belongings that can be saved or salvaged after an initial disaster has struck, and to be used as tools for the local church to reach out into its own community during a time of need in the name of Jesus Christ.

Since the program's conception, sheds have been shipped to: South Carolina, Kentucky, California, Illinois, Missouri, Nebraska, Arkansas, South Dakota, Mississippi, Texas, and Colorado.

Disasters last much longer than just the day of the initial event. Recovery is a long-term process. Please continue to pray for all of those affected, that they may feel the love of God as IDES and other organizations continue to assist them during this troublesome time.

The above information was provided by the IDES website



Sunday, September 4th during Sunday School there will be a lesson for the adults about our tongues. James 3 has some mighty big words to say about keeping our tongues clean.

Cleo will be teaching the kids during the hour so there won't be any excuse to not attend.

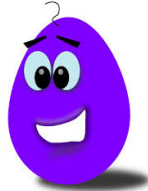
Fort Facts

Total Income for July: \$14,739.58

Total Expenses for July: \$12,716.64



We are so blessed to have Mike Kenworthy be part of our church family! He has agreed to help us learn the art of self-defense. He will have a class, for those of us who **seriously** want to learn martial arts, on Wednesday nights in the CIA room after Bible Study for 30-45 minutes. Sign-up this Sunday if you want to attend!



Wednesday Night Bible Study is going to be resuming on September 7th from 6:00-7:30. We will have classes for 2yrs–adults. JAM is for 2-4year olds and will be taught by Shannon. Kingdom Kids is for 5years-5th grade and will be taught by Jim, Cleo and Julie. CIA is for 6th-12th grade and will be taught by Justin and Lindsay. And there will be an adult class taught by Mike. Wednesday nights are a family affair, so make plans now to attend!

Wednesday Night Bible Study Schedule:

- * September 7-28
- * October 5-19
 - No Bible Study on October 26th
 - Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 30th @ 6
- * November 2-16 and 30
 - No Bible Study on November 23rd
- *December 7 & 14
 - Pajama Party Friday, December 2nd
 - No Bible Study on December 21st or 28th

Sunday School

Regular Sunday School Classes will start back up on Sunday, September 11th. We will have a class upstairs for 2-4year olds taught by Shannon. We will have a class for Kindergarten-second grade in the classroom off of the sanctuary taught by Dorothy, Bev, and Stephanie. We will have a class for 3rd-5th grade in the back room taught by Cleo. We will have a class for 6th-12th grade in the CIA room taught by Justin and Lindsay. And we will have a class for adults in the Sanctuary.

*We are planning on meeting every Sunday except for the following:

- Sunday, November 27th
- Sunday, December 25th
- Sunday, January 1st



Scripture Memorization for September

Romans 12:1-2

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Birthdays

9/5 Rylee Morris
 9/8 Deanna Ohnemus
 9/9 Mary Rowedder
 9/10 Celeste Hodson
 9/12 Carter Watrous
 9/13 Arlyn Hodson
 9/16 LeAnn Peterson
 9/17 Adam Bantz
 9/20 Stephanie Watrous
 9/23 Jodi Oltrogge
 9/24 Caleigh Croy
 9/24 Melissa Shanks
 9/27 Miles Peterson
 9/29 Rebekah Maxwell
 9/30 Ginny Carter

Anniversaries:

9/14 Austin and Miranda DeYoung
 9/18 Roy and Celeste Hodson
 9/26 George and Rose Ellwanger

Special Dates to Remember

9/7 Wednesday Night Bible Study Resumes @6
 9/7 Martial Arts class starts @7:30
 9/8 Elders/Deacons Meeting @6
 9/11 Board Meeting
 9/17 Security Training @10
 9/20 Missions Meeting @7

If your birthday or anniversary was forgotten, please send an email to secretary@Godsfort.org.

Server Schedule

	09/04/16	09/11/16	09/18/16	09/25/16
Greeters	Roy/Celeste	Dan/Cathy	Nate/Deanna	Kirk/Ashley
Scripture	Jacob	Doren	Julie	Kids
Praise Team	Mary/Team	Nate/Tlkrs	DVD/3:16	Abel's/Tlkrs
Offering Meditation	Lonnie	George	Nate 2	Kids
Communion Meditation	Kevin	Jacob	Miles	Kids
Server	Terry	Forrest	Kirk	Kids
Closing Prayer	George	Lonnie	Jim	Kids
Stewardship	Terry/Bruce	Doren/Dale	Nate 1/Jacob	Miles/Kirk
Nursery/Toddlers	Nate/Melissa/Tammy	Justin/Lindsay	Jacob/Shan	LeAnn/Miranda
Junior Church	Jennie #34	Shay #35	Jodi #36	No Jr. Church
Communion Prep	Stephanie	Stephanie	Stephanie	Stephanie
Communion to the Sick	George	Jim	Richard	Nate/Deanna
Security	Richard/Miles/Doug	Shawn/Jim/Austin	Nate 1/Nate 2/Ben	Lonnie/Kevin/Bruce

**Mowing in September**

9/2 Terry
 9/9 Jacob
 9/16 Cameron/Shannah
 9/30 Miles

September 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Bible Study @6 Marital Arts @7:30	8 Elders/Deacons Meeting @6	9	10
11 Board Meeting	12	13	14 Bible Study @6 Marital Arts @7:30	15	16	17 Security Training Meeting @10
18	19	20 Missions Meeting @7	21 Bible Study @6 Marital Arts @7:30	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Bible Study @6 Marital Arts @7:30	29	30	