

***From the Pastor***

We were saddened to hear of the death of one of our elderly widows, Mrs. Dorothy Orsak. Mrs. Orsak had been baptized in October of 1966. She had been a member of God's Church for over 50 years. She had been a widow for the last years of her life. Her entering into the sleep of death from which God will wake her led to my reflecting on how God views widows.

God has a special place in His heart for the widow. David in Psalm 68:5 was inspired to write, "A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation." God's words to Moses in Exodus 22:22-24 were even more powerful:

"You shall not afflict any widow or fatherless child. If you afflict them in any way, and they cry at all to Me, I will surely hear their cry; and My wrath will become hot, and I will kill you with the sword your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless."

Because of His concern for the fatherless and the widow God made special provisions to care for them in His tithing system. Deuteronomy 14:28-29 records, "At the end of every third year you shall bring out the tithe of your produce of that year and store it up within your gates...the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."

The purpose here is not to cover the various details of the administration of tithing, but, to show the real concern that God has for widows. That concern did not change when the Church began. God is still very concerned for them. He expects us to grow in the same concern. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 5:3, "Honor widows who are really widows."

We should be concerned about the plight of our widows. Loneliness is a constant companion to many. James defined pure religion in a way that we all can practice (if we truly follow his instructions from the heart—with real concern). He was inspired to write in James 1:27, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

Sadly, we will not be able to visit Dorothy anymore. However, there are other widows in our midst. By visiting them, out of love and concern for them, we can indeed practice pure religion.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	5:46pm	5:50pm	5:54pm
Sunset Friday 1-13	5:51pm	5:54pm	5:59pm

# Church of God South Texas

**Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



January 7, 2017

## Victoria

*Sermon:* Jim Chapman

## Corpus Christi

*Sermonette:* Mark Monsivais

*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

## Harlingen

*Sermonette:* DVD

*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

"Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world."

James 1:27

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 1/7</b>	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be conducting Mrs. Dorothy Orsak's funeral in Hallettsville, TX.
<b>Sabbath 1/14</b>	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, and Victoria. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Monsivais will deliver the sermon in Corpus Christi and Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

### FOI Ghana Camp Project - Summer of 2017

Foundation Outreach International and the Church would like to announce an opportunity for up to four young adults to serve in mid-August in the West African country of Ghana. Ideally, we would like two young adult men and two young adult women from the Church of God, a Worldwide Association, who are interested in serving on the activity staff at our teen/youth camp in Ghana in summer of 2017. This project will be a total of 12 to 14 days in length.

We recommend you visit the FOI website (accessible from the COGWA member website), if you are seriously interested in any of these unique service projects.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tom Clark at [thomas.clark@cogwa.org](mailto:thomas.clark@cogwa.org), or Doug Horchak at [doug.horchak@cogwa.org](mailto:doug.horchak@cogwa.org).

### Dallas - Fort Worth 2017 Spring Holy Days Dinner and Dance

On April the 15th, the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread, the Fort Worth congregation will again be hosting a combined Sabbath Service for the Dallas and Ft Worth congregations at the beautiful Marriott Solana Hotel in Westlake Texas (near the DFW Airport).

Later that evening, we will have a full 3 course dinner served and then dance to a live band as we celebrate the Festival together. The hotel has agreed to hold their pricing to what they did for us in 2014.

All rooms will be \$99.00 a night and include a full complementary buffet breakfast for 2 and the meals will be a choice ranging from \$34. to \$39. depending upon the entree chosen. As this is during the Feast Days, it is an appropriate use of 2nd Tithe if you so choose. Full details on reserving a room, meal selections and reservations will follow by the end of January.

## Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

**San Antonio Potluck:** The next potluck is scheduled for January 14.

**Harlingen Bible Study & Potluck:** The next Bible Study/potluck is scheduled for January 28.

**Corpus Christi Bible Study & Brown bag:** The next Bible Study/brown bag is scheduled for February 11.

**Corpus Christi Goose Island Campout:** is scheduled for February 24-26. There will be no local Sabbath services, they will be held at the campout.