

From the Pastor:

This is Wednesday, November 21, 2018. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day in the United States of America and its territories. Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. From various sources we learn that “Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by George Washington after a request by Congress. Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until the presidency of Abraham Lincoln, when Thanksgiving became a federal holiday in 1863, during the American Civil War.” It was in the proclamation by Abraham Lincoln that the fourth Thursday in November was established as the national day of Thanksgiving.

I have been serving in the Personal Correspondence Department (PCD) for going on two decades now. Most questions arise from material that has been printed in the Church’s publications. A decade or more ago a lady asked the question (the gist of it was): “Why can you say we are a blessed people when there was and is so much evil in this nation?”

The answer to that question lay in the words God spoke to ancient Israel before He led them into the Promised Land. Those words are found in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 states, “For you are a holy [set apart] people to the Lord your God, the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for Himself, a special treasure above all the peoples of the face of the earth. The Lord did not choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers...”

In Leviticus 26:18, 24 we read that God would punish Israel seven times [we understand this to be seven prophetic times or 2520 years] more for their sins. We always in the past used 721-718 B.C. for the dates of Israel’s siege by Assyria and captivity. Today it is thought to be 724-721 B.C. Regardless of the exact date 2520 years brings us anywhere from 1800-1803 A.D as determined from the fall of the House of Israel. It is in this period of time that the negotiations and completion of the purchase of the Louisiana Territory occurred. This was the greatest single acquisition of territory in U.S. history. This was a great blessing in the history of the U.S.

However, this nation did not become great—God did not bless this nation—because of its goodness or righteousness; but, because God would keep His promise to Abraham. As God said to ancient Israel in Deuteronomy 9:4-6, “Do not think in your heart, after the Lord your God has cast them out before you [the pagan inhabitants of the Promised Land], saying, ‘Because of my righteousness the Lord has brought me in to possess this land’; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord is driving them out from before you. It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the Lord your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Therefore understand that the Lord your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.”

We are thankful on Thanksgiving Day because we understand from where the blessings on this nation have come.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	5:31pm	5:35pm	5:39pm
Sunset Friday 11-30	5:30pm	5:34pm	5:38pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



November 24, 2018

Victoria

Sermon: Jim Chapman

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Split Sermon: Michael Watts
Split Sermon: DVD

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to have a walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...”
Ephesians 4:1

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 11/24	Regular times and locations for all congregations.
Sabbath 12/1	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Mr. Mendez will be in Corpus Christi and Harlingen.

Winter Camp:

Camper and staff applications are being accepted for Winter Camp in Wisconsin. The staff application deadline is Nov. 1, and the camper application deadline is Nov. 15. Camp will run from Wednesday, Dec. 26, to Tuesday, Jan. 1. For more information, please visit the COGWA Youth Camps website: camps.cogwa.org.

Winter Family Weekend:

Friday evening, December 21 through Tuesday night, December 25 in Louisville, KY.

Raise Funds for FOI While You Shop:

Foundation Outreach International has partnered with four major companies to raise funds. Take advantage of the programs described below and “do a world of good” while you shop!

AmazonSmile: Support FOI when you shop on Amazon. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Just login to your Amazon account, search for AmazonSmile, and match “Foundation Outreach International” to your account.

Shutterfly: It’s easy to support Foundation Outreach International while preserving your memories. Shutterfly enables users to create personalized photo gifts with their own photos and text—gifts such as photo books, home decor and much more.

Simply go to the unique FOI.ShutterflyStorefront.com and then click Shutterfly. Each time you make a purchase through our storefront, Shutterfly will donate 13 percent of the total sale directly to Foundation

Outreach International.

Foundation Outreach International Gallery: Shopping the FOI Gallery, FOI-Gallery.pixels.com, allows you to browse through images from professional and seasoned photographers and images from the projects we sponsor. These images can be turned into 25-plus different products, ranging from greeting cards to canvas prints, phone cases, throw pillows and more. Proceeds from your purchases go to support the projects of Foundation Outreach International.

Kroger: Supporting Foundation Outreach International when you shop at local Kroger grocery stores is easy. Simply enroll in Kroger Community Rewards online at Kroger.com and link your Kroger Reward Card. Then pick “Foundation Outreach International” as your preferred nonprofit organization. FOI is an approved recipient of Community Rewards in five U.S. regions. Use the search feature when linking your Rewards card to find out if FOI can benefit from purchases in your area.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

Corpus Christi Brown Bag and Bible Study: December 1

San Antonio Pot Luck: The next potluck will be December 1.

Harlingen Bible Study and Potluck; December 15.