

From the Pastor

If the wave sheaf was still being offered, it would have been waved before God (Leviticus 23:11) this past Sunday. This was the first day of the week that fell during the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

The Jamieson, Fausset and Brown (JFB) “Commentary on the Whole Bible” makes the following comment—some statements omitted:

“A sheaf lit., an omer, of the first-fruits of the barley harvest. The barley being the sooner ripe than the other grains, the reaping of it form the commencement of the general harvest season...The wave sheaf was reaped after sunset on the previous evening by persons deputed to go with sickles and obtain samples from different fields. These, being laid together in a sheaf or loose bundle, were brought to the court of the temple, where the grain was winnowed, parched, and bruised in a mortar. Then, after some incense had been sprinkled on it, the priest waved it aloft before the Lord towards the four different points of the compass, took a part of it and threw it into the fire of the altar—all the rest being reserved to himself. It was a proper and beautiful act, expressive of dependence on...God...The offering of the wave-sheaf sanctified the whole harvest.”

The wave sheaf marked the beginning of the general harvest season which of course began with the spring harvest of firstfruits.

One statement that was omitted was the comment about when this took place. The comment references the opinion among many Jews which believe that the wave sheaf was offered on the day after the first annual Sabbath—the Holy Day—the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—the sixteenth day of the first month. The JFB Commentary made this comment:

“The offering described in this passage was made on the sixteenth of the first month, the day following the first Passover Sabbath, which was on the fifteenth...”

We know that “the day after the Sabbath” spoken of in Leviticus 23:11 is the first day of the week (Sunday) that comes during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. This we know from the example of Jesus Christ.

Jesus had been put in the tomb right before sunset on Wednesday evening—right before the first day of the feast began. He was raised from the dead exactly three days and three night later—right before sunset at the end of the weekly Sabbath. But He did not immediately ascend to His Father. He waited to ascend at a particular time.

Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb while it was still dark and found the stone covering the tomb taken away (John 20:1). She encountered an individual whom she thought was the gardener (vs. 14-15). Jesus spoke her name and she recognized Him and apparently she instinctively reached out to hug Him. Jesus’ response was, “Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God and your God.” (John 20:17 KJV)

Jesus waited to ascend at the time of the wave sheaf to be accepted as the firstfruits (1 Corinthians 15:23) of those who would be in the harvest of firstfruits to be called into God’s Family.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	7:58pm	7:58pm	7:56pm
Sunset Friday 4-28	8:01pm	8:02pm	7:59pm

Church of God South Texas

Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen



April 22, 2017

Victoria

Sermon: Jack Hendren

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: Arnold Mendez
Sermon: Steve Moody

Harlingen

Sermonette: Michael Watts
Sermon: DVD

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 4/22	Regular time and locations for Victoria, Harlingen, and Corpus Christi. San Antonio will meet in the Main Auditorium and NOT the Family Life Center
Sabbath 4/29	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.

2017 Camp Applications

The COGWA Youth Camps team is happy to announce that on March 1 the application system opened to begin taking 2017 applications. We will once again be using the COGWA Portal system, but we encourage everyone to start the process by reading the article titled “Camp Application System” on the main page of the camp website (<http://camps.cogwa.org>). There are some specific points we would like you to be aware of before you begin your application.

We think you will find that applying via this new system is faster and simpler. As mentioned in the article, much of your information is retained for subsequent years’ applications and needs only to be reviewed (and edited if changes are needed).

For your convenience, here is a direct link to the article with further explanation and additional information: “Camp Application System.”

Camp Lone Star from Ken Giese

Lone Star Preteen Camp is scheduled for June 11-14. We are pleased to announce that Camp Lone Star will be returning to Messiah’s Ranch (messiahsranch.org), near Bryan and College Station.

Our application process is up and running, plus it is easier to use than our previous system. We are hoping to welcome 100 campers this year and we would love to have your preteens as well as any teen or adult staff volunteers join us. You can apply at <http://camps.cogwa.org>. Thanks for your help and have a wonderful week!

Festival registration

Please remember to register for the Feast of Tabernacles if you have not done so as yet. If you registered last year (and remember your username and password), there is only a one-step process registering this year. If you need help, please see your Festival adviser. Members without Internet access should be assisted by their local Festival adviser.

FT 2017: Festival Youth Instruction Volunteers

This year we will once again be offering Festival Youth Instruction at many U.S. Festival sites—and we will need volunteers to teach these lessons. Unfortunately, the option to volunteer for Festival Youth Instruction was inadvertently left off on the first day of registration. So if you registered for the Feast on Sunday, April 16, and would be willing to serve on our Festival Youth Instruction teaching team, please go back to the COGWA member portal, log in, click on “Feast of Tabernacles 2017” and then click on the “Edit Your Registration” button and add Festival Youth Instruction under the service areas. Thank you for your dedication to our children!

Friday Night Live--COGWA Bible Study for Young Adults

This month’s study, presented by Jim Franks, is titled, “Firstfruit: What Is That?” After the Feast of Unleavened Bread, we enter the countdown for Pentecost, which is also called the Feast of Firstfruits. We are to count 50 days from the Sunday during Unleavened Bread in order to establish the date for Pentecost. Over the years the dating of Pentecost has been controversial, and there has also been some controversy about the term “firstfruit.” This is an agricultural term that has a spiritual application. What does it really mean? Be sure to tune in this Friday evening, April 21, at 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (7 p.m. Central, 6 p.m. Mountain and 5 p.m. Pacific) to learn more. That’s this coming Friday night on Friday Night Live!

Festival Youth Instructors Needed at the Feast of Tabernacles

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Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: The next regularly scheduled potluck will be May 6.