

### **From the Pastor**

In the account of Moses and Israel (Exodus 6) an interesting statement is made concerning the response of the children of Israel to Moses after he delivered to them God's fervent wishes and intentions. The account of God's words and promises are recorded in Exodus 6:8:

"Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the Lord; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians; I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as My people, and I will be your God. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: I am the Lord.'"

Think about those words that were to be given to Israel from God. "I will rescue you from their [the Egyptian] bondage." "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God."

What has God done for us? When we were the slaves of sin God delivered us so that we can become the servants [slaves] of righteousness. "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness." (Romans 6:16-18)

Further, God has chosen us to be His people. "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy."

However, when Moses delivered God's powerful promises to the children of Israel, what did they say? "So Moses spoke thus to the children of Israel; but they would not heed Moses, because of anguish of spirit and cruel bondage." (Exodus 6:9)

Though God's promises were powerful: "I will take you as My people, and I will be your God," the people of Israel could not see passed their physical circumstances to see God and take His promises to heart.

How often do we do that? When we go through trials, how often do we not look beyond those physical circumstances to see God, our Father, who deeply loves us and has promised that in all of our trials He will work all things "together for good," if we "love God." (Romans 8:28)

Sadly, in all of the trials that Israel faced, they never turned to God. Hopefully we will.

As we approach the spring feasts let's rededicate ourselves to strengthening our commitment to and our relationship with our Father and elder Brother.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7:50pm	7:50pm	7:51pm
Sunset Friday 4-14	7:53pm	7:53pm	7:54pm

## **Church of God South Texas Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



**April 8, 2017**

**&**

**April 11, 2017**

**First Day of Unleavened Bread**

**April 8, 2017  
Victoria**

**Sermon: Steve Moody**

**Corpus Christi**

**Sermonette: DVD**

**Sermon: Arnold Mendez**

**Harlingen**

**Sermonette: Michael  
Watts**

**Sermon: Arnold Mendez**

**April 11, 2017-FDULB  
Victoria**

**Sermon: Jim Chapman**

**Corpus Christi**

**Sermonette: Mark  
Monsivais**

**Sermon: Steve Moody**

**Harlingen**

**Sermonette: Orlando  
Mascorro**

**Sermon: Arnold Mendez**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

2 Corinthians 5:17

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 4/8</b>	Regular locations and times for Corpus Christi, Victoria, Harlingen, and San Antonio.
<b>Passover 4/10 Passover observed Sunday evening April 9</b>	Victoria, Corpus Christi, and Harlingen Passover service: 7:50 p.m. Please try to arrive and be seated no later than 7:40 p.m. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria, Mr. Chapman will be in Corpus Christi, and Mr. Mendez will be in Harlingen.
<b>Holy Day 4/11 First Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread</b>	Victoria: 10:00 a.m. services – Mr. Chapman Corpus Christi: 3:00 p.m. services – Mr. Moody San Antonio: 2:30 p.m. services – Mr. Chapman Harlingen: 10:00 a.m. services – Mr. Mendez
<b>Sabbath 4/15</b>	Regular time and locations for Victoria, Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and San Antonio. Mr. Moody will be in Victoria and San Antonio. Corpus Christi will have a DVD. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in 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](http://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!

### **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 \$34.00 to \$39 depending upon the entre chosen. As this is during the Feast Days, it is an appropriate use of 2nd Tithe if you so choose.

Please hold the date and add it to your calendars. Full details on reserving a room, meal selections and reservations will follow by the end of January. Again, the date is April the 15th – the Sabbath during the Days of Unleavened Bread.

### **Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember**

**Corpus Christi Brown Bag Social:** There will be a Brown Bag Social on the First Day of Unleavened Bread after services.

**San Antonio Potluck:** There will be a potluck on the Last Day of Unleavened Bread between services.

The next regularly scheduled potluck will be May 6.

### **Last Day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread:**

**Victoria:** Services in Victoria will be at the regular time and location as the weekly Sabbath.

**San Antonio:** There will be two services in San Antonio. The morning service will be at 10:30 a.m. There will be a potluck meal between services. The afternoon service will begin at 2:30 p.m.

**Corpus Christi & Harlingen:** There will be a combined service with the Harlingen congregation in the Corpus Christi hall at 1:00 p.m. A covered dish social will follow services.

**Gilbert and Tina Gonzalez** have a temporary address, which is a PO Box. They will send us their permanent address once they are situated.

PO Box 7058  
Yankton, SD 57078