

October 5, 2007

WFMCC Weekly Take Back the Word - Sodom and Gomorrah



"If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town."

-Matthew 10:14-15



Dear Friends,

This Sunday we will be taking a one-month break from our "Sermons by Request" series to cover a new topic throughout the month of October: the Bible and Homosexuality. What better place to start than with Sodom and Gomorrah? These two towns, first described in the 19th chapter of Genesis, are infamous for being targeted by God for destruction by fire and brimstone, all supposedly because of their sin of homosexuality. But is that really why these cities were destroyed? If so, what does that have to do with Jesus mentioning Sodom and Gomorrah by name in the gospel of Matthew?

The story of Sodom and Gomorrah is probably the most-often used biblical account to justify the belief of many that homosexuality is a sin. This Sunday we will learn why that belief is misguided, along with what the true wrong-doing of these "sin cities" really was (hint: it's the same wrong-doing that Jesus was describing in Matthew 10). The answer just might surprise you, along with many things we will be learning this month about what the Bible truly has to say about homosexuality.

And that's not all that will be going on at our church this weekend! Tonight we will be setting up for our annual garage sale, which will take place from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. On Sunday our **Worship and Praise Band** will be performing (don't forget to come at 10:30 a.m. to sing along), and we will be blessing all of the many supplies we have collected for Faith Mission.

Finally, this Sunday we will also observe the 39th Anniversary of our denomination by receiving a special

Fellowship Offering in addition to our regular offering. The funds we receive will be given to support the 22 MCC groups, missions and churches in Latin America, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. I hope you will join me in making a generous gift to further the exciting work that MCC is doing in these countries.

MCC is spreading a message of hope and liberation all over the world. It is the good news that God loves all of us, of all sexual orientations and genders. It is the message that you and I are called to claim for ourselves, even as we share this good news with Wichita Falls and beyond.

Many blessings,

Lea

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1. CHANGE OF DATE: Follow-Up Meeting From the Men's Retreat

All those who identify as male are invited to bring a brown-bag lunch and meet with our pastor Rev. Lea Brown this Sunday, October 7th immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service. (Please note: this is a change from the September 16th date that was originally planned.)

We will talk about the recent men's retreat, and make plans for future events. Whether or not you attended the retreat, you are welcome to participate in this meeting. Come and help us build up our men's community at WFMCC!

2. Next Membership Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of WFMCC, or would you like to know more about what membership means? If so, please plan on attending our next membership class, which will be held on Sunday, October 21st at 1 p.m. Please let Lea know as soon as possible if you would like to register for the class.

3. It's Time for WFMCC's Annual Garage Sale

This weekend we will be holding our annual garage sale. Set-up starts this evening at 6 p.m., and the sale will run tomorrow from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Many thanks to everyone who has donated items or signed up for a work shift.

We will be making reminder calls to everyone today who is signed up for a

We Need Mowers!



Because of the huge amount of rain we have had

██████████ this year, we are having a difficult time keeping up with all the mowing that needs to be done at the church. The folks who have been doing the mowing week after week could really use some help.

We have all the equipment you will need - we just need your time and energy for about two hours once a month. (It goes a lot faster if you have a team of two or more!)

If you would be willing to help with this important ministry, please contact Lea at (940) 322-4100 as soon as possible, or by email at lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org.

Remember - our building and grounds are our calling card to our community! Please consider helping us to continue looking our best.

shift. If you didn't sign up and want to help out, please feel free to stop by the church this evening or anytime tomorrow. We especially need folks to help with clean-up from 2 to 4 p.m.

4. WFMCC Change Drive Continues

Now that we are in the final four months of 2007, we haven't got much longer to fill up the two five-gallon containers in our sanctuary with loose change. Our goal is to collect "Ten Gallons of Change for 20 More Years," and together we can do it!



There are cups labeled "10 for 20" in the back of the sanctuary next to the change containers. Take as many as you like for your home, vehicle, workplace, etc., to help you collect your change. You can bring the cups back with you to church any Sunday and pour your coins into the containers.

Both containers are half full at this time. Please help us fill them all the way to the top by December 31st. Every penny, nickel, dime and quarter will help us continue our ministries into our 21st year and beyond.

5. 2008 WFMCC Pet Calendar

Even though it is only September now, we are already making plans for our 2008 Pet Calendar fundraiser. This is your chance to introduce your furry family member to everyone at WFMCC!



Here is how it works: you can submit up to three digital pictures between now and October 21st to lbrown@wichitafallsmcc.org. All pictures must be received electronically. If you don't have a digital camera, you can arrange to bring your pet(s) by the church and we will take pictures for you. Call Lea at (940) 322-4100 if you need to do this.

Once we have received all the pictures, we will vote for our favorites over three Sundays in November. All votes cost \$1 each. Altogether forty-one of our favorites pets will be featured in the calendar, with the top three receiving special recognition. The calendars will cost \$15 each and may be ordered in November.

The WFMCC Pet Calendar is a wonderful fundraiser for our church and a fun way to show our love for all of God's creatures. Send in your pictures today!

6. Break the Barrier Update

Many thanks to everyone who has been contributing to our Break the Barrier Fund. Our current total is now \$2,996! These funds are set aside each month to fund our dream of hiring a full-time director of music and worship. With the continued faithfulness and generosity of the WFMCC community, we can be assured that we will be able to make this dream come true.

The next Break the Barrier offering will be received on Sunday, October 21st.

7. No Day But Today!

The next meeting of our HIV/AIDS ministry, No Day But Today!, will be held on Sunday, October 14th at 1 p.m. This meeting is open to anyone who wants to raise awareness about AIDS and fight the disease in Wichita Falls and beyond. Everyone is welcome. Please feel free to bring a brown-bag lunch and join us as we plan our projects for the Fall.



8. Thanksgivings and Prayer Requests

Thanksgivings for not being alone in the wilderness...praises for healing and wisdom to know what paths my life should take with new-found health; thank you God for staying with me...**Prayer requests for** healing for Mr. Bills following his surgery...for Morgan and Christina...for healing for Brittan...for strength for Laretta...for continued healing and patience for John...for Trish and her husband...for travel mercies for Brian and David...for healing for Andrew...for Taylor and her hearing loss, and for the future surgery to correct the problem...for the inmate in 4C214 in Lawton...for Becky's health and tests.

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