

FRIDAY, 10 JANUARY 2020



FCC...A GREAT CHURCH OF GREAT PEOPLE
SERVING A GREAT GOD DOING GREAT THINGS!



Last year we testified, "IN JESUS' NAME WE PRESS ON!"

This year's theme comes from the chorus of a Gaither Gospel Classic, "I BELIEVE WHATEVER THE COST!"

As many turn away from the Gospel and oppose the Truth of God's Word we are determined to take up the Cross, follow our Christ, and to contend for the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3). We not only believe the truth is true for us... it is true for the world.



THAT'S WHY WE'RE EXCITED ABOUT THE VISION AND POSSIBILITY OF MISSION 2020!

- ◆ Ladies' Fellowships (the second Saturday of each month 9:30am) and Men's Prayer Breakfast (the first Saturday of each month 8am) are growing in popularity drawing between 10-20 to each.
- ◆ This month we are expanding our van and bus ministry into St.Charles County for the first time.
- ◆ We are learning more about community MEET-UPS and believe this has great potential going forward. We now have one at McDonalds at Page and Ashby in Overland (8am Tues) and one at Starbucks at the Crossings at Northwest (10am Fri).
- ◆ Weather permitting we are out calling from door to door every day—Monday through Saturday.

- ◆ THE GREAT COMMISSION and VBS will take on new dimensions in 2020.
- ◆ As we refine our Web Page (see the latest www.fccstl.org) we anticipate greater involvement.
- ◆ Our LIVESTREAM is regularly viewed by over 100, with our record being over a 1000.

OUR "GIVING JOY" YEAR END OFFERING WAS \$2,086 SHORT ON DECEMBER 31, 2019, BUT WITH PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS RECEIVED EARLY IN JANUARY WE ARE PRAISING THE LORD FOR \$19,697!

YOUR GIVING KEEPS FCC GOING
GIVING JOY!
WORSHIPING...WITNESSING...WINNING

GIVING TOTAL-UPDATED: DEC 31,'19 MIDNIGHT
\$17,914

Bringing you to Life!
FAITH COMMUNITY
PayPal or Mail Your Gift to:
2969 N. Lindbergh, St. Ann, MO 63074

YEAR-END GIVING CAMPAIGN
20,000
90%

Plus Pledges Received
PAYPAL and Mail After
December 31

\$19,697

Leaving us only \$303 from our Goal! PTL!

PayPal: FCCStLouisMO@gmail.com

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM WAS A BLESSING!
THE TEEN PLAY WAS ONE OF THE BEST EVER!
THE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE WAS WONDERFUL!
AND THE NEW YEAR'S EVE FELLOWSHIP AND WATCHNIGHT SERVICE WAS FUN AND MEANINGFUL!
WE LOVE FAMILY FCC!



<https://www.facebook.com/rick.jones.319/videos/10156257422366362/>

LAST SUNDAY'S BULLETIN

<http://www.fccstlouis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-JAN-5.pdf>

FROM THE WORD:

2 Peter 5ff

⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

TODAY'S CHALLENGE QUESTION:

Is Christ real to me?



REMEMBER TO PRAY:

--For the salvation of the lost

--For new friends of Faith

--TAMMY LEWIS is home after successful heart surgery.

--GARY OLIVER'S brother SID OLIVER

--AL LOCKHART received a very encouraging report from the doctors this week.

--GRANNY FARMER is at Rosewood

--NEIL GOODRICH

--RUTH GEORGE is facing surgery

--BILL BARNES is back at Mercy Hospital

--Chris Black's Niece Danielle

--MARK JENNINGS Neighbor of Hurlbut's.

--JOHN BIONDO is at Mercy

--BIANCA LEE'S GRANDFATHER PASSED AWAY. She is headed to Phoenix next week for the funeral.

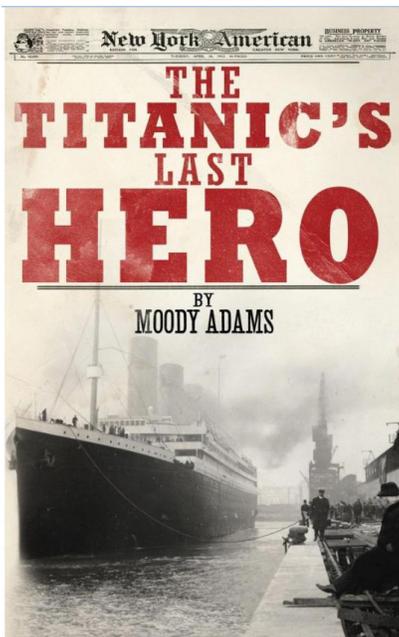
--RON & JANE FEGER have had a terrible bout with sickness.

KEY LINKS:

DECEMBER 15 – BULLETIN

<http://www.fccstlouis.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-DEC-15.pdf>

PASTOR'S BLOG WWW.REACHINGFORTH.BLOGSPOT.COM



In what had to have been one of the last messages he preached (delivered in 1911 at the Moody Church in Chicago), Scottish Evangelist John Harper described the urgency of our situation:

“A very little while and He will come, and the door will be shut, and the door of Christendom sealed. Only a brief season can remain for us all. But what may not be done in these quickly passing days! What seasons of prayer and intercession may we not have!

What sacrifices for Him may we not make! What power from the throne may we not receive! What scenes of blessing may we not witness in the gathering out of the last members of the body of

Christ from this doomed and darkening world, while upon it the night shadows of coming judgment are falling fast!

Beyond this little while there will be the glory of His presence, the glad reunion with the loved, the thrilling ‘well done’ of the Master at His judgment seat – the entering in, to go out no more forever. But there will be no more opportunity of praying lost souls to His feet and winning them to His heart forever.”

John Harper's life and death inevitably point each of us to an all important question: what am I doing with the time I have left?

*Only one life, the still small voice,
Gently pleads for a better choice
Bidding me selfish aims to leave,
And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.*

Harper's reputation as an evangelist was so well known that he was invited to speak at The Moody Church in 1910. He wrote of those services, "I have been in Chicago for three months, God gave us a very precious and wonderful revival of continuous services each day and sometimes even more often." He went on to say that he now had been invited back to The Moody Church for another three months of meetings.

And so it was that John Harper, his sister, and his six-year-old daughter (his wife had died) found themselves on the great ship, the *Titanic*. Survivors later reported that as *Titanic* began to sink, Harper admonished people to be prepared to die. He made sure his sister and daughter were in a lifeboat even as he continued to share the Gospel with whoever would listen.

"It was the night of April 14, 1912, a night for heroes, and John Harper met the challenge. Though the waters swallowing him were bitterly cold and the sea about him was dark, John Harper left this world in a brilliant blaze of glory."

At 11:40 pm, an iceberg scraped the ship's starboard side, showering the decks with ice and ripping open six water-tight compartments. The sea poured in.

Almost everyone knew that those who were in the lifeboats were probably going to survive but the mass of people huddled on the deck were going to die. The card sharks stopped their cons. Fitness instructor T.W. McCawley stopped his lesson. The allure of four-postered beds, designer fireplaces, Turkish baths with gilded cooling rooms and the first swimming pool ever built in an ocean liner ended.

Passengers in the first-class lounge ceased their partying and paraded onto the deck with lifebelts over their evening dress. The business deals stopped. The chatter of the socialites ceased. At the outset of the voyage, passengers were divided into three categories: 1st class, 2nd class, and 3rd class. But now, there were only two classes of passengers: those who would live, and those who would die.

Over 1,500 souls would enter eternity within the next hour; all that remained to be seen was how each of them would face their end.

With his last breath, John Harper tirelessly continued his life's work of urging men to "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

He could be heard on deck shouting, "women, children, and unsaved people get aboard the lifeboats." He even took off his life vest and gave it to man that was not a believer in Jesus Christ. His sister-in-law heard him as he gave the life vest to the man, he said "Take this . . . I don't need it . . . I'm not going down, I'm going up."

A group of eight courageous musicians played “Nearer My God to Thee,” attempting to bring a remnant of peace and calm to those doomed souls in their final hour as the ship’s deck angle became increasingly steep. At 2:20 am Titanic began her slow descent, 2 ½ miles down to the ocean floor. In the icy waters of the North Atlantic, in the dead of night, the most famous ship in the world ended her one and only voyage.

John Harper plunged into death with reckless abandon, knowing he would be among the lost passengers. But he had absolute confidence that his name would be on the “saved” list at the throne of God.

As the Titanic sank beneath the icy waters (the water was a bone chilling 28 degrees that night), hundreds huddled in lifeboats and rafts, and others clutched pieces of wood hoping to survive until help came. For fifty terrifying minutes the cries for help filled the night.

During those final fifty minutes, George Henry Cavell, who was clinging to a board, drifted near John Harper. Harper, who was struggling in the water, cried, “Are you saved?” The answer returned, “No.”

Harper shouted words from the Bible: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.” Before responding, the man drifted into the darkness. Later, the current brought them near each other once again.

Once more the dying Harper shouted the question, “Are you saved?” Once again he received the answer, “No.” Harper repeated the words of Acts 16:31, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.”

Then the drowning Harper slipped beneath the waves and into his watery grave.

George Cavell, the man he sought to win, put his faith in Jesus Christ that night. Twelve people were pulled from the water that night by the S.S. Carpathia’s lifeboats; six of them lived, and that man was one of them.

And the story was told a few weeks later in Hamilton, Ontario by that same man who said, **“I listened to Rev. Harper’s last message and became a believer in Jesus Christ with two miles of water beneath me.”**

George Cavell testified that he was John Harper’s “last convert.” There were many heroes on the Titanic, but, helping others and pointing them to Christ as he drowned, John Harper was the last.

Harper’s six-year-old daughter and her aunt arrived safely in New York, rescued by the *Carpathia*, and only then learned of Harper’s death. And to the credit of The Moody Church, acting Pastor Reverend Woolley and a deacon traveled to New York to give them clothes and money so they could return to Scotland.

This past April, Rebecca and I were invited to help commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the *Titanic* with the congregation at the Harper Memorial Baptist Church in Glasgow. To our delight we discovered that this church, founded by Harper, is still preaching the same Gospel that he preached on the *Titanic* a hundred years ago. We also learned that his daughter later married a pastor. She died in 1986, but her daughter and grandchildren were with us for the celebrations! A reminder that there is no substitute for the torch of faith being passed from one generation to another through the influence of godly families.

The Secret of John Harper's Powerful Witness

What do we need most as we enter a new year? What resolutions can we make that will change the trajectory of our lives and make the coming year different than the past?

From where shall we receive the courage to face hard times and eventually our own demise?

Harper's life was characterized by extraordinary prayer. "He was," said a friend, "a man who craved for souls." And for those souls he would sometimes spend all night in prayer.

His brother George wrote, "My beloved brother was a man mighty in prayer. He was a master of this holy art. I have been with him in prayer again and again when his whole frame shook like an aspen leaf, so earnest was he in his pleadings with God for a perishing world. Little wonder hard hearts were broken and stubborn wills subdued under his ministry."

A fellow evangelist, W.D. Dunn, gave this report, "I can say that no pastor, nor teacher, nor evangelist ever moved my inner being more than the pleading and preaching of John Harper. He was always on fire for God and souls. How often I heard him say, when lying on his face before God covered with perspiration, 'O God give me souls or I die!'"

Another friend witnessed, "He was strong in his love for the perishing. Oh how he burned, and prayed, labored and wept for the conversion of sinners and blessed be God, great numbers were led to the Savior through his consecrated efforts."

Testimonies of Harper's prayer life could be multiplied. Friends spoke of him as "a man who was in touch with God," and another, "I was amazed at his boldness in asking God for great things." And yet another, "When John Harper prayed, heaven and earth met."

We might wonder if it had been better if Harper had lived to preach at The Moody Church and other venues rather than be among those who perished on the *Titanic*. But God knows best. A hundred years after his death, we are still benefitting from the lasting effects of those final moments before he sank into the ocean. He left an example for tens of thousands of us who would never have heard of him if he had survived. God sees the big picture; we see but a small slice of time.

Our witness might not be as dramatic as the closing moments of John Harper's life, but it can be just as sure, just as urgent, and just as confident.

What we need more than anything is to become people of prayer. Let us share the Good News with a world drowning in sin and hopelessness. And let's do it while we still have time.