

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

September 9, 2024

Don't Flinch



Everyone wants to make the best decisions for the most productive results life has to offer. However, the best decisions require the greatest need to process information effectively for the best results. The best results sometimes require the greatest sacrifices. “More than that, I count all things to be lost in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them, but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...” (Philippians 3:8; NASU)

A young Roman by the name of Adrian, a Praetorian Guard under Emperor Galerius Maximian, had been a fanatic persecutor of the Christians. Yet, the calmness and courage of those he put to the torture left a lasting impression on him. Adrian, brave himself, couldn't help but admire the bravery of these Christians. In them, he saw a heroism that surpassed any he had witnessed in battle.

It was the year 280, and Adrian was twenty-eight years old. His skill and daring persona had led to one promotion after another. Yet, he could not get over his admiration for these followers of Christ. One day, he asked one of the Christians being tortured: “What gives you such strength and joy in the midst of your sufferings?” “Our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we believe,” the martyr replied. In a flash, Adrian made an important decision. He stepped to the heathen judge and declared: “Put down my name among those to be tortured. I also shall become a Christian.” For twenty-three years after his conversion, Adrian suffered much, but he never flinched from his loyalty to Christ. In 303, he was killed at Nicomedia. For seventeen centuries since, he was the patron saint of soldiers. “Put down my name,” was said with true Christian courage. (Tan, P. L. (1996). Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations: Signs of the Times (pp. 1404–1405). Garland, TX: Bible Communications, Inc.)

Our decisions in life should not just be about money, power, gaining a job, or hoping to one day be completely successful. The decisions we make should be more focused on the eternal benefits that life has to offer. “How blessed is the man who finds wisdom and the man who gains understanding. For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain better than fine gold. She is more precious than jewels; and nothing you desire compares with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are pleasant and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And “happy are all who hold her fast” (Proverb 3:13-18; NASU). As you can see, this is a process that provides the best results, not a moment in time for temporary relief.

UPCOMING Events



WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE
THE BOOKS OF 1ST JOHN & ACTS
Join us for a new Bible Study Series September 3rd—November 5th on the Books of 1st John and Acts. For more information, call the church at **(281) 260-7402**. Follow along with Bible Study notes on the website at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org/bible-study-notes



FREE YOUTH CODING CAMP—AGES 12-18
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH 9 AM
Register your youth ages 12-18 for a **FREE Coding Camp** conducted by our very own Sharon Daniels, professor of Computer Science at Prairie View A & M University. Give your youth job skills and a pathway to a career in Computer Science, IT, and Computer Program coding. Register at <https://bit.ly/4bYClqX> and for more information, call the church at **(281) 260-7402**.



URBAN GARDENING EVENT —THURS. 9/12
Join us for an exciting Urban Gardening Event on Thursday, September 12, 2024 from 8:30 am - 9:30 am. At The Reach 4333 W. Little York Houston, TX 77091. Come and learn how to Create your own garden at home. For more information contact Jeffery Allen at jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org



LEGACY YOUTH MEET & GREET
TODAY AT 10 AM
Parents, come to a Meet & Greet with the Legacy Youth Staff and Volunteers today, September 8th at 10:00 a.m. For more information contact Jordan Washington at legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org or Angela Homes at **832-296-3733**



LWCA/ABC AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
LWCA/ABC has a dynamic after school program available for \$75 per week with a \$55 Registration fee. The program focuses on the four cornerstones of child development: Academic, Physical, Emotional and Spiritual. Activities include robotics, karate, arts and crafts, outside play, academic enrichment, cooking classes, sports & more. Register at <https://bit.ly/LWCARegister> or call **(281) 445-9673**.



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music


“Pray Like He's Able”
Acts 12:1-17 and 24

Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction



Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

Infants—6th grade



MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY 6:30 PM

Pray Like He's Able Acts 12:1-17 and 24 Pastor Ikki Soma

I. When our ability ends, we pray because He's able, **vs. 1-5**

II. He's able, **vs. 6-11**

III. But, do you believe He's able? **vs. 12-17 and 24**

Pray Because He's Able!

Welcome Pastor Ikki Soma

Ikki Soma came to faith in high school when he began playing rugby. His coach was a local youth pastor and many of his teammates were Christians. On Memorial Day weekend in 1988, one of his teammates shared the Gospel with him and he trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior. Pastor Ikki is a graduate of California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. He ran track and played rugby there. He also became heavily involved in youth and sports ministry while in college. He is a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary. While at DTS he served as the pastoral assistant to Dr. Tony Evans. He was licensed and ordained at Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in 1999. He and his wife Tara have been married for 23 years. They have two daughters, Evetta and Grace. He planted a multi-ethnic church in San Antonio and then became the college and young adults' pastor at Wayside Chapel. In 2012, he and his family moved to Houston to pastor City of Refuge Church, one of the most diverse churches in America. He also served as the lead pastor of Bayou City Fellowship, a large influential, multisite church in Greater Houston. In the Fall of 2022, he accepted the call to move to Des Moines, Iowa to be the lead pastor of Cottage Grove Church, a diverse church in the capital city of Iowa. Ikki also recently finished a book on multicultural preaching. For more information and to view Pastor Ikki's sermon, visit <https://www.cottagegrovedsm.com/sermons>



REGISTER TO VOTE
BY OCTOBER 7TH
CHECK YOUR VOTING STATUS
<https://teamrv-mvp.sos.texas.gov/MVP/mvp.do>
REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE NOW
<https://txapps.texas.gov/tolapp/sos/SOSACManager>
REGISTER TO VOTE AT LIVING WORD
Sunday, September 29, 2024

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
URBAN AGRICULTURE
Golden Harvest
LEARN HOW TO START YOUR OWN GARDEN
JOIN US & LEARN AGRICULTURE BASICS FROM TRAINED PROFESSIONALS
September 12th 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
The Reach Center
4333 W. Little York
Houston, TX 77091
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT JEFFREY ALLEN AT [@jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Grieving: Helene Wardlow & family, Karen Carter & family, Marie Perry & family, Melita Washington & family, and Launette Chan & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Cici Sharpe, Margaret Baptiste, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, Patrina Johnson, Elvis Anderson, Cheryl Walker, Walter Banks, Carolyn Hadnot, Angelique Hudson, Sheryle Crowe, Arnie Glover, Clarence Coleman, Diana Doyle, Vivian Phillips, Shannon Rice, Freddie Reid, Janie Buchanan, Yolanda Barnes, and Robert Edwards.

Pray Like He's Able



ACTS 12:1-17 AND 24