

Sunday Field Services

Domestic Mission Field Activity
West Avenue Church of Christ

October 15, 2018

data_pipeline.png

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The Men Serving

Assisting Stephen Michael Kellat

Assisting Michael John Kellat

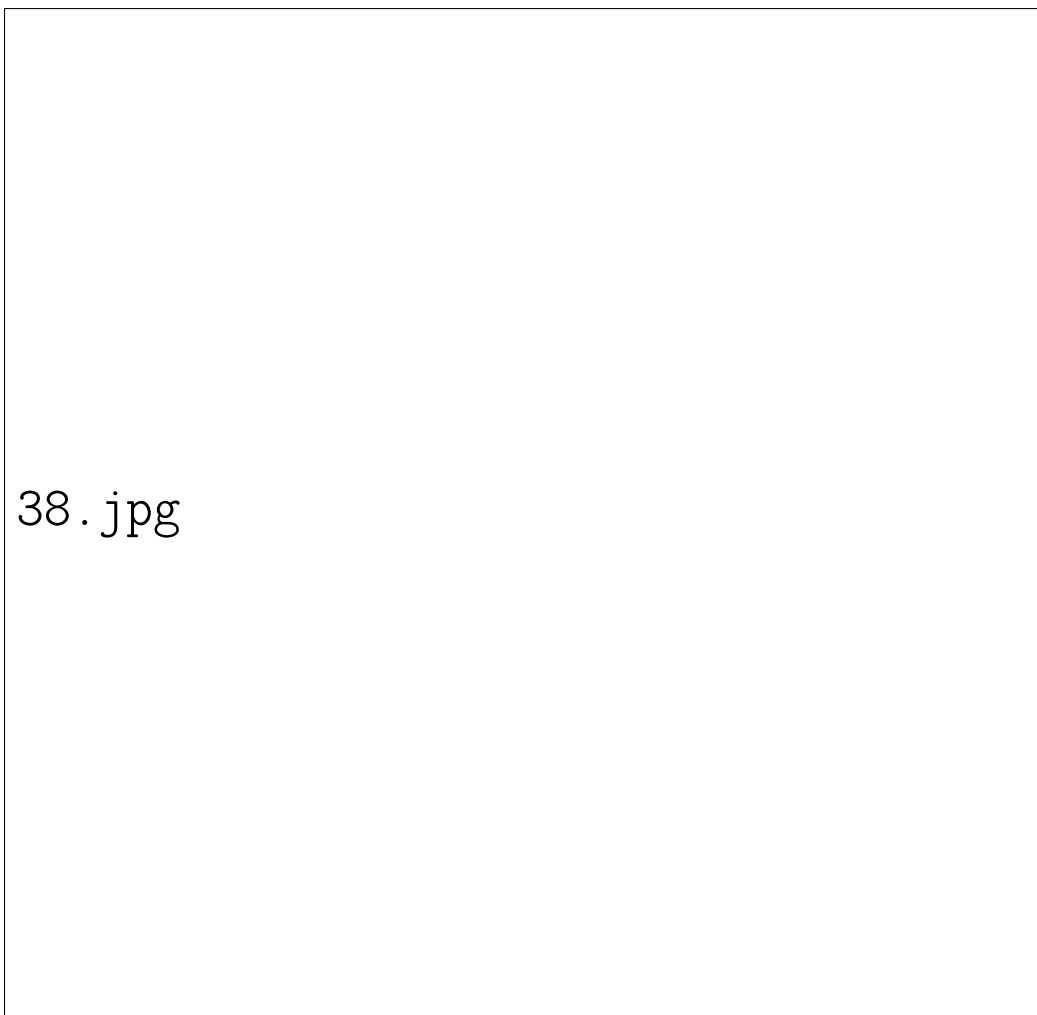
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24.jpg

Plate I: CCLI 1299261



38.jpg

Plate II: CCLI 1299261

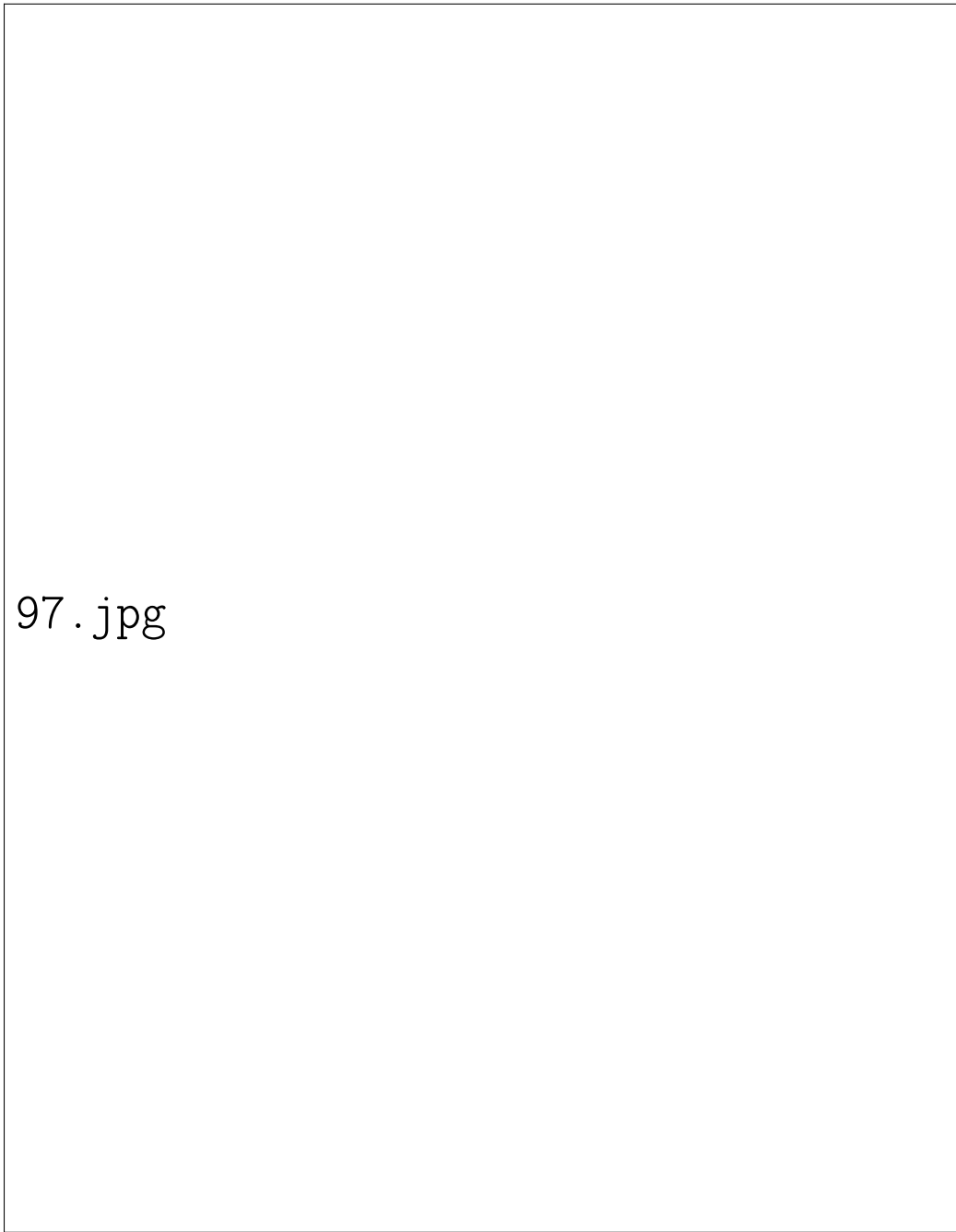


Plate III: CCLI 1299261

Opening Prayer

Let us not forget in our prayers today:

- All those recovering from Florence and other storms
- Our country's armed forces
- Our country's elected leadership
- All those who are struggling and in need

Let us pray...

123.jpg

Plate IV: CCLI 1299261

213.jpg

Plate V: CCLI 1299261

238.jpg

335.jpg

Plate VII: CCLI 1299261

Reading for Communion

Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 in the Holman Christian Standard Bible translation:

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: On the night when He was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way, after supper He also took the cup and said, "This cup is the new covenant established by My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

Let us pray...

778.jpg

Plate VIII: CCLI 1299261

The Lesson


CroppedReconPanamaCity.jpg

Original Photo by James E. Wyatt/U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Public Affairs - Visual Communications Division. Image cropped by Stephen Michael Kellat/West Avenue Church of Christ Domestic Mission Field Activity

Photo 1: A U.S. Customs and Border Protection Office of Air and Marine A-Star Helicopter surveys the damage wrought by Hurricane Michel over Panama City, Florida. October 11, 2018.

This was an extremely large gun camera photo that I took just a chunk out of to show. The picture as a whole was deceptive as it looked too clean. I haven't otherwise done anything to the picture other than crop it. This is one out of nineteen reconnaissance shots from Panama City, Florida. This came out of the impact of Hurricane Michael last week.

As you might guess, we're taking a break from our study of the book of Acts this week. The story of the early church doesn't have an exact parallel for something like a hurricane hitting any part of the Americas. As we know from our prior discussion of the ends of the earth, this is from beyond their cultural context. Storms heading westward across an ocean they didn't know about caused by hot winds blowing across the Sahara desert just weren't within their knowledge base.



GeorgiaChurchMichael.jpg

U.S. Air National Guard photo by Tech. Sgt. Amber Williams

Photo 2: U.S. Air Force Airmen from the 116th Air Control Wing and local firefighters eat lunch in the First Baptist Church in Miller County, Ga. Oct. 13, 2018. The Georgia Air National Guard is working to provide debris removal, conduct route clearance and provide communications for first responders in Southwest Georgia. The church provided first responders with warm food and a shelter to sleep.

One of the concepts I have been struggling to explain to the congregation is that it doesn't take much for Christians to help others in disaster relief. It truly does not. The pictured Baptist congregation was blessed with the opportunity to make a gymnasium available to provide hospitality to responders. Little things like that make the hard work easier.

We turn now to Luke 12:1-7 (HCSB) where we find in pertinent part Jesus talking to us in parables again:

In these circumstances, a crowd of many thousands came together, so that they were trampling on one another. He began to say to His disciples first: "Be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. There is nothing covered that won't be uncovered, nothing hidden that won't be made known. Therefore, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in an ear in private rooms will be proclaimed on the rooftops.

"And I say to you, My friends, don't fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will show you the One to fear: Fear Him who has authority to

throw people into hell after death. Yes, I say to you, this is the One to fear! Aren't five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God's sight. Indeed, the hairs of your head are all counted. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows!

This passage is one that I admittedly struggle with. In my day job I exercise the coercive power of government. As a tax collector, I can do many harsh things without need of a trial or any involvement of a judge. Unlike too many co-workers, I also remember the rest of this that people still have intrinsic worth. Life is precious.

We're going to pause for a moment to watch a brief video produced by a news organization known as the Voice of America.

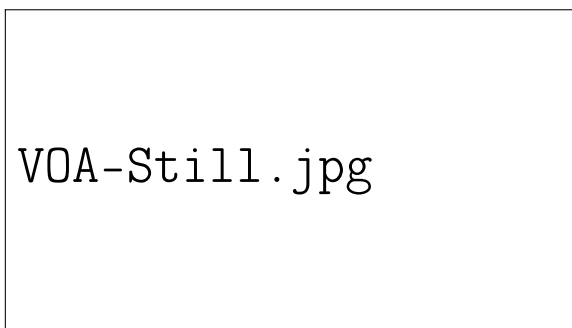


Photo 3: Screenshot from the video provided by the Voice of America

As we come back from Elizabeth Lee's video report, I want to highlight something from the accompanying text report on the Voice of America website:

"By the grace of God, we made it out of there somehow. I don't know how we got lucky; they said we had tornadoes hit us. With the winds we couldn't even tell. I remember hearing a whistling sound like a train was coming, and the roof was just sucked up from the church we were in," Gonzalez said.¹

Whether or not this person happens to be a believer, we find God being praised. This amplifies what we see the apostle Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:11-17 (HCSB):

Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires that war against you. Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that in a case where they speak against you as those who do what is evil, they will, by observing your good works, glorify God on the day of visitation. Submit to every human authority because of the Lord, whether to the Emperor as the supreme authority or to

¹Elizabeth Lee, "Floridians Cleaning up After Michael," VOA, October 14, 2018, <https://www.voanews.com/a/destruction-of-hurricane-michael-prompts-residents-to-take-action/4612689.html>.

governors as those sent out by him to punish those who do what is evil and to praise those who do what is good. For it is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. As God's slaves, live as free people, but don't use your freedom as a way to conceal evil. Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the Emperor.

Peter says quite a bit in that passage but I want to focus specifically on one verse. He states in 1 Peter 2:12 (HCSB):

Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that in a case where they speak against you as those who do what is evil, they will, by observing your good works, glorify God on the day of visitation.

Although Peter was writing to a Jewish audience primarily, we have to remember that Gentile Christians happen to be grafted into that audience too. Honor even in disaster can lead to glorification of God. We can look at the whole of the book of Job in the Old Testament to see that.

There is hope even in these seemingly horrific times. As Christians we have the promise of heaven. These trials will pass away.

We just have to remember that life on this ball of earth and sod can and will be potentially interesting before we join with the Lord in heaven.

851.jpg

Plate IX: CCLI 1299261

About Us

West Avenue Church of Christ is located at 5901 West Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio. The located preacher is Michael Williams. Our leaders are Elmer Ford and Hays Wood. We meet Sundays at 10:30 AM for worship with bible study earlier at 9:30 AM.

The Domestic Mission Field Activity is an effort for outreach by the congregation. The Activity undertakes a variety of works as appropriate. We are implementing a video narrowcast channel for the congregation on-line at <http://tinyurl.com/WABBC> that members of the public can join. Limited financial sponsorship of a member of the Activity is currently possible on a trial basis by visiting <https://liberapay.com/smke11at/donate>.