

LAMAR AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST



By: The Preacher Man.....Patrick Cannon

A poet once wrote, "Of all the words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, 'It might have been.'" If that is true, then one of the most tragic words in human language must be the word "almost." "Almost" speaks of missed opportunities and missed chances. I'm sure that as long as this world exists, "almosts" will dot the pages of human history. "I almost climbed the mountain." "We almost reached our goal." "I almost closed the deal." "We almost got there in time." We've all had those "almost" experiences, haven't we?

I suppose that the most infamous "almoster" in history would have to be Pilate because he almost released Jesus. He almost lowered the gavel & said, "Not guilty." He almost said, "I dismiss all the charges because this man is innocent." He almost set Him free. All he had to do was speak the word decisively, and Jesus would have been set free. And he did it, almost.

Pilate is not the only one who has played the game of "almost." Some of us have played that game, too. "I almost made the decision today." "I almost took the invitation to follow Christ seriously." "I almost said, 'Here I am, Lord, use me, mold me, transform me.'"

So when we open our Bible and begin to read the story of Jesus, we read about a crucifixion. Even though Pilate came that close to freeing Jesus, he didn't. So, as we view that scene we see soldiers going about their tasks. They were used to crucifying people. They had done it many times before. The soldiers gather underneath the cross and begin throwing dice, gambling for His robe. Every time we look at those soldiers we see a little bit of ourselves, don't we? Sometimes we are so close to the cross and yet so far away. They were right there, right next to the blood that was dropping to the ground. They could hear the cries of pain. They could look up any time they wanted to and see Jesus dying there. And yet, their minds were someplace else. As the story goes on, we see that the darkness left, and 3 more cries came from His lips, "I thirst," "It is finished," and "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." Then it is all over. The greatest victory of all had been won. On a hill that looked like a skull, outside of Jerusalem, everything that God had worked for and planned was finally realized in the death and burial and ultimate resurrection of Jesus.

If there is one very strong message that comes to us from Calvary, it is that *God is able to weave it all together*. He can take all the inconsistencies, all the fragments and pieces of our life and weave them together into a beautiful tapestry, just as He planned. There are people who stand right on the brink of saying, "I surrender all. I'm going to follow Jesus." And they almost do it. Others are just like those soldiers casting dice at the feet of Jesus. They're so engrossed in what they're doing that they never look up and let the message sink in and make a change in their lives. They're so near and yet so far. So..., where are you?



To Our Guests...

We are blessed to have you here with us for worship today. Our prayer is that your time with us will be a blessing, and that you will find the worship uplifting, the message encouraging, the Lamar Avenue family friendly and the atmosphere welcoming. For families, we have a staffed nursery (ages birth-24 months) located in the back of the foyer. We also offer Children's worship for children ages 2 through Kindergarten. They will be dismissed during our assembly. Please stop by the Welcome Center (located in the middle of the foyer) for more information about our church family and the many different ministries we are involved with. We are so glad you are here and hope you will join us as we seek to know God and His vision for His people and the world.

PRAYER

CHURCH MEMBERS: Kolton Welch, Dee Lyons, Janie Russell, Carol Anderson, Ken Love, Sandra Leath, Laura Janes, Jerry McFadden, Butch Mills, Dot Campbell, Doris McGill, Mary Lloyd, Antionette Sofia, Dianna Welch, Kristi Anthony, Lance Johnson.

FRIENDS & FAMILY: Donna Moseley, Skyler Cook, Patti Bulls, Carroll LaRue family, Norma Brown, Maxine Hayes, Blake Pasquill, James Jack, Amanda Kennon Family, Gerald Housley, Sabrina Willard, Bobby & Alliene Castleberry, Chuck

Thielman, Vanderpool's, Charlotte Fuch, Gary Moreland, Linda Flanary, Jan Sloan Ferris, Renee Elmore, Clark Barnett, James Cassy, Polly Ashby, Johnny Briscoe, Ben Wallace, Carol McMillian, Ely Speer, Bill Gordon.

MILITARY DEPLOYED OVERSEAS:

Adam Snyder, Billy Thomas, Donny Shaffer, Nick McDowra, Cody King, James Crimmin.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please contact the church office or e-mail: mollywoodall@suddenlink.net
www.lamaravenueprayerrequests.blogspot.com

FAMILY NEWS & NEEDS

CELEBRATION—There will be a “come and go, cake and punch” celebration for Jean King’s birthday today from 2:30-4:30 at the King’s home, 1820 30th NE.

LTC FOOD—We have 90 people going to LTC this year. Food donations are greatly appreciated! Sign up at the Welcome Center if you can help. Food can be dropped off starting today.

PHOTOS—The table in the foyer has old photos found in the workroom. Please look through them and take

them home if you want them.

NEW WEBSITE—lacoc.org. Contact the office to get your password for the online directory.

CHURCH COOKBOOK—See ladies bulletin board for details.

BOOK CLUB—Meeting TODAY. We will be discussing the book “Safely Home” by Randy Alcorn.

DRIVER NEEDED—We need a bus driver for Sunday mornings. Please contact James Hanley.

KIDS FOR CHRIST, YOUTH, & COLLEGE TODAY

April 13: **HS Movie Day**, Meet @ Movies 8 at 4:00, bring money for your ticket to see “God’s Not Dead”.
Parents pick up at 6:45.

April 13: **KFC Club 345** In the HS room, 5-6:

COLLEGE

See Jared for more details on a April get together!

JUNIOR HIGH / HIGH SCHOOL

April 15: **JH Bible Study and Get Together** @ Andy’s house, 6:45-8:00 PM, dessert provided.

April 16: **JH, HS LTC Dress Rehearsal** meet in the foyer @ 6 PM

April 18-19: **KFC, JH, HS LTC Convention**

April 25: **Senior Trip**—Leave the blg. @ 4:30, be back late. Let Jared know if you’re going.

April 27: **JH Dinner & Devo** 5-7 PM, more details to come.

May 18: **Senior Sunday**—This special day includes breakfast @ 8:00 for seniors and their families, a slideshow and Bible presentation. Turn in photos to Jared ASAP.

KIDS FOR CHRIST

April 18-19: **KFC LTC Convention**

April 16: **KFC LTC Dress Rehearsal** meet in the foyer @ 6 PM

May 18: **KFC Club 345** In the HS room, 5-6:15 PM

*****Camp Deer Run Day Camp: June 16-19: If you are planning to attend, sign up before April 13 to guarantee a spot with the LA group. SIGN UP TODAY- online @ www.campdeerrun.com. Instead of clicking second session, find and click the ‘Lamar Avenue 6/16-6/19’ tab. Detailed instructions available @ lamaraveyouth.blogspot.com. Scroll until you find the post on ‘pee wee instructions’**

*****KFC, JH, HS LTC Make sure you are attending all practices!**

The Spring schedule is posted on the Youth Wall. If you would like a digital, or hard copy, please talk to Andy Garner

EKKLESIA

Marcelino Rodriguez



Ekklesia 04/13/2014

Always tell the Truth, and God will bless you.

I want to share an interesting experience I had on a Mission trip. When we crossed the border, the Mexican Immigration Officer was very unpleasant with me. He asked me, "are you a preacher?" I answered, "yes, I am" and he asked me, "who's going to preach, you?" I answered, "yes, I will probably preach as usual". (if you are a Preacher and you go to a Church service, they expect you to Preach) ...and with that answer, he gave me a hard time in front of everybody because foreign preachers aren't supposed to preach in Mexico, according to the law in Mexico. But I explained to him that I was not going to receive a salary for this from the Church in Mexico, and we will not be only preaching because we was going in a Medical Mission Trip, (at that point I was little worry and upset). I told him, because I answered you with the truth, you gave me a hard time. Another officer intervened and he helped us, but, in the end, he gave me the permits to cross to Mexico.

But the funniest part of this experience is the next part. Coming back, in Reynosa, we crossed a Police check point. Another Brother was driving and I was in the front with him. We passed the check point, but where we crossed, there was another building nearby. Out of nowhere, an officer came and with his hand made a signal for us to stop. As he came to my side I said, "yes sir?" He asked me, "are you from the Church?" I said, "yes sir", and he asked me, "are you a preacher?" (In that moment I thought I was in trouble) but I answered, "yes sir, I'm a preacher". He asked me, "can I talk with you in private please?" I told him, sure, but by that time everybody in the van was concerned for me and complaining how the police were very mean to me. Well, the first thing this officer told me was, "I was praying to God that he would send a minister in front of me, and you are the answer".....can you believe it?

I'm still in shock. He was having a spiritual problem and I did my best to comfort and share a passage of scripture with him. At the end of the conversation he gave me a hug and we continued our trip. You see how the same answer resulted in two completely different reactions. We need to answer with the truth and God will help us all time.

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

Thanks
Marcelino.

WORSHIP

Worship Leader—Allan Fain

* *Light the Fire*

Welcome & Call to Worship

Prayer—Bill Jones

98-101 *Holy Presence Medley*

Scripture—Luke 22:39-71

701 *My Jesus, I love Thee*

176 *Lamb of God*

Scripture—Luke 23:1-25

314 *Beneath The Cross of Jesus*

Scripture—Luke 23:26-56

332 *Lead Me to Calvary*

Communion—Gary Gage

Offering

Dismissal for Children's Worship

* *How Deep the Father's Love*

Message—Patrick Cannon

287 *There is a Redeemer*

Receiving Response-Spencer/Anderson

Shepherd's Prayer—Lewis Anderson

* *Days of Elijah*

*Songs marked with an *are not found in the hymnal. Song will be displayed on the screen.*

Sunday Evening

Patrick Cannon

LAMAR AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST
3535 Lamar Avenue 903/785-0387
Paris, Texas 75460
www.lacoc.org
E-mail: lacoc@suddenlinkmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 18-19—LTC Convention

May 14—Blood Drive

May 18—Senior Sunday



WEDNESDAY SIMPLE SUPPER

5:15-6:00—Please donate at least \$2/person.

Sign-up on your Sunday attendance card.

Sub Sandwiches!

SHEPHERDS

Lewis Anderson
Doug Faires
Kyle Jones

Wayne Kerby
Richard Peace
Jay Spencer

MINISTERS

Patrick Cannon, *Preacher*
Jared Baggett, *Assoc. Minister of High School & College*
Andy Garner, *Assoc. Minister of Junior High & Children*
Marcelino Rodriguez, *Hispanic*
Keith Bollman, *Involvement*

STAFF

James Hanley, *Latch Key Director*
Jill Faires, *Kiddie Kollege Director*
Kim Hanley, *Administrative Assistant*
Laura Cannon, *Secretary*

DEACONS

Greg Beckmon	James Hanley
Alan Boyd	Don Lawrence
Derald Bulls	John McGee
Mike Erwin	Jose Silva
Heath Fowler	Clay Spencer
Brad Francis	Clint Spencer
Clint Gage	Shane Welch

MISSION/CONTACTS

Hector Olguin/Piedras Negras, Mexico
hectoresau@hotmail.com
Brent Nichols/ Niteroi, Brazil
nicholsinniteroi@gmail.com
Javier Ortiz/La Chona, Mexico
jahoo37@hotmail.com

MEETING TIMES

SUNDAY

Bible Class.....9:00 a.m.
Worship.....10:00 a.m.
Worship.....6:00 p.m.
(Small Groups meet in various locations.)

WEDNESDAY

Ladies' Bible Class.....10:00 a.m.
Bible Classes.....6:30 p.m.

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY (4/20)

Sound Booth:	Brian Singleton
Opening Prayer:	Steve Jones
Communion Prayer:	Paul Garrett

Communion Servers:	Glenn Burgess
Chris Brown	Danny Bulls
John Buchanan	Greg Campbell
Derald Bulls	Jay Cannon
William Campbell	Anderson/Faires

Responses:	Doug Faires
Shepherd's Prayer:	Cynthia H/Sherrie B
Children's Worship:	Chris H/Luke F.

April 6, 2014 Report

Bible Class.....	199
Hispanic Bible Class.....(Adults).....	35
Total Bible Class.....	234
Morning Worship.....	368
Hispanic Worship.....	37
Total Worship Services.....	405

Hispanic Evening Worship.....	41
LIFE Groups/Evening Worship.....	188
Total Evening Services.....	270

CONTRIBUTION.....	\$14,963
BUDGET	\$12,720
YTD BUDGET.....	+ \$9,476

Pantry Needs: Hand Soap