



SUPPORTING Lesser-Known Heroes of the Bible CHARACTERS

A BUSINESSWOMAN, A SLAVE, AND A JAILER

Acts 16:13-20; 25-34
Miah Collins preaching

Coming Attractions at MDPC

Sunday, July 2, 2017

Announcing Our New MDPC Prayer Wall

We've just rolled out a new interactive feature on the website where members and visitors can share concerns and prayer requests. We hope you'll take advantage of the Prayer Wall (prayerwall.mdpc.org) to share your concerns, and also to pray for those of others. As you pray, click the "I prayed for this" button so folks know they are being prayed for.

The Issue with Suffering

Has suffering gotten in the way of belief? How can God still be good with the evil and suffering that exists in this world? Folks in all life and faith stages are invited to join us for this three-part series as we learn and wrestle with the problem of evil and God's sovereignty.

Sundays, July 23-August 6 | 11:00 AM | Amphitheater
More info: suffering.mdpc.org

Married Life Prep Starts Next Weekend!

Taught by Brett and Kellie Hurst of Home Encouragement, you'll start building your marriage upon a firm foundation.

Sundays, July 9-30 | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | CLC Room 171

Details and registration: mlp.mdpc.org

Save the Date: Men's & Women's Fall Studies

Round up the men important in your life for *Conversations That Matter*, this year's all-new Men's Life.

Tuesdays, September 12-December 5 | 6:15-7:45 AM

All women are invited to join us for *The Living Well*, an 18-week study of Jesus through the gospel of Mark.

Wednesdays, September 27-February 28 | 6:00-7:15 AM

Contact AG Caldwell with questions: acaldwell@mdpc.org

Call for Camp Volunteers!

Super Place Camp at MDPC is an exciting VBS experience for children with special needs. We need LOTS of volunteers (age 13+) to serve as buddies for these special campers.

Camp Dates: July 31-August 4, 9:00 AM-12:30 PM

Contact Keri Mosk to volunteer: kmosk@mdpc.org

Plan to Attend the Marriage Retreat

Fabulous amenities and atmosphere, date night with your spouse, and expert teaching from Brett and Kellie Hurst.

Saturday-Sunday, October 21-22

Woodlands Waterway Marriott | \$215 per couple

Registration is open: marriageretreat.mdpc.org

#Adulting:

Where am I going? What career do I choose? Who do I marry? Why am I here? If this sounds like you and you're a woman age 22-34, join us for a new processing group led by LPC-Interns Katie Ashby and Amanda Grace Caldwell.

Wednesdays, July 19-August 23 | 6:30-8:00 PM | MC 116

Group size is limited, so sign up quick! Contact Amanda Grace at acaldwell@mdpc.org.

Walking the Mourner's Path:

Transforming Grief into Joyful Living

This Christ-centered grief program is designed to help those dealing with the loss of a loved one. It is limited to 10 participants, creating a safe place to share feelings with each other and with God. Trained facilitators guide the group.

Wednesdays, September 6-October 25 | 6:30-8:00 PM

Register at grief.mdpc.org or with Beverly Fluke:

bfluke@mdpc.org or 713-490-9542

9:45 AM SERVICE

WELCOME

Meliza Gómez

*SONGS OF PRAISE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Brett Hurst

SONG OF RESPONSE

MESSAGE

Supporting Characters: A Businesswoman, a Slave, and a Jailer

Miah Collins

Musicians in these services: Meliza Gómez and Michael Middleton, worship leaders • George Heathco, guitar • Craig Gysler, keys • Asher Pudlo, drums • Dennis Whittaker, bass

11:15 AM SERVICE

PRELUDE

A Song of Liberty

arr. Kathryn White

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Brett Hurst

*HYMN OF PRAISE

O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

#564; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | MATERNA

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Gloria Patri

Hymn #579

HYMN SING

*My Country, 'Tis of Thee
God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand
Lift Every Voice and Sing*

#561; Vs. 1, 4 | AMERICA
#262; Vs. 1, 4 | NATIONAL HYMN
#563; Vs. 1, 3 | LIFT EVERY VOICE

OFFERTORY

The Lord Is My Light

Frances Allitsen (1848-1912)

MESSAGE

Supporting Characters: A Businesswoman, a Slave, and a Jailer

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*HYMN OF RESPONSE

Take My Life and Let It Be

#391; Vs. 1, 2, 4 | HENDON

POSTLUDE

God of Our Fathers

arr. Mark Thewes (b.1954)

Musicians in this service: Cassandra Black, soloist • Charles Hausmann, conductor • Kathryn White, organist

*Please stand if able.

CCLI #182374

MDPC FEATURES

**GOD WORKS
BEHIND
THE
SCENES**

MDPC Summer Celebration VBS
July 10-14 • sc.mdpc.org

NOW COLLECTING!
PLEASE HELP BY DONATING:

ELECTRONICS
(NONE WITH GLASS OR SCREENS CAN BE ACCEPTED. THINK DESK PHONES, ALARM CLOCKS, TOASTERS...)

SNACKS/DRINKS FOR VOLUNTEERS
(NUT-FREE, PLEASE)

MOMS UNITE!

MOPs (Mothers of Preschoolers) is for moms of young kids. Come for connection, solid content, and fun. **We'll save a seat for you!**

1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS STARTING SEPT. 7
9:30-11:15 AM | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Free childcare!
Details and registration:
mops.mdpc.org

ALL-YOUTH TUBING TRIP
TUBESDAY
AUGUST 1

COST: \$45

YOUTH.MDPC.ORG

The White Rose is in memory of MDPC members:

- Brooke Burgher Gibbs, who passed away June 25, 2017.
- Libby Beard, who passed away June 23, 2017.

Outreach Ministry Partners 2017

This week, we ask that you pray for these partners in ministry that MDPC assists with your support:

Interface-Samaritan Counseling Centers provides high-quality, affordable counseling and educational services from a Christian perspective, serving men, women, and children in the Houston area who might not otherwise have access to quality mental health care
interface-samaritan.org

Interfaith Care Partners provides free support to individuals with chronic health conditions. It offers respite to caregivers through their Care Teams: AIDS Care Team, Alzheimer's Care Team (MDPC's The Gathering), Second Family, and Kids' Pals.
interfaithcarepartners.org

The Outreach Foundation is an independent Presbyterian global mission organization that focuses on the proclamation of the Gospel. It seeks to build the capacity of the global church to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ by sending missionaries, caring for vulnerable children, expanding mission support, and transforming lives by spreading the Gospel.
theoutreachfoundation.org

Consider This...

Last Sunday before his sermon, Pastor Alf shared about he and Shari's prayerful decision to pre-pay their July and August tithes in order to fuel our summer mission trips and significant outreach distributions.

We normally come out of the summer about 30% behind budget and then have to make it up all fall, especially in December. This year, would you consider offering your gifts earlier so that we don't have to stress about the annual "Christmas Miracle"?

give.mdpc.org

OPERATING INCOME: 2017 Budget	\$ 11,400,000
Expected income to date	\$ 4,262,240
Actual income to date (June 25, 2017)	\$ 3,932,276
Current income deficit	\$ 329,964
Needed to meet budget	\$ 7,467,724

We're excited to announce the rollout of the **MDPC Prayer Wall**, a new feature on our website where both members and visitors can share concerns and prayer requests. During the simple submission process, you select whether your name appears or the request is anonymous, or for it to go only to the prayer chain without being posted. We hope you'll take advantage of the Prayer Wall (prayerwall.mdpc.org) to share your concerns, and also to pray for those of others. As you pray, click the "I prayed for this" button so folks will know their requests are being lifted up before God.



11612 Memorial Drive | Houston, TX 77024
mdpc.org | 713-782-1710

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A Businesswoman, a Slave, and a Jailer

Acts 16:13-20; 25-34
Miah Collins preaching

This is the fifth Sunday in our summer sermon series, Supporting Characters, about the often-hidden or underrepresented pillars of our faith. These people may have barely been mentioned in the Bible, but each of them impacted a Biblical “star” in a way that furthered the work of Christ.

Today we learned about Lydia, a successful businesswoman; a slave girl; and a Roman jailer. These three characters represented the beginnings of the first church in Philippi, the recipients of Paul’s letter to the Philippians. We learn through these three characters that Jesus Christ transcends social status and cultural differences. The message of Christ liberates and transforms lives and unites people who had nothing to do with one another into a family.

1. Read Acts 16:13-16. Lydia was called a “worshipper of God.” Paul probably preached a message similar to what we see in Acts 13. Read verses 23-31 in Acts 13. How did this message cause Lydia to become a believer in Christ?
2. Read Acts 16:24. Why were Paul and Silas thrown into prison? What different kinds of opposition did the missionaries face as they shared the gospel in Philippi?
3. Acts 16:25 says that the missionaries were “praying and singing hymns to God.” How do you think the jailer responded to this at the time? How would his thoughts about that experience have changed after his conversion?
4. Is there any type of person who you are tempted to see as impossible to reach with the gospel? How does this passage challenge that view?
5. What spiritual needs did each of the three characters have? How did the missionaries respond to those needs?
6. How could these conversion experiences change the way our church thinks about reaching our own community with the gospel?

