



HISTORY INTEGRITY TRUTH SCRIPTURE

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August 2022 You Were Strangers

We got a little bit of an early start in campus ministry for the 2022-23 academic year. This week, as international students and scholars have begun to arrive in Columbia, I had the opportunity to meet some at the Columbia airport, welcome them to town, get a little lunch, show them around campus a bit, and help them get checked into the place they are staying until they find more permanent housing. This is a great opportunity not only to meet new people. The welcome itself bears more Christian symbolism than most of us might think.



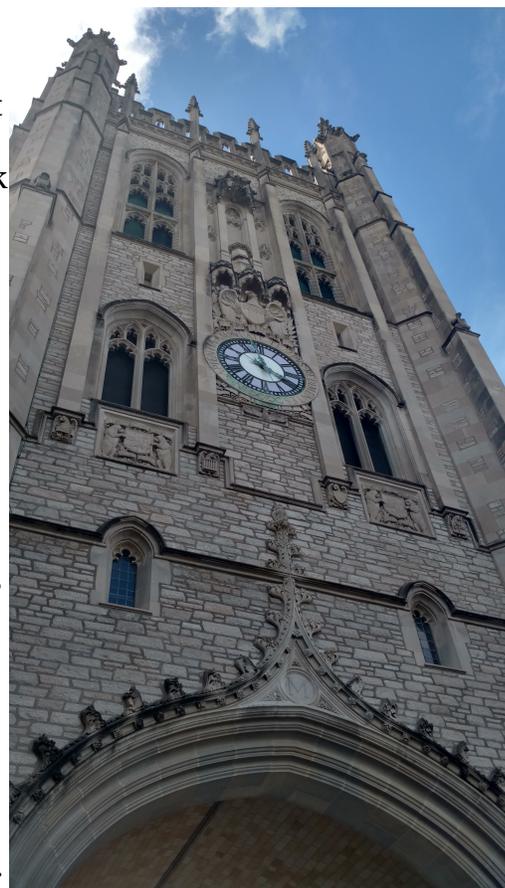
The Old Testament speaks to the importance of caring for strangers. God cared for His chosen people Israel while they were exiles in foreign lands, beginning with their time in Egypt, around 3500 years ago. Leviticus 19:33-34 “And if a stranger dwells with you in your land, you shall not mistreat him. The stranger who dwells among you shall be to you as one born among you, and you shall love him as yourself; for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God” (NKJV).

Notice here that the reason God gives is not only that his people were strangers, but also that He is the Lord. This statement gives us a look at God's character. It is in his nature to welcome those who will follow Him, to give them help and comfort, to treat them as His people.

Through the prophet Moses, God further describes himself as the kind of God we want to trust. Again, this is in the context of welcoming strangers. Deuteronomy 10:17-19 “For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (NKJV).

Why would God be this way? It's a sign of the way he gathers a people for his name, as Christians recognize from the New Testament. In the middle of the first century, about 2000 years ago, the apostle Paul described it this way. Humans, who by nature rejected God, and preferred to work out life on their own terms, needed help. Colossians 1:21-23 "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight – if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister" (NKJV).

The hope of the Gospel, heart and center of what we believe, teach, and confess at Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry, is that Jesus, perfect God and perfect man, has reconciled humanity to himself, dying in the place of those who once rejected God and his loving purpose for them. He later rose from the dead, showing that death has no power to confine him. His promise is that all who believe on him will be raised from the dead in the last day and have a certain hope of eternal life and blessing from God in the heavenly realms.



We welcome foreigners and strangers, both those who travel long distances to study in Columbia, and those who may have been born and raised right here but were strangers to God's love in Christ. In our work, we strive to keep to the quotation from Ephesians chapter 5, presented around the Memorial Union clock, "Walk as wise . . . redeeming the time." May the Lord grant that we use the time we have with all our students, faculty, staff, and administrators, for their good and for the good of Christ's Kingdom.

Wittenberg Door Financial Update

In the past month we have welcomed several new people to the Wittenberg Door 300! This is our group of regular contributors. Any contribution is welcome. Our average contributor gives about \$50 per month, but we are glad to have participants on every level. If we have three hundred contributors we will be fully funded to have a full-time pastor, whatever office assistance we need, and to conduct many activities on campus to bring the Gospel to all who will hear. We're still short of that goal. With your help we know we can accomplish great things for Christ!

I'm now taking every opportunity to introduce the work to church congregations and remind them that we are here on the campuses as part of their work of outreach to the world. Though many of the routine operating expenses of WDCM have been covered by generous giving, we have not been able to reach the point of providing housing, health care, or a salary for Pastor

Spotts. As you can imagine, this is a significant part of our budget. Please consider stepping forward with support.

Wittenberg Door Campus Ministry is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Checks mailed to us are deposited with no commission paid to any intermediary. Most of our contributions are actually received this way, but we can receive funds sent through Paypal or Google Pay as well. Giving is easy! Simply visit our website at www.wittenbergcomo.com and click on “about” and “support us.”

Special Prayer Updates



Several people who are not in a position to provide financial support have made contact with us lately. Your prayers are precious!

Our English language coaching program has regularly been the front line for making contact and building relationships with newcomers. Please pray that more native English speakers will step forward and receive the training to expand our coaching program.

Pray that we will be faithful to care for each person we are brought in contact with.

There is increasing interest among some of the leaders of a local fraternity to have a more distinctive Christian character in the local chapter.

Pray that relationships will grow in a Christ-honoring manner and that the young men will grow in their desire to live out a Christian life in all things.

Pray that we will continue to have fruitful contacts with the students in the Greek system.

We have a number of booklet-sized copies of John's Gospel and will be starting to use the Lunch and Learn as well as some web-based materials to dive into this portion of Scripture.

Pray that the Lord's Word will show itself powerful to draw people to him.

I have asked for prayer as I deal with exhaustion and sleep apnea. I am gradually recovering energy. Thanks be to God for the recovery He has given me!

In all things I give thanks for you and your care which you have shown for me, both now and over the past several years!



(Albrecht Dürer, 1508, Praying Hands, Albertina Museum, Vienna)

Upcoming Activities:

Thursdays at 12:30 pm – Lunch and Learn Bible discussion at the MU Student Center

August 10-15 (though it's started already) – international student arrival and move-in assistance

Sunday, August 14 – Pastor Spotts at Faith Lutheran Church, Watseka, IL

Thursday, August 18 – Pastor Spotts with the AALC Clergy Commission, St. Louis, MO

Friday, August 19 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm

Sunday, August 21 – Pastor Spotts at Christ Lutheran Church, Duluth, MN

Monday, August 22 – Mizzou Classes Begin!

Friday, September 2 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm

Tuesday, September 6 – AALC World Mission Commission, 6 pm

Sunday, September 11 – Pastor Spotts at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, Charleston, WV

Friday, September 16 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm

September 19-December 9 Pastor Spotts teaching “The Bible in Context” (Wednesday evenings) and “Greek 1”(Thursday evenings) at www.alts.edu – be sure to register!

Friday, September 29 – Dinner and Conversation Evening 6-8 pm

Remember to get your church on my calendar!

Watch the calendar at www.wittenbergcomo.com, follow our Facebook page, and friend WDCM Chaplain on Facebook to see times and places where Pastor Spotts can be found around campuses in coffee shops or restaurants!

We always have something new at the website, the blog, and the activities calendar. Please be a friend on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. If you're in Columbia, let's get together on or near campus. Go to <https://www.wittenbergcomo.com/support-us.html> to provide financial support. The Wittenberg Door 300 needs you!