

# CHURCH

## Hartman to Heart: Feed the Hungry

BY PASTOR CHUCK HARTMAN  
Up River Friends

Isaiah 58:10 instructs us to feed the hungry and help all who are in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

When I think about this verse, I consider that there are all kinds of hunger. Some people are physically hungry, but there is also a spiritual hunger, and physical hunger that does not involve food.

Some people hunger for God's Word. They long for community with other believers to talk about the importance of Scripture and its life-giving application.

There may be others who do not know that it is God's Word for which they hunger, and until someone brings the

Word to them, they will not know it is His Word, which will satisfy their need; this is spiritual hunger. Psalm 34:8 reminds us to taste and see that the LORD is good. Only God can satisfy our spiritual hunger.

One can help meet the need of hunger through volunteering—meeting the needs of children who hunger for love and attention or visiting at a nursing facility, turning loneliness into happiness. These are examples of physical hunger that do not involve food.

Regardless of how one meets a hunger need, it feels good to meet the needs of others. See, God works through our hands when we help others. If we keep our hands, hearts, and lives closed to others, God will not work through us.

Maybe the people who complain that they never witness

God at work in our world, do so because we are falling short of meeting hunger needs. What if we stand before God one day, and He says to us, why did you not show Me through the life I gave you?

When we open our hands, hearts, and lives and work with others and extend opportunities for hunger to be addressed, something beautiful happens, we reflect the light of Christ in this dark world. Isaiah goes on to state, feed the hungry, help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness.

Isaiah continues, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. There is no arguing that the sun seems to be brightest at noon—because it is during the noon hours that the sun appears to be at the highest place in our sky.

What else does the sun do?

It reflects light on the moon, planets, asteroids, natural satellites, and comets—making them appear to be as bright as the stars. When we meet the needs of others, not only are we bringing the light of hope to the darkness, we reflect the light of Christ in the darkness.

We have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. Thus, our great power is from God, not from ourselves (2 Corinthians 4:7).

Is there someone in your life to which you can lend a listening ear or a helping hand? Sharing His light is pleasing to God as it glorifies Him.

Meeting another's hunger need is pleasing to God as it also glorifies Him.

I challenge you, feed the hungry, regardless of how that hunger looks.



CHUCK HARTMAN

## Pat Says: 'What Is Fake?'

BY PAT THROCKMORTON



PAT THROCKMORTON

Are you done hearing the word "fake" applied to almost everything these days? Fake this. Fake that.

Whether we like to admit it, we do encounter things counterfeit throughout our lives. The first to come to mind are false friends. You know who they are. They are like a bee on honey to your face yet try to destroy you at your back.

Fake Christians? Of course, the world is filled with them.

There is a word from the Vietnam War era that you may have forgotten or maybe even have never heard. Revitalized it was with the public in the movie Wolf of Wall Street; Mark Hanna (Matthew McConaughey) explains to Jordan Belford (Leonardo DiCaprio) his thoughts on the forecasting of stock prices. Hanna: "Nobody knows if a stock is gonna go up, down, sideways or in circles. You know what a fugazi is?" Belford: "No — Fugazi. It's a fake..."

The word has shown up in the gangster movie Donnie Brasco with Al Pacino. A hot diamond one of the characters wanted to sell

was pronounced a fugazi — a counterfeit. Justly so, a Cubic Zirconia is a fugazi diamond. The word is slang, though,

and not considered proper English.

Counterfeit bills flow in and out of our pockets without our even being aware. What about funeral and cemetery fraud. Millions of Americans enter into prearranged contracts to prepay some or all of their burial expenses. My mother was one of those. Dutifully, she paid her monthly remuneration for years.

Near the end of her life, she kept reminding me that I need not worry — her funeral would be paid in full. And, she handed me the document of proof that stayed in a safe and secure place. Upon her death (87 years old), I presented the material to the funeral director. Apologetic as he was, the fact remained the paper was a fugazi, a fake, counterfeit

The most difficult fugazi to swallow are fake Christian pastors and church leaders. Perhaps

you have encountered a few.

Jesus spoke about these in the parable of the wheat and tares (weeds).

"A man sowed good seeds in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, the weeds also appeared. The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 'An enemy did this,' he replied." Matthew 13:24-28 NIV.

The farmer surprised the workers by saying just let the wheat and weeds grow together so as not to upset the roots of the good grain.

However, he went on to say, at the time of harvest, the weeds will be sorted out from the wheat and destroyed. Perhaps this is an indication that we should spot fake Christians yet include them in our prayers. Is this alluding to death and the rapture as well?

Some questions you may ask yourself of those who claim Christianity. Do they walk in the Spirit — do they have a new nature? "So

I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature."

Galatians 5:16-17 NIV. Do they show agape love? "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this, all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another." John 13:34-35 NIV.

Be on guard in all that you do to side-step the fugazi's you may encounter in your journey.

God bless you, and God bless America.

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 771

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of  
Application of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc., for Annual Review of Gas Costs Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6) )  
 ) PUBLIC NOTICE  
 )

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission has scheduled a public hearing to conduct an annual review of the cost of natural gas supply, storage and transportation for Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont). The public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The hearing is being held pursuant to the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat.

§ 62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6) for the purpose of comparing Piedmont's prudently-incurred gas costs with costs recovered from all of the utility's customers served during the test period. Public witness testimony will be received in accordance with Commission Rule R1-21(g).

Piedmont filed testimony relating to the subject matter of this hearing on July 31, 2020. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, where a copy of Piedmont's testimony is available for review by the public. Also, documents can be viewed on the Commission's website at [www.ncuc.net](http://www.ncuc.net).

The Public Staff is authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Correspondence regarding the annual review proceeding and the hearing thereon should be directed to the Public Staff and should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter. Such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General, c/o Consumer Protection-Utilities, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001. Written statements may be emailed to [utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov](mailto:utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov).

Written statements are not evidence unless the writers appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Persons desiring to intervene in this proceeding as formal parties should file a petition to intervene pursuant to Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 on or before Monday, September 21, 2020. Such petitions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. The direct testimony and exhibits of expert witnesses to be presented by intervenors should also be filed with the Commission on or before Monday, September 21, 2020.

This the 4th day of August, 2020.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION  
Janice H. Fulmore, Deputy Clerk

## American Family Association Supports Pastor's Lawsuit

FROM STAFF REPORTS

TUPELO, Miss. — A Virginia pastor who until last week was facing jail time and a \$2,500 fine for holding services during the coronavirus pandemic is suing the state for violating his religious liberty, drawing support from the American Family Association (AFA, [www.afa.net](http://www.afa.net)).

Kevin Wilson, pastor of Lighthouse Fellowship Church, defied Gov. Ralph Northam's order to limit religious gatherings to 10 people by allowing 16 worshippers into his 293-seat sanctuary on April 5.

Officers interrupted the worship service to issue a summons that threatened a fine and incarceration.

AFA — along with the U.S. Justice Department and Vice President Mike Pence — has expressed support for Wilson's religious liberty suit against Virginia.

AFA Executive Vice President Ed Vitagliano says the abuse of power suffered by Wilson and his congregation reflects a deep-seated prejudice against Christianity in American culture.

"While the vast majority of Americans have been struggling to cope with the challenges presented by Covid-19, something else has become very clear: the latent hostility of the secularist left," Vitagliano said.

"The virulent anti-Christian bigotry in our nation has been eye-opening. For police in Virginia to rush into a church and charge a pastor with a crime for holding a worship service makes it stunningly clear that the God-haters were merely waiting for their chance to pounce.

"Those with a mind to preserve religious liberty in America, prepare to defend yourselves."

During the period in which Wilson was served the summons, Northam was encouraging mass protests and holding press conferences that did not abide by a 10-person limit, according to Mat Staver, Wilson's lawyer and the founder of Liberty Counsel.

The Department of Justice submitted a statement of interest in support of Lighthouse Fellowship Church on May 3.

"This case raises issues of national public importance regarding the interplay between the government's compelling interest in protecting public health and safety from COVID-19 and citizens' fundamental right to the free exercise of religion," the DOJ statement asserted. "There is no pandemic exception to the Constitution and its Bill of Rights."

The charges against Wilson were dropped on July 10.