



**THE HEIGHTS
FELLOWSHIP**



WELCOME

IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOU.

AUGUST 9, 2026

THIS WEEK

TONIGHT • FAMILY SWIM NIGHT

Don't forget to register for Family Swim Night! It will be at the TTU Leisure Pool **TONIGHT** from 7:30–9:30 PM. Cost is \$5 per person or \$25 max per family. Visit theheightsfellowship.org to sign up.

THF STUDENTS • NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

Reminder: There will be no Wednesday night youth activities until the fall semester kicks off on August 26.

CONNECT WITH US >

Access sermon notes, event details,
Life Groups + more on our website!



AT THE HEIGHTS

AUGUST 23 • UNIVERSITY PRAYER WALK

Every fall, more than 50,000 college students arrive in Lubbock. What an incredible mission field God has placed in our backyard! Join us Sunday, August 23, from 6–7 PM as we pray over our campuses. Meet at Texas Tech (Memorial Circle) or LCU (outside the Campus Building). Register using the QR code in the Mall so we know you're coming. This is a churchwide event—all are welcome.

AUGUST 28 • GIRLS NIGHT OUT EVENT **CANCELED**

The Lubbock stop of The Unknown Tour has been canceled, so our Women's Ministry will no longer be attending. If you signed up, your registration fee will be refunded. We look forward to seeing you at a future Women's Ministry event!

SEPTEMBER 13 + 20 • CONNECTION GROUP

Ready to make The Heights Fellowship your church home? THF Connection is our two-Sunday introduction to The Heights. You'll learn what we believe, connect with others, and discover your place to grow and serve. Classes will take place on September 13th and 20th from 6–8 PM. Visit the Next Steps page on our website or scan the QR code in the Mall area to sign up today.

THF KIDS • T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE

THF Kids "You Are Loved" T-shirts are available now through September 13! Every purchase helps THF Kids create environments where children can grow in their faith. Purchase yours at the THF Kids table or by scanning the QR code in the Mall area.

GIVING AT A GLANCE

AUGUST 2, 2026

ACTUAL GIVING: **\$34,120.90**

BUDGET NEEDS: **\$19,902.00**

YEAR TO DATE

ACTUAL GIVING: **\$564,321.19**

BUDGET NEEDS: **\$605,590.00**

THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP
6108 66TH ST, LUBBOCK, TX 79424
(806) 771-8415 • [THEHEIGHTSFELLOWSHIP.ORG](https://theheightsfellowship.org)

CASTAWAYS

*The shipwreck had not been an accident;
neither was the ministry in Malta!
You are who you are!*



Paul had left **CAESAREA** 2 or 3 months before. It was now November. **276** people had been through a terrifying ordeal on the sea...until they shipwrecked on an unknown island. All had **SURVIVED**...only the ship was lost.

*When they had been brought safely through,
then we found out that the island was called Malta. Acts 28:1*

They found out the island was called **MALTA** -

Malta = "place of refuge" or "place of sweetness (honey)"

Was colonized by the ancient **PHOENICIANS** in the 8th cent. BC

Had been under **ROMAN** control since 218BC

Note: The traditional spot where they landed is called **ST. PAULS BAY** to the day

It was the **PROVIDENCE** of God the landed them in Malta

❶ Was **SMALL** ~ 17mi x 9mi, 50 miles off the southern coast of Sicily in the Mediterranean

❷ Was **UNDER ROMAN CONTROL**

❸ It truly was a place of **REFUGE** !

It was not uncommon for shipwreck survivors to be **killed or enslaved** by the inhabitants of the island on which they landed!

OVERCAME THE DIFFERENCES v2

The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all. v2

They made it out of the ocean...but the storm did not relent on the beach. **EXPOSURE** to the rain and wind and cold were as dangerous
natives = **barbaroi** - someone from a **FOREIGN** country...who doesn't speak your language **USED OF SOMEONE WHO DIDN'T SPEAK GREEK**

They were shown kindness rather than hostility...Luke says it was **EXTRAORDINARY** kindness:

- built a **bonfire** to bring immediate warmth
- **welcomed** them (*proselabanto*) - to welcome into your presence or home

POSSIBLY FARMED OUT TO HOMES IN THE AREA...
THERE WERE 276 PEOPLE THAT CAME OFF THE SHIP

OVERCAME THE DELUSIONS OF FALSE THEOLOGY vv3-6

Note: The servanthood of Paul...he was the agent God had used to insure the safety (lives) of everyone on the ship. He is next seen **SERVING THEM** by gathering firewood.

It is only the little man who shuns the little task. - Wm Barclay

Superstition #1 - They presumed Paul a **MURDERER** because he had been saved from the sea (Neptune) only to be killed by a snake via the goddess, **JUSTICE KARMA; BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE**

Superstition #2 - When he survived, they presumed him a **GOD**
GODS ARE BULLETPROOF!

NOT THE FIRST TIME PAUL MISTAKEN FOR A GOD CF 14:12-FF

OVERCAME THE DARKNESS vv7-10

Publius probably a **Maltese** national serving as the Roman **GOVERNOR**
God used him to **PROVIDE** for the castaways

Paul **PRAYED** and brought a miracle **HEALING** to the father of Publius

This opened the door for much **MINISTRY** in healing v9 -

healed (*iasato*) v8 - speaks of a **MIRACULOUS** healing

cured (*etherapeuonto*) v9 speaks of **LONG-TERM**...to get better

The work of God in healing was not limited to '**miracle moments**' but

DR. LUKE COMES INTO PLAY included the **ONGOING** healing **3 kinds of healing**

The healings would not have been STAND ALONE events - Paul would have used them as doorways to present the GOSPEL!

*Tradition recounts that Paul **PLANTED** the **CHURCH** in Malta...*

and **PUBLIUS** was its first pastor!

The work of God in providing led to the providing of God for His work!
v10

OVERCAME THE DISTANCE vv11-16

- They **WINTERED** in Malta (mid-November-mid-February)
- God provided **TRANSPORT** - another **ALEXANDRIAN** grain ship
- Sailed to **SYRACUSE** (Sicilian coast)
- Sailed to **Rhegium** and to **Puteoli** **PRINCIPAL HARBOR TO ROME ~ 150 MILES FROM ROME**
- In Puteoli they were encouraged by **BELIEVERS** for seven days
- Christians from Rome made a **ROAD TRIP** to meet them

God FULFILLED His promise to Paul and delivered him safely to Rome!

- Paul was allowed his own **housing** [with his guard] for **TWO YEARS**

Paul arrived in Rome ~ Spring of AD61... in AD63 he was **RELEASED**

Around AD66 he was arrested again and martyred in AD67