

Family & Friends.....January 30th, 2019

We're sad about the loss of two members: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Charlotte and the family in the loss of her husband, Harold Akridge. Harold did a lot of work for the Lord, and will be greatly missed by us all! He also contributed articles in our bulletin that everyone enjoyed reading, especially the one on our Veterans. Glenda Wright passed away last week. Her memorial service was last Friday. Glenda will be greatly missed also. Keep both of these families in your prayers.

It turned out to be a beautiful Lord's Day, bright sunshine and warmer temperatures. The birds were singing. It was kind of strange, I woke up to a weather alert saying ice pellets were falling, but I didn't see any landing at our place, and the roads were all clear. I think we're all living in a state of confusion. We'll be starting the month of February on Friday. Time is definitely moving faster than I am. Be aware! The deer are on the move. We saw five on the way home from evening services. They love this kind of weather. A few weeks ago we saw several eagles soaring in the sky, coming in to roost for the night. There is nothing like seeing a Bald Eagle up close. It was amazing. We are fortunate to live in an area where we can witness so many beautiful things God has created. It doesn't really matter where we live, God's creation is on display, we just have to pay attention to what He has given us. To God Be The Glory!

*Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength;
They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired,
they will walk and not become weary.
Isaiah 40:31*

We love our visitors each week: Don & Cheri Grissom (Michie, TN), Ruth Franklin (Smithville, MO), Susan Cluck (Gravette), Tyrel & Melinda Johnson (Searcy), Jack Spaw (Harrison), Gary & Lana Cobb (Bentonville), Joy Sawyer, John Shepard, Meg Wilkinson, and Dustin (Bella Vista).

Those on our prayer list: Robbie Arnold as she struggles with her health issues. Becky Pittman's surgery was canceled last Friday. They will reevaluate her condition this week. Mike Lacey is doing some better at Mercy Medical. We have been asked to pray for a friend of Margaret Wicker and Muriel McSweeney who has been placed in Hospice. Please pray for Randy Daw and Gene Chapin who are both suffering with cancer. Pray for Gene Geren's upcoming surgery. Remember Susan Duffy as she goes thru her cancer treatments. Continue to remember and pray for Glenda Wright's family, Nancy Cash, Marvin Thomson, Mary Kerley, Lynn Long, Mattlee Grace, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Soups, pie fillings, salsa, egg noodles, trash bags, and pop tarts.

Light up your world by reflecting the light of Jesus.

Love you, see you next Lord's Day. *Karen*

**Bella Vista
Church of Christ**

Highway 71 and County Road 40
989 NW McNelly Road
Bentonville, AR 72712

Return Service Requested

LORD'S DAY	9:30 AM
Bible Class	10:30 AM
Worship	6:00 PM
Evening Worship	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	6:45 PM
Bible Class	

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....899-3089
Don Butcher.....855-1636
Dallas Dobbs271-8609

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Woody Barker Bryan Busbee Don Hairless Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....531-9135
Selwin Nel Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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BULLETINS

Divine Help For The Hurting

Perhaps the saddest verse in the Bible is John 13.30... "And Judas went out and it was night." Darkness all around, but the sad part was that there was darkness in his soul. All of us experience darkness on the outside. But let's pray that we never experience this inside darkness, the hopeless of heart, that Judas carried that night.

Well, what do we do when life tumbles in? We have a choice! We can embrace the darkness and give into to it; we can curse the darkness and feel sorry for ourselves; or we can listen to Jesus' Divine comfort from this chapter. These concepts can be taken to the Emergency Room, the Cemetery, the Prison, they'll help when the tumor is malignant, the heart attack is fatal, the diagnoses terminal, when friendships fail, and family relations rupture...

Believe in Me. "Let not your heart be troubled." I don't know what an atheist does with his hurt, trouble, darkness. I don't want to find out. Jesus said, "place your faith, trust, your confidence in Me as your Creator, Lord, and Savior. Near the end of His life, the promise was "I will be with you always." The Hebrews Writer' states it this way: "I will never leave you, I will never forsake you."

Believe in the Fatherhood of God. "In my Father's house." Jesus came teaching that we have a Father God. Can we grasp the significance: that the omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, eternal, sovereign God is our Father? That the creator, provider, sustainer, protector of the universe treats us as His children? "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! (Matthew 7.11).

Believe in Heaven. When times are tough, nothing helps like thoughts of Heaven, life after life! Jesus lets us know that this is not all there is: "In My Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you." Jesus taught that heaven was a real place, and that we could live in such a way as to go there. Paul indicated that regardless of how rough the road, dark the moment, how painful the hurt, how uncertain tomorrow, or how devastating the news, Heaven is worth it all. "For I reckon that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Romans 8.18).



Believe in prayer. "I will do whatever you ask in My Name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father" (John 14.13-14). James writes: "Are you in trouble, pray! Are you sick, pray! Are you caught up in sin, pray! The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5.13-14 & 16). Wow! What a crises management tool! Now, as Bible students, we know that God doesn't always answer our prayers as we envision...

- Sometimes God's answer is wait. Abraham and Sarah were promised a son, but had to wait years with no apparent answer.
- Sometimes God has something better in mind. Paul prayed his thorn be removed; God said, "My grace is sufficient." Paul was strengthened to the point he said give me more thorns (2 Corinthians 12.10) "I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."
- Sometimes our prayers are not within His will. Abraham wanted Ishmael to be the one. God said "My promise was to you and Sarah, not you and Hagar."
- Sometimes we ask doubting. Abraham was a hundred, Sarah was ninety. They laughed. They didn't think God could pull this off. When life tumbles in, ask God to: Do with you, for you, to you, by you what's best for you. Then get out of the way and watch life become an adventure!
- Sometimes God uses our unanswered prayers to His glory. Jesus cast out the legion of demons from the man in the cemetery? This man asked Jesus to make him one of the Apostles, let him travel with Him. Jesus said no! What a strange answer. But later we find out why" Mark 5.20 reads: "And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and all the people were amazed."

Indeed, when life tumbles in, take it to God in Prayer.

Believe in the presence and power of God in our life. "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you for ever-- the Spirit of truth" (John 14.16). I tell you that when asked: "What is God's greatest blessing your life?" I answer, "forgiveness, salvation, and His inwelling power and presence." What would I be without it?

Believe in His peace. "Peace I leave with you... My peace I give you... I do not give to you as the world gives... Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." This world's peace is based upon externals. The world looks for peace and happiness in things. In the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us that genuine joy and happiness, the God blessed life, is the result of a heart condition: Being poor in spirit, mourning, meek, a hunger and thirst for righteousness, merciful, pure motivated, peacemakers. Genuine peace comes from Jesus living in us through the Spirit He gave us. Church, our greatest peace is realized when His Spirit produces its fruit in us. Amen?

Well, when trouble comes, we must not allow it to cause darkness, but rather let the light of Jesus shine in us. God doesn't promise a rose garden, but He does promise His power and presence for troubled times.

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Responding To Life's Detours

Have you ever felt stuck in life? A dream job on hold. A relationship strained. A plateau in your goals. Or it might be financial burdens, chronic illness, or watching a loved one make poor choices. We've all been there, right?

In Acts chapter twenty-seven, the apostle Paul was taken prisoner for sharing the gospel and placed on a boat bound for Rome to stand trial. Before the crew could get too comfortable, a violent storm sprang up. The ship eventually broke apart and every man onboard was stuck on the remote island of Malta for a long winter.

Paul's faith literally led him into a storm. Unfortunately, faith doesn't prevent storms in our lives. Sometimes it can be difficult to reconcile God's unfailing love for us when the storms of life throw us off course. This isn't how we planned it, so now what do we do? Paul shows us three ways to stay the course with God when we feel stuck in life.

1) Surrendering to the detours is God's grace period for us to grow. "So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. Nevertheless, we must run aground on some



island" (Acts 27:25-26 NIV). Paul encouraged others with God's Word. Even when it feels like we're off course, God can still get us where He wants us to go. (Prompt us to be what He wants us to be). Paul is going to get to Rome, but first God has placed him on a detour. God is developing our character today for life just ahead. Remembering that Jesus is always standing guard for our good can help silence any grumbling. "I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28.20). "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8.28).

2) "Snakes" happen, just shake them off. "Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects" (Acts 28:3, 5 NIV). When his unfortunate situation went from bad to worse, Paul could have become bitter and sunk his thoughts deep into despair. Even the islanders knew this snake bite could result in death. Instead, he shook it off and moved on with a mission to share Christ with others. We can move beyond our feelings and disappointments so that the testimony of Jesus remains center stage regardless of our circumstances. It was this same Paul who wrote: "But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3.13-14).

3) No matter where you are, God's presence and power are accessible.

"Near the shore where we landed was an estate belonging to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us and treated us kindly for three days. As it happened, Publius's father was ill with fever and dysentery. Paul went in and prayed for him, and laying his hands on him, he healed him. Then all the other sick people on the island came and were healed" (Acts 28:7-9 NLT). Paul had hoped to be in Rome, but right now, He was on the island of Malta. So Paul shared the gospel, prayed for the sick, and healed a man. Despite being a prisoner of his own circumstances, Paul allowed God's power to move through him to help others, (Ministry). Reminds us of Peter and John on the Temple steps: "'Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.' The cripple jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him" (Acts 3.6-10). Two quick observations here. 1) Our ministering to others in the name of Jesus, results in their praising God. 2) Our ministering to the needs of others causes the world to notice the power and presence of God in our lives.

So, the question becomes: Are we in a season of waiting? We have a choice when we feel shipwrecked or when God takes us on a detour. We can sit and wait in misery to get off the island or we can make the most of where God has us. Instead of moping about his shipwreck in Malta, Paul turned the island into his ministry, his personal assignment from God. **How will we respond to our detours?**

I'm indebted to The Life Church Team of Edmond Oklahoma for this article. I do hope my small additions have been appropriate. —RANDALL

FOR THE RECORD: 1/27/19

Sunday Class.....	165	Sunday AM Worship.....	242	Sunday PM.....	129
Wednesday.....	119	Offering.....	\$10,839.00	Budget.....	\$11,400

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 2/3/19

Announcements.....	Gene Geren	AM Song Leader.....	Lee McCain
Elder's Prayer.....	Don Butcher	AM Closing Prayer.....	Don Harless
Communion Scripture & Prayer.....	Kirk Franklin	PM Song Leader.....	Sammy McCain
Greeters.....	Andrew Albers & Woody Barker	PM Closing Prayer.....	Randall Hunt
Ladies Encouragement.....	Bobette York & Nancy Barker	Server.....	John Bowman, Marquis Elliott
Server.....	Charles Flanary, Eric Gibson	Server.....	Gary Hodge, Frank James
Server.....	Gary McCool, Richard Myers	Server.....	Terry Roberts, Jerry Schimming
Nursery.....	Cheryl & Louren Rosenbaum	Van Driver.....	Bryan Busbee
Worship Coordinator.....	Mike York	Video Operator.....	Chris Johnson

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 2/6/18

Song Leader.....	Mark Bagwell	Speaker.....	Tracy Bowman	Announcements/ Prayer.....	Kyle Bowman.
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