

Family & Friends..... March 13th, 2019

I just think, the first day of Spring will be in a couple of weeks on March 20th. The warm days of spring will be something to look forward to, although Winter can still hold on and not give up until it's ready. Anyway we can start thinking soon about planting pretty flowers and trees (watching them grow), vegetable gardens (soon to produce all those delicious veggies), birds migrating back to their home place, new life, baby birds flying out of their nest for the first time, Daylight Saving Time, picnics, baseball, pretty rainbows, tree frogs, and the smell of sweet spring air. There are too many to say them all. I forgot Spring cleaning, oops did I go too far. Maybe we better get started looking for all those dust bunnies lurking in various hidden places. God has given us all these beautiful seasons to enjoy. Let's get ready! We thank you Lord for all you bless us with daily! It reminds me of the hymn "This Is My Father's World. Love you so much Lord! To God Be The Glory!

*Watch over your heart with all diligence,
for from it flow the springs of life.
Proverbs 4:23 NASB*

We are always blessed with our visitors each week: Don & Cheri Grissom (Michie, TN), Duwain, Cason & Carole Houston (Abilene, TX), Tillman & Sandy Houston (Hobe Sound, Florida), Howard & Robin Tindall (Saltillo, MS), Gene & Sheila Loomis (Stafford, MO), Mary Ply (Garfield), Meg, Stacey & Rick Williams (Harrison), Judy Foster and Jan Martin (Prairie Grove), Amanda Alsip and Craig Miller (Bentonville), Gary & Lana Cobb, Leonard Haley, John Shepard, Mark & Alana Underwood (Bella Vista), Schon Booher and Abigail Butcher.

Those on our prayer list: Susan Duffy is recovering at home from her surgery Thursday. Ava Sailors is having recurring problems with cancer. Shirley Hale requests prayers for her brother, Howard Nelms. Dee Chambers is to have an ultra-sound on her carotid arteries on Monday March 11. Pray for a good outcome. Mitchell Whittington's brother, Kenneth, may have to go on dialyses. Martha Moser's daughter, Tracy, is having serious health problems. Janice Thompson is having hip surgery March 13th at Mercy. Margaret Beaty is to have a pace maker put in on March 18th. Pray for Mary Joy, a Harding student, involved in an automobile accident and in serious condition. Continue to remember and pray for Linda Doty, Becky Pittman, Mattlee Grace, Mike Lacey, Marvin Thomson, Doug Klingman, Mary Kerley, Ashcrafts & Tuckers on a mission trip, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Our Ladies Class is sending Gift Boxes to our Deployed Military. There's a sign up sheet in the foyer. Thank you for thinking of our military!

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Egg noodles, applesauce, salad dressings, tea bags, and cleaning supplies.

What we know about God should lead us to give joyful praise to Him.

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

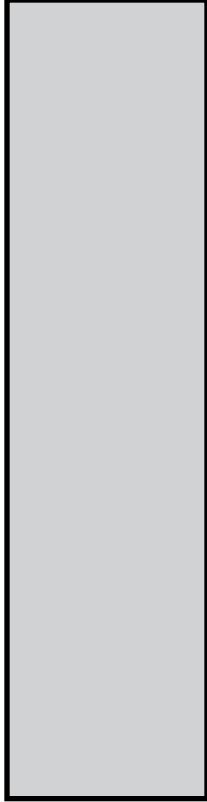
DEACONS

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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Bella Vista

MINISTERS

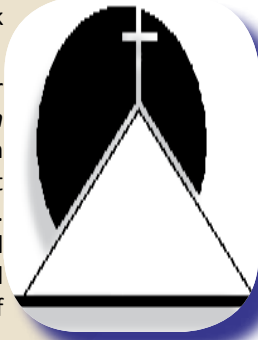
Don't Give Up

*Now Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia. And John left them and returned to Jerusalem, but they went on from Perga and came to Antioch in Pisidia. And on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down.
(Acts 13: 13-14 ESV)*

I know. The title of this article and the text don't seem to match, but bear with me. This little section of the first missionary journey of Paul, Barnabas, and company, if taken by itself, could be a very sad story of someone who (if you will allow the paraphrase) put his hand to the plow and looked back. After their first encounter on Cyprus, John left the mission team and went back to Jerusalem. Although the reason for John Mark's return to Jerusalem is not given, it seems that Paul believed it might happen again and refused to take him along on the next journey. Barnabas disagreed. The result was that Barnabas took John Mark and went one direction, and Paul and Silas went another (Acts 15:36-40).

What happened to Barnabas and John Mark? They make their exit from the book of Acts at this point, as Luke continues to write about the work of Paul. Do we ever hear again from either of them, and particularly John Mark? We do, in fact, hear from and about John Mark in other places in the New Testament. Paul speaks of him when he writes to the church at Colossae. Colossians 4:10 reads, "Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him)" And in 2 Timothy 4:11, Paul writes, "Luke alone is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is very useful to me for ministry." Peter calls John Mark his "son" in 1 Peter 5:13.

Not only do we hear about John Mark in other places in the New Testament, we also hear from him. It is widely believed by scholars that the John Mark who deserted Paul and Barnabas on that first mission trip is the author of the Gospel of Mark. It is amazing isn't it? The one who is called useful to Paul's ministry, Peter's son, and is accredited with authoring one of the accounts of the life of



Jesus, was someone who had at one point turned back from the work to which he had committed.

There are some lessons to be learned here...

First, do not stop encouraging one another. In the life of John Mark we see the importance of encouraging people in personal struggles. Barnabas was not afraid to display confidence in his young relative and took him as his traveling companion and fellow worker in the mission field. Instead of giving up on him, he encouraged and walked with him.

Second, don't give up on people. In the life of John Mark we see the potential danger in judging someone too quickly. It appears that Paul initially judged John Mark to be unreliable. It also appears that Paul's view of John Mark changed a great deal over time. We never know how God may use someone that we think can and should be written off. After all, how many of us who follow Jesus have done so flawlessly. Hasn't God been able to work in and through us despite our many faults and failings?

Third, we cannot let our own failures become permanent. John Mark continued to follow his desire to work in the Kingdom. He went with Barnabas. He was a traveling companion of Peter. He authored his account of the life of Jesus that we still hold dear today. All of these things were done after he left Paul and Barnabas on that first journey. We cannot let a momentary failure or poor decision or a struggle with sin keep us from following Jesus and working in the Kingdom. God is still at work. God still loves. God will forgive our sins and will strengthen and empower us to do his will as long as we are willing to confess and keep going.

Don't give up.

—JEFF GRISHAM

Love As He Loved

We are fascinated with people. There aren't enough tabloids, magazines, TV shows, to quench our appetite for more information about people. We can't seem to learn enough. But, we can also become frustrated with people. I like the cartoon where Linus says, "I love mankind... It's people I hate!" John Chalk once said, "Cannibals aren't the only ones who get fed up with people." Perhaps some of us have felt or even said, "I love the church, but can't stand the people!" Ever had thoughts like this? Of course we have! People can be very frustrating.

However, know this: Our greatest fulfillment in life can be found in people. A teacher of the Law asked Jesus what was the greatest commandment? Remember what Jesus told him? "Love God with all your heart, mind, body and soul." But Jesus didn't stop there. The second commandment was "love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus is telling us that nothing in life is more important than how we treat people. You may be thinking, which is more important, loving God or loving people? John says the way we demonstrate our love for God is by the way we treat people around us. "For if a man says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar." Jesus contended that how we treat one another is how we treat Him. "As often as you do it unto the least of these, you do it to Me."

Listen, Jesus came showing us how to love one another.

The love of Jesus was observant. Jesus saw people; not their sin, not labels, certainly not the color of their skin, their religious convictions, or their prejudices. Jesus saw people and their needs. In John chapter nine, the Jewish community saw a blind sinner. The Apostles saw a theological question "Who sinned this man or his parents?" But Jesus saw a blind man in need of sight. In the City of Jericho the crowds saw a tax collector to despise and hate. Jesus saw a potential child of God that could be forgiven. When we look at people, do we think: She's divorced, they're Mormon, he's Catholic, they're Islamic, liberal, rich, etc. It's possible to become so focused on labels that we lose sight of the people behind the labels. What happened when Jesus looked past the labels? A blind man was healed; the glory of God was demonstrated; salvation came to Zacchaeus and his house. We are not likely to teach others, if we will not try to understand where they are in life and how they feel. God help us to see others through the eyes of Jesus... AMEN?

The love of Jesus was compassionate. In Mark chapter five, a man came covered with leprosy. He fell to the ground begging Jesus for help: "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man, and immediately the leprosy left him. Mark says, "Jesus was moved with compassion." In Matthew nine, Jesus had compassion on the crowds because they were like

sheep without a shepherd, so he taught them. In chapter fourteen, His compassion resulted in the sick being healed.

Genuine compassion is getting involved in the lives of others. James says that just a "go, keep warm and be well fed" faith is dead. But pure religion is CARING for orphans and widows. I want you to note that Jesus touched the leper. Are there some lepers where we work, in our church, school, in our family? Are we willing to compassionately touch them?

The love of Jesus is forgiving. In John chapter eight, Jesus encounters the adulterous woman. Her accusers asked what should be done with her. Jesus could see through their trickery, shamed them into leaving her alone. Then... Sweet, sweet words to her ears... "Neither do I condemn you, go now and leave your life of sin." Don't allow anyone to tell you differently, religion without forgiveness is ugly! When we would rather POINT to the sins of others, rather than FORGIVE them, our religion has turned ugly. This is the big sin of judging others. Judging is God's work, not ours. I receive church bulletins and brotherhood papers that are one hundred percent accusative. There are no uplifting articles; No mention of God's mercy and grace, no instructions on how to be saved, no mention of how to conform to the image of Jesus, or how to share Him with others, just page after page of pointing out the faults and failures of others, both people and churches. UGLY RELIGION! Folk, Jesus came to seek and save the lost, to call sinners to repentance, to forgive us, save us. And there is nothing that will cause another to see Jesus in us quicker than our willingness to, like Jesus, forgive one another.

God is love, and Jesus came to show us what genuine love looks, and how it is demonstrated in our daily behavior. Now that we know, our challenge is to love as He loved. AMEN?

— RANDALL CASELMAN



FOR THE RECORD: 3/10/19

Sunday Class.....	162	Sunday AM Worship.....	255	Sunday PM.....	147
Wednesday.....	137	Offering.....	\$13,683.60	Budget.....	\$11,400

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/17/19

Announcements.....	Cecil Boothe	AM Song Leader.....	Chris McSweeney
Communion Scripture & Prayer.....	Roger Arnold	AM Closing Prayer.....	Steven Ashcraft
Elder's Prayer.....	Tracy Bowman	PM Song Leader.....	Lance Bowman
Greeters.....	Frank James & Gary McCool	PM Closing Prayer.....	Chris Johnson
Ladies Encouragement.....	Nan Cope & Muriel McSweeney	Server.....	Aaron Bagwell, Roy Barnica
Server.....	Caleb Cannon, Mike Hale	Server.....	Robert Horton, Keith Hubanks
Server.....	Glen Myers, Ron Beaty	Server.....	Alex Van Pelt, David Saunders
Nursery.....	Betty Smith & Cindy Johnson	Van Driver.....	Janis Thompson
Worship Coordinator.....	Woody Barker/Mark Tucker	Video Operator.....	Richard Myers

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 3/20/19

Song Leader.....	Mark Bagwell	Speaker.....	Joe Hott	Announcements/Prayer.....	Bob Spaw
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