

**Family & Friends..... October 14, 2020**

How powerful are the words we say or hear from others! They affect our lives and behavior. Words are one of the most powerful forces to humanity. We can use them in the positive or the negative. We can use words of encouragement or destructive ones of despair and hurt. Do we want our words to help and heal others or hurt and humiliate? Be aware that the power of words works both ways, power in the way we say them and in the way they are received by others. We may pray to our Lord and Father, then curse mankind that God has created in His likeness. If someone tells us that a person we are about to meet for the first time is untrustworthy, do we accept that, or do we get to know that person ourselves and form our own opinion? We can overcome the negative, focus on the positive, choose our words wisely, and think before we speak. Remember words can tear down relationships in a heartbeat! Leave gossip to others and step away from it. Learn the words that will mean something in our life like, love, joy, and peace. Be a listener, instead of complaining and whining. Does God's Word tell us how our words should be spoken? It sure does! The most powerful word at our disposal is considered to be, "no," short and powerful, but the most important Word in the Bible to me is God and His Word!

*Let your speech always be with grace,  
as though seasoned with salt,  
so that you will know how you should respond to each person.  
Colossians 4:6*

Those on our prayer list: I am happy to say that Charlene Ward has been moved to Everest Rehabilitation Hospital, 4313 South Pleasant Crossing Boulevard in Rogers, 72758. We wish Jim Branstetter a speedy recovery from his shoulder surgery. Clint White, family member of the Cope's, will have two heart valves replaced on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Pray for Mark Bagwell's mother, Dorothy in Hospice. Bill Hunter is better and now recovering at home. Continue to remember and pray for George Bowman, Ava Sailors, Krista Magness, Loisell Tyler, Phillip King, Jessie Morton (His wife passed from COVID-19), David Bradley, Nancy Cash, Jennifer Oxford, Joyce Pippin, Becky Donceel, Roy Fanning, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for Covid-19.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: soups, pineapple, cookie mix, spices, spaghetti sauce, and toothbrushes.

Items needed for our Food Pantry: We are low on sugar, flour, and cereal. Instant mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, French style green beans, onion crisps, cream of mushroom soup, cranberry sauce, jelly, canned pumpkin and yams, marshmallows, pie crust mix, and pie filling.

*To ignore the Bible is to invite disaster.*

Love you, stay safe!

*Karen*

**Bella Vista  
Church of Christ**

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

**Return Service Requested**

**ELDERS**

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458  
Dallas Dobbs .....479-271-8609

**DEACONS**

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

**MINISTERS**

Randall Caselman.....479-855-4447  
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
Selwyn Nel ..... Cape Town, South Africa  
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	8:15
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class	10:30 AM
Second Worship	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:45 AM & 7 PM
Ladies' Class	Live Stream @ 7 PM
Bible Class	

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**Bella Vista**

**Faces In The Crowd**

Play along with me for a moment. Recall the last photograph you saw on the news, perhaps of a politician, maybe a tight-end catching a hail-mary pass, or an entertainer belting out your favorite song. There are always people in the background, unknown faces with life-stories just as important as the prominent person in the picture.

Ever focus on a face in the crowd and wonder what their life-story was about: Where they were from? How come they here? How did they feel about what they were witnessing? Ever wonder about their relationship with God: Were they atheists, agnostics, believers, faithful participants in God's household?

It's the day after the crucifixion, you're reading the "Jerusalem Times" with pictures of a self-proclaimed Messiah dying on a cross outside the city. As usual, there are faces in the crowd, and we wonder what's their life-story ?

**Judas** – Hanging from a rope beside the path across the Kidron. Conscience come home. Betraying his friend became a burden too heavy to bear, so he takes his own life. We too have a choice, will we betray Him or cultivate an in-depth relationship?

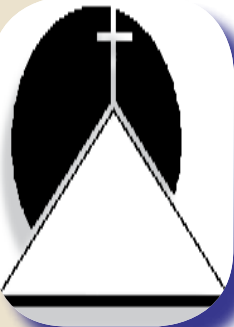
**Peter** – This is the man we heard saying, "I'll go with You wherever You go, I'll never leave or forsake You. I'll die with You." But now, we can barely see his face in the shadows, following Jesus at a distance, not wanting to be recognized as a disciple. Is this our face in the crowd?

**Annas & Caiaphas** – Two men who have placed ambition before a relationship with this dying man. They couldn't hear Him say *"love Me more than these."*

**Pilate** – I hate conflict! In most cases I'll remain neutral in the argument, but there are times that neutrality is wrong. It was Jesus who said, *"you are either for Me or against Me."* I wonder how many times my neutrality crucifies Jesus afresh?

**Barabbas** – He's been arrested, tried, found guilty, sentenced. Guilty! Where he should have died, Jesus died in his stead: *"bore our griefs, carried our sorrows, wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities, by His wounds we are healed."* We all share Barabbas' guilt, Amen?

**MINISTERS**



**The two Thieves**—It appears that both are arrogant, *"heaping insults upon Him."* But as the end neared, one heart was softened, and we hear

him say *"Don't you fear God... We are punished justly but this man has done nothing wrong."* Precious words from the lips of Jesus: *"Today you will be with Me in paradise."* We gotta decide, arrogant or

contrite heart, which will it be? Which face belongs to us?

**The Soldiers**—They are only doing their jobs, indifferent to the one on the cross. They are more interested in who gets His clothing than His suffering. Indifference! What an ugly word. Lukewarm indifference was the sin of the church in Laodicea. Indifference, a sin that sickens Jesus. May we never be guilty.

**The Crowd**—Prove yourself and we'll believe: *"Come down from the cross and we'll believe."* Many today want proof of God, but it's faith, believing without proof, that pleases Him. (Hebrews 11.6)

**Mother Mary**—She lingers at the cross. Gotta ask, do we linger in our worship or are we constantly watching the clock. Amazing isn't it that the woman show more bravery than the twelve? Here is an observation: The women (Those who served Jesus) are the ones who seem to love Him most, lingering at His death and at the tomb. *"If you love Me you will keep My commandment!"* (If you love Me, you will serve Me). Serving the Jesus in others is proof of our love.

**The Centurion**—Here's a man awestruck with Jesus. *"Surely this was the Son of God."* Are we awestruck, or do we take Him for granted: "Ho-hum, another Sunday, another sermon, wonder where we going to eat lunch?" Do we see our creator God on this cross? Really?

Faces in the crowd. But one of these faces belongs to you and your writer? Which one describes us most accurately?

—RANDALL CASELMAN



## Out Of Exile

In 586 B.C., God's people were carried off into Babylon to spend the next 70 years as exiles. This captivity was an act of discipline by God upon his people to wake them up out of their sin – And it worked. Seventy years later, when they came out of exile and returned to their homeland, they were a changed people and had learned at least the following three points:

**The Importance of the Assembly.** When Solomon's temple was destroyed, and they no longer had a place to assemble and worship together, they apparently missed these assemblies. The synagogue that we read so much about in the New Testament was born during the exile. These people realized that they needed to assemble, study together, encourage each other, and be a community, thus they built synagogues. The command to assemble isn't an arbitrary hoop to jump through, but something that has genuine value, and that value was more greatly appreciated when it was taken away from them.

**The Importance of God's Word.** Imagine what it must have been like for up to three generations of people who had never worshiped as God commanded. Many being ignorant of what his commandments were. So, when they came out of exile, notice what they did.

- 1) They asked for the Book of the Law to be read;
- 2) They stood in respect when the book was opened;
- 3) They listened from the morning light till mid-day as the book was read;
- 4) They listened attentively (Nehemiah 8:1-5).

Their hunger for God's word is apparent by their behavior.

**The Importance of Discipline.** The Bible informs us that this captivity was the work of God. He was disciplining his children, and they seemed to have learned their lesson. When they came out of exile, the first thing they did was erect an altar to the Lord and worshiped day and night (Read Ezra chapter three). Troubles and hardships seem to reprioritize our life's focus.

When we consider these three lessons learned during Judah's exile, we can't help but think of our momentary "exile" due to this pandemic.

- Have we been discomforted enough to realize the impor-

tance of the assembly, and that meeting together is not just an arbitrary hoop to jump through, but a vital part of our walk with God?

- Have we realized how important God's word is and sought out ways to hear it?

While none of us can authoritatively say that this pandemic is a discipline from God, can we not still learn from it? Have the hardships driven us to reprioritize our life?

If so, good! As bad as this time has been, maybe the end result will make us better people. Give it some thought.

—STEVE HIGGINBOTHAM  
Knoxville TN.

## Bridging the Gap

*"It pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross"*

**Colossians 1.19-20**

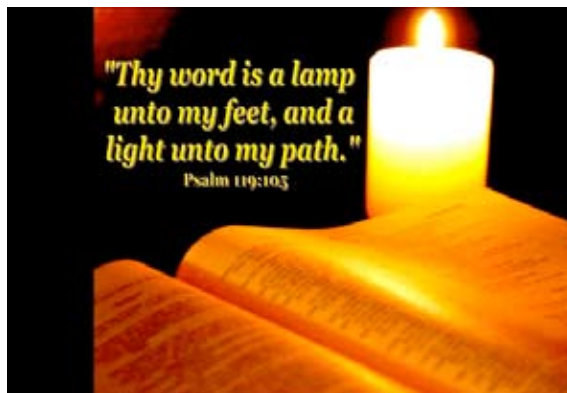
Hopes that the President would recover were dwindling. Two months had passed since President Garfield was shot twice in the back. Perhaps if they could get him to his ocean retreat in Long Branch, New Jersey, he could find comfort. An entry in his diary reflects his love for that place: "The work and worry of Washington seem very far away as I rest in the large silence of the sea air. I have always felt the ocean was my friend and the sight of it brings rest and peace" (The Garfield Observer).

But it would be no easy feat getting him there. A special train brought Garfield from Washington, but the track ended at a depot some distance from their final destination. The night before his arrival a special crew laid down track for the President's train. When it arrived, the train stalled at the bottom of a hill and had to be pushed to the cottage's door by a group of men.

Great effort was exerted by countless individuals to bridge the gap between the end of the track to their ultimate goal. But that gap could never compare to the incomprehensible gulf separating sinful humanity from their holy God. Mankind stood on the edge of the hopeless task of bridging that gap.

God did have a plan. He sent His Son to offer the perfect sacrifice for all the sin ever committed (past, present, future). This was accomplished at the cross, as Paul described: *"to reconcile all things to Himself... Having made peace through the blood of His cross"* (Colossians 1:20).

—DAVID BRAGG  
Greensboro, NC



### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/18/20

#### EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader ..... Sammy McCain    Prayer & Scripture ..... Chad Dobbs  
Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Bill Alumbaugh    Greeters/Handouts..... Keith Hubanks & David Saunders

#### SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano    Prayer & Scripture ..... Bryan Busbee  
Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Perry Johnson    Greeters/Handouts..... Howard Hurst, Mike Spencer

#### Coordinators (October)

Worship Coordinator ..... Harold Phillips    Streaming Coordinator ..... Parker Willis  
Audio Coordinator ..... Homer Makinson    Video Coordinator ..... Matt Grisham