

Family & Friends..... November 28th, 2018

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! It turned out to be a beautiful day in our area. Now the Christmas & New Year Holidays are approaching us, so we need to brace ourselves for a busy time. Maybe if we just looked for the Heart Gifts we can give to each other and those in need it would be more enriching for all of us. For most of the store bought gifts we receive or give at Christmas we don't need or could do without. It's the gifts given from the heart with love that are cherished the most. The more we love each other, the more we find out how good life is. We all know some one we could make their Christmas special and give them hope. Look for that someone this Christmas Season. For God gave us the greatest gift of all, His beloved Son Jesus to save us from our sins. Our gifts to others have a purpose and meaning only when God is part of the giving. Have a joy-filled heart and flash that happy smile to each other, for memories are our treasures that we hold dear to our hearts. Thank You, Lord for Your priceless gifts from above.

*Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights, with whom
there is no variation or shifting shadow.
James 1:17*

We are always thankful for our visitors: Ruth Franklin (Smithville, MO), Keith & Janet Gant (Singapore), Casey Lessly (Irving, TX), Timothy Wald (Anderson, MO), LeAnn Hernandez (Searcy), Parker Spaw (Harrison), Holley Skinner (Bryant), Jonathan & Chelsea Reeves (Springdale), Brenda & Reese Taylor (Bentonville), Chris & Misty Hyndman, John Shepard (Bella Vista), and Schon Booher.

Those on our prayer list: Ola Harless will have back surgery Thursday, November the 29th. We pray she will be relieved of her pain and for a speedy recovery. Gary McCool had his surgery Tuesday. Robbie Arnold is not doing well and is in need of our prayers. Please pray for a friend of Martha Moser and the Caselmans, Marsha Thurman, who lost her husband last week. Continue to remember and pray for: Glenda Wright, Marlin & Mary Kerley, Doug Klingman, Susan Duffy, Marvin Thomson, Nancy Barker, Harold Akridge, Becky Pittman, our missionaries and police force, our country and president, and those who lost their homes and loved ones in the fires in California.

*When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, that makes us joyful.
—Maya Angelou*

Hope Harbor Thrift Store can always use your help. Stop by the store and talk about their needs and your schedule.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Pie fillings, pork & beans, pop-tarts, French style green beans, cranberry sauce, hand soap, and toothpaste.

*For a church to be healthy,
its members must exercise their spiritual gifts.
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 Harless Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

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

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Bella Vista

MEMBER LINES

Sensing God At Work

Most of us are familiar with what Mary Stevenson wrote: "One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there was one only.

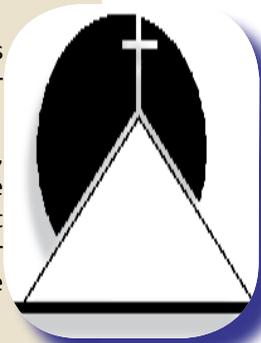
This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints, so I said to the Lord, You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there has only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The years when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

Dream or not, we need a faith that believes God is walking with us, working in our life, in both good times and bad:

- Like David, we need a faith that sees God as our Shepherd
- Like Jesus, we need a faith that knows God as our Father.
- Like Joseph, a faith that can say: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good."
- Like Paul, a faith that can rest in the fact that in all things God works for our good, our benefit, our betterment.
- Like James, we need a faith that can say: "Count it all joy when you fall into various trials."
- Like Peter, a faith that can be assured "His divine power gives us everything we need for life and godliness..."

Let's challenge one another to take a moment, recall how that God was present each step of the way, especially during the tough times. Indeed it is difficult to see Him at work in the midst of our trials, pain, and suffering, but in the long-term, we sense His hand at work.



Does Scripture support His walking, working, presence?

- "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, for ever and ever! Amen" (Ephesians 3.20-21).



- " May the God of peace... equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Hebrews 13.20-21).

- "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1.6).

- " For it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2.13).

"Let not your heart be troubled." When we can't see His footsteps, know that He is carrying us, working all things to our benefit

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone

In 1693, Thomas Shepherd wrote the song entitled, "Must Jesus Bear The Cross Alone." Two of the verses of that song read as follows:

Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
 And all the world go free?
 No, there's a cross for everyone,
 And there's a cross for me.

The consecrated cross I'll bear,
 Till he shall set me free,
 And then go home my crown to wear,
 For there's a crown for me.

I like that song for several reasons, but one is that it teaches one's cross comes before one's crown." That fundamental truth seems to have been lost to many people, for how often do you hear of people giving up and quitting when difficulty arises?

How often have you heard of preachers who quit preaching, elders who quit shepherding, deacons who quit serving, Bible teachers who quit teaching, and Christians who quit following Jesus because of some difficult circumstance? It happens far too frequently than it should. Let someone hurt one's feelings, and he quits. Let someone criticize one's

work, and he quits. Let someone forget to thank one for his work, and he quits.

The common thread that runs through all of these situations is that someone has forgotten that one must bear a cross before he is privileged to wear a crown! Don't lose sight of this truth. Work comes before rest. Sacrifice comes before reward. Struggle comes before victory. And humility comes before exaltation. "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all" (2 Corinthians 4.17).

So what about you? Are you bearing your cross in this life, or are you spending your time kicked back, daydreaming about how your crown is going to fit? Let's get to work. There's much to do. We have a cross to bear. Or, must Jesus bear the cross alone, and all the world go free? No, there's a cross for everyone, and there's a cross for me

—STEVE HIGGINBOTHAM
Knoxville, TN

"Seek Peace and Pursue it"

This came in my email, and I have no idea the last name of the author, but she has some things to say that each of us need to hear...

If you're anything like me, life has been chaotic lately. I'm a working mom and wife. Nothing is ever calm and orderly when you find yourself in that scenario. And then there's church, Life Group, extended family, and friends. Oh, and trying to fit exercise in? Ha!

Every day, I find myself wondering how I can magically add more hours to the day. And recently, the stress has been getting to me. There are nights where my mind is racing and I can't get it to turn off.

Have you ever been there?

How do we get peace in the middle of the craziness of life? Does it require a trip to a spa or an overnight cabin in the woods? Or can peace be discovered on a daily basis, even when we don't have access to a deep tissue massage or a babbling brook in the mountains?

Psalm 34:14 (NIV) says,

"Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it."

This verse tells us that we have to **pursue** peace. It doesn't just fall in our laps. It doesn't come through one prayer in the morning or five minutes of yoga.

It's a continual pursuit. Kind of like when you're in love and spend every

waking moment pursuing information about that person—his favorite kind of music, her favorite flowers, etc.

So how do we get peace?

For me, I have found that that pursuit of peace looks like listening to worship music in my car, taking a moment to pray in the middle of a stressful work situation, and going for a walk after dinner to enjoy the beauty of God's nature.

Lucky for you, if you call yourself a Christ follower, then you are already connected to the One who is peace. In Isaiah 9.6, Jesus is called the Prince of Peace. In Him is all of the calm you need in the midst of the storm.

Speaking of calm in the storm, I'm reminded of when He literally did just that—He calmed the storm. In Mark 4:35-39 we find Jesus and His disciples on a boat in the middle of a treacherous storm. The disciples, who still had plenty of room for spiritual growth, frantically woke Jesus up from His nap, asking, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?"

This question from the disciples sounds like a lot of us, doesn't it? We're so busy with life that we often feel like we're drowning. But the good news is, Jesus **does** care if you drown. And He won't let you. You can come to Him with your overwhelmed, overworked, tired self, and He will fill you with peace.

And just like He settled the storm in Mark chapter four, He will speak to the waves crashing in your world and say, "Quiet! Be still!"

Seek peace and pursue it today. Do one thing today to pursue peace. There are many Bible Plans on peace—why not start one? Or set a reminder on your phone to pray at a certain time today. Seek the One who is Peace. It will make all the difference in your busy life.

Peace to you,

—LINDSAY



FOR THE RECORD: 11/25/18		
Sunday Class..... 151	Sunday AM Worship..... 2434	Sunday PM 107
Wednesday..... 81	Offering..... \$13,754.50	Budget..... 10,718
SUNDAY SERVANTS: 12/2/18		
Announcements Tom Verkler	AM Song Leader Anthony Christiano	
Elder's Prayer..... Tracy Bowman	PM Song Leader Sammy McCain	
Communion Scripture & Prayer Perry Johnson	PM Closing Prayer..... Bill Alumbaugh	
Greeters..... Howard Hurst & Mark Bagwell	Server..... Aaron Bagwell, Cecil Boothe	
Server Caleb Cannon, Michael Hale	Server Joe Hott, Dallas Hubanks	
Server Bob Musson, Glen Myers	Server Keith Hubanks, Harold Phillips	
Nursery..... Nina Verkler & Caliopy Taylor	Van Driver..... Janis Thompson	
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer..... Judith Carmical & Nan Cope	
Worship Coordinator Mike Lunsford	Video Operator..... Marquis Elliott	
WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 11/21/18		
Song Leading..... Lance Bowman	Speaker..... Roger Arnold	Announcements..... Bryan Busbee