

Family & Friends..... April 21st, 2021

In 1739, in Yorkshire, England, John Fawcett was born. He was brought up in a very poor family, but was given the riches of faith as his parents taught him from the Holy Bible and encouraged him to grow in the knowledge of God. His father died when John was young, and he worked to keep the family together. He became a Christian, a preacher, married in his twenties, and moved to Wainsgate, England. This is where he and his wife, Mary, made many friends and started their family. It was a struggle because he mostly was paid in potatoes and other produce. When John was thirty-two, he received an offer for a higher paying job and decided to take it. The townspeople came to his cottage to offer their thanks, relay their sorrow of his soon to be departure, and seek some last bits of wisdom from their young preacher that they loved so much. The day came for them to leave: the wagon was loaded, the members were gathered around the to pray before they left. They looked around at the tear-stained faces of their friends and neighbors. Mary gripped her husband's hand and wept. John was so overcome by it all, he let his parishioners know he wasn't leaving and the wagon was unloaded. The next Sunday he read a poem he had composed entitled "Brotherly Love." Years later the verses were set to music to become the well-loved and familiar hymn, "Blest Be the Tie that Binds." He was so moved by the power of Christian fellowship. "The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." Togetherness, fellowship, Teamwork is the key to living life in peace and harmony, so that we can do God's will. To Him Be The Glory!

"Beware, and be on guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions."

Patsy Tarr wishes to thank everybody who sent cards, letters, and notes as she celebrate her 90th birthday. She and JB send their love for all.

Those on our prayer list: Ron Beaty is now on Home Hospice. Keep Ron, Margaret, and James in your prayers. Pat Musson is having a breast biopsy on Thursday; also their granddaughter Leah was bitten by a dog on the lip. Ola Harless' surgery went well. Aaron Sloan will have knee surgery Wednesday the 21st. Continue prayers for Hattie Louise Perry, Krista Magness, Phyllis Spaw's sister, Steven Ashcraft, Monica & Doug Klingman (both of their fathers are ill), Joyce & Chuck Pippin, Margaret Wicker, Robert & Karen Horton, Dorothy Bagwell, Tim & Susan Duffy, Loisell Tyler, Lou Hollo, David Baker, Bob Kearney, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Don't forget to pray for our efforts to ordain new Elders. We can suggest names of qualified men by placing their name in the box in the foyer.

Items needed for our benevolent efforts include: tuna, chicken, Hamburger Helper, peaches, Ro-tel tomatoes, cookie mix, pam, honey, pasta sauce, Mayo/Miracle Whip, Ravioli, Beefaroni, salad dressings, spaghetti sauce, and oatmeal.

To bear good fruit, clear out the weeds of sin.

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 Dobbs479-640-4943

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

Bella Vista

**Here For A Purpose
Living The Adventure**

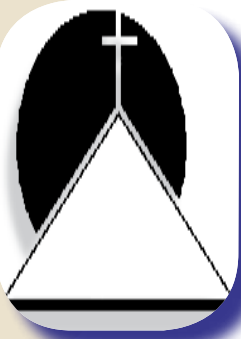
Scarcely a week passes that someone doesn't ask me, "Why am I here?" Death takes a spouse and the mate feels they can't go on alone. A child is born with a serious disability, why? COVID-19 has change everything, how are we expected to deal with this? A financial crisis devastates us, and we wonder why, what's the purpose? Perhaps we've been overtaken by some persistent sin; we know inside that we have disappointed God, church, family, and friends by our attitude and behavior. Why are we here and not in heaven? A question that deserves an answer.

Know that we matter to God. "God so loved the world, me, you, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life." Paul tells us that while we were yet sinners, Christ died where we should have died. God's love extends to all mankind regardless of their sins, disappointment or disability. We see Jesus healing lepers, the blind, the lame, demon possessed, raising the dead, because they mattered to Him. Know this; our past sins do not disqualify us from the love of God. Peter denied Jesus three times. Thomas doubted. Saul of Tarsus persecuted Christians, but all mattered to God. Regardless of our disability or sin, we matter to Him. He still loves us, and stands ready to use us. We have purpose!

No one is useless to Him. There may be times when we wonder; perhaps you are wondering now: What can God do with me? How can He possibly use me? We must know that young, old, alone, hurt, crippled, sinner, or saint, God is calling us to more fully fulfill His plan and purpose in our lives. Moses wondered. In fact he told God, "No, I can't." Moses was called when he was eighty, and didn't finish his God ordained work until he was a hundred-twenty. Mary was probably a teenager when the angel told her she would be the mother of our Savior. No matter how able or disabled we think we are, God is wanting and waiting for us to trust Him, allowing Him to work His will in us, waiting for us to live the adventure He has planned,

God has a plan and purpose for each of us. Paul wrote: "We are His workmanship, created in Christ

MEMBERS



Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them." Who can deny that God placed us here for a purpose, to accomplish something that He prepared in advance for us to do? Here it is church! If God has planned a work for us to do, and Paul says He has, and we don't do it, who will? Who will? Titus chapter two tells us we are to be "eager, anxious, to do what is good." Together, these verses tell us that we each have a place in God's plan and purpose - And we are to be eager to live the adventure He providentially places before us.

Know that God will empower us. Whatever our limitations, God has the power to overcome. Paul wrote: "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." It was Jesus who said: "I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in Me... You will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing." When we put these two scriptures together,



we find God saying that with Him we can accomplish more than we can think, ask, or imagine. On the other hand, without God, we can accomplish nothing of real value. We must not leave God out of the formula. He is working in us, with us, by us, for us. God is ready to equip us to become His instrument of righteousness, His living sacrifice. The Hebrews' writer says, "God is at work in us – Equipping us to do everything good for doing His will." Awesome, isn't it? We are workers with God? What an adventure!

Indeed, we are each here for a reason. We have purpose! Perhaps no one says it better than Russell Kelfer.

You are who you are for a reason.
 You're a part of an intricate plan,
 Called God's special woman or man.
 No, that trauma you just faced was not easy,
 And God wept that it hurt you so,
 But it was allowed to shape your heart
 That into His likeness you'd grow.
 You are who you are for a reason,
 You've been formed by the Master's rod.
 You are who you are beloved,
 Because there is a God.

"So do not fear, for I am with you: do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand." Yes, God has both a purpose and plan for our lives, and when we surrender to Him, the outcome is amazing. It's an adventure. Our challenge is to live the adventure. Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN

A New Way Of Thinking

Admiral Richard E. Byrd, after being isolated in a shack near the South Pole alone for seven long months on one of his expeditions to Antarctica, related how this experience had taught him one of life's great lessons: the mastering of our thoughts before they master and control us. He said, "It was then I discovered how much a man's world can be a world of the mind. And that a man himself determines or makes his world, which to a degree is a reflection of his inner self."

Over 3,000 years ago Solomon gave us this same truth in the form of a proverb when he said, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). You may not be what you think you are, but what you think, you are. As Emerson once said, "You are what you think all day long." Change your thinking and you change your life. If you do not command your thoughts, you will soon lose command of your actions. Jesus spoke this unalterable truth, "For out of the overflow of the heart (mind) the mouth speaks. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him" (Matthew 12:34-35) As Vance Havner used to say, "What's down in the well is what comes up in the bucket." So, be careful of your thoughts, they may break into words at any time. Peter Marshall once preached before a joint session of congress a lesson entitled "Keeper of the Spring." In bygone days a keeper kept the springs up in the hills clean and free-flowing so that the stream in the valley would be clean and pure. So it is with our hearts, our minds. The heart is not just a reservoir, but a spring, a fountain. What's in our mind flows into life. Again, Solomon admonishes, "Above all else, guard your heart (mind), for it is the wellspring of life" (Proverbs 4:23), or as the KJV translates it, "out of it are the issues of life."

Psychologists tell us that about 10,000 thoughts pass through the average human brain each day. Given our nature, it is very difficult not to have some evil thoughts from time to time. Concerning evil thoughts, H. Leo Boles used to say, "You cannot keep a bird from flying over your head, but you can keep him from building a nest on top of your head." The evil thought may enter our mind, but we do not have to allow that evil thought to dwell in our minds and nurture it along. What sin is there that resulted from anything other than wrong thinking? We don't have to open the door to

the devil and say, "Make yourself at home." Instead, we are to allow the good thoughts to dwell in our minds and to nurture them. Listen to Paul's advice, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things".



Dwell on negative thoughts and you become a negative person; dwell on positive thoughts and you become a positive person. We create our moods with our thoughts. How do you feel? Is it "I feel great?" Or, is it "I feel lousy?" If there is anyone on God's green earth who should be a positive person, it is the Christian. With the Christian, the prospects are as bright as the promises of God, which are "exceeding great and precious."

Here, my friend, is our key to the "abundant life" and our challenge for each new day, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

"Naught of earth to cloud the glory,
 Naught of self the light to dim;
 With each thought to Him made captive,
 Emptied, to be filled with Him."

You are familiar with the old adage, "A penny for your thoughts." Well, your thoughts are of inestimably more value than a penny; they constitute life, be it good or evil. Come live the adventure!

—CHARLES CASH
 1938–2018

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 4/25/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader.....Lee McCain Prayer & Scripture Dallas Dobbs
 Communion Scripture & PrayerJoe Hott Greeters/Handouts.....Gary McCool & Ken Rosenbaum

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader..... Mark Bagwell Prayer & ScriptureJerry Orr
 Communion Scripture & Prayer Perry Johnson Greeters/Handouts.....Bob Spaw & Chris Johnson

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator Mike Lunsford Streaming Coordinator Aaron Sloan
 Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott