

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

Well, Randall Caselman has decided to take the plunge into retirement after thirty-five years with the Bella Vista congregation! I don't know if Randall and Georgia have an inkling of how much everyone loves them, and how greatly they will be missed. If anyone deserves to retire, it would definitely be Randall. He has put the pedal to the metal for all these years visiting those in the hospital, taking care of those in need, doing weddings and funerals, counseling, teaching Bible classes, doing a weekly bulletin with excellent articles he would write, and many things too numerous to mention. To top it off, he could come up with a great sermon every week! I remember when I first met and heard Randall twenty years ago, I said, "this is a friendly and nice congregation, the preacher just preached a great sermon, and this is where I want to worship each Sunday." His service to us and our Lord has been amazing! Georgia has been right beside Randall each week when we Christians meet for worship. She always would give you a big hug and encouragement each week when she saw you. We are all happy for you both. Randall, we hope you will be able to go fishing, that we know you love to do. We will also miss your chili and jalapeno cornbread. Enjoy your retirement with your loving wife. We all love you and Georgia, and we want to go to heaven with you too. God bless you both!

For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 1 John 5:4

Those on our prayer list: Pat Musson has been diagnosed with aggressive stage 3 breast cancer and is waiting for a scheduled surgery. Please keep her in your prayers. Mary Jane Harrington's sister, Priscilla Paugh (Paul) had a stroke. Kay Hott had knee replacement surgery. Bernice Hunt had a bad reaction to her Covid- shot. Aaron Sloan is waiting to reschedule his knee surgery. Continue to pray for Chuck Pippin, Ron Beaty & family, Krista Magness, Phyllis Spaw's sister, Hilda, Lou Hollo, Steve Ashcraft, Robert Horton, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

We will have a celebration for Randall's 35 years with our congregation on June 6th in the evening at 5:00 p.m., and his last sermon will be on June 13th before Randall and Georgia leave for their new home.

Items needed for Children's Home: canned vegetables, chili beans, soups, toothbrushes, and hand soap. Food Pantry: oatmeal, pasta and spaghetti sauce, salad dressings, Mayo, Ravioli, Beefaroni, and honey.

If you want a field of service, look around you.

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 Caselman479-855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Selywn Nel Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

Bella Vista

**Our Greatest Challenge
"To Love As He Loved"**

There aren't enough tabloids, magazines, or television shows to quench our appetite for more information about people. We can't seem to learn enough, especially the bad stuff. Sometimes we 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." Ever had similar thoughts? Of course we have! People can be frustrating.

However, know this: Our greatest fulfillment in life can be found in people. A teacher asked Jesus "what's the greatest commandment?" "*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.*" Here it is church, straight from the lips of Jesus; 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 others. "*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.*" People are to be **LOVED!**

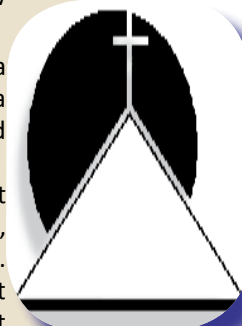
So, Jesus came showing us how to love one another...

His love 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?*" Jesus saw a blind man in need of sight.
- In Jericho the crowds saw Zacchaeus as a tax collector to despise and hate. Jesus saw a potential child of God that should and could be forgiven.

Question! **WHAT DO WE SEE?** When we look at people, do we think he's divorced, they're Mormon, she's Catholic, he's Islamic, They're liberal, rich etc. It's possible to become so focused on labels that we lose sight of the people behind the labels. What

WEEKLINES



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, until we try to understand

where they are in life and how they feel. God helps us to see others through the eyes of Jesus – **Amen?**

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. “I’m willing, be clean!” 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 Matthew chapter fourteen, His compassion resulted in the sick being healed.

Genuine compassion is our 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 others, orphans and widows. I want you to note here that Jesus touched the leper. Are there lepers where we work, in our church, school, in our family? Of course! Are we compassionately touching them? Just how much like Jesus do we really want to be?

The love of Jesus is Forgiving. In John chapter eight, Jesus encounters the adulterous woman. Her accusers asked Jesus what should be done with her. But Jesus, who 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 judgementally *POINT* to the sins of others, rather than *FORGIVE* them, our religion has turned ugly. This kind of Judging is God’s work, not ours. I receive brotherhood papers that are one hundred percent accusative: no uplifting articles; no mention of God’s mercy and grace; no instructions on how to be saved; no mention of how to better 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!* 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 any quicker than our willingness to, like Him, forgiving one another.

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

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Owe No Man Anything

“Render therefore to all their due: taxes to whom taxes are due, customs to whom customs, fear to whom fear, honor to whom honor. Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, ‘You shall not commit adultery,’ ‘You shall not murder,’ ‘You shall not steal,’ ‘You shall not bear false witness,’ ‘You shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”

Romans 13:7-10

There is certainly wisdom in avoiding debt. In one poll on the main causes of divorce, financial problems came in at number 5 (36.1%). There have been other polls that rank financial problems higher. In one article on strategies for getting out of debt, these ten suggestions were given:

- 1) If you cannot afford it without a credit card, do not buy it...
- 2) Have a fallback emergency fund...
- 3) Pay off your credit card balances in full...
- 4) Cut-out the wants, focus on the needs...
- 5) Everything is better with a budget...
- 6) Do not use your credit card for cash advances...
- 7) Limit the number of cards you have...
- 8) Keep a master sheet of expenses...
- 9) In case of a pay increase, live off the lower wage...
- 10) Collect coupons to save cash.

While these are great strategies and advice, when the Apostle Paul wrote *to owe no man anything*, he was not talking about our economic obligations.

Paul said the one debt that we should never quit paying is to love one another. In the first verses of Romans 13, Paul instructed us to obey the laws of the land and to render proper obedience to ruling authorities. When we think about some of the governments and rulers then in existence, this was extremely conservative teaching. The Roman Emperor Nero is best known for his debaucheries, political murders, persecution of Christians and a passion for music that led to the probably apocryphal rumor that Nero “fiddled” while Rome burned during the great fire of 64 A.D. All classical accounts of the Emperor Gaius “Caligula” agree that he possessed elements of madness, cruelty, viciousness, extravagance, and megalomania. He is described as a coarse and cruel despot with an extraordinary passion for sadism and a fierce energy. He could get extremely excited and angry. We are taught to be in subjection and pay our taxes even to such emperors as these. It reminds us of what David said about King Saul. David would not raise his hand against Saul but left him in God’s hands: “So he said

to his men, “Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD’S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD’S anointed” (1 Samuel 24:6).

Paul reminds us of what Jesus taught regarding love for our fellow man: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets” (Matthew 22:37-40). When we love God and give him his proper place in our lives, it will lead us to love one another. When we love one another, we will fulfill the requirement of the law to do no harm to our neighbor. This is a debt that we can never fully pay. It is impossible for us to love God if we do not love one another as the Apostle John teaches in 1 John 4:20, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

We could not keep the Law of God perfectly, and that is why Jesus came to redeem us from our sin. However, we do fulfill the spirit of the law when we pay our debt of love to one another. In the words of the great hymnist Isaac Watts,

“But drops of grief can ne’er repay

The debt of love I owe:

Here, Lord, I give myself away,

‘Tis all that I can do!

At the cross, at the cross where I first saw the light,

And the burden of my heart rolled away.

It was there by faith I received my sight,

And now I am happy all the day!”

L SCOTT GAGE

Fayetteville, AR



SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/2/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader.....Lee McCain Prayer & ScriptureBill Alumbaugh
Communion Scripture & PrayerChad Dobbs Greeters/Handouts.....David Saunders & Mike York

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader.....Mark Bagwell Prayer & ScriptureRay Reiss
Communion Scripture & PrayerStephen Hunt Greeters/Handouts.....Mike Spencer & Howard Hurst

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator.....Harold Phillips Streaming CoordinatorAbby Willis
Audio Coordinator.....Jim Caylor Video CoordinatorChris Johnson