

Family & Friends..... February 3rd, 2021

It's hard to believe how January passed so quickly, but here we are in February. February is the shortest month of the twelve. In Welsh, known as "Y mis bach" which means "little month." It's also the month that its name is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. February is also the only month possible to go the entire month without having a full moon. Leap year happened in February last year. The next one will be in 2024. Julius Caesar implemented the very first leap day in his Julian Calendar back in 45 BCE. Every four years we add a day to the calendar to ensure that it stays in line with the Earth's movement around the sun. If we did not make corrections to the calendar, eventually February would be a summer month in the Northern Hemisphere. It gives you something to think about. We also celebrate Valentine's Day in this month. The little Punxsutawney Phil groundhog made his prediction that we are going to have six more weeks of winter. It has not been a bad winter anyway. All I can say is, anything can happen in Arkansas. For instance, a tornado warning when you least expect it in our area on January 30th. February is also American Heart Month by motivating Americans to adopt healthy lifestyles. It would also be a good time to focus on our spiritual heart, and make sure it is in good working order also. The name, February, comes from the Latin word, februum, which means purification or a cleansing. Thank You, Lord for Your many blessings! To God Be the Glory!

*God thunders with His voice wondrously,
doing great things which we cannot comprehend.
Job 37:5*

Those on our prayer list: Our deepest sympathies go to John and Mary Ann Bowman and their family in the loss of John's brother, George. We will all miss him. Our sympathies also go to Delores Eitzen in the loss of her husband, Wayne. Wayne and Delores attended our congregation for many years. Wayne served the Lord in many ways. Keep Delores and their children in your prayers. Continue to remember Mitchell Whittington and his family in the loss of his brother, Kenneth. Pray for those who are recovering from surgeries, Jerri Dobbs, Lou Hollo, and Sean Turnage. Pray for those with Covid-19: Chris Johnson's mother, Monica Klingman's mother, and Betty Whittington's daughter, Stephanie. Remember Tim & Susan Duffy, and Susan's dad in their health issues. Continue to remember and pray for Bob & Pat Musson, our son Jon, Louise Perry, Rich LaPorte, our missionaries, our military and police force, and our country and president.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Gravy mix, pancake mix and syrup, soups, salad dressings, and trash bags. Items for our Food Pantry: Flour, sugar, rice, cereal, tuna, canned chicken & vegetables, and instant potatoes.

To the wise, God's Word is sufficient.

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 | 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

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Bella Vista

God Please Help Me

We all need His help. We've all been there, and will be again; this is the way life comes at us. For instance Jacob was his mother's favorite, but he found himself working as a servant in Laban's house. Joseph's colored coat status gave way to a jail sentence in Egypt. Moses, the prince in a palace, became Moses, the shepherd in the wilderness. King David lost his firstborn son. Job had it all and lost everything. Paul experienced the fall from being a "Hebrew of Hebrews" with a Roman citizenship, to a damp, dark, prison cell.

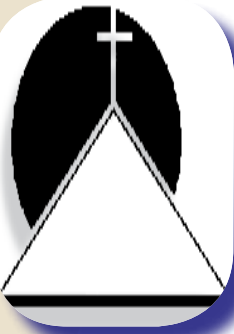
There comes a time when all of us will have to surrender our dreams to God and let Him deal with our current situation. When life tumbles in, God can and will restore and establish us again! The question then is what should our attitude be so that God can work His will and way with us, in us?

Acceptance. Admit where we are and what is happening to us. We tend to deny our condition or predicament, not wanting to accept the reality of the situation before us. The journey to help and healing must always start with acceptance of what is happening. We can do this in a way that does not destroy us, or lead us into deep depression. We are not alone. We must know that God knows our struggles and is walking with us. Paul tells us that God is always working for our benefit and betterment: *"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose"* (Romans 8.28).

Have Faith in Him and His promises. Reality does indeed test our faith. When tough times come, when life seems broken, we must not forget Jesus' saying: *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls"* (Matthew 11.28-29). Or His statement in John, chapter fourteen: *"You believe in God, believe also in Me,"* Church, don't we know that God has a plan for our life? *"I know the plans I have for you,"* declares the Lord, *"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (Jeremiah 29.11). Know that God is for us not against us.

Surrender. When we collide with life's unfairness, we always respond with... "Why me, Lord?" "Why now?" **WHY?** Been there? Of course, we all have.

MEMBER



Listen, I like what Ray Reiss said recently: We must come to God empty. We must come to God without an agenda. We must come to Him transparent, with proper motive. Instead of trying to bargain with God, make a deal with Him, why not surrender? Why not ask, "Lord, what do You want me to learn from this situation?" "How can I use this experience in service to You and others?" "How can I glorify You in this pain?"

Don't you know that years later Moses was glad for his shepherding experiences in the Sinai Wilderness as he led, not sheep, but God's people? You see, God can use our weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and difficulties if we will surrender them to Him. It was Paul who wrote: *"The Spirit helps us in our weakness" (Romans 8.26)*. Then after consulting God about His thorn-in-the-flesh, we hear Him say: *"I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong... For God's power is made perfect in weakness" 2 Corinthians 12. 9 & 10).*



Anticipate. Jacob and Paul had good reason to regret their past. Jacob had been a cheat and deceiver; Paul persecuted the early church; but God had a future for them in His kingdom, evidenced by Him giving them new chances and new names. Indeed, we all regret our past mistakes, but God is

ready to take our brokenness and give us a new name, a fresh start and new beginning in His Kingdom. Let us be like Jacob and Paul, forget the past. *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal"* Like Paul, we must *"make the most of every opportunity"* (Philippians 3.13-14 & Ephesians 5.15). Here it is, as long as we cling to the past, we will be unable to take hold of the future God has in mind for us. Amen?

Allow God to speak. Allow God to give us His take on our struggles: *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1.6-9).*

Indeed, God is not finished with us. We are like a loaf of French bread. If you pour hot butter over the loaf, it will simply run off. But if the

bread is broken, the butter is absorbed into the bread. God speaks to us, remolds and remakes us through His Word, and our life experience. And sometimes we must be broken, allowing the Word and His divine providence to penetrate our heart. Only then can we expect God to work His will in our life.

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Just Too Much Stuff

I read not long ago that self-storage facilities are one of the fastest growing businesses in America. You've seen them--long buildings with lots of garage doors. You rent the space and put things inside for storage. I did not believe this at first, but I have been keeping my eyes open. Sure enough, they are showing up everywhere. You see them in cities, small towns, out in the country, everywhere.

The few people moving from one place to another and needing to temporarily store household goods certainly could not fill all of them up. No, it seems that people rent them because they have too much stuff. They have so much stuff that they cannot get it in their house or apartment, so they have to rent one of these storage spaces.

Jesus talked a lot about stuff. One day he said, *"Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:19-21).*

Where is your treasure? Is it locked up at Bob's U-Store-It or is it in heaven? How sad it would be for anyone to stand before God in judgment and hear him say, "You had too much stuff."

—PHILLIP EICHMAN

Living The Abundant Life

Bertrand Russell, British philosopher who died in 1970, is famous partially because of his book "Why I Am Not a Christian." A young friend of his once found him in a state of profound concentration. "Why so meditative?" asked the friend.

"Because I've made an odd discovery," replied Russell. "Every time I talk to a savant (a philosopher) I feel quite convinced that happiness is no longer a possibility. Yet when I talk with my gardener, I'm convinced of the opposite."

If you've ever made a BLT with fresh tomatoes from your own garden, I think you can understand why Russell would feel that way about his talks with the gardener.

Apparently, Russell still spent more time with the intellectuals. He wrote that "the life of man is a long march through the night, surrounded by invisible foes, tortured by weariness and pain, toward a goal that few can ever hope to reach, and where none may tarry long."

How depressing!

In contrast, T.B. Larimore, a restoration preacher of the gospel, had a different idea about life. These words were written near the end of his long and service-filled life:



"My faith has never been stronger; my hope has never been brighter; my head has never been clearer; my heart has never been calmer; my life has never been purer. I love all; I hate none. My love for some lifts my soul into the sublime. I am willing to die today; I am willing to live a thousand years, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and His love.

My friends are dearer to me; association with them is sweeter to me; my sympathy for suffering

souls is stronger; my love for all the pure, the beautiful, the true, the good and the sublime is truer, tenderer, sweeter than ever before. I sleep soundly, dream sweetly, and rejoice ever more. O it is delightful to love and be loved and to do whatsoever duty demands."

So, you've got Russell's pessimistic viewpoint, filled with thoughts of drudgery and futility of life filled with pain and weakness. On the other hand, there's Larimore's vibrant perception. How do you account for such a contrast?

Jesus! Jesus said, *"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it more abundantly."*

—RICHARD MAY
Oklahoma City OK

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 2/7/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader.....Lee McCain Prayer & ScriptureJoe Hott
Communion Scripture & PrayerChad Dobbs Greeters/Handouts.....Gary McCool & Mike York

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader.....Chris McSweeney Prayer & ScriptureMike Spencer
Communion Scripture & PrayerBob Spaw Greeters/Handouts.....Mike Lunsford & Chris Johnson

February Coordinators

Worship Coordinator.....Mark Tucker Streaming CoordinatorAbby Willis
Audio Coordinator.....Homer Makinson Video CoordinatorMatt Grisham