

Family & Friends..... January 13th, 2021

Our furry friends have been scampering around the yard for days. I do not know if they thought it might snow and they needed to stockpile food, but they sure have been busy. They are lots of fun to watch. The squirrels like to fight, chase each other, and hang upside down. I have not seen many deer on the roads, I thought maybe around the holidays they would be out looking at the Christmas lights around the area. I have seen deer in our backyard, one even came down and ate the seed on the ground under the feeders. This was rare in our yard. We still have a male Cardinal sleeping on the front porch, meals, a place to sleep, and entertainment included. We discovered the best place to see the Eagles this year by accident. If you are interested in seeing them, give me a call. You will not be disappointed! It was amazing. We saw many of them. I would say there was close to a hundred, maybe more. They were sitting in a group of trees, so many it was hard to count them. There were a lot of juveniles. We watched them fly in for landings and find their perch for the night. This was about five in the afternoon before it turns dark. These are fantastic creatures to watch. Even if you are not a bird watcher, take a moment today to appreciate birds. On a final note, January 24th is Global Belly Laugh Day. Ho! Ho! Ho! Thank you, Lord, for all the gifts you give us daily! God is good!

*A joyful heart is good medicine,
but a broken spirit dries up the bones.
Proverbs 17:22*

Those on our prayer list: A former member, Lawrence Haney, from Cleveland, Oklahoma, has lost his life from Covid-19 and the flu. Please keep Virginia and their sons in your prayers. Keep Phil Ward and the family in your prayers in the loss of Charlene. Bob Musson is doing better at home. Lee McCain had a trip to the hospital with some heart problems. Tim & Susan Duffy and Susan's father are all having health issues and need our prayers. Shaun Turnage will have surgery in Kansas City on January 22nd. Remember Jeremy Bauchamp who has Covid-19. Roy Barnica and his father, Linn, have tested positive. Jenny Alderson's sister, Wilma, and Chris Johnson's mother are all suffering with the virus. The McCool's would like prayers for their friend, Lisa Hackett, who had a serious stroke. Continue to remember and pray for Pray for Ron and Margaret Beaty, George Bowman, Sarita and Dakota Crawford, Rich LaPorte, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: gravy mixes, cookie mix, canned vegetables and fruits, cascade, freezer bags, and bleach. Items needed for our Food Pantry: flour, sugar, canned vegetables, diced tomatoes, macaroni & cheese, canned chicken & tuna, oatmeal, jelly, peanut butter, soup, and crackers.

To stretch your soul, reach out with Jesus' love.

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

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs479-271-8609

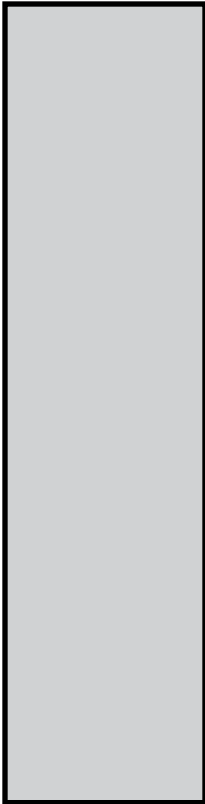
DEACONS

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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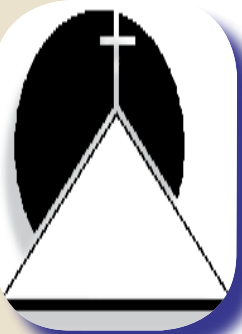
The War For Our Children

This article was written by Jared when he was our Youth director, in January 2005, so the statistics may have changed somewhat; many for the worse. But the advice is still valid as we attempt to save our children. – Randall

Paul writes in Ephesians 6.12, *“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”* Do you doubt that Satan's dark forces have launched a war against today's children? Consider some proof:

- By the age of 18, the typical child has seen 200,000 violent acts and 16,000 murders on television.
- A popular video game, *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*, allows players to beat innocent civilians, steal ambulances, and have sex with prostitutes in the virtual world.
- Nine of Billboard's top 21 songs for 2004 had explicit lyrics.
- Ninety percent of children aged 8 to 16 have viewed pornography on the internet; the average age of first exposure is 11.
- A recent study showed that amongst high school seniors, 62.3 percent of girls and 60.7 percent of boys had lost their virginity.
- These numbers may not include some teens who have engaged in oral sex, because many teens today don't think oral sex is really sex. A recent study showed that about 70 percent of 18 and 19 year olds had engaged in oral sex.
- Recently it was shown that more than four-fifths of both 12th grade girls (83.3 percent) and 12th grade boys (82.6 percent) had drunk alcohol at least once in their life.
- Moreover, 44.9 percent of all high school students (grades 9-12) had drunk alcohol at least once in the last 30 days.
- Nearly a third (30.2 percent) of all high school students had, within the last 30 days, ridden with a driver who had been drinking.
- Within the last 30 days 22.4 percent of high schoolers had used marijuana and 21.9 percent

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had smoked cigarettes. Some 28.7 percent had been offered, given or sold an illegal drug on school property within the last year.

I hope these statistics have frightened you to your very core. As Christians, we must counterattack, or risk losing a generation. Even people who have no children of their own must be involved in this battle.

WHAT PARENTS MUST DO

The Bible Commands We Discipline Our Children. Paul says, “*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*” (Ephesians 6.4) The NIV reads, “*do not exasperate your children.*” A delicate balance must be struck: Discipline must be severe enough to modify behavior — without becoming unfair.

We Must Carefully Monitor Their Activity. Paul warns, “*Bad company corrupts good morals.*” (1 Corinthians 15.33) Parents who allow their children to run with bad company are not following the Biblical command to bring them up in the discipline of the Lord. You must also know what your kids are doing. Screen the movies and television they watch, the websites they visit and the music they listen to. Be aware that your teen has likely downloaded music that you would not have allowed him or her to purchase.

Don’t “Trust” The Teenager Too Much. Sometimes trusting our teenager means nothing more than putting temptations in their way. Do you honestly think you are doing your teenagers some great service by giving them their own vehicle when they turn 16 — and by the way, per mile driven teenage drivers are four times more likely than older drivers to wreck! — Giving them a late curfew (if a curfew at all), and then turning them loose on the town? Are you really shocked when, after you have given them such ample opportunity to get in trouble, they get in trouble? Can you not see that it is you who has placed the stumbling block before them? Do you not remember what Christ said about those who cause “*little ones to stumble*”? (Luke 17.2)

Encourage Spiritually. Bring them to church. Send them to youth group activities, retreats, camps, Vacation Bible Schools. Send them to a Christian University. Make sure they are reading their Bibles. Pray at meal times. Pray at their bedside at night. If your child gets a job, make sure they ask off for Sundays.

Don’t Insult Children By Having Low Expectations. I have a problem when parents say, “My child is just going to have to make his or her own mistakes.” No they don’t! A mistake is avoidable, or else it’s not a mistake! God deals with us by giving us impossible standards to shoot for so that we will never stop striving.



Let Them Know That You Love Them Even Though They’re Not Perfect.

It is important to have high standards for our children, but we must not let them think they have to be perfect in order to receive our love. Make love for your children obvious! Tell them you love them! Kiss them goodnight, even when they’re seniors in high school!

WHAT THE CONGREGATION MUST DO

Pray Daily For Our Children By Name. James says, “*The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.*” (James 5.17) Scour your directories and bring the names of the young people before God every day. Don't stop praying for children, ever!

Become Involved In Their Lives. Paul mentored Timothy. Men, invite a teenager to go golfing or hunting or fishing. Ladies, invite a teenage girl to go shopping with you, or to get your nails done together. Go to their ballgames, their concerts and their plays. Invite their families to dinner. Our teen get such an unrealistic view of “love” from Hollywood — let them spend time with couples who have been in love for 40, 50, 60 years!

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE MUST DO

Take Responsibility For Your Own Soul. Your parents can guide you and your congregation can pray for you and support you, but ultimately you must make the decision to follow Christ.

Obey God — By Obeying Parents. Whether you like it or not, Ephesians 6.1 still says “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*”

Don’t Be Embarrassed By The Fact That You Need Guidance. There is a reason why God entrusted the leadership of the church to “Elders” and why the framers of the constitution specified that a person must be 35 to be president. Look to those who have been around longer than you, and most especially look to your parents, for guidance.

Hang Out With People Who Make You Better, Not Worse. Remember that “*bad company corrupts good morals.*” Don’t be arrogant enough to think that you know more than Paul did!

Remember You Are Not The Only One Standing Up For Jesus. There are other teens from your congregation, from other congregations, from the church camps you go to, who are trying to fight the same battle that you are. Rely upon their strength. And rely upon older people from your own congregation, who have fought many of the same battles that you are fighting now.

While it is easy to grow frightened by Satan’s power, we need to remember that Christ is even more powerful. Hebrews 2.14 says that Jesus became flesh and blood, “*that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.*” With Jesus as our captain, we as Christians can strike devastating blows against the forces of evil, if only we will.

— JARED DOCKERY
Searcy AR

Motive Is Everything

Jesus said, “from the heart come the issues of life. So, as we enter this new year what is our heart condition? These thoughts are from an anonymous Native American.

- It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare dream of meeting your heart's desire.
- It doesn't interest me how old you are. I want to know if you will risk looking the fool for God, love, and the adventure of being alive.
- I want to know if you can be faithful and trustworthy.
- I want to know if you can see beauty even when it is not a pretty day, and if you can source your life from God's presence even when it is dark.
- It doesn't matter who you are, or how you came to be here. I want to know if you will stand in the center of the fire with me and not shrink back.
- It doesn't interest me where or what or with whom you have studied. I want to know what sustains you from the inside when all else fails and falls away.
- I want to know if you are comfortable in your own skin? When alone with yourself, do you truly like the company you keep in those empty moments.
- I am not so much interested in what's on your mind during the busy part of the day. I want to know what fills your thoughts when the day is done and your mind is shifted into neutral, when you are free wheeling.
- It doesn't interest me as to *what* rules your life as much as *who* rules it.
- What interests me is not so much what you think of yourself, how you pamper yourself, as it is what you think of, and how you treat others around you.

Truly the things which really matter are not those things which are seen on the outside, but the strength of our character inside.

—RANDALL

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 1/17/20

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

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

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader Lee McCain Prayer & Scripture Mitchell Whittington
Communion Scripture & Prayer Bryan Busbee Greeters/Handouts.....Bob Spaw & Don Cope

January Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Harold Phillips Streaming Coordinator Elijah Johnson
Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Chris Johnson