

Family & Friends..... May 26, 2021

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 P.M. local time. Started out as Decoration Day after the Civil War and then became Memorial Day in 1971. It's to honor our military personnel who have died in the performance of their military duties while serving in the United States Armed Forces. We decorate our cemeteries with flowers and flags on the graves of the soldiers who lost their lives. John McCrae, a Canadian who served as a brigade surgeon for an Allied Artillery Unit wrote a poem called "In Flanders Field."

"The landscape of a ravaged battlefield with fiercest fighting was filled with a cluster of red poppies over the grounds as he attended the wounded. These amazing flowers growing in the middle of a battlefield, became a powerful symbol of remembrance. In Flanders Fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place; and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing, fly scarce heard amid the guns below. We are the Dead. Short days ago. We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved, and now we lie, In Flanders Fields. Take up our quarrel with the foe: To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high. If ye break faith with us who die. We shall not sleep, though poppies grow In Flanders Fields."

*For you have girded me with strength for battle;
You have subdued under me those who rose up against me.
Psalms 18:39*

We welcome to our new members, Don & Linda Goings. Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Glenn Kirkes in the loss of his brother, Don. Doug Klingman's sister-in-law, Debbie, passed away. Continue to remember the family of Louise Perry, in her passing. Stephen Hunt's uncle passed away, and his sister-in-law has lung cancer. Sharon Van Pelt's mom, Leon English, is on home hospice. Pray for Malcolm Winters' brother-in-law, who had a stroke. Pat Musson had her first Chemo treatment and is having a pretty hard time. Judith Carmical is also having chemo treatments. We are praying for Pat and Judith. Dee Ann Roberts had cataract surgery last week. Cliff Wheelock had successful back surgery in Springfield. Joe & Kay Hott asked for prayers for their daughter, Heidi, who has inoperable brain tumors. We've been asked to pray for Glenn Whitman in Gravette who also has inoperable brain tumors. Remember Michelle King in Johannesburg who is suffering with cancer. Continue to remember and pray for Phyllis Spaw's sister, Hilda Jones, Robert Horton, Mike Lacey, Ron Beaty, Krista Magness, J.B. Tarr, our missionaries, our military and police force, our president and our country.

Fair Haven Children's Home: pancake mix & syrup, refried beans, salsa, trash bags. Food Pantry: applesauce, fruit cups, canned chicken and tuna, mayo, miracle whip, ketchup and pork & beans.

Christians stand strong when they stand together.

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		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

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs479-640-4943

DEACONS

Mark Begwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott Robert Horton
Randall Hunt Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

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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Bella Vista

MEMORIALS

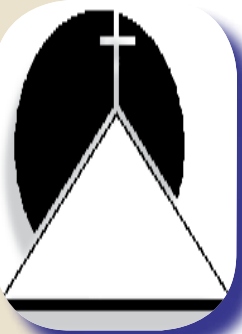
**Becoming Mercy People
A Brother's Keeper**

One of the most thought-provoking questions in the Bible is asked by Cain, "Am I my brother's keeper?" God doesn't answer Cain in the text, but in the context, as He disciplines Cain for his attitude and behavior toward his brother. In this narrative, God is telling us three things...

- We are brothers...
- With brotherhood comes certain responsibilities.
- God is going to hold us accountable for how we treat others, all others.

These three concepts were true for Cain, and they hold true for us today. Jesus affirms this in Matthew chapter 25: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

Jesus demonstrates how this Mercy Concept works in the Upper-Room foot washing. Imagine it, Jesus, God in the flesh, girding himself with a towel washing feet! Then He commissions His disciples, including us: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater



than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them." In Romans chapter twelve, Paul says: *Because of His mercy toward us, we are to become God's instrument of Righteousness, His living sacrifice*, by passing His mercy on to others.

How do we become Mercy People, our Brother's Keeper?...

We must love others, all others, friends and enemies alike...

Mercy is a product of love. We will never be merciful to those we do not love.

John 13.24-35... *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you. By this all men will know that you are my disciples. If you love one another.*

First Peter 1.22... *Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply.*

1 John 3.12 concludes with this statement... *Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother.*

Are we murdering our brother and sister by anger, gossip, envy, jealousy? Or are we demonstrating our love by being Mercy People?

We are to accept one another. *Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" (Romans 15.7).* Our King James says *"receive one another."* When a family or individual joins our church family by conversion or placing membership...

- Do we... Welcome them – Accept them – Receive them – Or do we ignore them?
- Do we assimilate them into our social circle – Or do we leave them to fend for themselves?
- Or do we start an investigation into their past?

Too many church members remain on the fringe of church family involvement because of our lack of acceptance. Mercy, Brotherly Love, includes acceptance. God accepted us, warts, sins and all! So, we are to be accepting people, Mercy People. Paul admonishes: *"Be devoted to one another, preferring one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves.*

We are to exhort & edify one another. The Hebrews' writer says, *"We are to exhort one another so that we not be overcome by sin."* Exhort means: To encourage, admonish, to nudge, move, motivate. This is my and your responsibility! How are we doing? Are we: Seeking the lost? Lifting up the fallen? Rescuing the prodigal? Or are we like Cain: Excusing ourselves? Sobering question — Amen? *"Let us make every effort, every effort, to do what leads to peace and mutual edification.* Are we an edifier or a fault finder? Are we encouraging one another, or are we looking for ways to judge and criticize. Do we edify and motivate, or do we place stumbling blocks in the way of others? Are we lifting up the fallen and downtrodden, the sinner, the disenfranchised? Are we bodybuilders, or a cancer in the church by our attitude, speech, and behavior? Are we found criticizing or supporting our brother? Are we sensitive to the needs of others? Are

we placing the interest of others before our own? Some of us need to reexamine our role in the church. God didn't place us here to find fault, criticize and judge. But to nourish, edify, and admonish. we are to be like Philemon, *"refreshed the hearts of the brethren."*

We are to serve one another. Jesus plainly said: *"I came to serve, not to be served."* Our Western Culture says "I want to be served!!" Western Culture says we should **never** be a people & person of the towel. You're



too good to wash feet! So, Jesus is asking: "Are we going to live life by Western Culture, today's Political Correctness or His Culture, His Correctness?" *"To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example that you should follow in His steps" (1 Peter 2.21).* *We are to do good to all men, especially to those in the household of faith. To be given to hospitality.*

To place the interest of others before our own. Submit to one another." Jesus is our example; "going about doing good." Then we hear Him say: "As often as you have done it to the least of these, you have done it to me."

We are to forgive one another. *"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Mark 11.25 has Jesus saying: "When you pray, if you hold anything against anyone forgive him so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."* We need to learn about forgiveness: It only takes one to forgive. That's me! That's you! It takes two to reconcile, but only one to forgive. We are to become like Jesus, who on the cross, forgave the one's crucifying Him. Only took One!!

There's a new book available at Barns & Noble; written by Pope Francis entitled *"The Name of God is Mercy."* God is a Mercy Person, He is a brother's Keeper. *"Come now. Let us reason together, though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."*

—RANDALL CASELMAN

The Cross Death & Sin Conquered

Foolish, isn't it – To make an instrument of torture and execution a symbol of a religion, foundational to that religion's theology?

Well, yes. The Apostle Paul agreed – That it is indeed foolish to some: *"For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1.18, NIV).*

What is the message of the cross?...

The primary message is that Death is Defeated. The tomb where the crucified Lord was laid is empty! And thus the meaning of the Cross is that there is ultimate victory for all who put their trust in Jesus, the God-Man who was crucified there. He was raised, so will we be!

The cross is about Life after the Law. It marks the fulcrum between law and grace, legalism and freedom. *"Having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; He took it away, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2.14).* *"We are saved by grace through faith" (Ephesians 2.8).*

It reminds us of our Spiritual Warfare. Though spiritual warfare still needs to be fought, the victory the Cross brought to the spiritual realm means we need not fear defeat. Having the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6.10-13) makes our victory in Jesus possible. The cross stands as the symbol of Satan's defeat!

The Cross is about Communion. Taking the Lord's Supper is all about the cross of Christ— Each time we gather around the Communion table, we gather around the cross of our Lord. He who was lifted up from the earth draws us there, captures our thought and holds us secure!

To the Cross we Bring our Sins and Find our Pardon. It's here that we find healing for our sin sickness, rest to our weariness, burdens are rolled away, fears vanish. *"Forbid it Lord that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God!" (Galatians 6.14).*

At the cross we find God's Love. An unconditional, unconquerable unsurpassable love; a love unlimited; love all the more astounding when we realize that it was not spikes, but love that kept Jesus nailed there. A love for you and me!

Well, Jesus is no longer there; the cross is empty; the tomb is empty. And He bids us remember His death on the cross. He invites us to live where the cross is vacant and the tomb is empty. Amen?

—KEN HORN
Springfield MO
Edited to fit

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/23/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader	Lee McCain	Prayer & Scripture	Randall Hunt
Communion Scripture & Prayer	Bill Alumbaugh	Greeters/Handouts	David Saunders & Mike York

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader	Mark Bagwell	Prayer & Scripture	Mitchell Whittington
Communion Scripture & Prayer	Bryan Busbee	Greeters/Handouts	Mike Spencer & Howard Hurst

MAY WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator	Harold Phillips	Streaming Coordinator	Abby Willis
Audio Coordinator	Jim Caylor	Video Coordinator	Chris Johnson