

**Family & Friends..... October 19, 2022**

“Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower.”  
 What we lose in flowers we more than gain in fruits! I sit one afternoon and watched the wind blow the leaves from the trees. I almost felt mesmerized with a peaceful feeling. The days seem to fall by as fast as the leaves from the trees. The glorious colors of Fall are beginning to bring forth their color, maybe not quite as pretty because of the drought we had, but still stunning to me. The birds are in a frenzy at the feeders, like they know something we don't. The mums and pumpkins are out all over the area, adding more magnificent color. The trees are preparing for winter, days are getting shorter and colder, and the migrating birds have headed south. It is time we prepare also for those cold winter days that are heading our way with a peaceful feeling that all is good!

*The grass withers, the flowers fade, “but the word of our God remains forever.” Isaiah 40:8*

We love our visitors: Bill Phillips (Nashville), Barry Phillips (Orlando), Danny & Donna Alexander (Murray, KY), Anna Walsh (Noel), Vernon & Judy Curry (Poplar Bluff, MO), Jeff & Tammy Haskins (Lebanon, TN), Wade & Susan Jadwin (Salem, MO), Max & Dortha Grisham (Aldrich, MO), Clint & Larrie White (Billings, MO), Luke & Sidney Grisham ( Hot Springs), Michelle Weston (Anderson), Larry & Carol Witt (Dadeville, MO), Levi & Jill White (Marionville, MO), Connie Henson (Salem). Taylor & Alison Moore & Rhett.

Those on our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Eva Phillips in the loss of her husband, Harold. Harold did so much for our Lord. We are all going to miss him. Those of us who worked with Harold in doing the tract folding and mail out bulletins will greatly miss him. We all had a great love for him. Please keep Eva, Bill, and Barry in your prayers. Pat Musson will be back home for Hospice Home Care. Keep Pat & Bob in your prayers. Fred Sloan, Aaron's dad, had surgery on Monday. Remember our missionaries. We are collecting winter clothing, coats, and blankets for the people in Ukraine who are in great need of it!

We give a big welcome to our newest members, Frank & Mary Delozier. Be sure and seek them out and get acquainted with this nice couple!

Serve God by serving others. 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**

<b>LORD'S DAY</b>	8:15 AM
Early Worship	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

**Phone: 479/273-2434**

[www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com](http://www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com)

## ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089  
 Don Butcher.....636-548-0458  
 Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439  
 Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379  
 Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

## DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott  
 Randall Hunt Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

## MINISTERS

Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135  
 Parker Willis.....615-587-3208  
 Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525  
 Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

Non-Profit Org.  
 Permit No. 206  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Bentonville, AR  
 72712

# Bella Vista

## A Sense of Urgency

The conversation was different this time. She had listened in to the conversations between him and his grandfather before. She had heard them talk about things going on in one another's lives, about current events, the local gossip, and even their favorite baseball teams. This conversation was different. Instead of the usual good-natured teasing between them; instead of the small talk and laughter; this was much more serious. Words of affection and making sure how important each has been to the other were the main focus. The conversation was different this time because they knew the time they had together was short.

It's a funny thing about time. Sometimes it seems to drag on and on. We experience this it times where we are waiting for a big event. I remember that it seemed to take forever for me to reach the ripe old age of 16 so I could get my driver's license. Waiting until Christmas to open those boxes under the tree seemed (still seems) interminable. One the other hand, we often comment about how quickly time passes as we watch our children and grandchildren grow. It's a funny thing about time in that we often think, or operate as if we think, we have more time than we actually possess.

In Jesus we see someone who is keenly aware of time. In John's Gospel we often hear him speak of an hour or a time that is coming (i.e. John 2:4). In John 12 we hear him acknowledge that his time had come (John 12:27). We get a sense of this in all the Gospel accounts. We notice a shift in the conversation. We get a sense of the urgency that Jesus seems to feel as he knows he is moving closer to the cross. We see that there are things that Jesus knows that his followers need to hear and understand. There are things that they will need to remember that will help them carry out the mission after the resurrection and ascension.

# LIVESTREAMS



Among those things that they need to know is the certainty of his return. Matthew chapters 24 and 25 are filled with Jesus's instruction about what will happen, and reminding his followers of his immanent return. In those chapters we hear Jesus tell them that his return could be at any time. "Therefore, stay awake, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect." (Matthew 24:42-44) His return is a certainty.

In light of his certain return, he instructs them to be ready. Matthew chapter 25 contains two parables, The Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents, each encouraging them to be ready and to watch. The chapter ends with the judgment scene he creates for them. All of these teachings repeatedly tell his followers that he will come again and that judgment will occur.



It seems as if they took him seriously. There was an urgency to their mission. Once they are empowered by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost following his resurrection, they immediately proceeded to carry the good news to the world around them. They are described as people who "turned the world upside down" (Acts 17:6). It seems that everywhere

they went, the conversation was now different.

Here we are, some 2,000 years later and he has not yet returned. Do we still understand the urgency? Do we take his teaching regarding his second coming seriously? Are our conversations focused on being ready, and using the gifts he has given us to honor and glorify him? Are our lives focused on serving him through serving others? Or have we lost that sense of urgency? Are we tempted to think we have more time than we may possess?

-JEFF GRISHAM

## Living In Light of His Return

*"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words" (1 Thessalonians 4.16-18).*

On a clear day, from the Mount of Olives, you can see forever. As Jesus talked to his disciples about the Kingdom and their being His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria, and beyond; He began to ascend before their eyes. As they stood looking intently into the sky two men dressed in white stood beside them saying, "Why stand you gazing into the heavens? This same Jesus, who you have seen go will come again the same way."

The early Christians were enthusiastic about His return. They wanted, waited, anticipated His coming. "Maranatha" became the word between brethren. Instead of "Shalom," a firm handshake, or a "holy hug;" it was "Maranatha": Aramaic for "Lord Come Quickly" or "Come O Lord."

What would happen in our churches today, in my life and yours, if we made it a point to restore the New Testament excitement and enthusiasm for His return?

**I believe we would rise above our materialism.** Our hope in Jesus has been replaced by our confidence in the material. Our faith in God has been replaced by faith in our investments, savings, and Social Security. Our hope of heaven has been overshadowed by our hope for the economy. For instance, when was the last time we got into a discussion about the Second Coming? When was our last conversation about the economy? Restoring our excitement for His return would help us put material things back into their proper perspective. When Jesus appears, our worldly possessions will mean nothing. Nothing!

**We would live purer lives.** If we really, really, thought Jesus was coming today, tonight, we would be: "Visiting the widows and orphans in their distress, and keeping oneself unspotted from the world." Lying, lust, theft, gossip, loose talk, and vulgar language all lose their meaning and purpose if Jesus is coming today. Scripture says. "Everyone who has their hope in Him purifies himself just as Jesus is pure."

**Unity would return to the church.** Most of the concepts that divide us would disappear if we knew Jesus was coming tonight. How church monies are spent, what version of scripture we use, who is "in" or "out" of fellowship, grace or works, liberal or conservative, and other divisive concepts would be the last thing on our mind. Our focus would turn from denominational issues to "self-issues." We would not be so consumed by another's faith and practice as we would be concerned with "Am I ready?" Of course this is where it should have been all along. Amen?

**Evangelism would become our priority.** If, when we sincerely restore the expectation and excitement for His coming, we will be speaking to our parents, children, friends, the lost with an urgency that we do not now have.

Indeed, things will change in my life and yours when we live in light of His return; when we live with a daily conscientiousness that today may be the day. Something tragic occurs in the life of a Christian who dismisses the "Second Coming" as an event of another time and place. It can happen today. On a clear day, from the Mount of Olives, you can see forever.

-RANDALL CASELMAN  
From *Lifelines* 11/16/2016



### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/23/22

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Roger Arnold      Song Leader ..... Sammy McCain  
Greeters ..... Chris Johnson, David Saunders      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Bill Alumbaugh  
Closing Prayer ..... Randall Hunt  
Nursery Workers ..... Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Jerry Orr      Song Leader ..... Marquis Elliott  
Greeters ..... Chris Johnson, Jack Johnson      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Chad Dobbs  
Closing Prayer ..... Ray Reiss  
Nursery Workers ..... Jennifer Busbee, Reagan Busbee      Van Driver ..... Phillip Strickhausen

#### October Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator ..... Mike Lunsford      Streaming Coordinator ..... Elijah Johnson  
Audio Coordinator ..... Homer Makinson      Video Coordinator ..... Aaron Bagwell