

**Family & Friends..... October 27, 2021**

*"The Old Rugged Cross", On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross, the emblem of suffering and shame; and I love that old cross where the dearest and best for a world of lost sinners was slain."*

This beautiful hymn was written by George Bennard in 1913. George lost his father when he was 15. His father died from a coal mine accident. George's youth was cut short when he took on the tremendous responsibilities of taking care of his mother and four sisters. He also went to work for a coal mine and entered his Christian ministry in 1907, and became an independent evangelist. His work took him to Michigan, New York, and Canada. It was in Albion, Michigan, that he wrote "The Old Rugged Cross" while sitting at his kitchen table. He called his wife to come to the kitchen to read what he had written, and sung the hymn to her. She responded by saying it is great! When others would ask about his famous hymn, he would respond with these words, "I really didn't write it. I was merely the instrument God used." What does the cross mean to us? Jesus paid it all for our sins so that we may have eternal salvation. He suffered for us and left us an example how we should live our lives and follow in His footsteps. To God Be the Glory!

*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*  
 John 3:16 George Bennard's favorite Bible verse.

We are blessed with our visitors: Suzie Kirby (Fort Payne, AL), Joshua & Madelyn Sloan (Joplin), Kisha Clayton, Candace Clouse, Jina Henson, (Paragould), Charity Andrews (Walnut Ridge), Jane Weiser, Jeannette Vanlaningham (Pea Ridge), Alyce Johanson (Centerton), Jerry & Pat Snyder (Rogers), Katelyn Jewett & Jeanne Melton (Bentonville), Joyce Parks, John & Karla Winslow, and Kelli Homeyer (Bella Vista).

Those on our prayer list: Doug Klingman is in hospital with severe pain in his leg. Pat Musson will have surgery November 1st at 8:00 A.M. at Mercy Hospital. Jennifer Oxford is also in the hospital and needs our prayers. Doris Rhodes asks for prayers for her daughter, Becky. Wanda Coffee's son, Marcus, was hospitalized with pneumonia and heart problems, now home, Mary Fry is having health issues with her heart. Continue to remember and pray for: Judith Carmical, Mike Lacey, Chuck Pippin, Donna Rowland, Lou Hollo, Bob Douthih, Susan Duffy and her father, Mike Spencer's aunt, Mary Parkinson, our missionaries, Mary Montgomery, Loisell Tyler, Maggie Wicker, Tina Reeves & family.

We are happy to have our new college/young professional minister Cory and his wife Ashley & their children, Hunter & Emma, with us now. We feel blessed and ready to get to know you all!

Fair Haven Children's Home: canned cranberry sauce, French style green beans, chicken, spam & pumpkin. For our Food Pantry: green beans, cream of mushroom soup, fried onions, cranberry sauce, yams, stuffing & gravy mix, pie filling & pie crust mix, and instant potatoes. Love you, be 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  
 Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379  
 Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

## DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott Robert Horton  
 Randall Hunt 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

## Our Call To Genuine Discipleship

The word disciple means to become a learner, one who follows a teacher and his teachings. Jesus expects us to become His disciple. Perhaps we're taking for granted the cost of such discipleship. Let's see what we can learn about this concept of genuine discipleship.

**Discipleship Is More Than Believing In Jesus.** In John 8.31, we find this interesting verse, "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.'" This is similar to what Jesus said in John 14.23, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Genuine discipleship is bound up in obedience. There is no following Jesus, there is no real discipleship until and unless we are willing to submit to His Lordship daily.

**Discipleship Means We Give Jesus His Rightful Place.** In Luke 14.26 Jesus said, "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple." Jesus demands first loyalty. Anything less is unacceptable. Here, Jesus is making a distinction between two types of love: Divine love and human love; Redemptive love and possessive love. One is selfish; the other places its object before self and all others. Of course we are to love our parents, wife, children, brothers and life. But this human love is no rival for our love of God. At Mount Sinai it was "no other gods before Me." Jesus insisted that genuine discipleship demands loving God with all our being, an unrivaled love. Paul declared in Colossians 1.18 that Christ must have preeminence in all things. Using this definition, are we a disciple?

**Discipleship Means Dying To Self.** Again in Luke 14:27, Jesus is found saying, "Take up your cross and follow Me." Bonhoeffer in his book, *The*

# MINISTERS



*Cost of Discipleship*, wrote, “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.” Indeed! You see, a cross is not something we carry through life; a cross is something we die upon! Paul tells us in Romans six that we must crucify the old man, and then be raised to live a new life. In First Corinthians, Paul indicates that we must die daily to self, Satan, sin, and the world, and be alive to Christ. Discipleship is dying to today’s political correctness, and living up to His correctness. Matthew 10.25 teaches that genuine discipleship is our becoming like our teacher, master. This is Paul’s message in Galatians 2.20: “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Genuine discipleship is following the way of Jesus seen in his Garden prayer, “Thy will be done.” Are we willing to die to self, submit our will to His?... In all things?

**Discipleship Is Seen In Our Willingness To Serve Others.** It was Jesus in Matthew 10.42 who said, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” Discipleship through serving others is seen in Jesus’ narrative of the sheep and goat judgment in Matthew twenty-five. There, Jesus indicated our sensitivity and service to Him was evidenced by our sensitivity and service to our fellowman; “as often as you do it to the least of these, you’ve done it unto Me.” Genuine discipleship is serving the Jesus in others; be it our family, a neighbor, working companion, a brother or sister in Christ, a stranger on the road, or even our enemies if we have such. Christian discipleship is our becoming a Good Samaritan. That’s what Paul said in Galatians six; we are to forgive, restore, carry the burdens of others; in this we are fulfilling the law of Christ, the law of genuine discipleship.

**Discipleship Demands Perseverance.** Jesus indicates in Luke 9.62 that “No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” You see, Christianity has always been a religion of perseverance; not giving up; of keeping-on-keeping-on. Jesus kept saying to the seven churches of Asia, he who overcomes will receive the reward. Near the end of his life, Paul pictures genuine discipleship as a fight to fight, a race to run, a walk to walk, a faith to keep.

The word disciple is found over two hundred times in the Gospels alone, many times from the lips of Jesus. I believe this makes genuine discipleship an important subject, don’t you? May God help each of us to be willing to meet the demands and pay the price of discipleship. Amen?

-RANDALL CASELMAN

## Upside Down?

Acts 17:1-9 gives us the narrative of Paul and his companions proclaiming the Gospel in Thessalonica. Paul spent three weeks, three Sabbath days in the synagogue delivering the message that Jesus was the fulfillment of the promise of God. Jesus is the Christ. The text says that some of the Jewish people were persuaded along with a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. When the Jewish leadership became jealous, they reacted in a way in which many before them had and gathered to run Paul and his group out of town. They attacked the house of Jason where Paul had been staying, but Paul was nowhere to be found. In verses 6 and 7 of Acts 17 we read this:

*And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has received them, and they are all acting against the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, Jesus.”*

I am particularly interested in the accusation made that these men, Paul and Silas, had turned the world upside down. Think about the world being upside down in their view. Nothing makes sense to these folks any more. Before, everything went along as they thought it should. These people had gotten used to the way everything was. They knew their places. They knew how to navigate life. It made sense to them. This is the way it works. This is all they knew. But, then Jesus came along and disrupted everything.

In their world, Caesar was king; there were Jews and there were Gentiles. There was the Law of God. There were sacrifices to be offered. Life moved on day-to-day in a somewhat predictable way. That is until Jesus.

Jesus has a way of shaking us out of our routines. At one time in our lives, much like the Jews in Thessalonica, we believed we had life figured out. There was a way in which things worked. We knew our place. We knew how to navigate life by watching the world around us. We knew the priorities: provide for our families, accumulate all we can, know who are our allies and who are our enemies and proceed accordingly. We believed that were the rulers and masters of our own destinies. That is until Jesus.

The coming of Jesus changes the game. We read about his coming. We listen as he teaches. He says strange things like telling us that refraining from murder is not enough; we have to stop hating. He says that we are called to be people of deep integrity. He actually says we need to love and serve people who actively oppose us. He tells us that all of our worry is useless and instead we should trust in the God who made us and continues to sustain us. He says that we need to treat others in the same way that we want them to treat us. He tells us that he is Lord of all and doing the will of the Father, the One who sent him, is the way to real life and security. He not only says all this, his entire life and ministry here on earth is spent living out these teachings.

When we stop and think about it, Jesus doesn’t turn the world upside down; he actually turns it right side up. We learn as we come to him that we have been looking at things the wrong way for a long time. The world does not work, does not work well; it does not work the way God intended when we follow our own instincts. It does not work the way it was supposed to when we hate, lie, refuse to serve, and refuse to submit to God and trust him to provide and to lead us. It is only by living the way in which our Jesus lives to see humanity done right. It is only by submitting to Jesus as Lord, Master, King that we finally have life oriented in the right direction. This new way of seeing the world may take some getting used to. We may occasionally feel a little disoriented as we look at the world around us. But as we keep our eyes on Jesus, we see the world for what it can be, and our lives as they should be.

-JEFF GRISHAM

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 10/31/21

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Joe Hott      Song Leader ..... Anthony Christiano  
 Greeters ..... David Saunders, Chris Johnson      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Randall Hunt  
 Closing Prayer ..... Aaron Sloan  
 Nursery Workers ..... Brenda Tucker, Alana Tucker

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture ..... Tracy Bowman      Song Leader ..... Lee McCain  
 Greeters ..... Howard Hurst, Eric Gibson      Communion Scripture & Prayer ..... Mitchell Whittington  
 Closing Prayer ..... Tom Verkler  
 Nursery Workers ..... Barbara Orr, Cammy Jo McCain      Van Driver ..... Bryan Busbee

#### October Worship Coordinators

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