

Family & Friends..... November 10, 2021

Thanksgiving is just a few weeks away. What does “giving thanks” mean to us? Saying grace is a key ingredient in living a life full of joy and abundance. Saying thank you before a meal can help you capture the blessing of healing peace and forgiveness in our lives, and also in the lives of our loved ones and others we know. It makes us stronger and closer to God. I learned a lot myself listening to stories from the older generation, especially my grandmother and of course my parents. I cherish those times. Those were pretty tough times for everyone back then, especially the Great Depression and World War I and II. They were not complaining when they told their stories. They would always tell them with humor. I think we all just enjoyed having a good meal and sitting around the table with family and friends; a true blessing for all. They did their best in those times keeping food on the table by doing hard labor, working in the fields to get their crops out, keeping their gardens going, taking care of the farm animals, and most of all doing without needed things. They were grateful for the little things in life. “The winds of grace blow all the time; all we need to do is set our sails. By saying grace, we release the Divine sparks in our food.” Thank You Lord for our many blessings! God is good!

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father. Colossians 3:17

We are always happy to have our visitors: Max & Dortha Grisham (Altrich, MO), Mike & Noelle Miller (Carrollton, TX), Phillip & Hollie Strickhausen (Liberty, TX), Kyle Dillard (Springdale), Mike & Grace Martin (Rogers), Cathy & Jane Weisner (Pea Ridge), Kristina Costello, Mike & Ella and Debbie Martin (Bentonville), Alivia Bockholt and John & Karla Winslow. (Bella Vista)

Our prayer list: Our heartfelt sympathies go to the families who have lost loved ones recently: Ola Harless in the loss of Don, Mike Spencer in the loss of his aunt Mary Parkinson, and in the death of Lana Gaiche in Franklin, TN. Pat & Bob Musson need our prayers for a speedy recovery for her. Roy Barnica’s dad has cancer and will need surgery. Chris Johnson’s mother is having heart problems. Monica Klingman needs help with Doug. Continue to remember and pray for Robbie Arnold, Judith Carmical, Jennifer Oxford, Susan Duffy and her dad, Mike Lacey, Chuck Pippin, Loisell Tyler, Maggie Wicker, Mary Montgomery, Becky Donceel, Pam Bertschy, Donna Rowland, Danny Madewell, Doug Klingman, Bob Douthih, Mary Fry, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president and a cure for the Covid virus. Items needed for Fair Haven Children’s Home: corn, mandarin oranges, pickles, tea bags, & peanut butter. Our Food Pantry: cereal, canned chicken, stuffing mix, peanut butter, sugar, evaporated milk, marshmallow cream/marshmallows and cookie mix.

“Thank you” expresses extreme gratitude, humility and understanding. 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 Dobbs.....479-640-49439
Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

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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
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525
Javier & Helmer Rosero.....Bogota, Colombia

LORD'S DAY
Early Worship 8:15 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed) 9:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed) 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY
Ladies' Class 9:45 AM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed) 7:00 PM

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Bella Vista

Mountaintop Experiences

Scripture records several people experiencing big, dramatic moments that happen up on the mountain. There are plenty of these mountaintop experiences recorded for us. Let’s take a few minutes and look at just three.

In Genesis 22, Abraham is instructed by God to take his son, his only son, Isaac, to the mountains of Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice. Abraham and Isaac make the trek up the mountain. They build the altar. Abraham binds Isaac and just as he is about to sacrifice his only son, God shows up. Abraham’s arm is stayed and God provides a ram.

It would be hard to talk about mountaintop experiences without mentioning Moses receiving the Law on Mt. Sinai. Moses ascends a mountain that only a few days prior had been enveloped in smoke, had experienced an earthquake and was subjected to the thunderous voice of God. Moses climbs that mountain and after 40 days meets with God face to face as God give him instructions for Israel as to how they could be his people. It is on this same mountain that Moses gets a glimpse of the glory of God as he meets with God to beg forgiveness for Israel after the Golden Calf incident.

Peter, James, and John share a mountaintop experience as they witness the transfiguration of Jesus. They see Jesus radiant with glory as he talks with Moses and Elijah. It is here on this mountain that they hear the voice of God say, “This is my beloved son with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” (Matthew 17:5)

Mountaintop experiences; we have probably experienced them. We look for them. They come, but in our view they are often gone far too quickly, and we are left searching for the next one. What makes those spiritual mountaintop experiences so great? Often, it is because we only get to the top of the mountain after having gone through the valleys.

MINISTERS



It is hard for me to imagine the valley of emotions through which Abraham went on his way up the mountain with Isaac. He had been following the lead of God for decades by this point in his life. For the first 25 years he had been told that God would give him and Sarah a son. It had finally happened, and now God is asking for him to take this son, the son of promise, the son of the covenant, and sacrifice him. What kind of God does that? Can God give him another son at this stage of the game? Can God be trusted? The valley of the shadow of doubt must have been pretty dark for Abraham.

Then there is Moses. God called Moses from the same mountain to go and lead Israel out of Egypt to the land he had sworn to give to Abraham's descendants. Now Moses is back. Think of all he had witnessed in the meantime. There were the plagues, the multiple meetings and negotiations with Pharaoh, the Passover, and the parting of the Red Sea. He had seen God provide food and water for this huge nation of recently freed slaves. He had listened to their complaining. He was in the very presence of God begging that the Israelites be forgiven of this sin of building a golden calf. The valley of the shadow of difficulty was something Moses had to navigate.

The transfiguration witnessed by Peter, James and John came on the heels of Jesus teaching that to be his follower meant picking up a cross and following him. Although they had yet to go through their darkest valleys, Jesus tells them that the radiance and the beauty of mountaintop experiences follow the darkness and suffering that are in the valley. Jesus teaches and demonstrates that the glory of the resurrection follows the despair of the cross.

Mountaintop experiences are as awesome as they are because of what happens in the valleys. In the valley we meet God and learn to follow his lead. We find the One who walks with us, cares for us, and leads us to deeper trust and reliance on him. David sums this up well in Psalm 23 when he writes, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

Valleys in our lives seem much more frequent than the peaks for most of us. While we love the time spent on the mountaintop; while we love to soak up those moments and all of their breathtaking beauty, we need to remember to thank God for his presence with us in the valleys. It is in the valleys where we feel the presence of God and learn more of who he is and of his great love and care for us.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Nearer My God to Thee

"Therefore submit to God.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

(James 4:7-8)

Sarah Flower Adams was a 19th century English poet who authored several Christian hymns. She is best known for the beautiful and meaningful hymn, Nearer My God to Thee. This hymn has a rich heritage. It was the favorite hymn of President William McKinley, who was assassinated in September 1901. It reportedly brought him a great deal of comfort as he lay dying. According to Dr. M. D. Mann, the attending physician, McKinley sang softly the words of the song and said, "This has been my constant prayer." On September 19, 1901, the day of McKinley's funeral, Nearer My God to Thee was sung in his memory throughout all the land in congregations both large and small. The song seems to project a sense of difficult times in cross bearing and probably end of life experiences, but we need to draw nearer to God at all times. It goes without saying, the faithful Christian near death's door will be nearer to God than ever before, and will find a great deal of comfort and solace in that thought. But the thrust of this article is the need to draw nearer to God continually in all of life. The approach is basically this: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."

Draw near to God. It is not a difficult thing to do! After explaining to the Athenians what the great creative power of God had wrought, Paul then said: "God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though he is not far from each one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:27-28) God is there. He is always near! We just need to reach out to Him! Draw near! Feel His presence! Everywhere you look in nature you see the signature of God: The starry heavens, beautiful plants and flowers, unique animal life, wondrous ocean life, majestic mountain peaks, radiant sunrises and sunsets, just to mention a few things with God's signature. Nature has been called "the garment of the living God." Acknowledge Him! Accept Him! Believe Him! Seek Him! Tenynson wrote:

"Only that which made us, meant us to be mightier by and by, Set the sphere of all the boundless heavens within the human eye, Sent the shadow of Himself, the boundless through the human soul, Boundless inward, in the atom, boundless outward in the whole."

The more one knows about God the more one will want to seek Him and draw near to Him. Let us all join in with David as he speaks of God: "You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you. Hear my prayer, O Lord; listen to my cry for mercy. In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me. Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; no deeds can compare with Yours. For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God." (Psalm 86:5-8,10)

From the song of Moses and Miriam recorded in Exodus 15, we read: "Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" (verse 11)

God is good! David wrote: "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations." (Psalm 100:5)

Our God is faithful! "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassion never fails. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." (Lamentations 3:22-23) In Paul's closing exhortations to the Thessalonians he wrote: "He who calls you is faithful." (I Thessalonians 5:24)

Nearer My God to Thee is reputed to be the final piece played by the eight musicians on the Titanic as it sank into the ocean on April 14, 1912. Perhaps it brought comfort, strength and peace to some of those on board.

Life is brief, like a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. It is like a snowflake on the river, a moment seen and then lost forever, or a minute valley between two mountain peaks of eternity.

Should we not all make Nearer My God to Thee our constant aim and prayer?

-CHARLES CASH

From *Lifelines* May, 5, 2017

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 11/14/21

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Harold Phillips Song Leader Anthony Christiano
 Greeters Joe Hott, Gary McCool Communion Scripture & Prayer Chad Dobbs
 Closing Prayer Dallas Dobbs
 Nursery Workers Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Jerry Orr Song Leader Chris McSweeney
 Greeters Curt LaPorte, Jack Johnson Communion Scripture & Prayer Mitchell Whittington
 Closing Prayer Tracy Bowman
 Nursery Workers .. Mary Jane Butcher, Mary Jane Harrington Van Driver Bryan Busbee

October Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike York Streaming Coordinator Aaron Sloan
 Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott