

Family & Friends..... November 3, 2021

Another month has gone by and we're into November. The temperatures have dropped, so now we can pull out the warm clothing and enjoy the Autumn Season for real. I saw a story over the weekend I thought was cute. Wendy Powick, an amateur golfer in Australia, was lined up to make her tee shot on the 11th hole. She glanced up and saw a herd of Kangaroos hopping from side to side all around getting closer to her. They were right in her shot. Kangaroos are very social and run together in a herd, mob, or troop. Wendy said, "I think they realized I was there and thought we better take off." They have powerful hind legs and small front legs. Their feet make it possible for them to leap some 30 feet in a single bound and travel 30 miles per hour. They can also jump to 6 feet in the air. These smart animals have a way of communicating with humans in order to get food. Kangaroos have been around for years and years, known mainly from Australia. Males are called boomers, females are known as flyers, and babies are called Joeys. A newborn Joey is about the size of a grape. The mother carries them in a pouch until 10 months old. Kangaroos need very little water to survive and are capable of going for months without drinking. It's not likely we will see any around here or in the U.S., but isn't God's creation amazing? To God Be the Glory!

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8

A big welcome to our new members, Jerry & Pat Snyder and also Katelyn Jewett! Be sure and get acquainted with them. Our visitors fill us with Joy! Joe Dell and Tenley Williams (Lowell), James Campbell (Van Buren), Alyce Johansen (Centerton), Rosemary Scott (Bentonville), Alivia Bockholt, Kelli Homeyer, Kimberly Latta, and John & Karla Winslow (all from Bella Vista). Those on our prayer list: Our deepest heartfelt sympathies go to Ola Harless in the loss of her husband Don. Most of us knew them from when they worshiped with us. I remember when I fell at church, Don held my hand and talked to me until the ambulance came. I called him my angel. Don & Ola did a lot of good things when they were here. They moved to be closer to family. Please keep Ola and the family in your prayers. Pat Musson had her surgery Monday at Mercy Hospital and is doing well. Please keep Pat and Bob in your prayers and we pray for a speedy recovery for her. Mary Bell Banks' grandson was in a motorcycle accident and broke his leg. Mary Bell asked for prayers for him. Becky Donceel is now home from the hospital and needs our prayers. Judith Carmical, Jennifer Oxford, Susan Duffy and her father, Doug Klingman & Monica's dad, Bob, our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Fair Haven Children's Home: refried beans, cranberry sauce, pancake mix & syrup, French style green beans, and olive oil. Food Pantry: canned chicken, stuffing mixes, peanut butter, cereal, sugar, cookie mixes, evaporated milk, marshmallows/marshmallow cream. Our love for God shows in our love for 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

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

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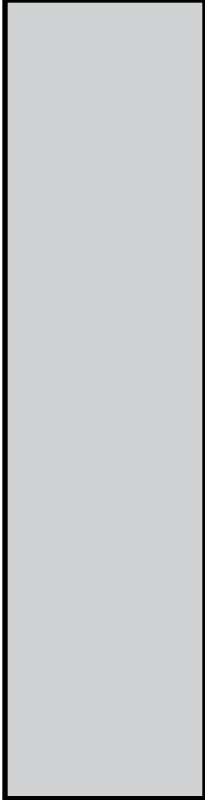
Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs.....479-640-49439
Pery Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

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



Bella Vista

To Whom Can We Go

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?" (Mark 4:35-41)

Mark, like all the other Gospel writers, writes with the purpose answering the question, "Who is Jesus?" Mark realizes that this is a question of extreme importance. He shows us that this is a question with which others have wrestled for centuries. It is right here in this short and familiar narrative, "Who is this that even the winds and the sea obey him?" Mark is not leaving us to wonder, but is telling his readers a great deal about the identity of Jesus in this event.

The first thing we see is this is confirmation of the divinity of Jesus. In the ancient world, the sea was thought of as a dark, frightening, chaotic place that was only controlled by deity. Scripture identifies for us the One who is able to rule over the sea. In Job 9:8, Job describes God as the one "who alone stretched out the heavens and trampled the waves of the sea;" In Psalm 65, David praises, "the God of our salvation....who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves." And again from Psalm 89:8-9, "O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them."

MEMBERS

It seems clear that Mark is identifying Jesus as God.

We also get to see his love and care in this narrative. Mark tells us that during the storm that threatened to sink their boat, Jesus was asleep. What a picture of confidence! Jesus knows that his time has not yet arrived. He rests easy in the care of the Father. Yet, when his disciples run to him, in fear of their very lives, he responds. He took care of their needs.

We see that he really wants his people to trust him. We hear him ask those in the boat with him, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?" (Mark 4:40) We might see this as Jesus scolding them a little bit. Maybe he was. Maybe, however, he was like a parent with a scared child saying, "It is ok. There's no need to be afraid. I've got you." I think we see him asking them (and us) to trust him, to lean on him. He wants us to live with confidence and certainty about who he is and about our future.

When we stop and think again about this great narrative that Mark records for us, it is really comforting. Storms are going to come our way. Some of us may be in the middle of a storm right now, or we may see the clouds on the horizon. We may be experiencing smooth sailing, but realizing that a storm can appear almost any time. That is the way things happen in our broken world. They may be storms of relationship troubles, storms of worry over finances or employment, storms of loss and suffering where we feel like

we are sinking and there is no hope.

On whom do we call when those storms come? Where can we find hope, security, peace and rest? We can and must run to Jesus, God who came and

walked among us. Jesus, the Christ who gave himself for us, the One who came here so that we could have real hope and security, is the one to whom we can run in the middle of any storm we encounter. May God help us to make him the only source of our security.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Knowing God Better

To the Ephesians Paul wrote, "I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (understanding), so that you may know Him better" (Ephesians 1:17). Zophar, a friend of Job, asked the question, "Can you by searching find out God?" (Job 11:7) The answer is "yes!" He then asked in the same breath, "Can you find out the Almighty unto perfection?" The answer to that second question is obviously "no, of course not!" In Paul's doxology of God he wrote, "How unsearchable are His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out!" (Romans 11:33) But, having said that, it is God's fervent desire "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).

In order to find the answers to Zophar's questions and others like it, our God must not only be a God who exists, but also a God who has spoken. Through the Bible, and creation for that matter, God has spoken! "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge" (Psalm 19:1-2). How beautiful! The heavens speak to us and impart knowledge of God. Though not verbal, it is still speech, a language.

Our idea of God and our idea of man in relation to God form the basic determinative concepts of all life. It should be our insatiable desire and aim to "know Him better." To that end, let us look briefly at three great attributes of God.

God is omnipotent. God has all power! Limitless Power! "In the beginning," the genesis, "God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). The divine record of creation reveals that over and over again "God said... And it was so." He simply spoke and the worlds and all therein just came into existence. What power! The Hebrews writer wrote, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed by God's command" (Hebrews 11:3). Not only did He create all things, but He is now "sustaining all things by His powerful word" (Hebrews 1:3). On a more personal note, He exercises his limitless power in us. Paul shares with us this wonderful promise, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20). Fantastic! God is omnipotent!

God is omniscient. He has all knowledge. God knows every-

thing about us; He knows us better than we know ourselves. "You know me... You perceive my thoughts from afar... You are familiar with all my ways... Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord... Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain... How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them!" (Psalm 139: 1-6, 17) God is infinite; He has no bounds; He is without limit.

God is omnipresent. "God is spirit." God is everywhere. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there: if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me; your hand will hold me fast. If I say, 'Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,' even the darkness will not be dark to you" (Psalm 139: 7-12). Enough said?

Perhaps the best definition of God was given by John when he simply said, "God is love" (I John 4: 8, 16). Now, that is not an attribute, but the very essence of God. After all these centuries no better definition could be given of God than "God is love."

We were created by God and for God. There is a vacuum in a person's life that is God-shaped and can be filled only by God. C. S. Lewis, in *The Joyful Christian*, wrote, "Theology means 'the science of God,' and I think any man who wants to think about God at all would like to have the clearest and most accurate ideas about Him which are available." The Bible and all the universe speak to us of God! Are you listening?

Isn't it possible for all of us to know God better? Is this your aim and desire?

-CHARLES CASH From *Lifelines*, Dec. 2017



SUNDAY SERVANTS: 11/7/21

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Roger Arnold Song Leader Lee McCain
Greeters Joe Hott, Gary McCool Communion Scripture & Prayer Harold Phillips
Closing Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
Nursery Workers Bobette York, Angie Christiano

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Tracy Bowman Song Leader Mark Bagwell
Greeters Curt LaPorte, Jack Johnson Communion Scripture & Prayer Mitchell Whittington
Closing Prayer Perry Johnson
Nursery Workers Jennifer Busbee, Reagan Busbee Van Driver Jim Branstetter

October Worship Coordinators

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