

Upcoming Events..... February 22, 2023

Ministry Fair

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13-14)

On March 5th, members of the Bella Vista Church of Christ have an opportunity to learn new ways to both serve one another, and to love your neighbor. The Oxford dictionary defines ministry as, *"the spiritual work or service of any Christian or a group of Christians, especially in evangelism."* This definition aligns with what Paul is saying in Galatians. As followers of Christ, we have been called to serve our fellow brothers and sisters, as well as our community here in Northwest Arkansas, and throughout the world.

You are invited to join us during the Bible class hour on March 5th to learn more about the many ways that you can become involved at Bella Vista Church of Christ. We are blessed to be a part of a body of believers that has so many unique ways to serve. Some of the ministries that you can be involved in include; Sunday morning worship coordination, Bible education, missions, benevolence, ladies ministries, senior ministries, VBS, technology needs of the congregation and so many more! The Ministry Fair will include a brief presentation highlighting some of the ministries in more detail. During which coffee and doughnuts will be made available. Each deacon/ministry leader will have a table and will be able to answer any specific questions that you might have.

In talking with the other deacons and ministry leaders about the needs of the ministry that they lead, the one need that they all shared with me was the need for prayer. This is something that I want to encourage each and every one of you to be doing in the weeks and days leading to the Ministry Fair. Even if you are not involved in a ministry, we still covet your prayers. I am so excited for this event, and I hope to see you all there!

- Tyler White



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
Perry Johnson.....913-707-8379
Ray Reiss.....903-908-0203

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott Mike Spencer
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mike Martin Jerry Snyder

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

Phone: 479/273-2434

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Make a Wish

There are a lot of things that I remember fondly from my childhood. Among them are memories of family dinners. I always looked forward to those times gathered around the table, but I especially looked forward to the home cooked fried chicken that mom would make. One of the things that we would do is to find the wishbone from that chicken and two of us would pull in opposite directions to see who would get the long side and get to make a wish.

I was reminded of that little tradition a few days ago when I saw a billboard that had the picture of a man hanging from the edge of a cliff with one hand while another giant hand was positioned directly below him. The caption on the sign read, "Let go. Jesus will catch you." Now, you might be wondering how that billboard could remind someone of pulling apart the wishbone of a chicken. That is a great question. Thank you for asking.

The billboard reminded me of the way in which we often have a desire to follow Jesus, but are reluctant to let go of things that hinder our pursuit of that goal. Perhaps it is a habit. Perhaps it is a goal. Perhaps it is our desire to maintain control. Maybe it is a disordered love; love of money, or pleasure, or position. Maybe it is our anger, a grudge, or a judgmental attitude. The list could go on and on.

In Mark 10 we meet a young man who is reluctant to let go.

And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'"



And he said to him, "Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth." And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. (Mark 10:17-22)

Jesus calls his followers to let go of everything else and follow him whole heartedly. He does this not because he is a narcissistic control freak, but because he wants what is best for us. He wants to be with us. He wants us to trust him enough to let go of our need for control and live for him so that can happen. But too often we are reluctant to let go of the things that keep us from following him the way he wants. We feel pulled in opposite directions, and much like that wishbone we feel as if we may snap in two.

The good news for us is that we can choose. We are not helpless. We can make a wish to follow Jesus with all that we have. We also know that just wishing for that to happen will not make it so. We have to be constantly attentive to those things that tend to hinder our pursuit of the good, because doing so is something that is an ongoing process. The more attention that we give to making that wish a reality, the easier it may become, but it is something that we will continue to do throughout our lives. There is more good news. If we will be attentive and make the effort to let go of everything else and hold on to Jesus, he has promised to help make that wish come true.



A good way to maintain our focus and to be attentive to making our wish of being totally devoted to Jesus might be to begin each day with a simple prayer. "Lord, I want nothing more than to be your

person. I want to hold on to you and live the way you direct me. Please help me today to let go of those things that hinder whole-hearted pursuit of the life to which you have called me." Then give attention each day to holding on to the good and letting go of everything else. May God bless us as we pursue our wish of being his people.

-JEFF GRISHAM

A Call to Forward Thinking

Jesus calls us to become forward-thinking people. "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Remember Lot's wife. Looking back or dwelling on the past defeats us, saps our vitality, and prevents us from being the happy people God has called us to be. Looking back is depressing.

Israel's exodus reinforces the spiritual principle that looking back is evil. The principle is repeated again and again in the New Testament. It is the underlying theme found in the books of Romans, Galatians, Hebrews and Revelation. The admonishment is to stay on course, don't give up, persevere, keep-on-keeping on. The journey to the Promised Land Reward requires that we be forward-thinking people. Lot's wife lost her future by looking back. Israel was repeatedly defeated by their backward glances. Looking back always makes us vulnerable to Satan's attack. It robs us of our goal. We must learn to let go of the past.

Forget Past Failures

Israel failed at Kadesh-Barnea. Remembering that failure brought defeat and death to a whole generation. Judas failed and his regret overcame him. Peter failed in the courtyard, but he did not let that failure keep him from becoming chief among the apostles. Peter's faithful preaching, his willingness to suffer martyrdom would never have been possible if he had not been a forward thinker. Dwelling on past failures paralyzes and brings defeat. Paul had an ugly past, but he laid it to rest. The persecutor became a proclaimer.

Forget Past Sins

Many Christians are unhappy, defeated, even tortured by past sins. Why can't we learn to accept God's forgiveness? Psychologists, psychiatrists, counselors would go out of business if we would just learn to deal appropriately with our sins and we can. The good news of the gospel is about forgiveness. "Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins. Arise and be baptized washing away your sins calling on the name of the Lord In whom we have redemption, through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins. If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, continues to purify us from all sin. If we acknowledge our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

There is now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus." Divine forgiveness removes all our guilt, or it should! Forgiveness is God forgetting our sins, our iniquities, our transgressions, and remembering them no more. Accept God's grace gift of forgiveness. Forget past sins.

Forget Past Hurts.

We can never make the most of our future until we have laid much of our past to rest. And much of our past is shrouded in hurt, unkind words, a betrayal by a friend. Even the church lets us down, denies us, fails us, hurts us. What do we do? Forget. Forget.

At best we are all a sorry lot. I am a failure. There is no way for me to know all the times I have hurt my wife, my children, my parents and some of you. Praise God that they, and you, have forgotten these past hurts. All of us hurt one another. We must learn to think beyond our hurts and never, never, never act upon them. What a mistake it would be what a tragic existence if we were all bound by past hurts. Let them go! Jesus did.

Much of our happiness as Christian people is wrapped up in our forgetting the past and being forward-thinking folk. Paul said, "But this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching to what is ahead, I press on toward the goal." Robert Browning once wrote, "It is good to forgive, but best to forget." Amen? Amen!

As Christian people we must look to the future be a forward thinker forgetting the past, pressing toward the goal, running with patience the race set before us.-

- RANDALL CASELMAN
From *Lifelines* April 9, 2003

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 2/26/23

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Billy Helms Song Leader Mike Martin
Greeters Mike Johnson, Phil Ward, David Saunders Communion Scripture & Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
Closing Prayer Randall Hunt
Nursery Workers Susan Cluck, Gay Lynn Weldon

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Hershel Ward Song Leader Mark Bagwell
Greeters Mike Johnson, Stephen Hunt, Jerry Snyder Communion Scripture & Prayer Danny Cannon
Closing Prayer Tracy Bowman
Nursery Workers Kayla Bishop, Kelli Homeyer Van Driver Mark/Wilma Bagwell

February Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mike York Streaming Coordinator Aaron Sloan
Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott