

**Family & Friends..... March 22, 2023**

Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Randall Caselman in the loss of his beloved wife, Georgia. She was always beside him each week when he preached and stood at the door as we made our way out. I have had many hugs from her and so have many others. We all loved Georgia and she will be missed in a big way. She did Family & Friends when I could not do it, and helped us get the bulletins ready for mailing. I told Randall that she always said the most beautiful prayers to our Lord each time she was asked to pray. It was amazing and the ladies all loved her for it. She loved the Ladies Wednesday morning and Wednesday night Bible classes. We had lots of fun. I learned a lot from her. I am going to miss her but know she is at peace now. She was a faithful Christian who served her Lord in many ways. She also loved her husband, children, and grandchildren very much! Please keep Randall, Karen, Kathy, and Keith and their children in your prayers.

*The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. (Proverbs 31:11-12)*

Our visitors we were blessed with: Dr. Joy Dunnigan (Clatonia, NE), Rebecca Sanor (Gretna, NE), Sharilu Brown and Dwane & Tammy Hawkins (Centerton), Brian & Tara Richardson and Tom Vickery (Bentonville), Ted Irby (BV), Caden and Lori McCool and Blakely Roach.

Those on our prayer list: Randall and the family in the loss of Georgia. Jim Branstetter as he recovers from his recent stay in Springdale's Northwest. Susan Duffy is at home following her recent surgery. John Herzig, a friend of Stan Hankins, passed away. Continue to pray for his family. Mike Lacey has been moved to Bradford House. Continue to remember and pray for Jim Caylor, Mike Hale, Mary Montgomery's family, me, our missionaries, our military and police force, our leaders, country, and president.

Children's Home needs: Popcorn, peanut butter, pickles, green beans, and cleaning supplies. Our Food Pantry needs: Cereal, pancake mix (add water only), syrup, and mac & cheese.

God loved us first so we can love 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 Josh Porter 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

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**Bella Vista**

**God Has Visited**

Within the last two weeks, we have said goodbye to two wonderful Christian ladies. We have been reminded of the finite nature of our life here on earth. We feel a sense of loss. We are made aware of the fact that we are not in control of the length of our own days. We hurt. We also wonder what the future holds for us. We search for answers and for comfort. There are several places in Scripture where we can go. One good place to go at a time like this is found in Luke chapter 7.

*Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country. (Luke 7:11-17)*

There are several things we can see in this short little account.

**Jesus sees us.** As Jesus sees the funeral procession, it appears that his eyes are drawn to the mother. This is a lady that was well acquainted with the devastating effects of death. She had felt the pain that it had left when her husband died, and now she feels it again. There's possibly more than just dealing with the loss of another loved one going on in her mind. She is a widow, and now a widow with no male presence to help. This leaves her vulnerable, anxious and uncertain of what her future might hold. Jesus noticed.

**LIVESTREAMS**



## When Life Hurts

In the middle of our grief and our uncertainty, we can be sure that Jesus sees us. He knows the pain that we experience. He can relate to all of our emotions that swirl around at times like this. He sees us and knows us.

**Jesus acts on our behalf.** Just seeing her wasn't enough. He had compassion on her. That compassion moved him into action. As someone who has experienced all of what it is like to be human, he knew the relief she needed. Here he acted in a surprising way. He touched the bier and told the young man to get up. To those in the town that day, it must have seemed like very strange behavior from this traveling rabbi. But it was nothing compared to the fact that the young man actually did it.

Jesus has acted on our behalf. He is not content for us to suffer, to grieve with no real relief. He has acted, and we might think in a surprising way. Paul refers to his action on our behalf like this, *"For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die – but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:6-8)

The account in Luke 7 ends with the people glorifying God and saying, *"God has visited his people!"* We find this statement in various places throughout Scripture. God visited Sarah and she conceived and had Isaac (Genesis 21:1-2). God visited Israel and delivered them out of Egypt (Exodus 4:31). God visited his people and ended the famine (Ruth 1:6). God visited Hannah and she conceived and gave birth to Samuel (1 Samuel 2:21). God made his ultimate visit to us in the person of Jesus as *"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."* (John 1:14)

In times like these when we have experienced loss, and as we deal with our grief and our own uncertainty, we need to be reminded that God has indeed visited. He has seen our distress and has offered us hope. He has made a way for us to have hope and joy in the middle of our grief. He has acted on our behalf to defeat sin and death through the crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus. Thank God that he has visited.

-JEFF GRISHAM

When life tumbles in, when life is unfair, what do we do? How do we react? It's not "if" life tumbles in, but "when." We've all lived long enough to know that it won't be long until we'll make a visit to the hospital or Emergency Room, to the funeral home or cemetery. Life happens! How do we deal with the tough times? I think the book of Job was written to help when life turns against us. What can we learn from this interesting narrative?...

**Understand That Life Isn't Always Fair.** Bad things happen! No, bad things don't happen to good people for Jesus said, *"there is no good but one, that is God."* But bad things happen to righteous folk. Scripture repeatedly tells us that Job was a blameless, upright, righteous man, what we would term as a good person. We must understand that we live in a fallen world, so bad things happen: 9-11, wars, sickness, storms, broken relationships, automobile accidents, business failures, a death in the family; they come in the lives of both good and bad. We all suffer!

Job wrestled with this principle, we wrestle with it. Each of us will live a much healthier and happier life when we come to the realization that life is unfair, but God is still in control. If we live knowing: *"that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*

**Don't Blame God.** Satan seemed to know that if he could get Job to curse God, then this would open up a whole world of possibilities. Thoughts like: "If God is omnipotent, then why did He allow this to happen?" "If God is love, then He wouldn't allow children to die, mothers to get cancer, innocent people to be injured or killed in a storm." We think, "If I were God, I would not allow that to happen." We all know those life has hurt who have blamed God for their losses. Not Job! I think we can agree that if we find ourselves blaming God, we are rebelling. Here it is, instead of blaming God when life tumbles in, we must run to Him, call upon Him, embrace Him, seek His presence. God doesn't promise to remove us from trials, but does promise to walk with us, strengthen and empower us to deal with our crisis. God promises: *"I will never leave you, never forsake you....I will be with you always."* We hear Paul say: *"I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."* It was the prophet of old who has God saying: *"I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" Call upon me, come and pray to me*

*and I will listen to you."* The Book of Job ends with God blessing him well beyond anything he had known previously. Paul tells us that God takes our difficult moments and uses them to our good, our benefit, our betterment. Believe Him! Trust Him! Live in His promises!

**We Must Not Listen to the Wrong Voices.** Job's friends had all kinds of advice. They attempted to convince Job that his calamity was because of some sin in his life. They kept hammering at Job trying to get him to admit that all the bad happenings were his fault. Wrong! Satan is behind this kind of reasoning. Such thoughts destroy our self-worth, and self-confidence. Yes, sin has its consequences; we have to live with the bad choices we've made. But sometimes life tumbles in and we have done nothing to bring about such pain. Don't allow Satan to take us down this detrimental, destructive, road. Life happens! It's not always our fault. And trying to figure it out, trying to name the sin that caused our troubles is thinking prompted by the devil. God wants us to confess our sins, repent and move on. Paul had an ugly sinful past, but he wrote, *"Forgetting the past I press on to the goal of my heavenly calling."*

**Live in Hope of Heaven.** This is not all there is to life. Jesus said, *"In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* The book of Revelation tells us that Heaven is an economy where God has made everything new and there will be no more tears, no more death, mourning, crying or pain. We were created to live forever, so what happens to us in this world cannot be compared to the joys of heaven.

-RANDALL CASELMAN  
From *Lifelines*, October 19, 2011

### SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/26/23

#### First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture .....Cory Spruiell Song Leader .....Mike Martin  
Greeters.....Chad Dobbs, Gary McCool, Terry Roberts Communion Scripture & Prayer.....Bill Alumbaugh  
Closing Prayer.....Parker Willis  
Nursery Workers .....Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

#### Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture.....Steve Kinder Song Leader .....Tyler White  
Greeters .....Chad Dobbs, Bob Spaw, John Bowman Communion Scripture & Prayer.....Jack Johnson  
Closing Prayer.....Tracy Bowman  
Nursery Workers .....Wanda James, Robin Spencer Van Driver .....Bryan Busbee

#### March Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator .....Mark Tucker Streaming Coordinator .....Chris Johnson  
Audio Coordinator .....Jim Caylor Video Coordinator .....James Beatty