

Family & Friends..... April 6, 2022

It is Spring and the birds in the neighborhood have organized a large group of songbirds for a chorus of lovely serenading on Easter Sunday. Big Red, the leader in charge and his wife Rose are excellent songsters! Many are showing up for this event, after being notified of it last week. Red said, "God has been so good to all of us, we want to praise Him with song." He looked around and saw the Bluejays, Mockingbirds, Robins, Bluebirds, and all his Cardinal friends. Sprinkled amongst the mix, were some Orioles, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Indigo Buntings, after winter migration. Red told them all, "Job well done" after rehearsal. Everyone was excited that Easter Sunday would be here in a few weeks. They hoped to get a peek at the children hunting Easter Eggs after church and smelling the aromas of the special food that would be served that day. Most of all they wanted to sing their hearts out to God and let Him know how much they love and respect Him. We come together weekly as Christians to remember that Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we will have eternal life with Him. Christ Jesus paid it all.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who is against us? (Romans 8:31)

What can I say? We love our visitors! Bob & Teri Ziegler (Stilwell, KS), David Ellison (Fayetteville), Jim & Barbara May, John & Thomas, Quinley, and Shelly Roses (Pea Ridge), Bonnie Benton and Joyce Parks (BV), and Alyce Johanson.

A big welcome to Paulette Park who placed membership with our congregation!

Those on our prayer list: Out heartfelt sympathies go to Theresa Marcotte in the loss of her brother. Carolyn Lacey fell and broke a rib. Bob Musson also took a fall. Continue to remember and pray for Doug & Monica Klingman, Robert Horton, Becky Donceel, Mike Hale, Tim & Susan Duffy, and Susan's father. Remember Steve & Karen Ashcraft as they are away from us on a mission trip, as well as our other missionaries, our military, police force, country, and president.

Items needed for Fair Haven: corn meal, tuna, jello, salsa, & crackers. Items for our food pantry: canned vegetables, tuna & chicken helper, Miracle Whip, mayo, relish, mustard, ketchup, and macaroni & cheese.

God's free gift to us cost him dearly. 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	9:30 AM
Bible Class (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
Worship (Livestreamed)	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	7:00 PM
Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	

Phone: 479/273-2434

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

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MEMBER LINES

Learning to Pray Effectively

Some interesting things happen in Acts Chapter 12. Herod was on an arrest-persecution rampage. He had James put to death, and arrested several others including Peter. His intentions were to make a big splash with the Jewish people by having a public trial after Passover.

Peter was kept in the inner-prison, guarded by a 24-hour system of four squads with four soldiers each. Meanwhile, the Christians were in prayer at John Mark's house, a favorite gathering place for the church.

In the dead of night, as Peter slept chained between two guards, an angel awakened him - Peter stood - His chains fell to the floor - No one stirred - Peter and the angel walked past the guards - Outside into the silent streets of Jerusalem - Not a person sensed their presence. The iron gate to the city opened of its own power for them. As they neared the end of the street, the angel suddenly was gone - Peter was alone - He headed straight for John Mark's house.

As Peter pounded on the front door, a servant girl, Rhoda, came, recognized Peter's voice, but left him standing there while she ran to tell the others, "It's Peter!" "Shhh! Shhh! Quiet! Can't you see we are in prayer for Peter's release!" Rhoda insisted again, and again. Finally the praying was stopped long enough to check out who was at the door. Surprise! They welcomed Peter with astonishment.

Luke tells us the next morning there was a great commotion among the soldiers as the search was made for the escaped prisoner. Herod went back to Caesarea where during a celebration and public address the people acclaimed him to be a god. He accepted their praise, and as a result, an angel of the Lord took his life. Eaten by worms!

The chapter ends with the Gospel spreading. Saul, Barnabas and John Mark are companioned together and things are set for the first world mission effort. Let's draw some conclusions for an application to our daily prayer life.



1) We must not limit the power of God in our life. Most of our prayers fall short of asking God for what we really want because we are not convinced of just how much power God will exercise on our behalf. We sometimes get so wrapped up in a defense against “Modern Day Miracles” that we are afraid to pray, to boldly come before the throne of God. Thus we limit God in our life. God is still omnipotent - All Powerful! There is nothing He cannot do with us, for us, through us if we will ask and yield. We are His creation. He is our father. The church is His kingdom. It is time we pray as people of God. I do not know what limits God has placed on prayer and neither do you. Dare to pray without limits. Dare to approach His throne with bold request - Amen?

2) Sometimes what we are praying for is already ours. All we must do is claim it. The picture of Peter standing at the door while those on the inside were praying for his release is somewhat humorous. Sometimes we miss God’s real answer because we are focusing more on asking than listening, watching for answers. Jesus said, “Ask, and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it will be opened unto you.” But all too often we miss the answer because we are not sensitive to His will in our life.

3) We must be willing to be a part of the answer. One wonders if Rhoda had not insisted, if they would have ever opened the door for Peter. We must be willing to open the door. New Testament evangelism is based upon preaching (teaching) and prayer. We must pray for the lost and then take every opportunity to communicate Jesus to them. It does little good for us to pray for a rebellious child and pass up an opportunity to encourage them. Why pray for the sick and then refuse medical care? Why pray for better family relationships and maintain a grouchy attitude? Open the door!!!

4) Expect a commotion - Pray in Faith. The answer to their prayers, the release of Peter, caused a commotion. How long has it been since there has been a commotion in the church where you attend? Fervent praying and prayers answered cause excitement. James wrote, prayers not prayed in faith are not answered - Why? Because without faith it is impossible to please Him - Right? You see, God has promised to answer our prayers. There is always a commotion - Exciting things happen where God is at work in His people.

As Acts 12 ends we see switched roles. The imprisoned is released to live. The free man was imprisoned by illness and died. Prayers of the church change things. Prayer can and does reverse circumstances. We must have faith in our own prayer life. Not that He will do our will, but that He will care for us as His children.

-RANDALL CASELMAN

Ask, Seek, Knock

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him! (Matthew 7:7-11)

It sounds too good to be true! Is that it? Is this really all we have to do – ask, seek, and knock – and God, who wants to give good things to his children, really comes through? Since this is a promise from Jesus, our immediate response is a resounding “yes.” God certainly wants to give his children good gifts. He has worked since the beginning to give us the ultimate in good gifts, his presence with us forever. God knows what good gifts really are, where we, like children, often have difficulty in discerning the good.

Up to this point in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus has outlined the good. He has affirmed that God’s blessings are available for all. He has given his followers the directive to be salt and light and to have an influence on the world around them. He has told them what real righteousness looks like and what the intent of the Law means to his followers. He has taught them to live life for an audience of one, and to trust him above all others. He has cautioned them in regard to judging others, and that his followers should be those who extend mercy to others as each strives to eliminate sin from their lives.

The instructions to ask, seek, and knock come in conjunction with these teachings, which are meant to mature us into deeper discipleship, and transform us into the image of Jesus. Following these teachings move us to engage in each of these actions, confident in the promises of Jesus.

We ask knowing that we can trust God to do the right thing at the right time. As we continue to follow Jesus and grow in our discipleship we understand that God may not act in the way we may immediately want, but he will always do what is right at the right time to seek our ultimate good and his glory.

We seek the good for the kingdom, the good for others instead of just ourselves. We seek God’s purposes. We seek God and a closer relationship with him. And through the

Spirit that he has given us, we will find what we are looking for.

We knock at his door to approach him and he grants access. We knock, we seek opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with others, and watch confidently as he opens the door for us to reach others to show them the love he has for his creation, and his desire for reconciliation.

We are children of the King. Our Father in heaven has no limit to his resources. As we learn more about him in Scripture, we see that he does not withhold these resources to accomplish his purpose. What an exciting thought! As we engage in his purposes, he will give us everything we need to accomplish the work set before us. Let’s continue to move forward, confident in his ability to accomplish much through us if we will draw closer to him.

-JEFF GRISHAM



SUNDAY SERVANTS: 4/10/22

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture	Aaron Sloan	Song Leader	Marquis Elliott
Greeters	David Saunders, Terry Roberts	Communion Scripture & Prayer	Mark Tucker
Closing Prayer.....		Dallas Dobbs	
Nursery Workers		Janet Alumbaugh, Jennifer Stephens	

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture.....	Jerry Orr	Song Leader	Chris McSweeney
Greeters	Howard Hurst, Jack Johnson	Communion Scripture & Prayer.....	Mitchell Whittington
Closing Prayer.....		Curt LaPorte	
Nursery Workers.....		Robbie Balentine, Abby Willis	
Van Driver		Jim Branstetter	

April Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator	Harold Phillips	Streaming Coordinator	Abby Willis
Audio Coordinator	Homer Makinson	Video Coordinator	Aaron Bagwell