

Bella Vista

MEMBERS

Family & Friends..... May 18, 2022

Bee happy! I like how it sounds. Bumblebees are large fuzzy insects with short, stubby wings. They don't produce as much honey as honeybees, but they are very important pollinators and without them, food wouldn't grow. They have wings that beat 130 times or more per second. Their large bodies vibrate flowers until they release pollen. This is called buzz pollination. It helps plants produce crops like squash, tomatoes, and berries. The female that is dominant is called the Queen (the mother of all bees) and rules the colony. The bees all have their jobs to do and work together. The queen bee may lay 2000 bees a day. They have a heart that runs down the entire length of their body, five eyes, and a large brain, and they get thirsty just like we do. They need a source of water to stay healthy and save and use water for air conditioning. The queen bee hibernates in the wintertime. Bumblebees are usually peaceful and not aggressive and only sting when cornered or disturbed. God is good! God is our Master Creator and has thought of everything! To God be the glory!

Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. (Proverbs 16:24)

We are happy to have our visitors each week: the Dillard family (Diamond, MO), Solonge Ford and Lee & Paige Moore (Marion, AR), Greg Woodruff (Bentonville), Carolyn Brown (BV), and Alice Johanson.

Those on our prayer list this week: Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Cindy Johnson in the loss of her sister, Rhonda Browning. Please keep Cindy and family in your prayers. Mike Lacey had surgery for bladder cancer Tuesday. Cory Roberts had a total knee replacement on Thursday, May 19th. Pat Musson will undergo radiation in two weeks for cancer and needs our prayers. Curt LaPorte is now home after the removal of a blood clot. Jerry Snyder had a heart cath Thursday, May 19th. Continue to remember Maddie Sebree as she recovers from shoulder surgery, Eleah, Hillary, and Josh Porter, and Lauryn Blansett. Continue to lift up our missionaries, our military, police force, our country and our president.

We will have a Graduation Celebration for all our high school and college graduates Sunday evening, May 22nd. The high school graduates are Abby McSweeny, Alivia Bockholt, Elijah Johnson, and Breanna Glenn. Kyle Bowman is our college graduate.

Items needed for Fair Have Children's Home: Canned chicken & tuna, crackers, spices, salsa, and liquid dish soap. May Food Pantry: Cookie/cake/brownie mixes, cooking oil, ravioli/beefaroni/Spaghetti O's, jelly/honey, and instant potatoes.

We sow the seed – God produces the harvest. 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

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott
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

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

Picking Up The Cross

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." Mark 8:34-38

It seemed to be an unreasonable demand. They had likely seen and had certainly heard of Roman soldiers marching the condemned through the streets toward the site of crucifixion. They knew the horrors of the cross. And now they hear Jesus telling them that in order to be his follower they must voluntarily choose this path. It seems completely unreasonable.

Jesus, however, didn't just instruct his followers by his words. He demonstrated what he said by his actions. This teaching of Jesus is found at the turning point of Mark's Gospel when Jesus begins his journey to Jerusalem for the final time. The cross is the destination in sight, yet Jesus goes willingly. We follow along as Jesus makes his triumphant entry into the city, continues to teach and to demonstrate who he is. We follow him to the Garden of Gethsemane and hear him beg the Father to remove this cup of suffering, the cup he must drink. Then we watch as Jesus voluntarily surrenders to the group sent to arrest him. We see the abuse, mockery, scourging, and finally the crucifixion itself and we wonder why he would demand such a thing from his followers.

What we get to see in the command to take up the cross is to choose to follow God regardless



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of the difficulties it may bring. We see the way in which we choose righteousness, choose to follow, choose to put our lives under the direction of God, under the Lordship of Jesus and accept the consequences that it brings.

We are called to be different people. We are called to be transformed people. We are to be people who live by and exhibit Kingdom values. Kingdom values are often at odds with those in the culture around us. We can expect pushback from those who don't hold to those values. We can expect negative reactions from others, sometimes even those who are closest to us (see Matthew 10:34-38).

So since this is difficult, since it is counter-cultural, since living Kingdom values will cause us to experience negative reactions, why do it? Because it leads to life. The way we find life, save and preserve our lives is to give them up to the one who can protect and guard them. The way to life is surrender. We give our lives to Jesus, lay them at his feet, and he will remake them, remold them and we get them back much better than they were. When we allow Jesus to reshape our lives to look more like his, we have life that is suited to live with him forever. We have life that looks like what God intended in the beginning.

As Jesus compares the life of discipleship to picking up the cross, we see that this life dedicated to following him will be painful at times. There may be times of real and genuine pain, as we have to make the choice to be obedient to what God expects of us. It may cause trouble in relationships with friends and even family as the values of the Kingdom collide with the values of the culture around us. We may wonder if following Jesus is worth it.



While it's true that it can be painful, it is also incredibly hopeful. It is a life lived the way God intended with the assurance of a great promise of living in his presence forever. It is the least we can do in response to Jesus and his cross. Without the cross there is no hope. Without his cross there would be no forgiveness, no reconciliation, no way of having a relationship with the one who created us, and who wants to be with us forever. Without denying ourselves and picking up our cross, there is no transformation, no experiencing life as it should be. Are we willing?

-JEFF GRISHAM

Crosses Are For Dying

We have had two thousand years to legitimize the cross. We put them on our church buildings, Bibles, pulpits, and communion ware. We place them on gold chains around our necks. But crosses haven't always been beautiful, because they were a symbol of death. Is an electric chair beautiful? How about a gallows, a hangman's noose, the gas chamber? We have almost forgotten that crosses are for dying!

Just as Jesus was crucified, so must we be. We must take up our cross and follow him. The cross is not a burden we bear; it is something we die upon. Paul said, I die daily.

We are to die to sin. We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? We were buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. We must no longer allow sin to rule to reign in our lives! He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness.

We must die to law. The saved are under grace, where sin's dominion is broken; for sin shall not be your master, because you are no longer under law, but under grace. We must die to the false concept that we have to live perfect lives in order to be saved.

We must die to the world. May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. You were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world.

We must die to the love of the world. Love not the world neither the things that are in the world. The craving of sinful man, the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life. Note that John didn't say don't love it a little. He didn't say don't love it too much. He said, Don't love it at all.

We must die to self. If any man would come after Me let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Me. The real issue is who is controlling our lives? Who is guiding our daily walk? Who is running the church? Who is guiding the decisions for our families? Is it us, or is it Jesus? It's not, Some of self and some of Thee. It must be, None of self and all of Thee.

Our problems in life are rooted in self. The tree, branches, and leaves of life come from the root. It's not enough to cut off some of the branches. Self must be uprooted! Self must be crucified. Isn't this why we're not living the good life Jesus came to give us? Isn't this why we don't have the peace that surpasses understanding. We haven't crucified self. We haven't died to self. **Crosses Are For Dying.**

-RANDALL CASELMAN

From *Lifelines* May 12, 2004



SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/22/22

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Dallas Dobbs Song Leader Lee McCain
 Greeters Chris Johnson, Gary McCool Communion Scripture & Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
 Closing Prayer Randall Hunt
 Nursery Workers Jerri Dobbs, Tori Hunt

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Steve Kinder Song Leader Chris McSweeney
 Greeters John Bowman, Mike Johnson Communion Scripture & Prayer Stephen Hunt
 Closing Prayer Perry Johnson
 Nursery Workers Jennifer Royer, Hollie Strickhausen Van Driver Jim Branstetter

May Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Mark Tucker Streaming Coordinator Aaron Sloan
 Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Marquis Elliott