

Family & Friends..... March 3rd, 2021

March, the start of a new month, we switch back to Daylight Savings time on the 14th, and Spring is made official on the 20th. I've always heard that March comes in like a lion, and goes out like a lamb. We shall see. The old English word for March is "Hlyda," meaning loud for all the roaring winds and thunderstorms. It is also said that a good freeze in the winter kills off the bugs we don't want. Do you think fifteen below zero will do the job this year? Hopefully the Daffodils will make it, they are pretty hardy. They symbolize rebirth and new beginnings. It is always a pleasant surprise to see them popping up all over the area each year. Did you know that March 13th is all about challenging our superstitions "Open an Umbrella Indoors Day." How many times in your life have you heard people say "It's bad luck to open an umbrella indoors? Something that happened on March 29th in 1848 is ice blockages that caused rivers to run dry, leading to 3,160 tons of water that flows through Niagara Falls every second, to come to a complete halt. I had never heard that before. I love history. To God Be the Glory! Thank you, Lord, for the blessings You bestow on us.

We are making arrangements for resuming Wednesday Evening Bible Classes on March 10th. Children and Teen Classes will follow the same arrangement as Sunday Morning. We'll continue one Adult Class in the auditorium. Each of our Ladies Classes are starting new studies. The Wednesday morning class begins a video series on Love First at 9:45. The Evening Class meets at seven o'clock in the Fellowship Area. This study in the Book of Philippians is Zoomed, and has ladies from three or four states registered. See Staci Grisham for your Book and Zoom information.

*There is an appointed time for everything,
and there is a time for every event under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Those on our prayer list: Keep the Banks family in your prayers in the loss of Joe Banks. Joe is the brother-in-law to Mary Bell and uncle of Dolores Jobe. Remember Doug Klingman and his family in your prayers also in the loss of his uncle, Frank Gates. Ray Reiss fell and broke his ankle last Wednesday. He's now wearing a boot. Keep him in your prayers. Jennie Alderson requests prayers for her brother, Cliff, who is in the hospital with pneumonia. Connor Evans requests prayers for his health issues. Vickie Schuster ask for prayers for her daughter, Logan, as she recovers from a recent surgery. Remember the Duffy family as they deal with their health issues. Pray for our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president, and a cure for the Covid Virus.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Hamburger Helper, salmon, applesauce, carrots, spinach, shampoo, and trash bags. Our food pantry: Instant potatoes, rice, canned fruit and chicken, honey, jelly, oatmeal, pancake mix, muffin mix, flour, sugar, and tuna.

Be smart—ask for God's wisdom.

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
Early Worship	Bible Class	9:30 AM
Second Worship		10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY		9:45 AM & 7 PM
Ladies' Class	Bible Class	Live Stream @ 7 PM

Phone: 479/273-2434

www.bellavistachurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs479-640-4943

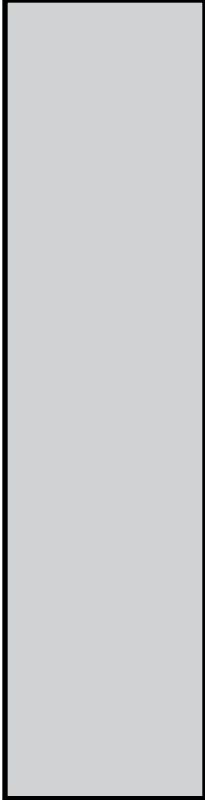
DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

Randall Caselman.....479-855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....479-531-9135
Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Selwyn Nel Cape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer Rosero..... Bogota, Colombia

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Bella Vista

Murmuring Complaining

Let's be honest, we are all guilty, right? Here it is church, acknowledging our sin is the first step leading to repentance. We can overcome this sinful habit.

Several years ago someone left an article on my desk from *People Magazine*. It was titled, "Thou Shall Not Whine." It was about a Kansas City Pastor, Will Brown of Unity Christ Church, who challenged his congregation to make a personal vow to stop whining and complaining – All complaining. To remind them of their commitment, he handed out purple rubber wrist bracelets for those willing to take the challenge. On the bracelet was printed "A Complaint Free World."

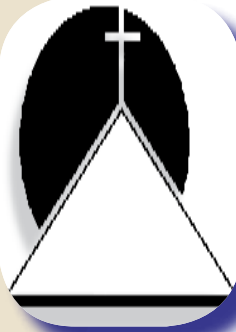
The plan was not to whine or complain for a three week period. Each individual was to wear the bracelet on one wrist, and if they whined or complained, they changed the bracelet to the other wrist and started over with their commitment – working toward being gripe free for a three week period. He said, "I personally broke three bracelets before I reached the three week complaint free three weeks. The Kansas City Star picked up the story noting that church volunteers had mailed out over 125,000 bracelets to several states, some to friends overseas.

Well, how about us? How would this play out in my life and yours? Could we be complaint free for three weeks? It wouldn't be easy! Accepting such a challenge will show us just how much griping and complaining is a part of our everyday conversation. We do it without thinking: we complain about the weather, politicians, the church, preachers, elders, schools, complain about people and conditions at work. In Kansas City, several church members who succeeded in their three week commitment, were saying things like: "After four months of gripe free living our family and church are finding new things to talk about." "I'm a much happier person as a result of this challenge." "Indeed my life is different!"

Well – What does God have to say about our Gripping, Murmuring, Complaining... Anything?

Numbers 14.26-37 gives us a glimpse of how God feels; "I have heard the murmurings of the children of Israel... How long shall I bear with this evil?" Moses goes on to record the fact that the forty year wilderness wandering was partially about their faithless whining. We also note that God calls our

WHINING



murmuring "evil," and that such will be "punished." Paul makes reference to Israel's complaining in First Corinthians 10.10: "We should not grumble, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel." James 6.9 admonishes: "Don't grumble against each other... Or you will be judged." The promise here is that grumbling will bring judgment upon us. Indeed, God hates our murmuring and complaining.

Lamentations 3.39 & 40 in the Living Bible: "Why then should we, mere humans as we are, murmur and complain when punished for our sins? Let us examine ourselves instead, and repent and turn again to the Lord." It's easy to complain, even blame God, when the results of our sins come home. You see, each sin has its own outcome, there are no consequence-free sins. We may not know the effect of each and every sin, but we can rest assured that every sin has its consequence. Jeremiah is saying that the consequence is not there for complaint, but for our repentance.

Luke 10.40-42 has Jesus condemning Martha for her complaining about her sister. Jesus said, "Martha, you are worried and upset about many things." Jesus goes on to point out that our concern should be about one thing and that has to do with sitting at His feet, following His teaching. Think about this: We are told to have a Jesus heart and disposition; so how many times do we hear Jesus murmur, whine, complain?

Philippians 2.14-16 sums up our correct response: "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life." Paul is saying that not complaining helps us to become blameless and pure, without fault, before the Lord. That's what I want, don't you? These verses go on to say that we become the right kind of example to others, shinning like stars, when we control our murmuring, griping, complaining. It's a part of holding out the Word of God to a lost and dying world. Paul is saying, murmuring is anti-evangelistic! Amen?

Well, will we accept the challenge? We must put whining out of our heart, only then will we keep it from our lips. However, Jesus taught that sweeping the heart clean of whining, complaining, and griping is not enough, we must replace these thoughts with "thanksgiving to

God" for His marvelous blessings. So, our challenge is, the next time we start to whine, lets replace that grip by recalling and verbalizing another of God' blessing. Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN



SUNDAY SERVANTS: 3/7/21

EARLY SERVICE (8:15 AM)

Song Leader Lee McCain Prayer & Scripture Dallas Dobbs
 Communion Scripture & Prayer Harold Phillips Greeters/Handouts Joe Hott & James Branstetter

SECOND SERVICE (10:30 AM)

Song Leader Chris McSweeney Prayer & Scripture Mitchell Whittington
 Communion Scripture & Prayer Perry Johnson Greeters/Handouts Mike Spencer & Howard Hurst

MARCH WORSHIP COORDINATORS

Worship Coordinator Mile York Streaming Coordinator Elijah Johnson
 Audio Coordinator Homer Makinson Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell

THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's...
 (1 Samuel 17.47 NKJV).

One day a soldier, charged with fleeing from the enemy, was brought before Alexander The Great. Alexander The Great asked him, "what's your name?" Dropping his head, he replied, "Alexander, sir!" Alexander The Great grabbed him by the shoulders saying, "soldier, change your conduct or change your name!"

Church, we have been called to live a life worthy of the One whose name we carry. Regardless of whether the giant we face is addiction, resentment, fear, lust, murmuring, pride, envy or anger, we must realize...

1) We are not unique. Our temptations are no different from what others experience: "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man." (1 Corinthians 10.13 NLT). Goliath wasn't always a giant; he was fed and nurtured until he became one. Our giants are usually little sins we overlook and indulge until they assume a life of their own.

2) We can't do it alone. Our giant will defeat us anytime we tackle him in our own strength. David told Goliath, "This is the Lord's battle, and He will give you to us" (1 Samuel 17.47 NLT). We need Divine help to overcome old habits and establish new behaviors. So, we must declare with Paul, "Christ... Give me strength" Philippians 4.13 NLT).

3) We must confront our giant head-on. The Bible says: "As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran... To meet him" (1 Samuel 17.48 NLT). We must not run away. Don't try to negotiate. Never try to compromise. Don't excuse ourselves. We must force our giant out into the light of God's Word and not let him back into our life. We must establish some boundaries. Hold ourself accountable. Stay out of bad company. Above all, don't look at God in the light of our giant – But look at our giant in the light of God... Amen?

—RANDALL

Edited from a booklet "Heart To Heart In Home Care"

Tomorrow

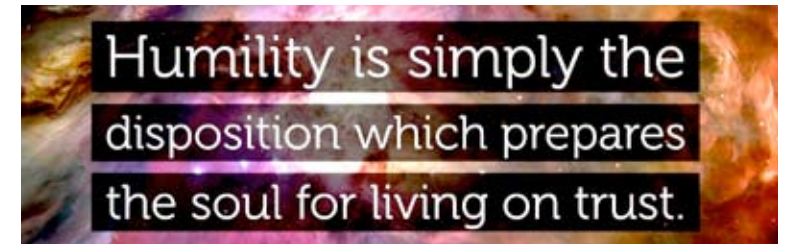
Anxiety and arrogance are but two sides of the same coin. They are alike but different. Both bring trouble into human experience. With one we make ourselves sick literally, while with the other we make those who know us figuratively sick. What they have in common is that both are based on improper assumptions about tomorrow.

Arrogance results from assuming that tomorrow is ours and that we are in control of it. It is a claim we do not have the ability to back up. The advice of wisdom is, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring" (Proverbs 27.1). A realistic look at the nature of our lives helps: we are a mist that vanishes (James 4.14). That tends to put any plans about the opportunities of tomorrow in proper perspective!

Anxiety, on the other hand, comes from assuming that the worst possibilities of tomorrow will come to pass. It is the experience of living those problems today, before they have actually become reality. Our Lord, having noted the uselessness of such activity, said, "Therefore, do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6.34).

Notice His emphasis on today. The appropriate use of this day is to live it for the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, knowing He has promised to add those things the day will require: "and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6.33). This calls for arrogance and anxiety to be replaced by Humility and Trust.

Humility and Trust are two sides of one coin, too. It is called faith. James



showed that it involves submitting to God, resisting evil, and serving single-minded: "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up" (James 4.7-10). Peter taught that it includes casting our cares before the God who cares for us and allowing His mighty hand to exult us in due time (1 Peter 5.6-7).

Ours is to live this day today, not tomorrow today or today tomorrow.

—Bill McFarland

Springfield Missouri

Submitted by Cheryl Royer