

Family & Friends..... September 13, 2023

“God Hold the Future in His Hands,” was written by James Rowe in 1922. This hymn may not be as well known as other ones he has written like, “Love Lifted Me,” or “Home of the Soul,” but it is a very beautiful hymn. He worked for the Irish government for four years until he emigrated to America at the age of 24. He also worked for the railroads in New York for 10 years, became an inspector for the Hudson River Humane Society, a music publisher in Texas and Tennessee, and in his later years wrote verses for greeting cards. Wow! He also wrote thousands of hymns, poems, and other works. This hymn exhorts us to trust in God and not worry about the future. Whatever comes, God knows and understands. He also knows our hearts and bends above to guide His children safely home. Be sure and read the words of this hymn. To God Be the Glory!

*So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.
(Matthew 6:34)*

We are blessed with our visitors: Michael and Cassie Coyle (Springhill, LA), Madelyn Sloan (Joplin, MO), Kathleen Spencer (Bay, AR), Grant Dodson (Bentonville), Alyce Johanson (Centerton), Virgalene Pollock (Rogers), Hannah Coalson and Corbin Mabry (Pea Ridge), Thad Clevenger (BV), and Margie Moon.

Our deepest heartfelt sympathies go to Bob Musson in the loss of his sister, Edith. Doris Rhodes had heart valve surgery September 13th, and Cory Roberts had surgery on the 13th to correct a deviated septum. Maggie Wicker is home after being hospitalized for A-fib. Becky Pittman’s sister, Karen, is in ICU in Little Rock with a heart valve blockage. Pray for Teresa Marcotte’s sister, Denise, and Grace Martin’s mother who fell and dislocated her hip. I will have a heart cath on the 21st. Continue to remember and pray for Eugenia Garrison, Parker Willis’s grandfather, Amy Rooney, Lynn Barnica, Susan Duffy, Mitch Whittington’s daughter, Michelle, our missionaries and our country.

A big welcome to our newest members to our church family: Chad & Tayla Wild and Hayden & Grace Fulkerson. We also had three baptisms: Tayla Wild, Lori McCool, and Amy Rooney. Praise God! We love you all!

Children’s home list: Juice, salad dressings, spaghetti sauce, Spam, green beans. Food Pantry: Mac & Cheese, peanut butter, cereal, kids’ snacks, and pancake mix (just add water).

Love you. Stay safe.

Karen

Bella Vista
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Chris Johnson Bryan Busbee Joe Hott
Randall Hunt Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Tyler White Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

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Parker Willis.....615-587-3208
Cory Spruiell.....501-941-4525

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SUNDAY		8:15 AM
Early Worship	Bible Class (Livestreamed)	9:30 AM
	Worship (Livestreamed)	10:30 AM
WEDNESDAY		9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	Bible Classes (Livestreamed)	7:00 PM



How In the World?

How did they do it? How did this group manage to make a go of this project? How were they able to accomplish what they did against the pressure from the powerful and well connected? How were they able to deal with opposition from outside and deal with the constant potential of turmoil and trouble from inside?

We’re talking about the twelve men that Jesus called to be apostles. Matthew gives us their names in Matthew 10:1-4:

And he called to him his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

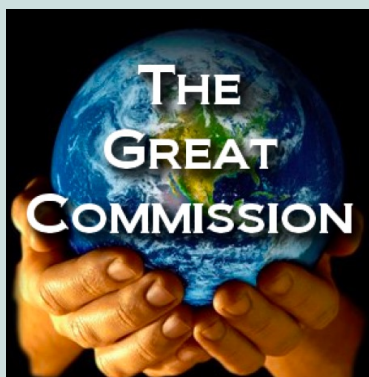
There appears to be nothing inherently special about these guys. They don’t seem to be more intelligent than anyone else. They are not politically influential, nor are they incredibly wealthy. In fact, as we follow them through the Gospels, we see that they often get things wrong, misunderstand, and even fail in crucial situations. They are ordinary men: some fishermen, a tax collector, a

LIFELINES



zealot, and others whose previous vocations are unknown to us. Yet, they were able to do some amazing things. Through their words and actions, generations (including ours) have come to faith in Jesus. How could they, how did they pull this off?

What initially united these very different people was recognizing that there was something special about Jesus and answering his call. Something about Jesus drew them in. For some it was witnessing a miracle. For others it was hearing John the Baptist identify Jesus as the “Lamb of



God who takes away the sins of the world.” For others it was just responding as Jesus said, “Come, follow me.”

What they learned as they continued to follow him was that the mission to which they were called was of huge importance. They saw that they could be part of the mission of God to reconcile humanity to himself. They understood the mission of carrying the message, the good news, that gives life, and hope, and a future was the most important endeavor in which they could be involved. Armed with this knowledge, they, as well as many others, were able to spread the news of Jesus all over their world, and to establish Kingdom communities everywhere.

We are a part of that same mission. We carry the same message. We experience pressures from the culture around us, although not as intense as what they faced. It seems that there is also always potential of trouble or turmoil from within. Yet we want to make an impact. We want to see our friends, neighbors, and families come to faith in Jesus. But how can

a group of people that are so different continue to carry this message effectively?

The first step is remembering who we follow. It is our faith in Jesus, our responding to his call that brings us together initially. We were all “like sheep who have gone astray.” (Isaiah 53:6) But, Jesus saved us and that unites us. He didn’t do this because we are particularly intelligent, wealthy, righteous, or powerful. He did this because of his great love, mercy and grace.

The next step is to remember the mission into which we have been called and realize that it is the most important endeavor in which we can be engaged. It is the message of reconciliation. It is the message of hope, life, and a future for people whom God wants to save. It is more important than our individual personalities, politics, or preferences.

From what we see in Scripture, these twelve had very different personalities. Some were very outspoken. Some were a bit hot headed. Some asked very bold questions of Jesus. Then there are others from whom we hear very little. They seem to be much more willing to work quietly in the background. It did not mean that some were more valuable or important than others, just different.

Each of these twelve were Jewish men living under the rule of the occupying Romans. Yet the ways they interacted with the political system of their day were different. There were those who just survived under the current conditions. There was one who was a collaborator with the Roman government and collected taxes from his fellow Jews. There was another who had been a part of a group dedicated to the violent overthrow of Roman occupation.

The varied backgrounds of these twelve men, as well as the others who would join them along the way, must have included various preferences as to what should be done and how things should be done. Yet they continued to work together because the mission was more important than those preferences.

As we continue to work in carrying out this mission, we need to remember the one who called us. We need to see his willingness to put aside what was his right to keep in order to give us hope (Philippians 2:5-11) and be willing to do the same. May God help us to continually see the importance of the mission into which he has called us. May we be willing to put aside our differences in order to declare the love of Jesus to the world around us.

-JEFF GRISHAM

Save The Date

SUNDAY SERVANTS September 17, 2023

First Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Josh Metheny Song Leader Sammy McCain
 Greeters Josh Porter, Gary McCool, Phil Ward Communion Scripture & Prayer Bill Alumbaugh
 Closing Prayer Mike York
 Nursery Workers Bobette York, Hillary Porter

Second Service

Welcome, Prayer & Scripture Nathan McCurry Song Leader Marquis Elliott
 Greeters Josh Porter, Jim May, John Bowman Communion Scripture & Prayer Jack Johnson
 Closing Prayer Don Butcher
 Nursery Workers Robin Spencer, Jennifer Busbee Van Driver Bryan Busbee

September Worship Coordinators

Worship Coordinator Kim Metheny Streaming Coordinator Kyle Dillard
 Audio Coordinator Jim Caylor Video Coordinator Aaron Bagwell