

Family & Friends..... May 23rd, 2018

I think about God's creation a lot. The teardrop came to mind. God knew we would shed tears. He created our eyes for sight and to express our emotions of joy, love, happiness, laughter, sadness, anger, remorse, frustration, sorrow, and more when needed. We all come into this world crying; as babies it is our way of communication. We forgive our loved ones and enemies with our tears, as well as our grief when losing someone we love. *The soul would have no rainbow had the eyes no tears.* Our tears say a lot about who we are. They are connected with our past, present, and future as we express ourselves in many ways. It's also been proven that crying makes us feel better. Thank you Lord for your gracious gift of tears. You weep with us in our sadness and rejoice in our happiness and joy. We love You!

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

We welcome Ramen Salimi who placed membership with our congregation. If you have not met Ramen be sure and seek him out and get acquainted, and don't forget the hug.

We love our visitors and hope they will come back soon: Lorraine Free (Johannesburg, South Africa), Bruce & Debi Higgins (Blue Springs, MO), John & Bess Schulmeister (Romeoville, IL), Mac Madden (Judsonia), Milo & Karen Hadwin (Searcy), Hannah Sanders (Bryant), George Bowman (Rogers), Craig Miller, Natasha Pitts, and Brenda & Reese Taylor (Bentonville), Lilah-Kate, Sam, and Will McCullar, John Shepard, and Claudia Mcgee (Bella Vista), Schon Booher and Charles Ward.

Those on our prayer list: Debbie Helms had heart surgery on Tuesday, May 22nd, to remove a mass on the left atrial. It was benign and successful. Both David & Renee Reeves are doing better. David was released from hospital, and Renee is still in rehab. Malcolm Winter's sinus surgery went well. Lee McCain's niece, Amanda Denny, needs our prayers. Continue to pray for LaFonda Williams' friend, Kim Barrett, David Saunders' mom, Janice Boyle, Wendell Holeman, Louise Webb, Lisa Nash, Charles Branstetter, Ann Clark, Harold Williams, Mary Kerley, David Pippin (undergoing chemo), our missionaries, our military and police force, our country and president.

Congratulations to our High School and College Graduates. We had their celebration Sunday evening. Best wishes to Kyle Bowman, Jazman Hott, Joshua Sloan, Aaron Edwards, Ashleigh Horn, and Lauren Rosenbaum.

Mary Louise thanks everyone for her birthday party! Thank you for coming and sharing this special day with her! She reminds us that the Fun Food & Fellowship Groups should finish in May, and we'll start back again in the fall.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: Canned chicken, Hamburger Helper, cereal, freezer bags, and toilet bowl cleaner.

Remember – A faith worth having is a faith worth sharing.

Love you, see you next Lord's Day. *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.....899-3089
Don Butcher.....855-1636
Dallas Dobbs271-8609

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Woody Barker Bryan Busbee Don Harless Joe Hott
Robert Horton Perry Johnson Dan Moss Harold Phillips Terry Roberts Aaron Sloan Mitchell Whittington

MINISTERS

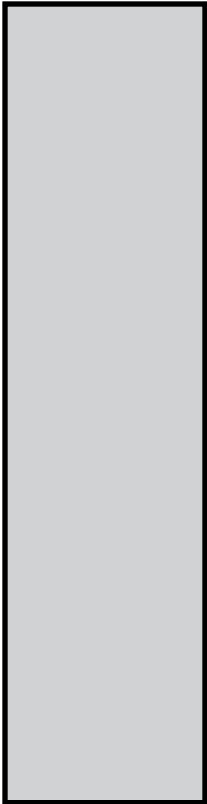
Randall Caselman.....855-4447
Jeff Grisham.....531-9135
Selwin NelCape Town, South Africa
Javier & Helmer RoseroBogota, Colombia

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LORD'S DAY	9:30 AM
Bible Class	10:30 AM
Worship	6:00 PM
Evening Worship	
WEDNESDAY	9:45 AM
Ladies' Class	6:45 PM
Bible Class	

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Bella Vista

A Soul Winning Heart

Most of us have been taught a hermeneutic which says, we practice religious concepts because of direct command, New Testament example, and necessary inference. If this is correct, then each Christian must become evangelistic, have a soul consciousness. We are to be sowers of the seed, teachers of the Word, proclaimers of the Good News... Soul Winners.

I'm convinced that soul winning, in our churches, is a priority to the extent that we care, really care. Until we have a deep personal concern for the lost, we will make little effort to serve them, win them, or keep them. Many of us are not soul winners simply because we are selfish. We are so focused on self that we have little concern for others.

Paul was soul conscious. Let's examine his heart, see what we can learn from his letter to the Thessalonians, in chapters two and three:

We must have a father's heart. Just how much do we care? *"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God who calls you into His kingdom and glory" I Thessalonians 2.11.* Paul spoke of those he led to Christ as his children, sons in the Gospel. He felt an ongoing responsibility to keep them in Christ, faithful to the word. Because a father's love never ends, we need to feel the responsibility for souls kept as well as souls won. Wonder how many we've allowed to slip out of the kingdom because of our lack of fatherly love, care, concern, teaching, and discipline. Church, if we love the lost with the love of a father, we would be more evangelistic. Amen?

We must suffer from an enlarged heart. Being soul conscious will cost us. *"So when we could stand it no longer, we thought it best to be left by ourselves in Athens. We sent Timothy who is our brother and God's fellow worker in spreading the Gospel, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith" I Thessalonians 3.1-2.*

Even the casual Bible student understands that Paul needed Timothy with him in Athens.

SOUL WINNERS



The mission effort in Europe had not been easy. It had taken its toll on Paul. But he was willing to give up Timothy's companionship for the saving of others. Note the phrase: *"To be left by ourselves in Athens."* The Greek word translated *"to be left"* is strong. It was a word used to describe those left behind due to the death of a companion. Sending Timothy back to Thessalonica was not easy for Paul, more like losing a loved one. Then there was the matter of traveling expense. Paul's evangelistic campaign was hand-to-mouth by tent making. This was tough, but sacrifices were made to keep the saved of Thessalonica saved. A soul winner has an enlarged heart, a sacrificial heart. Does that include us?

We must have a heart of faith. *"You know quite well that we are destined for trials. In fact, when we were with you, we kept telling you that we would be persecuted. And it turned out that way, as you know" I Thessalonians 3.3-4.* It takes faith and understanding to know that trials will come and yet not let the troubles of life blow us away. Soul winners need to tell converts that God never promised to remove troubles and problems from our life, but He does promise to give us strength to overcome. We are family. We need to share our faith. Faith is contagious. Faith causes us to be evangelistic in the first place. Share your faith. A soul winner has a heart of faith.

Have a heart of joy. *"How can we thank God enough for you, all the joy we have in the presence of God because of you" I Thessalonians 3.9?* Some in the church have a problem with joy and rejoicing. Not Paul. Seriousness and long faces are *not* a sign of piety. *"Rejoice and I say again, rejoice."* Put a smile on your face – A song in your heart: Philippians 4.4, Ephesians 5.19, Colossians 3.16. Souls won, souls saved, souls rescued, call for joy and rejoicing. Heaven rejoices, so should we. We need to learn to celebrate when we win over Satan. Some of us are afraid of a party. God smiles. His children are to have a heart of joy.

And a praying heart. *"Now may our God and Father Himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May He give you inner strength that you may be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones" I Thessalonians 3.11-13.* Paul had a genuine concern for his converts. We must love them, teach them to love one another, teach them to pray for inner strength, so that they be found blameless and holy as they look forward to the coming of Jesus.

How are we doing? Do we have the heart of a soul winner?

*Lead me to some soul today,
Teach me, Lord, just what to say;
Friends of mine are lost in sin
And cannot find their way.*

*Few there are who seem to care,
And few there are who pray,
Melt my heart and fill my life,
Give me one soul today.*

—RANDALL CASELMAN

Thinking About Our Purpose

Something over sixty years ago Thomas Wedel wrote about a life-saving station: "On a dangerous seacoast where shipwrecks often occur, there was once a small life-saving station. The building was primitive, just one boat, but the members were committed and kept a constant watch over the sea. When a ship went down, they unselfishly went out day or night, regardless of the weather, to save the lost. Because so many lives were saved, the station became famous. Consequently, many people wanted to give their time, talent, and money to support its important work. New boats were bought, new crews recruited, formal training sessions were offered. As the membership grew, some became unhappy that the building was so primitive and that the equipment so outdated. They wanted a better place to welcome the survivors pulled from the sea. So they replaced the emergency cots with beds, put in better furniture, enlarged and decorated the building.

The life-saving station became a popular gathering place for its members. They met regularly and when they did, it was apparent how they loved one another. They greeted each other, hugged each other, and shared with one another the events that had been going on in their lives. But fewer members were interested in going to sea on life-saving missions; so they hired lifeboat crews to do this for them.

Some time later, a large ship was wrecked off of the coast, and the hired crews brought in boatloads of cold, wet, dirty, sick, and half-drowned people. Some of them had black skin, some yellow. Some could speak English well, and some could hardly speak it at all. Some were first-class cabin passengers, others were the deck hands. The once beautiful meeting place became a place of chaos. The carpet got dirty. Exquisite furniture became scratched. So the property committee immediately had a shower built outside where the victims of shipwrecks could be cleaned up before they were brought inside.

Then there was rift in the membership. Most of the members wanted to stop the club's life-saving activities, they were unpleasant and a real hindrance to the normal fellowship activities. Others insisted that life-saving was their primary purpose and pointed out that they were still called a life-saving station. But they were voted down and told that if they wanted to save the lives of all those various kinds of people who would be shipwrecked, they could begin their own life-saving station down the coast. And do you know, that's what they did.

As years passed, the new station experienced the same changes that had occurred in the old. It evolved into a place to meet regularly for fellowship, for committee meetings, and for special training sessions, but few were interested in saving drowning people. History continued to repeat itself. And if you visit that seacoast today, you'll find a number of adequate meeting places with ample parking and plush carpeting. Even though shipwrecks are frequent, most people drown."



We understand this was written so we would take a long hard look at our church. Have we forgotten our purpose? Do we have a heart for souls? Will we answer every S.O.S.? Are we going into

the highways and the hedges, bringing in people for the feast the Lord has provided? Are we still a life-saving station? Are we personally into evangelism? Have we forgotten why the church exists?

God expects the church to be a lighthouse – a life-saving station declaring the message of that cross to a lost and dying world. He expects us to seek and save the lost. Amen?

—Adapted from an article by JEREMIAH TATUM
Submitted by Harold Akridge

FOR THE RECORD: 5/20/18

Sunday Class.....	153	Sunday AM Worship.....	265	Sunday PM.....	167
Wednesday.....	118	Offering.....	\$10,703.20	Budget.....	10,718

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 5/27/18

Announcements.....	Tom Verkler	AM Song Leader.....	Mark Bagwell
Elder's Prayer.....	Don Butcher	PM Song Leader.....	Lee McCain
Communion Scripture & Prayer.....	Curt LaPorte	PM Closing Prayer.....	Bob Spaw
Greeters.....	Jeff Grisham & Perry Johnson	Server.....	Roy Barnica, Jim Branstetter
Server.....	Don Cope, Greg Fulgham	Server.....	Michael Hale, Keith Hubanks
Server.....	Chris Johnson, Mike Lunsford	Server.....	Harold Phillips, Gary Syverson
Nursery.....	Cheryl & Lauren Rosenbaum	Van Driver.....	Malcolm Winters
Ladies Encouragement & Prayer.....			Judith Carmical & Cindy Johnson
Worship Coordinator.....	Mike York	Video Operator.....	Randall Hunt

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 5/30/18

Song Leading.....	Youth Service	Speaker.....	Youth Service	Announcements.....	Youth Service
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