

Family & Friends.....July 17th, 2019

We as Christians are facing many challenges these days. I like it when we sing this hymn at church: "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow." It was written by Ira Stanphill in 1950. It brings to light the things we forget sometimes when things seem out of kilter.

*"I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day;
I don't borrow from its sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray;
I don't worry o'er the future, For I know what Jesus said,
And today I'll walk beside Him, For He knows what is ahead.
Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow, And I know who holds my hand.*

This hymn was written by Ira after suffering through some difficult times in his life, including a devastating divorce, and a cancerous brain tumor. He also wrote the hymns "Follow Me" and "Mansion Over The Hilltop", and many more gospel songs. It's amazing what we can learn and be uplifted by these beautiful hymns. It can give us peace and comfort. Reminding us that no matter what is ahead, God is always there and in control. Thank You Lord for all You do for us! 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 each week: Jeremy, Ashlee, Bailey & Avery Beauchamp (Norcross, GA), David & Wanda, Kaylie, Sarah, Josh Coberley (Pineville, MO), Bryan & Rachel McCool (Stella, MO), Priscilla Paugh (Gravette), Linda Wheelock (Centerton), Jim, Jaxon & Georgine Caylor, Cory & Keri Roberts, Brenda, Caliopy, & Reese Taylor (Bentonville), Samantha, Karrie, & Chris O'Neal & John Shepard (Bella Vista), Dallas, Jeanie & Quill Hubanks, and Makiley Rhodes.

Those on our prayer list: Doris Rhodes was at the hospital Sunday with a UTI, and is now back home. Mattlee Grace is not doing well and she is unresponsive. Stan Hankins is to have surgery Thursday July 18th at Mercy. Mary Kerley has been hospitalized with fluid buildup around her heart. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Joe Hott and family in the loss of his sister, Barbara Bell, who passed away. Elaine Easterling is in need of our prayers. Pray for Chuck Pippin, the Whittington's grandson, Brody, Ava Sailors, Terry Balentine's family, (His father is in Hospice), Margaret White, David Bradley, Mike Lacey, Glenda Jones, Barbara Reasons, our missionaries, our military and our law enforcement, our country and president.

Items needed for Fair Haven Children's Home: BBQ sauce, salmon, spinach, canned chicken, and dishwashing liquid.

We can sleep in peace when we remember that God is awake.

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

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	

Phone: 479/273-2434

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ELDERS

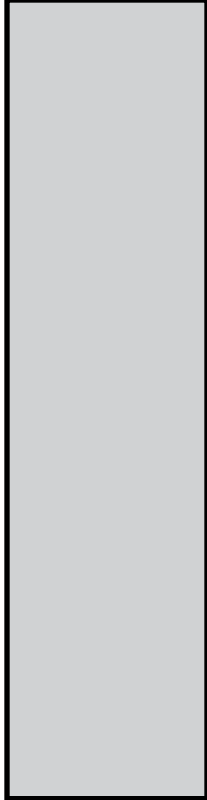
Tracy Bowman.....479-899-3089
Don Butcher.....636-548-0458
Dallas Dobbs.....479-271-8609

DEACONS

Mark Bagwell John Bowman Woody Barker 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



Bella Vista

MINISTERS

Thumps and Bumps

When the potter takes a pot out of the kiln, he checks it by thumping it with his forefinger. If it 'sings,' its ready. If it 'thuds,' he puts it back in to bake some more. Daddy used to check a watermelon in the same way, by thumping. Here it is, human character is checked in the same way, by thumps and bumps: Phone calls at three a.m. in the morning, burnt meals, flat tires on the interstate, blackberry cobbler on a white shirt, grouchy teachers, insensitive bosses; on-and-on we could go. Sometimes thumps and bumps in the road trigger the worst in us. They aren't big enough to be a crises, but if they come too close together, watch out! We lose our cool, even our religion. Morning traffic jams, long lines at the grocery store or in the bank, empty mailboxes, full mailboxes, dirty cloths strewn on the floor, lights left on, teens coming home after midnight: Thump. Thump. Bump. Bump.

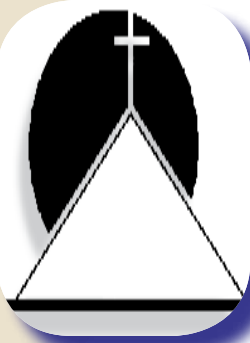
The question becomes: How do we respond? Jesus tells us that the mouth speaks what is stored up in the heart. We have a choice how we respond to daily thumps and bumps. How do we react?

Let's review some Scriptures that remind us of a correct response to life's everyday problems for those who are attempting to have the heart, mind, disposition, and behavior of Jesus.

James 1.2-4... *"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything..."*

2 Corinthians 4.17... *"For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all."*

1 Peter 1.6-7... *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*



Indeed, there is nothing that reveals the true shape and nature of our heart any more than how we deal with life's thumps and bumps. What we need to understand is that God is at work in them providing us with a blessing.

James 1.12... "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."

Isaiah 43.2... "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze."

1 Peter 2.19-21... "It is commendable if a man bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because he is conscious of God... If you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps."

And let us never forget that in all our thumps and bumps, God is at work molding, reshaping, remaking us; working for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Amen?

—RANDALL CASELMAN

FOR THE RECORD: 7/14/19

Sunday Class.....178 Sunday AM Worship.....260 Sunday PM.....132
 Wednesday.....153 Offering.....\$9,930 Budget.....\$11,400

SUNDAY SERVANTS: 7/21/19

Welcome & Elder's Prayer..... Dallas Dobbs	AM Song Leader..... Anthony Christiano
Communion Scripture & Prayer..... Gene Geren	AM Closing Prayer..... Steve Kinder
Greeters..... Greg Fulgham & Keith Hubanks	PM Song Leader..... VBS
Ladies Encouragement..... Judith Carmical & Nan Cope	PM Closing Prayer..... VBS
Server..... James Beaty	Server..... Mark Bagwell
Server..... Billy Helms, Robert Horton	Server..... Caleb Cannon, Randall Hunt
Server..... Frank James, Mike Lunsford	Server..... Matt Grisham, Terry Roberts
Nursery..... Brenda & Alana Tucker	Van Driver..... Bryan Busbee
Worship Coordinator..... Mark Tucker	Video Operator..... Chris Johnson

WEDNESDAY SERVANTS: 7/24/19

Song Leader.....VBS Speaker.....VBS Announcements & Prayer.....VBS

VBS
July 21st-25th
6:30 – 8:30

Focus On Heaven

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God.

And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory."

Colossians 3:1-4

I remember my dad teaching me how to make a straight row in the garden. Sometimes my rows tended to meander here and there. Dad said to focus on a point way out at the end of the row and not to concentrate on the ground right in front of you. He would lay out his rows with a hoe handle, measuring with his hands the width he wanted his rows apart. Then he would put a stake in the ground. He would walk to the other end and measure, then take up his plow and focus on the stake at the end of the row. Dad made straight rows and always had a good garden.

There is a spiritual lesson in this story, and it relates to what Paul tells the Colossians in his letter to them. Some translations say,

"...seek those things which are above..." (NKJV);
 "...now set your heart on what is in heaven..." (CEV);
 "...set your hearts on things above..." (NIV).

One of the keys to living a successful Christian life is our focus. Daily we are filling our hearts with something. What do we use for filling? Is it our hobbies, our job, our entertainment, our vacations, our sports and recreation? All these things have their place and they are good unless they become our focus. When our own entertainment is the thing with which we fill our hearts, we may make a jolly companion for our friends, but our Christian commitment and witness will suffer.

Demas seems to be a man who lost his focus. We meet Demas in Colossians 4:14, "Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you." Demas is mentioned along with Luke in this passage as a companion and helper for Paul. He was with Paul in his imprisonment and was, no doubt, useful to Paul. However, in 2 Timothy 4:10 Paul indicates a new focus in the life of Demas, "...for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica..." We are not told what attracted Demas to Thessalonica, but Paul's assessment of the situation indicates it was his love for this present world. Demas was no longer focused on heaven; his heart was set on this world. He exchanged the eternal for the temporary He was no longer useful for Paul or for the work of the church; his heart was wrapped up in this present world.

What caused Demas to lose his focus? We don't know for certain. He was one who put his hand to the plow and then turned back (Luke 9:62).

In Luke's account someone said, "Lord, I will follow you, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." Jesus replied to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Demas looked back. Instead of keeping his focus on things above he began to concentrate on the things around him. Let us learn from Demas that we must keep our sights on the realities of heaven. We must fill our hearts with God's word and with his love.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves in heaven... For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"
(Matthew 6:19-21).

—SCOTT GAGE
 South Hill Church of Christ
 Fayetteville, AR

THINK ON THESE THINGS...

"Hating People is like burning your own house to get rid of a rat."

—Harry Emerson Fosdick

"I will not permit any man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

—Montaigne

If you want to lift yourself up, Lift someone else up.

—Booker T. Washington

"Hatred stirs up conflict, but love covers over all wrongs."

—Proverbs 10.12

"And the second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself"

—Jesus