

hope **one** God
 Lord Spirit body
 faith **family**
 baptism hope

October 27, 2013

12932 S. Elwood Ave. • Glenpool OK, 74033

ELDERS

Carl Burrus
 Jesse Byers
 Bobby Hill
 Bill Path

MINISTER

Benjamin Williams

PRISON MINISTER

Bill Hamrick

DEACONS

Matt Caldwell,
 ASSOCIATE MINISTER,
 YOUTH & EDUCATION

WORSHIP

Keith Riggs,

OUTREACH

Bruce Rothell,

MISSIONS

SECRETARY

Karen Brown

What Not to Say

I was asked to address the question, "What do you say to someone whose child died from cancer and they want to blame God? Their sadness and their anger with God just seem to rule their life!" Long before we concern ourselves with "what to say" to grief-stricken souls who are wrestling with anger toward God, we first need to focus on "what to do" for such a person, i.e., how we should respond to them, treat them, and minister to them. Our "presence" and our actions of kindness and compassion should always precede our words, and completely substitute for them if necessary. Show compassion, extend kindness, demonstrate humility, deal with them gently, and be patient with them (Colossians 3:12).

The emotions of those who have suffered soul-jarring and faith-shaking losses are very real and extremely raw. What they feel is what they feel. Their pain is deep. Their grief is intense. To attempt to get them to deny their emotions, to suppress their feelings, or to feel guilty about their anger will be completely unhelpful and counterproductive and will almost certainly ensure that you will not be welcomed to walk beside them throughout their long journey of grief.

While I will conclude with a few suggestions as to what words might be offered to accompany our deeds of compassion, let me first identify a few specific things not to say.

"Everything happens for a reason."

No it doesn't. Not even close. This is one of those statements that is almost in the Bible. Though it may sound like an affirmation of unqualified faith in a sovereign God, in actuality it slanderously accuses God of cruelty and injustice and impugns His divine will. Romans 8:28 is frequently used as a proof text for this unbiblical notion, but that passage doesn't teach that all earthly outcomes are somehow the result of a micro-managing, manipulative Deity. Read the passage carefully. "Everything happens for a reason" is a quotation from Marilyn Monroe, not the Messiah. Since I have written about this statement previously, I won't further belabor the point here. (See last week's article on "Everything Happens for a Reason, Right?" for a lengthier discussion and explanation.)

"God won't give you more than you can handle."

Again, close, but no canon! Almost in the Bible, but not! What about I Corinthians 10:13? What about it? The specific subject of that verse is temptation (enticement to do evil), and it affirms that God will always provide a way of escape for us; that is, no spiritual lose-lose scenarios where our only recourse is to sin; there will be a way out of temptation, if we choose to take it. But, that is theo-

SUNDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 9:30 am
 Morning Worship Assembly 10:30 am
 Evening Worship & Classes 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 7:00 pm

Continued...

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logical light years away from saying, "God will never give you more than you can handle," in regard to anything and everything in this life. Such a statement suggests that God's divine hand is on a celestial spigot of suffering, determining and divvying out tragedies and heartaches based on His assessment of our ability to "handle it." It is not only wrong and hurtful, but insulting, to suggest to someone that their immense suffering is somehow a divine "compliment."

"God is in control."

Ultimately, yes; God reigns supreme and unrivaled over the whole of His creation. But a cosmic control freak who expressly and explicitly manipulates and maneuvers the actions and outcomes in the lives of 7.1 billion people? No, no, a thousand times, no!!! Offered as a response to a tragic loss, "God is in control," comes across as yet another hollow platitude, and, worse, one that wrongfully lays the blame for our suffering squarely at the foot of God's throne of grace.

"God has a plan."

Yes, He indeed does, but the death of their child was not a part of it.

"One day you'll understand why; one day you'll know the reason."

No, they won't.

If this is a person who you know and love, tell them how much they mean to you and how much your heart aches with them and for them. Tell them how much you loved their child, and how much you miss them. Tell them, "I can't imagine the pain, the hurt, the sense of loss, and the anger that you are feeling." Unless, of course, you can! But, even if you haven't walked that particular road of pain yourself, you can connect them with others who have, who can help minister to them and who know precisely what they are experiencing.

Grief is a journey and a process, not an event. Patiently love them and consistently demonstrate the Spirit of Jesus Christ. When the time is right, assure them that God loves them, too. Remind them that they can speak openly and honestly to God about what they are feeling.

Hopefully, in time, they will come to see how God can bring light even out of the darkest of nights, and out of our brokenness He can bring blessing. He is not the Cause, but rather the Redeemer of our suffering.

by Tim Pyles

upcoming
work dinners
events fellowship meetings
retreats picnics games parties

Wednesday, Oct 30th

5th Wednesday, regular class schedule - no singing

Saturday, November 2nd

Time Changes (turn clocks backward)

Sunday, November 10th

Elder's & Deacon's meeting **2:30** --bring your budget proposals--

Saturday, November 16th

Youth Service Dinner

Wednesday, November 27th

Wednesday evening service moved to Tuesday evening

Sunday, December 1st

Christmas Party after evening services; group Path

Sunday, December 1st

Ladies meeting at 3:30

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

- Lease Mulkey's mother, Sue Gilbert, is in room 201 at St Francis hospital (no visitors, please).
- Eric Vaughan is home from the hospital after his heart procedure. (one of the leads to his pacemaker was broken) He is doing well.
- Barbara Vaughan has a staph infection in one of her lungs and is in a lot of pain with her back.
- Dolores Scherman's incision from her back surgery wasn't healing properly so last Wed. night they repaired it. She should be back at the Gardens soon (if not already there).
- Susie O'Neal's son, John Griffith, is having multiple challenges in his life.
- Anna Rafferty is having health problems.
- Beverly Wooley was able to be with us Wednesday evening - we hope she continues to improve.
- **Our friends and family:** Dan & Edna Jones; Shelia Byers (cancer); Suzanne Stamps; Leola Harmon (stroke); Jean Lovett (cancer); Sue Gilbert (Leasa's mother); Eddie Morgan (cancer); Jennifer Dunn (thyroid cancer); Linda Patterson (stroke); Rita Chalakee (lung cancer); Beverly Wooley (shoulder surgery); Dolores Scherman; many others.
- **Service men and women:** Ron Wilson; Jenna Sullivan.

MEN

The November Worship Assignment sheet is available in the foyer.

BUILDING PROGRAM

As you can see we have a foundation poured for our new auditorium. We ask you to please stay off of the new cement and out of the fenced in area. Thank you so much.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Edna Jones, Oct 27
Keith & Nancy Riggs, Oct 27
Steve Rucquoy, Oct 28
Autumn Caldwell, Oct 29
Jackson Wadkins, Oct 29th

Nick White, Nov 2
Evan Bain, Nov 4
Kaylee Whitchurch, Nov 5
Lilia Rothell, Nov 9
Darrell Burcham, Nov 12

Dakota Perry, Nov 13
Jesse Byers, Nov 13
Shirley Hill, Nov 15
Mickey Hecht, Nov 17
Natasha Tuggle, Nov 19



- **Alexis Wooley** Knows the number of books in the whole Bible, and in the Old and New Testaments. Good Work!

SOMETHING NEW!

We have a new item on our church's website! An Online Bible Course titled "Know Your Bible" is now available for everyone. Go to our website (www.glenpoolchurchofchrist.com) and click the button 'Online Learning' (upper right side) and it will take you to the Bible course. Please pass the word to all your friends. It is also being advertised on Facebook (just click on the ad and it will take you to the correspondence course). Pass the Word!

MEETING

Elder's and Deacon's meeting Sunday, Nov 10th at **2:30**. Don't forget to bring your budget proposals. (Take note of early meeting time).

TIME CHANGE

Don't forget to move your clocks back one hour this Saturday evening, November 2nd.



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

If you know of a family the church can help with a basket of food, please give their name and the number in the household to Keith Riggs by Nov. 1st. After we know how many families we will be collecting for, a list will be posted for the needed items. Those items will need to be at the church building by Nov 17th.

GLENPOOL church of Christ

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Attendance: Last Week

Sunday Bible Classes	95
Sunday AM Worship	134
Sunday PM Worship	75
Wednesday Bible Classes	95

Contribution

Sunday Contribution	\$3,847.00
Budget	\$4,041.00
Over Budget	\$3,762.22
Building Fund	\$295,986.53

Men To Serve

Sunday Morning

Song Leader	Randy Brown
Opening Prayer	Larry Grown
Closing Prayer	Dalton Path
Scripture Reading	Ian Hill
Lord's Table	Bruce Rothell Randy Crawford Bobby Hill Doyle Tuggle

Ushers

Chris Patterson
Bob Simmons

Greeter

Scott Lack

Lock Building

Jack Myrick; Jim Yeager

Sunday Evening

Song Leader	Jerry Buller
Opening Prayer	Ryan McCafferty
Closing Prayer	Jesse Byers
Lord's Table	Bruce Rothell Randy Crawford

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer	Jerry Buller
Closing Prayer	Randy Crawford
Song Leader	Randy Brown

Communion Preparation

10/6	Marilyn Pulliam
10/13	Steph Bullinger
10/20	Janice O'Shields
10/27	Shirley Hill
11/3	Selene Williams
11/10	Renee Whitchurch
11/17	Susan Yeager
11/24	Barbara Girod

Next Quarterly Ladies Meeting

Sunday, December 1st
3:30 pm

EAT THIS BOOK READINGS

10/27	Jer15-17; Ps107:23-43; Rm9-11
10/28	Jer 18-20; Ps 108; Rm 12-13
10/29	Jer 21-22; Ps 109; Rm 14-15
10/30	Jer 23-24; Ps 110; Rm 16
10/31	Jer 25-26; Ps 111; 1 Cor 1
11/1	Jer 27-29; Ps 112; 1 Cor 2-3
11/2	Jer 30-31; Ps 113; 1 Cor 4-5



IN SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

*These were more noble... they searched the scriptures daily... (Acts 17:11)

Sundays at 7:30 a.m. KWHB
TV47 or Cable Channel 7

Search Programs:

Oct 27 - Building Intimacy
Nov 3 - The Message of the Cross
Nov 10 - Whatever
Nov 17 - Listening to God
Nov 24 - Let Us Give Thanks

Sunday Morning Sermon

A Christian Exodus
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Sunday Evening Class

How to Study the Bible
Benjamin J. Williams