



## Missed Opportunities

Have you ever heard the idiom, “*You can’t see the forest for the trees.*” It means that you are unable to see the overall picture because you are focused on the minor details. Or, failing to see the bigger picture due to an obsession with the smaller parts. On several occasions, Jesus healed on the Sabbath; but the Pharisees were so obsessed over violating the laws of the Sabbath, that they did not see the good being done; thus, failing to praise God for His marvelous works. I believe we see the same thing in the situation of Mary and Martha. Martha was so obsessed with the meal and Mary not helping her, that she complained to Jesus (Luke 10.38-42). Jesus told Martha that Mary was focused on listening to Him which was much more important than the meal. Would you say that Martha “*couldn’t see the forest for the trees*”?

On another occasion, as Jesus and His disciples were walking in Jerusalem, they passed by a man who had been born blind (John 9.1-34). They asked Jesus, “*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*” Jesus told them that neither had sinned and that was not the cause of his blindness. Jesus said, “*It was not this man who sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.*” Jesus was telling them to stop focusing on the question about sin and start focusing on the opportunity for God to be glorified.

Are we so busy with the minor details of life that we fail to see opportunities all around us to glorify God? I have been amazed at how many people I have met while out in public who are starving for conversation. Ever seen someone sitting alone on a park bench and taken the time to say “Hello!” Or someone out shopping with a gloomy face? Do we just ignore them and walk on by, I mean are we so busy and in such a rush about everything that we don’t take the time to speak? We just want to get what we came for and get out of there. Is it a missed opportunity? Your joy and smiling face could certainly brighten someone’s day by letting them see the beauty of Jesus in you. Jesus told His disciples, “*We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work*” (John 9.4). His disciples were to focus on doing good and sharing their faith, not on things that play no role in the outcome.



The apostle Paul told Timothy not to waste time arguing over foolish ideas and silly myths and legends. But to spend his time and energy in the exercise of keeping spiritually fit. Jesus condemned the Pharisees for being so focused on tithing mint and dill and cumin, that they neglected justice, mercy, and faithfulness (Matthew 23.23). They were so focused on the minute details of tithing everything, even the herbs in the garden, that they missed the bigger picture. Is our focus on the bigger picture of seeking the lost? Are we using our opportunities to share our faith? We must never lose sight of our heavenly home and what really matters in life. Let us take advantage of every opportunity we have and share our great love of God with others!

Gary

## Without Christ

### Ephesians 2.1-3

1. We can be without many things in life and still be content and successful.
2. In the Scriptures, we read about those who were without some important things.
3. But there is One we cannot do without.
4. Paul wrote of the condition of those who were without Christ.
5. What are we without when we are without Christ.

### Without Christ, We Are...

#### I. Without \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 2.1, 5).

A. The Ephesians were “*dead in the trespasses and sins.*”

1. Sinners apart from God are often said to be \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 6.13; Ephesians 5.14; Colossians 2.13; I Timothy 5.6; Revelation 3.1).
2. These Gentiles had been made alive again with Christ (Ephesians 2.5).

B. On the other hand, those who have Christ have \_\_\_\_\_.

#### II. Without \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 2.2, 10).

A. The Ephesians were \_\_\_\_\_.

B. They had “*missed the mark.*”

C. Only those who have Christ know the way (John 14.6; Matthew 7.13, 14).

#### III. Without \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 2.8).

A. What state were the Ephesians in before they came into contact with Christ?

B. Only in Christ do we have access to such (I Thessalonians 5.9, 10; 2 Timothy 2.10; Hebrews 5.9).

#### IV. Without \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 2.12).

A. The Ephesians were “*without hope in the world*” (Ephesians 2.12).

1. The language Paul uses is emphatic which means “on-going.”
2. As Christians, we are not without hope (I Thessalonians 4.13).

B. Only those today who have \_\_\_\_\_, have \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Colossians 1.27; I Thessalonians 1.3; I Timothy 1.1).

#### V. Without \_\_\_\_\_ To God (Ephesians 2.13-21).

A. Why were they without God?

1. They were given up by God because of their \_\_\_\_\_ (I Thessalonians 4.5; Romans 1.18-32).
2. They could not have a relationship with the Father until they had His Son.

B. Only those who have Christ today have a relationship with the Father.

1. Even in prayer, we could not approach \_\_\_\_\_ without \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hebrews 7.25; Romans 8.34; I John 2.1, 2).
2. Jesus revealed to His disciples that they had known the \_\_\_\_\_ by knowing \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14.7-11).

**Conclusion:** Are you without Christ? Won't you follow the example of the Ephesians and find Christ today?

# C O N N E C T I O N

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## Vacation Bible School The Best (and Most Organized) Chaos of the Summer



Vacation Bible School—better known as VBS—is that enjoyable time of year when the building transforms into a whirlwind of laughter, songs, snacks, and kids with the energy of a thousand suns. It's part Bible study, part summer camp, and part Olympic-level glitter distribution.

So, what exactly happens at VBS? Glad you asked! Every day, kids show up excited (and slightly sticky), ready to sing worship songs at full volume, hear Bible stories with drama skits, listen to lessons, eat snacks in a way that fuels their minds as well as their stomachs, and attempt craft projects that may or may not resemble the original example.

But VBS isn't just about fun—it's about planting seeds. Kids learn about Jesus and the Bible in a way that sticks with them long after the glue dries on their crafts. It's a time when Bible stories come to life, friendships are formed, and at least one volunteer ends up with something they never knew they needed or wanted but will treasure forever.

In short, VBS is like a mini spiritual boot camp—except with way more snacks and fewer push-ups. It's a week where kids grow in their faith, and volunteers discover how much energy they truly have (or don't have). And in the end, everyone walks away a little closer to Jesus—and maybe just a little bit covered in glitter.

Has this caught your attention? Now, I know what you're thinking—"But I'm busy!" or "I don't even like glitter!" or "What if a 5-year-old asks me a theological question I can't answer?" Don't worry! VBS isn't about having all the answers or avoiding sticky fingers—it's about showing up, having fun, and sharing the love of Jesus with kids who will remember you forever (or at least until snack time).

If you want to offer a sacrifice to our Lord that isn't just the fruits of your labor but your labor, or you want to try fishing for men and kids, and planting a garden with everlasting fruits. Then, well... ask Holly Thomas... or me.

With love -  
Buck Thomas



*This week's shut-in spotlight shines on:*

*Please send them a note of encouragement or give them a call to let them know we still care.*

*Jean Wiggins*

*2698 South Hulen Street*

*Room 72*

*Fort Worth, Texas 76109*

*Visits*

*Mignon Bandy*

*25 Leonard Trail*

*Apartment 417*

*Westworth Village, Texas 76114*

*Calls And Visits,*

*Please call ahead*

## SHEPHERDS

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Greg Ball      | 214-801-7375  |
| Russ Bartee    | 817-938-5825  |
| Dan Kille      | 817-793-7493  |
| Chuck Meyer    | 682-553-5444  |
| Tom Pauley     | 817- 370-5515 |
| Ross Tomlinson | 682-429-1983  |
| *John Walton   | 817-441-0000  |

\*Shepherd of the month

## MINISTERS

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Gary Williams:            | 662-321-3208 |
| <i>Pulpit Minister</i>    |              |
| Les Keele:                | 817-808-0566 |
| <i>Associate Minister</i> |              |
| James Bowie:              | 817-944-4492 |
| <i>Youth Minister</i>     |              |

## LAOTIAN MINISTRY

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| John Boudtaroth | 817-891-2132 |
|-----------------|--------------|

## DEACONS

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Jon Bartee      | 817-889-2686 |
| David Birdow    | 972-310-1143 |
| James Bowie     | 817-944-4492 |
| Zach Brookshire | 817-296-9918 |
| Brandon Duncan  | 903-603-1059 |
| Jay Garner      | 817-205-2070 |
| Ben Meyer       | 817-673-8557 |
| Robert Scott    | 817-246-0911 |
| Matt Sloan      | 405-471-3404 |
| Steve Taylor    | 817-291-2065 |
| Buck Thomas     | 817-733-2620 |
| Arthur Torrez   | 817-721-2726 |

## MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

**Welcome** - Zach Brookshire

**Song Leader** - Matt Sloan

**Song** - How Great Is Our God

**Song** - Sanctuary

**Song** - Just For Today

**Prayer** - Glenn Baird

**Scripture** - Ephesians 2:1-3

**Song** - Come Share The Lord

**Lord's Supper** - Ronnie Tucker

**Prayer for Contribution** - Ronnie Tucker

**Song** - The Greatest Command

**Without Christ** - Gary Williams

**Song** - Rock Of Ages

**Announcements** - Les Keele

**Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal** - John Walton

Our Code for Tithe.ly Giving



**Attended Nursery:** After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

### Monday, February 10

Exodus 23-24: 1 Peter 4

### Tuesday, February 11

Exodus 25-26: 1 Peter 5

### Wednesday, February 12

Exodus 27-28: Psalm 96

### Thursday, February 13

Exodus 29-30: 2 Corinthians 1

### Friday, February 14

Exodus 31-32: 2 Corinthians 2

### Saturday, February 15

Exodus 33-34: 2 Corinthians 3

### Sunday, February 16

Exodus 35-36: 2 Corinthians 4

### Last Week

|             |     |              |              |
|-------------|-----|--------------|--------------|
| Bible Class | 127 | Wednesday    | 96           |
| Worship     | 239 | Contribution | \$ 8,816.17  |
| PM Worship  | 59  | Budget       | \$ 14,216.88 |

### Times of Assemblies

|                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Bible Class:            | 9:00 AM  |
| Sunday Morning Worship: | 10:00 AM |
| Sunday Evening Worship: | 5:00 PM  |
| Wednesday Evening:      | 7:00 PM  |

## PRAYER REQUESTS CHURCH FAMILY

| NAME  | SITUATION   | PRAY FOR                                  |
|---|---|---|
| Steve Taylor<br><small>02/05/2025</small>                 | Will have sinus surgery this week.<br>9837 Bancroft Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126  | Doctors, successful surgery, and recovery |
| Dahlia Cade<br><small>02/01/2025</small>                  | Is in Ignite Medical Resort, Room 148, following her knee surgery.<br>6301 Oakmont Blvd, Fort Worth, TX 76132<br>Home: 3832 Kelvin Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76133                  | Complete recovery                         |
| Kham and Chris Intharansy<br><small>02/05/2025</small>    | Vandy Inthalangsy, nephew and cousin, has passed away.<br>Chris: 1800 Fuller Wise Road, Apartment 633, Euless, Texas 76039<br>Kham: 7137 Bob Hanger Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76179 | Peace and comfort                         |
| Patricia Emerson<br><small>02/05/2025</small>             | Cancer has returned.<br>6536 Wooddale, Fort Worth, Texas 76148  | Treatments and healing                    |
| Susie and Kasie Muongnamvong<br><small>02/05/2025</small> | Sangkip Bouapraseth, husband and father, has passed away from stage 4 pancreatic cancer.<br>7117 Seth Barwise, Fort Worth, Texas 76179  | Comfort, understanding, and peace         |
| The Garner Family<br><small>1/31/2025</small>             | Ray Ground, Amanda's father, passed away on Friday, January 31. Services were held this past Friday.<br>122 Silver Ridge Lane, Aledo, Texas 76008                                   | Peace and Comfort                         |
| Betty Kille<br><small>1/16/2024</small>                   | Has been diagnosed with cancer and begun chemo. She is at home.<br>4112 Arroyo Trail, Fort Worth, Texas 76135   | Healing and comfort                       |
| Ray Doshier<br><small>1/10/2024</small>                   | Has returned to Mira Vista, Room 148.<br>Home: 925 Kimbrough, Fort Worth, Texas 76108<br>Mira Vista Court: 7021 Bryant Irvin Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76132                          | Healing and comfort                       |
| Paula Williams<br><small>1/8/2025</small>                 | Needs her blood to be regulated and is having clots to continue to develop in her lungs.<br>3237 Hunter Park Circle, Fort Worth, Texas 76116  | Healing                                   |
| Bob Willyerd<br><small>1/10/2025</small>                  | Fell and broke his left collar bone. His injury will not require surgery.<br>3704 Guadalupe Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76116   | Proper healing and comfort                |
| Bill Baumann<br><small>1/8/2025</small>                   | Has been diagnosed with lung and prostate cancer.<br>25 Leonard Trail, Apartment #240, Westworth Village, Texas 76114   | Healing                                   |
| Kham Intharansy<br><small>12/30/2024</small>              | Will have her fistula procedure on her right arm at THR Alliance on February 13, beginning 1:30 PM.<br>7137 Bob Hanger Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76179                              | Healing, comfort, and best treatment      |

## FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS

| NAME   | REQUESTED            | SITUATION  | PRAYERS FOR  |
|--|----------------------|--|--|
| Linda, sister of                                   | Les Keele            | Is having almost constant seizures. She has epilepsy that has, until this point, been controlled with medication. Linda is currently in the hospital being tested and monitored.   | Resolution to the condition, peace of mind for her and her family<br><br><span style="float: right;">02/05/2025</span>   |
| Travis Reynolds, a family friend of,               | Sue Little-Smith     | Has passed away.   | Please pray his wife Carrie<br><br><span style="float: right;">02/05/2025</span>   |
| Lisa Harriman                                      |                      | <b>UPDATE:</b> She is just about finished with her infusions and oral chemo treatments. The most recent CT showed the treatment and many prayers are working to shrink the tumors and there is no evidence of any additional cancer cells. Her blood counts remain in the normal range.<br>400 North Tacoma Street, Farmington, Arkansas 72730 | Thanking God for the good results of the present treatments; prayers for upcoming surgery and continued treatments; strength, peace of mind<br><br><span style="float: right;">09/11/2024</span> |
| Bob Forkner, father of the Bowie's brother in- law | James and Leah Bowie | Had an amputation of his foot due to infection.  | That the doctors got all the infection<br><br><span style="float: right;">1/2/2025</span>  |
| Ariana Quintero, granddaughter of                  | Paula Pauley         | Her family, located in Altadena, California, was under a mandatory evacuation due to fires and hurricane-force winds. They have lost everything.   | God to be with the family at this difficult time and with every one in this area suffering from the fires<br><br><span style="float: right;">1/8/2024</span>                                     |
| George, brother of                                 | Betty Kille          | Is recovering from brain surgery and he is in pain, very emotional, and confused.  | Please pray for healing, recovery, peace, and comfort<br><br><span style="float: right;">12/31/2024</span>   |
| Mitch Bennett, son of                              | Shirley Bennett      | Has a heart aneurysm and will be having surgery.   | Successful surgery and healing<br><br><span style="float: right;">12/30/2024</span>  |
| Robert Birdow, father of                           | David Birdow         | Has completed his radiation and is doing well. Almost back to 100%.  | Thankfulness to God for seeing Him through this<br><br><span style="float: right;">12/04/2024</span>   |
| Dad of   | Russ Jones           | Had a PET Scan and he has an aggressive form of prostate cancer. There will be 2 surgeries and then radiation.   | Good results<br><br><span style="float: right;">12/01/2024</span>  |

## MEMBER INFORMATION

### New Members

Paula and Keenan Williams  
3237 Hunter Park Circle  
Fort Worth, Texas 76116.

Their phone number is 917-412-0936  
Please welcome them.

### Address Changes

Bill and Betty Baumann  
25 Leonard Trail  
Apartment #240  
Westworth Village, Texas 76114

Louise Beagle  
1155 NW John Jones Drive  
**House C** - Room 11  
Burleson, Texas 76028

Charlie Beagle  
1155 NW John Jones Drive  
**House B** - Room 11  
Burleson, Texas 76028

**Please up-date your directories.**

## SYMPATHY

To the Family of Ray Ground  
The funeral was this past Friday.

To the Family of Sangkip Bouapraseth  
The service was this past Thursday.

## FOOD BANK STATISTICS

DECEMBER, 2024  
196 – Families Served  
\$ 894.01 – Cost to WHCOG  
6,433 pounds – Estimated Weight of Food

## YOUTH GROUP



Please register for LTC. Should you need any assistance in the process, contact Leah Bowie.

## VBS

Anyone who wishes to participate in VBS is asked to see Buck or Holly Thomas to be assigned an area in which to serve.

## CORPORATE MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Corporate Meeting of members of the Western Hills Church of Christ will be held at

8800 Chapin Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76116

March 2, 2025

5:45 PM

## LADIES' AND MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

**TUESDAY MORNINGS  
10 AM**

**Men's Class  
Hebrews  
Meets in the Library**

**Ladies' Bible Class  
Women Of The Bible Speak  
Taught by Paula Pauley  
Meets in the Fellowship Hall**

## NEW YOUTUBE CLASS

Join our own David Birdow in "Walking Through The Scriptures" on Youtube. Simply search this title and you will be able to access his lessons.

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3 Chris Intharansy

5 Meth Boudtaroth

7 Mignon Bandy

8 Makayla Johnston

10 Dwight Blair

11 Minnie Collins

12 Kim Brown

12 Jean Wiggins

13 Marie Perez

14 Joe Gentry

15 Michelle Glenn

15 Tiffany Markum

16 Carol Meyer

16 Andrew Montanez

17 Sandra Wade

17 John Wright

17 Jazelle Manry

27 Mary Lou Lee

27 Paula Pauley

27 Gene Menzdorf

## CHILDREN

13 Lily Scott

21 Mason Martinez

25 Stephanie Duncan

## ANNIVERSARIES

3 Isaiah & Stefani Sanchez

11 Monty & Vickie Bower

12 Zach & Amy Brookshire

18 Rob & Zena Donahue

