



the *Calvary Caller*

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Dealing with Discouragement

Hopefully by the time you get this it will be much warmer, and we will actually be in spring. Sunshine and flowers have a way of helping people feel better. However, there is a slight possibility that there could be a rare person in the congregation that has fallen under the crushing weight of discouragement, and they are unable to rise above it. So let's evaluate why we have hope in the light of what is causing the pressure. When we look at things from God's perspective, we always have hope. You think of the worse case scenario possible, and by God's grace there is hope. I can't think of a more crippling blow than gathering at the graveside of a young person. Yes, even then, the child of God has hope. Our hope is not hope in hope anymore than our faith is in faith. Our hope is deeply rooted in the truth that after three days our Savior, who bore the penalty of our sin, rose from the dead! This is what sustains God's people.

By God's grace, we will be observing the two ordinances that the Lord has given His blood-bought people. On April 9, there are some people who have desired to follow the Lord in baptism, identifying with Him in His death, burial and resurrection. Lord willing, we will also gather around the Bread and the Cup and give God thanks for the

very meaning of our faith. In the light of the sustaining hope in Jesus, we worship Him for who He is- the Son of the Living God.

In closing, we have added a letter to the Caller this month that is expressing the heartfelt thanks from Frank and Julie Rogers. My family, along with hundreds of other people from our community, gathered in the front yard of their farm where their fourteen year old son (Michael Quintin Rogers) was laid to rest. Frank has asked for continued prayers for his family. Let us be in much prayer that "the God of All Comfort" will sustain them in their horrific loss. It's this time of year when life starts bursting forth from the cold, dead ground. Let us not lose heart, no matter how difficult the situation.

Our Lord made a promise that He would return. Until He does, we live in hope that we are forgiven and on mission to tell as many as we can why we have enduring, living hope. Let us worship around the Bread and Cup and give thanks for those who are identifying with our Lord in baptism. May our living hope in Christ slay discouragement as we "fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith."

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor David



From the Family of Michael Rogers

Words could never adequately convey the appreciation and thanks for the outpouring of support from our community, colleagues, school, churches, friends, and family after the death and during the funeral of our son, Michael Q. Rogers. It has been a very emotional and devastating event that has forever changed our lives. As a career law enforcement officer and criminal investigator, I have responded to and investigated tragedies like this more times than I can count. Nevertheless, nothing could have prepared me for what I found when I came home on Monday February 13th, 2023. As I have said in conversations with friends—this time, tragedy came to my house. I learned a hard lesson that will impact the way that I will evaluate and respond to incidents such as this moving forward. Michael died from an accidental gunshot wound while mishandling a firearm.

Now, I have experienced firsthand the meaning of the message delivered by Pastor Craig Shelton at Michael's funeral. Craig talked about "Love the neighbor" and this is exactly what this whole community has done for our family. It is impossible for me to remember everyone who came to our Rice Creek farm on the day of the funeral, or all the friends and neighbors who stopped by offering condolences in the days after the tragedy. Julie and I have decided the best way to express our humble appreciation and love for our community, and this wonderful place we call home, is to write this letter of thanks to the community.

The most touching for us are all the heartfelt gestures and support of the youth in the community. Julie and I have been visited and contacted by friends of Michael every day. Some of them offering words of encouragement, others sharing pictures and vides, and some just coming to pay respects. I have gained a great deal of hope for our future knowing that this generation of young men and women have been raised right and are picking up the plow to carry this community forward in the furtherance of "Loved thy neighbor."

My message for our youth moving forward is—Life is precious, love thy neighbor, and if there is anything more dangerous than a gun, it is a vehicle that each and every one of you are or will be learning to operate.

With all our love,
Frank and Julie Rogers



Greetings, Calvary family!
It's time for another update from the student ministry!

On Sunday mornings, we're working our way through a series on evangelism. The video curriculum is called *Evangelism in a Skeptical World*. I haven't agreed with everything, but it's been a pretty good series in terms of principles, and we've had some good discussions as a student ministry. We've talked about a lifestyle of evangelism, how to move from shallow to deeper conversations, how to craft a gospel presentation, how to evangelize people in a postmodern culture (which we've been transitioning into for the past few decades), and how to contextualize our evangelism. Contextualization is about making the gospel and Christianity understood to different cultures; it's about preventing unnecessary offense by how we look and talk to different cultures; it's about making sure that we don't enter culture too much by taking on unbiblical beliefs and behaviors; it's also about making sure that we don't challenge culture too much by enforcing our culture's beliefs and behaviors on another culture (when those beliefs and behaviors don't really come from God's Scriptures but from the traditions of humans).

An example of good contextualization would be Paul using an Athenian altar to the unknown god as an opportunity to talk about the God of the Bible (Acts 17). Another example of good contextualization would be Paul acting like Jews in order to reach Jews with the gospel (1 Cor 9). An example of bad contextualization would be Western missionaries forcing

Asian converts to wear a Western suit and tie to Asian churches; a suit and tie is a modern invention of the West; it is not something mandated by God for every church in every culture. Another example of bad contextualization would be American missionaries forcing Russian converts to learn English so that they can read the King James Bible; the KJV is a man-made translation that can be used by English speakers, but it cannot be forced upon non-English speakers as the only available Bible, neither can it be forced upon all English speakers as the only available Bible, for God gave us the Hebrew OT and the Greek NT.

On Sunday evenings, we're working our way through the Book of Romans. We're in the more practical portions of the book. We've finished Chapter 13 and are about to begin Chapter 14, which is overwhelmingly about the topic of Christian liberty with opinions.

On Wednesday evenings, we're still in the Book of Psalms. We completed the first 20 in a series, but now we're covering different types of Psalms. The reason why is that I don't intend to spend the next 4 years covering the whole Book of Psalms. We've covered a psalm of praise, and we're working our way right now through a psalm of lament. After that, we'll cover a psalm of thanksgiving.

We went to Quantum Leap for this month's event. We jumped on trampolines, dove into foam pits, threw dodge balls, attempted dunking basketballs, and had battles on a beam. I can gladly say that I was undefeated on the battle beam. However, I might have hurt myself in the process. All that matters is winning the war!

(continued on page 3)

For April's events, we'll join Central Baptist Church for a youth rally on April 1st. We might have two Merge meetings in April; we had to reschedule the March 22nd meeting because of sickness and schedule conflicts with multiple churches. One of these Merge meetings is tentatively planned for April 5th, and the other is planned for April 19th. Both are subject to change. The goal of these meetings is to get First Priority Clubs in Unicoi County public schools. The students themselves oversee these clubs and perform evangelism in their school. Other counties in Tennessee already have them, and multiple kids are being converted through them. We'd love to see the same thing happen in our county. Lastly, we plan on

having a hike or bowling event on April 23rd. We'll see what the weather does; every outdoor event I have planned here has been rained out.

I'm reading a book for premarital counseling called *It's Good to be a Man*. The title alone is a good message for Christian men, as the world wants to call Biblical manhood toxic masculinity. The first chapter was excellent. I'm assuming the rest of the book will be the same. It'd probably be a good gift book for teenage boys and young men, but I imagine even older men would find good reminders or new lessons in it.

Please keep the student ministry in your prayers!



March winds blow and we cannot tell from which they came nor can we perceive to which they go. Time marches on and "we don't know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It's a vapor that appears for a little time, then vanishes away (James 4:14)." Time seems to fly when we have health and the freedom to enjoy it. Do not take this blessing for granted. Consider how time slows when we are hurting as that wispy vanishing vapor grinds to a snail's pace. If you are between the proverbial rock and a hard place, take advice from the Preacher (Ecc 9:9), "Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which HE has given you under the sun, days of vanity,- for that is your portion in life and the labor which you perform under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do; do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going. I returned, saw under the sun—

The race is not to the swift,
Nor the battle to the strong,
Nor bread to the wise,
Nor riches to men of understanding,

Nor favor to men of skill,
But, time and chance happen to them all.
For man also, does not know his time."

What time is it? Really! I prefer to follow the Jewish religious calendar making this year 6,983. Jews believe the 7th millennium will be their sabbath of rest. Could that happen 17 years from now? God knows! Matthew 23:39 says Messiah will not return until the Jewish people recognize Him. Zechariah 12:10 predicts Jews will "look on Me whom they have pierced and mourn as for an only son..."

Today, this is true:

Israel was reborn in a day!
Jerusalem is in Jewish hands.
Jews returning to Israel in unbelief (Ez. 37).
Jewish people coming to faith in Messiah in

large numbers.

The question, that we need to set our heart to discern is: Are we in that season or era when Jesus returns to restore the Kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:6)? Regardless, today is the day of salvation! Now is the Time!

Curtis



Thank you everyone for supporting the children at Calvary. The children have worked so hard in Bible Drill and Awana this season. We are very proud of them for studying the Word of God and committing it to memory. It is so encouraging to see boys and girls pursuing the Word! We all need to be doing likewise.

As we continue our study on The Lord's Prayer, the children are reminded to: praise God, give thanks to God, say they are sorry to God, ask God for help, and pray for others. Scripture reads, "This is the confidence we have in approach-

ing God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." 1 John 5:14. We are continuing our study of answers in Genesis on Sunday mornings as well.

For anyone who missed the parent meeting, I will provide a quick summarization. We will be having monthly family events. April's event is a family hike on April 23. The summer calendar and the children's camp packet will be going out in April. Please return your child's emergency form and parent survey as quickly as possible. I also provided a link to register adults and children in VBS. Please contact me with any questions.

With Thanks,
Alicia Smith



Happy Birthday



April

1 Lee Rigler, 2 Amber Bennett Lamar, 4 Martha Bryant, Gracen Crawford, Camden Crawford, 5 Bryson Crawford, 7 Sally Ramsey, 10 Jerry Bennett, 13 Nick Rogers, 16 Eli Gillis, 17 Phyllis Bennett, Braden Sifford, Nevan Sifford, 18 Jean Bowman, 19 Iva Lee Gray, 21 Carson Moore, Angela Shelton, 22 Steve Gryder, Shirley Rogers, 25 Garrett Barnett, 26 Andy Bennett, 27 Ethan Harris, Anita Lantz, 28 Kathy Evans, 30 Gina Podvin, Joanne Bailey, Glenna Faust, Zee Brehmer, Linda Bryan, Mason Stack

Memorial & Honorarium Offerings In Memory of

Larkey McInturff
by David Crutchfield
to Calvary Cares

John Tipton
by Larry & Vickie Pat
to Consolidated Missions
by Gene & Betty Frye
by Allen & Shirley Rogers

to Calvary Cares
by Dorcas/Homemakers Class
by Leonard & Jean Bowman
by Regular Fellows Class
by David & Jane Burgner
by Linda Treadway

Ralph Sparks
by Sarah Ramsey, Amy,
Rabin, & Boone
by Allen & Shirley Rogers
by Gene & Betty Frye
to Calvary Cares
by Gary & Pam Amos
by Steve & Sharon Gryder
by Dorcas/Homemakers Class
by Anonymous
by Carnegie Hotel Investors
by Regular Fellows Class
by Peggy Coghill
by Dianne Davison
David & Jane Burgner
by Linda Treadway
by Carol Whaley

to Consolidated Missions
by Diana Davis
by John & Floy Harris
by David Crutchfield
by Charles & Lynne Ray

Lois Yelton
by David & Jane Burgner
to Consolidated Missions
by Sheldon & Tina Roark
to Consolidated Missions


Albert McBride
by Clara Curtis
to Consolidated Missions
by Gary & Pam Amos
to Consolidated Missions
by Allen & Shirley Rogers
to Calvary Cares



Services are broadcast on Facebook Live

Connect with us online

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Email - calvaryerwintn@gmail.com

 Calvary Baptist Church of Erwin Tn
Sun. Service is live on Facebook 10 am

 Calvary Baptist of Erwin Tn

 @CalvryErwin



Service times at
Calvary

SUNDAY
10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
6:00 p.m.

Sunday School
Morning Worship
Evening Worship
Youth Bible Study
Calvary Kids

WEDNESDAY
5:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Awana
Youth & Adult
Bible Study
Choir Practice

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