



# *the* *Calvary Caller*

Volume 47

November-December 2023

Number 10

## Staying Focused in a Chaotic World

Dear Calvary, praying this letter finds you as John says in 3 John 1:2, "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." Are there some things that we can do that will help our souls be healthy? The only place to look for that answer is the Bible. When it comes to being healthy spiritually, it takes more than Chicken Soup for the Soul. The country is filled with books on positive thinking, how to improve to be a better you, and at the time of writing this article, there are hundreds more books getting ready to hit the shelves just in time for Christmas gifts. Why is it that the American experience has grown into high anxiety, loneliness, and depression? All these pitfalls grow during the holiday season of Thanksgiving and Christmas. How can we as God's people avoid the holiday blues? The remedy is as profound as it is simple. Giving thanks lifts the spirit from depression and sets the course for a life that is content. A life that is thankful and content is a profoundly healthy life! Maybe you're healthy and you didn't know it, or you are spiritually sick, and you are not aware of the danger you are in. Let's do some spiritual inventory. Are you giving thanks or are you prone to complain? Is your life marked by contentment knowing that God is in control of your life, or are you anxious about life in general? Are you drifting spiritually, or are you as Paul says in 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."



Staying fit spiritually is strategic. We have to be alert and vigilant. We believe when God saves us, He seals us; that we cannot lose our salvation. But we can become unproductive. As Hebrews 2:1 says, "Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away." Listen to how Alistair Begg uses a simple acronym as a reminder of how to stay spiritually fit: "For the development of a meaningful prayer life falters, not so much because of a lack of zeal as because of a lack of strategy. The simple acronym ACTS may prove to be as helpful as any. A stands for adoration, C for confession, T for thanksgiving, and S for supplication." So, let us be on the alert this Thanksgiving and not only avoid the pitfalls of the holiday blues, but help others who may be facing their first Thanksgiving or Christmas without a loved one, or have suffered a horrible loss. God will shine through His people in the dark days we live in for His glory. Isaiah says in chapter 60:1-2, "Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you." Let's all agree that no matter how positive of a spin we try to put on the world right now, it is dark. It is dark in our country; it is dark in Europe; it is dark in Israel. So, as we move from giving God thanks for His abiding presence in our troubled times, let us remember the hymn says, "Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting Light, the hopes and fears of all the years, are met in Thee to-

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

night." Christ is the greatest gift from God the Father to the world, that keeps on giving life to all who come to Him. Stanza 4 says, "O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray, cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell, O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel." This is how we overcome the darkness of the winter blues. We meditate on His bountiful care, and we know that He is in control. In closing, John MacArthur says, "Those who seek to control their own lives will inevitably be frustrated. A confident trust in God's provi-

dence is foundational to contentment." This is why the Pilgrims were able to gather and give God thanks at the end of a difficult year. Let us push back the darkness with thanksgiving. Let us focus on Christ, the reason for Christmas, and it will be a wonderful season filled with joy.

May God richly bless you all, and may you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas.

Pastor David, Janna, Jonathan, Daniel, Anna, Nathanael, Elizabeth and Malachi



Greetings, Calvary family!

It's time for another update from the student ministry!

We're still working on the Christian Life during our Sunday School gatherings. We completed a mini-series on the spiritual disciplines, and we completed a mini-series on the standards of godliness. Now we're working on a mini-series on Old Testament commands. We covered the creation commands in the early chapters of Genesis. Now we're working on the 10 commandments. If you ever want to see how the institutional church has understood the meaning and application of the 10 commandments in church history, then look into past confessions. I think some of them are insightful, while others are disagreeable. For example, it used to be thought that there should be no illustrations at all in church books!

On Sunday evenings, we're still working our way through the Book of Hebrews. We've made it through Chapter 8. Now we're working on Chapter 9. If you want to understand how the old covenant, the priesthood, and the tabernacle/temple were just shadows of the new covenant, Jesus, and heaven, then read Hebrews 8 through 10. It'll be eye opening.

We finished our Wednesday night series on the Minor Prophets! I am incredibly thankful for

these books, and I recommend that you study all of them in chronological order to see the narrative of Israel's fall and restoration, as well as the promise of the Messiah and his accomplishments. We are now shifting into a series on Ezra, and we're getting back to small group discussions on Wednesday nights.

In October, we had a fun time at the church's Trunk-or-Treat! The trunks looked great, and I'm glad to say that we saw both familiar and unfamiliar faces. I hope there were seekers in attendance, and I hope that God brings them back to hear the gospel at our church.

We also had a blast at our city wide scavenger hunt! The winning team got 51 points and found most of the locations! We'll have to do this again next year.

We had a successful Christmas Shoe Box event on November 1st. Another youth group partnered with us, and it looks like we completed over two dozen boxes together! Let's pray the Lord causes the gospel to advance through this ministry.

Lastly, we'll join the children's ministry for Fall Festival activities on November 15th.

Please keep our student ministry in your prayers!

Christain



Thank you Jesus, for the free gift of salvation through your death, burial, and resurrection! History will remember the 2023 Thanksgiving season as the war Israel fought with her neighbors. How do we express thankfulness for the atrocities God is allowing the Mideast to experience? Is the reality of this war evidence of God's will? 2000 years ago Israel rejected God's Messiah. Six to seven centuries before Messiah, God sent prophets to condemn Israel for trusting in political alliances and not trusting God. It was unbelief then and it's unbelief now. God wanted Israel to be different than other nations, but NO! Israel wanted a king like other nations had. So, God allowed a king. God prophetically warned Israel about the many voices that were not HIS. So, "I say have they not heard? Yes, truly their sound went into all the earth, their words unto the ends of the world. I say then, has God cast away His people? God forbid (Romans 10:18)!"

God has told us who Israel is in Deuteronomy 7:6, Leviticus 20:24 and Exodus 19:6. So, who is Israel today? After 2,000 years the vast majority of Israel are the same people they were in Acts 22:21-22. "Then God said to me, Depart for I will send you far hence unto the Gentiles. They gave Him audience until this word (what word? Gentile) then lifted up their voices saying, Away with such a fellow from the earth, for he is not fit to live!" This same attitude still lives in the nation of Israel. They are still trusting in political alliances. "In fact Israel's spiritual hardening will continue until the complete number of elect gentiles has come to salvation," says John MacArthur, Romans 11:26, "And so all Israel will be delivered." Verse 29, "For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable."

As Israel continues to be chastised, please pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Be Thankful!

Curtis



I wanted to begin by saying a big thank you to all of the individuals and families that participated in the trunk or treat! We all had a wonderful time of fellowship! We were able to feed many from our community and provide candy in a safe environment. The love for the children was evident! Some of the themes for our trunks included: "Creation", "Noah's Ark", "Being Fishers' of Men", "God's love is Purrfect", and "Power up for Jesus". The top three themes were: "Scooby Doo", "Tangled", and "TN Vols".

We are all called to humbly serve others. Let us look at Philippians 2:3-11 which says, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a

cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." The children raised \$125 in coins and used that money to make encouragement gifts for our Joyful Friends. What an encouragement it was to our special needs community! The kids collected coins with a joyful heart and packed those gifts with love. I am thankful for our sweet children who served wholeheartedly. May we all remember to lovingly serve those around us! As we look ahead to the next couple of months, we want to have a mindset of thankfulness and humility. We know that God is in control and has given us so many good things to enjoy. We also know that God sent His Son, Jesus, to save the world from sin. We pray that people will hear the Good News of Jesus and surrender their lives to Him.

Parents please note the following dates: Fall Festival is November 15, Awana Christmas Party is December 13, and the Nativity Parade is December 20.

Alicia



# Happy Birthday



**November**

1 Alicia Smith, 2 Anna Huggins, 4 Betsy Kearney, 6 Greg Clark, Boone Reed, 10 Andrew Edwards, 11 Bridgett Collins, Laurel Land, 13 John Harris, Jachini Sifford, Amy Huskins, 15 Jon Manfull, 16 Vickie G. Pate, 17 Pam Buchanan, 18 Jerry Lusk 19 Donna Engle, 20 Lyndsey Blankenship-Brackins, Paul Dempke, Jeff Griffith, Jean Foster, 21 Marianne Steffey, Hunter Smith, 25 Alaina Edens, 26 Lucas Smith, Tracy Garland, 29 Mikayla Treadway

**December**

1 Malachi Crutchfield, 2 Jonathan Crutchfield, Fay Greenwell, 6 Kelly Rice, 10 Scott Charles, 11 Ella Manfull, 14 Jim Crawford, Ethel Griffith, Sharon Gryder, 16 Amanda Huggins, 21 Nancy Griffith, 23 Rob Davidson, 28 Chuck White, 29 Faye Adkins, 30 Patty Treadway, 31 Ned Silvers, Dan Stack, Maddie Stack

## Memorial & Honorarium Offerings

*In Memory of*

**Gertrude Street**  
by Norma Hayes  
by Frontier Health  
by Stephanie & John Byrne  
by Robert Rice

to Calvary Cares  
by The Winsome Class  
by Gary & Pam Amos  
by Dorcas/Homemakers Class  
by John & Floy Harris

by David Crutchfield  
to Consolidated Missions

**Travis Hughes**  
to Calvary Cares  
by Gary & Pam Amos  
by David Crutchfield  
by Dorcas/Homemakers Class

**Gerald Treadway**  
by Sarah Ramsey; Amy, Rabin, & Boone Reed


**JoAnne Bailey**  
by Gary & Pam Amos  
to Consolidated Missions



Services are broadcast on Facebook Live

### Connect with us online

Website - <https://calvaryerwin.org>  
Email - [calvaryerwintn@gmail.com](mailto: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

THE CALVARY CALLER published monthly (except July and December)

*The Printed Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church*

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