

### Those to Serve

(B) Jorge Garza  
(FV) Doug Pruett  
(O) Judd Wall  
(A) Mike Lovell  
1st prayer Mike Mallett  
2nd prayer Keith Stifflemire  
Announcements: Calvin Burks  
Singing: Kevin Grant

#### **December 4th**

*Mission Fund*

#### **December 7th**

*Pearl Harbor Day*

#### **December 21st**

*First Day of Winter*

#### **December 25th**

*Christmas*

#### **December 31st**

*New Years Eve*

#### **January 1st**

*Mission Sunday*

### **Aaron Hansberry Mailing Address**

**Aaron Hansberry  
HHT, 5-4 CAV  
FOS, DPTA  
APO, AE 09754**

### Prayer List:

Elyza-(Esperance Garza  
Daughter)  
Valerie's sister-in-law  
Anita Adams  
Diane Savage (Virginia's niece)  
Cheryl Burks  
Virginia Lovell  
Dora Martinez  
Letha Sheldon  
Pray for our Nation  
Our Troops  
Law Enforcement  
Rescue Personnel

### *Happy Birthday*

**Lynette Vann Dec. 14th  
Virgina Lovell Dec. 19th  
Kevin Grant Dec. 24th  
Letha Sheldon Dec. 25th  
Will Vann Dec. 26th**

### ***In God We Trust***

During the American Civil War years, the U.S. Congress passed an act to include the phrase "In God We Trust" on all newly-minted coins (April 22, 1864). All people would do well to be reminded that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord..." (**Psalm 33:12a**), and to act accordingly!  
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# *Edifier*

## **Evant church of Christ**

*310 W Brooks Drive*

*Evant, TX 76525*

*254-471-5705*

**December 4, 2022**



*Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."*

#### **Sunday Worship:**

**9:30 am Bible Study**

**10:20 am Worship**

**12:30 pm Afternoon**

**Wednesday Night**

**6:00 pm**

**Will Vann, Preacher**

**863-899-0987**

**Email: wvann@yahoo.com**

**www.evantchurchofchrist.org**

## ***We Are Not Having Kids***

Yesterday my wife pointed out a post online by an acquaintance of ours that disparaged the fact that some young couples get married and decide not to have kids. He stated that it was because of selfishness that they were deciding not to have kids and implied that this was against Biblical teaching. Is he right? Are those who get married required by God to have children?

We must first consider where, if any place, in the Bible, we find a command, either direct or inferred, that instructs the married to produce offspring. Although there are many verses in Scripture that speak on the subject of both marriage and parenting the only place that suggests a requirement for procreating is **Genesis 1:28**, "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.'" We must ask ourselves if this command is still applicable to us today, or if it was only for certain people at a certain time as was the Law of Moses. The first thing that we should realize is that this command has already been fulfilled. It would be hard for someone to honestly say that the earth has not been filled with people and that we are not the masters of it. Second, we must realize that it is not possible for everyone to follow this command. Some, whether by choice or circumstance, never get married and some who do get married are not able to have children. Since there is no partiality with God (**Rom. 2:11**), we can know that God would never give a command that people could not follow.

There is also the fact that marriage, and subsequently the production of children, is not always the best choice that a Christian could make. Paul states in **1 Corinthians 7** that because of the present distress (i.e. persecution) they were suffering that it would be better to remain unmarried if you were already single. If we understand that certain circumstances make it prudent to remain unmarried, then, because having children goes hand in hand with marriage, we can understand also that there would also be certain circumstances that would make not having children prudent as well. It may be that the health of the woman or the potential child could be a concern. It may be that the parents are concerned about bringing a child into the world knowing the hardships it would face, imagine a young couple in present-day Ukraine. It may be that they know that children would take away from their time and resources and decide to devote those to God instead. Maybe the couple is too old to have kids. If the command is universal, then age shouldn't matter.

The objection that was raised about parents not wanting children was that these people were being selfish. Since we can see that not having kids is not sinful in and of itself we must conclude that it is selfishness that is the problem and not the lack of children. By Will Vann

## ***My Neighborhood***

I liked "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood." Millions of children around the world sat at his feet and marveled at the simple things. Fred Rogers received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. When he received the award he wore his usual sweater and tie. Reporters expected him to talk about his infamous television program. Instead, he talked with them about why we are on this earth – not to amass fortunes or to make a big name for ourselves. According to Mister Rogers the important things are the little things, the small acts of kindness that make our world a better place.

In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus taught that a real neighbor is not identified by credentials or religious ideologies, but by the simple acts one does toward those in need. According to Jesus, the world is our neighborhood and everyone in it is our neighbor. Our challenge is to do small acts of kindness to each person we meet. It's the simple things that make the difference.

How many times each day do we meet a "neighbor", someone to whom we can show kindness? How many opportunities do we miss because we have other commitments, or because that neighbor is different from us and we are not moved to action? Scripture tells us that Jesus "went about doing good." Every day He touched lives with simple acts of kindness. He spoke kind words to social and moral outcasts. He held children in his arms, went home with tax collectors and sinners, and encouraged the hearts of the down-trodden. He told the disciples that to see Him was to see God. And that's how others see God in us.

We are often stilled by our belief that God is looking for big things in us. Sure, there are big challenges we must meet, but most of life is not about big things. It's the little things we routinely do to others that opens their hearts and shows the beauty of God's grace in us.

By Al Behel