

# The Witness

Volume XXIII, Issue III

Newsletter

March 2025

## Thinking about Death

My, what a morbid title. Death!! I don't want to talk about it. I don't want to think about it. Yep, that would be a pretty common viewpoint. Yet, we are all terminal. We will all die. Some, a long time from now. Others, sooner than we expect. People suddenly very sick. People suddenly dying. Age creeping up on all of us. Death warrants a moment to think about it. Death has been on my mind recently.

What if death wasn't this great mystery? What if it wasn't something to be so afraid of that we don't want to talk about it, much less think about it or prepare for it? What if death were just moving from one room to another? What if death were just taking a trip to a great place?

We have taken lots of trips in our lives. As a family we typically took vacations every year. We would go places that we had never been. We would look forward to seeing things we had never seen. We would read ahead to get an idea of what to look forward to. We would determine the way there. We would prepare for the journey. We would gather everything together, and we would leave with great positive expectation. What if death were like this? Could it be?

In the last few days, I observed someone who modelled this so well. He had prepared well. He knew his destination. He knew who he was going to see. He had a positive expectation of a place that he had never been before. In the last hours before the trip, he took care of the remaining items that needed to be done. He

gave instructions to those who remained behind. His trip was imminent. And through it all, he kept saying, "I am about to leave".

And when all the preparations were done, he left. Like getting into a car and leaving. Were there perhaps last minute moments of anxiety (he had never been where he was going)? I don't know. If so, he still had a smile, a joke, a firm positive expectation. And he left.

As Paul wrestled with the idea of death, he commented, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better." (Philippians 1:21-23)

"For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling,

"So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:1-8)

Paul is not suicidal. But he is aware of the true reality. A day is coming when life here ends. And it is a transition. A moving from one room to another. A journey from this place to another place. The time of this transition is not in our hands – it is in

God's. But we can prepare for it. Knowing Christ as Savior. Serving Christ as Lord. Being encouraged, know that this troubled life will transition to one eternal with Christ. So Paul realizes that the time here is important, needing to be invested in others and in Christ. But the transition will be glorious. It is merely a time to leave to a new place. A new life. A marvelous place with a marvelous Savior. It will be 'time to leave'. And it will be ok.

Pastor Danny

## March Outreach

A wave of activity begins quickly in March. A Heart-to-Heart Ladies' Event will be on March 1 at 10:30. It will include brunch, fellowship, games, worship, and speaker Tracy Kelley. By the time you read this, it may already have occurred. Thank Christine Miles and Janice Parker for planning these ladies' events.

A mini conference for ladies, hosted by Rehoboth Baptist Association, will occur Friday at 6:00 on March 7 at the FBC Sulphur Springs ROC building. Register online via <https://rehobothonline.org>. Cost is \$10.

The Rehoboth ladies conference will be followed a few days later by the yearly RBA Evangelism Rally on Sunday at 6:00 on March 9 at FBC Sulphur Springs. This is always a good event featuring both excellent music and preaching.

Sunday March 23 will be a special Sunday at FBC Yantis. In the morning our youth pastor, Dennis Wagner will preach the morning service. Then, that evening at 6:00, we will

conduct an ordination service in which we will officially ordain Dennis as a pastor of the gospel of Christ. The evening event will be followed with a celebration reception. Don't miss it.

March also includes a business meeting on March 16 after the morning service, and the Lord's Supper on March 30 during the morning service. This will be a busy March. Pray, enjoy, and invite other folks.

Pastor Danny

### At-A-Glance:

January's Gifts: \$19,749.<sup>60</sup>  
2025 Gifts : \$19,749.<sup>60</sup>  
2024 Budget: \$286,384.<sup>00</sup>

This March, our youth ministry launched a new series in the book of James called "Faith in Action." We are diving into what it means to live out our faith in our daily lives and grow closer to Christ. Each week, we explore practical ways to put our faith into motion, challenging our students to trust God more and serve others.

Exciting things are ahead as we begin sign-ups for camp! We believe camp is a life-changing experience for our students, providing them with an opportunity to deepen their faith, build friendships, and grow spiritually. To help make camp accessible for everyone, we are hosting a Dinner and Dessert Auction on April 6 after church. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a meal, bid on delicious homemade desserts, and invest in the spiritual growth of our youth. Thank you for your prayers and support as we continue guiding our students in faith!

Please continue to keep all of us leaders and our students in prayer.  
Thank you,  
Dennis and Sam Wagner

### Music Ministry

We had some great singers in February which featured Wayne Miles, Cristina Bowers, Kathy Freeman, and Sam Wagner. We really appreciate everyone who brings the special music.

### Sr Adult Ministry

The February 20th Cooking Video was cancelled due to the freezing weather that day and rescheduled for Thursday March 20th at 11:00 AM. The featured cooks will be Jeanetta Watson with her daughter Karen. Also, David Freeman will be bringing a dessert recipe. This should be a very entertaining Cooking Video, so we invite everyone to come enjoy the video along with a fantastic lunch.

Thanks  
Bro Steve



Annie  
Armstrong  
Easter  
Offering

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS**

**March 2-9, 2025**

### Your Church Staff...

Pastor: **Bro. Danny Parker**  
Cell: 620-397-1753  
Email: fbcyantispastor@peoplescom.net

Youth Pastor: **Bro. Dennis Wagner**  
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Music and Senior Adult Pastor:  
**Bro. Steve Couch**  
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Secretary: **Mrs. Elizabeth Smith**  
In the office Mon. - Thurs.,  
8:30am - 2:30pm

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### Cooking Video Rescheduled for March 20th, 11am!

Please come join the live studio audience and share a nice lunch.

