

Who Has the 'Good Life?'

By Allen Webster

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. —Isaiah 61:1

Author's note: *Entering a foreign culture is cause for reflection and opportunity for comparison. Sitting on the plane returning from a mission trip to Tanzania, Africa, and then waiting for a delayed connecting flight in a busy DFW airport, my thoughts turned in this direction.*

Though Americans and Tanzanians live on the same planet, they live in different worlds. In so many ways we are a hundred years ahead of them—medically, technologically, educationally, and materially. We would not even consider trading places with them. In areas like transportation, food preparation, hygiene, farming, and entertainment, their lifestyle does not even register on the same scale with the American way of life. For these reasons, we feel sympathy for them.

But in other ways, they still have what we left behind. They seem to enjoy life and laugh a lot more than most Americans (cf. Proverbs 17:22). They still have time for Bible classes and preaching (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:18). They have large families with plenty of children playing all around (cf. Psalm 127:3–5). They still enjoy the simple pleasures we gave up long ago. They are not rushed; they have time to “stop and smell the roses.” For these reasons, we find ourselves a little envious.

SO, WHO HAS THE GOOD LIFE? YOU DECIDE. . . .

They worry about getting enough vitamins and protein in their diet; we worry about getting too much cholesterol and fat.

Their clothes are worn out because they wash them on a rock; ours are thrown out because they are last year's fashions (cf. Matthew 6:31–32).

They worry about chasing rats away; we worry about winning the rat race. “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’ For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat” (Mark 6:31).

They live in mud huts because they cannot afford better houses; we live in better houses we cannot afford. “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses” (Luke 12:15).

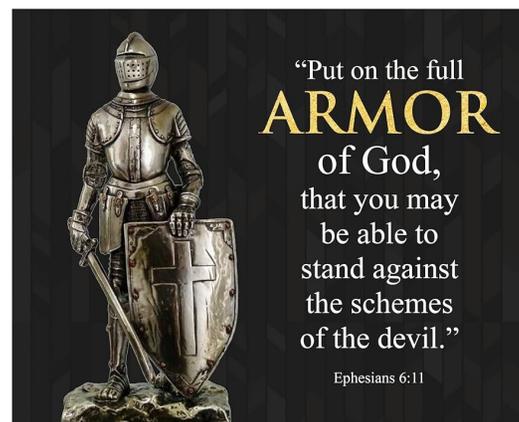
They are poor and humble; we are rich and proud. “Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing’—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked” (Revelation 3:17).

They die at 40 with disease and poor medicine; we die at 50 with heart attacks and lung cancer. “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit? Therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit” (1 Corinthians 6:19–20).

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Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ So thankful that Dale Strong got to come home yesterday.
- ◆ Sympathy goes to the Jones and Reynolds families for the loss of their cousin VA Owens who died this week.
- ◆ Sympathy is extended to the family of Jean Blisard. Her service was Friday.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins, Coe Hamm.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Jenny James, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hamblen, Bonnie Ebrite, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



Birthdays		Anniversaries	
11-5	Bill Cockrum	11-4	Jim and Debra Lane
11-5	Melissa Rumenapp	11-16	Tinker and Karen Langston
11-7	Wanda Beard	11-16	Cayce and Rebecca Gosdin
11-13	Kay Young	Birthdays	
11-15	Kelly Lemberg	11-24	Lincoln Gosdin (4)
11-21	Merle Scott	11-25	Henry Flaughner
11-22	Larry Butler	11-28	Andrew Hambelton
11-24	Clifford Lansdown (85)		

We will have class Wednesday night at 7 p.m., but no supper will be served because of Thanksgiving the next day.

Date	Event	Details
Monday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m.	Christmas Play	Kids presenting play

(continued from inside)

Their women never wear pants in public, only dresses; ours wear hardly anything at all. "In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation" (1 Timothy 2:9).

They bathe nearly naked in a river for lack of indoor plumbing; we have plumbing and sunbathe nearly naked. "Whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matthew 5:28). Men and women should resolve "not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's [or sister's] way" (Romans 14:13).

They are glad to have any clothes without holes; we will not wear clothes unless they have the right name on them. We should not seek notice for our attire, as with "braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing" (1 Timothy 2:9). *(continued next week)*

November Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

Communion & Closing Prayer

11-23 David Stevens
11-30 Don Luna

Titus Smith
Paul Wade

Song Leader: John Abraham
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

November 23, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655
www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***A Call to Arms***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up front

#1009, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*; #647, *Soldiers of Christ, Arise*

How Deep the Father's Love; Communion Service

#470, *Victory in Jesus*

Sermon and Invitation

#903; *There Is Power in the Blood*

#278, *Victory Chant*; Closing Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us