

FYI

New Members: please welcome **Garroll and Olivia White**; their address is 38548 Bent Palm Dr., Palm Desert, CA 92211; phone number is (760) 200-2615.

Read through the Bible in 2016!

(Submitted by Mike McKnight)

Suggested chapters to read so that we might read through the entire Bible during 2016! **This week's "schedule":**

- **Day 242** - Ezekiel 13-15 Monday
- **Day 243** - Ezekiel 16-17 Tuesday
- **Day 244** - Ezekiel 18-19 Wednesday
- **Day 245** - Ezekiel 20-21 Thursday
- **Day 246** - Ezekiel 22-23 Friday
- **Day 247** - Ezekiel 24-27 Saturday
- **Day 248** - Ezekiel 28-31 Sunday

September Birthdays

3 Wendy Cortes	11 Marie Burruss	15 Marcos Perales
16 Jim Burruss	24 Mason Perales	
30 Dortha Gentry	30 Kurt Hoffman	

September Anniversary

13 Wendy & Luis Cortes

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

Church of Christ

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Why Doesn't God Prevent All Children from Dying?

By Bob Luginbill

Excerpted from ICHTHYS.com

This world is a place of suffering and tears (cf. Revelation 7:16-17), so that as believers in Jesus Christ it is our utmost desire to leave it and be with Jesus (Philippians 1:20-24; cf. John 14:28; Romans 8:23). Children who die go to be with the Lord immediately. Without having had to drink their fill from this cup of tears, they enjoy sweet and blessed fellowship with Him forever (cf. 1 Kings 13:12-13). So while we who remain on earth may mourn for these departed children, and understandably so, we who believe in the truth of the Word of God have the immense comfort of knowing that these children are truly "better off", spared the further sorrows of life and guaranteed safe passage into the glories of the presence of God.

Now there is much we cannot fathom or understand even about the circumstances of our lives, but as Christians we have faith that God is indeed working all things out in His plan for us perfectly and wonderfully, despite whatever trouble and tribulations He is bringing us through - it is all working out for good (Romans 8:28). For any child, even one beloved by us personally, would we not rather choose for him or her to be saved, if the alternative was to reach maturity and persist in unbelief? Would we not rather choose for him or her to be spared a particularly horrendous life and be all that much sooner with our Lord, if that indeed were the fate that awaited? We have to learn to trust our heavenly Father that He is doing what is best and good and right for all His children, even when it may be hard to see and accept from our limited vantage point. We do not know what awaits anyone - no one does (Ecclesiastes 9:1). When we grieve for the loss of someone's child, we are grieving for the parents, but none of us really knows what would have happened had God spared the child in question. We have to trust that in His wisdom, God has chosen what is best for all parties, even if we are

incapable of seeing the logic with these earthly eyes. That doesn't mean there are no tears, but when we cry, hurt, or grieve for anyone (and especially for ourselves), we need to take care to do so in total faith that God is indeed working all things together for good. God is perfect, and whatever He does He does in perfect justice and perfect love (see the link: Theology: the Study of God).

This world is imperfect. God did not make it that way; we did. Our first parents, Adam and Eve, sinned, and all of us since have likewise sinned. God did not bring about the situation where tragedy sorrow and heartache occur. Far from it. Our God is the One who has provided the solution to sin and death by paying a price for us that we can only dimly understand. Through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, every child who dies is saved, and every person who reaches maturity has the opportunity to be saved through simple faith and faithful following of the One who died to provide that eternal life. And whether we live one year or a thousand in this temporary world of sorrows, our eternal life is really what matters. God is working everything together for that good end, a blessed eternity with Him and His Son, in spite of all the problems, tragedies, trials and tribulations through which we must pass to reach the Kingdom of God (Acts 14:22; 1Thessalonians 3:4; 1Peter 4:12). Learning to trust Him better is a big part of why we are still here.

There is much about the ebb and flow of events in this temporary world that we will never understand this side of heaven. However, as believers in God's Child, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, it is vitally important that we keep ourselves focused on those truths which we do understand from scripture. This world is passing away. Until it does, or until we pass out of it, there will be many a sorrow, many a tragedy. As believers in Jesus Christ, and as those who have put our whole faith in God, we know that the road to the kingdom is paved with tribulation, but we also have confidence in God that He will bring us through all our troubles, fire and water, safe to His heavenly home, and we have this living hope within us that raises us up in joy in the midst of even the worst this world can offer. And on that glorious day of resurrection, we know with the confidence of unbending faith that we shall stand together with our Lord in company with all from whom we have been temporarily parted. No matter how tragic and sorrowful the time and circumstances of parting may have been, on that day joy and glory will swallow up

our tears and grief forevermore, as death is trampled down in the victory of eternal life.

"Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!"

1 Corinthians 15:57

Story behind the song - Victory in Jesus

Composer Eugene Monroe Bartlett, Sr.
(Excerpts from Internet sources)

Eugene Monroe Bartlett Sr. (1885-1941) was born on Christmas Eve of 1885. He dedicated his life to Jesus at an early age. Years later, as a very successful business man, he decided to invest his money into founding the Hartford Music Company and Music Institute. He also became editor of the Herald Songmusic magazine.

Bartlett's mission was to publish hymns and teach singers to sight read. He hired instructors to teach voice, piano, piano tuning, rudiments, harmony and stringed instruments. The school attracted many talented artists. Within the first year of business he sold more than 15,000 copies of his hymnbook. He wrote many of the songs himself. Throughout his 56 years of life, he composed more than 800 songs, including *Everybody Will Be Happy Over There*, and *Just a Little While to Stay Here*.

Though almost all of his songs have sunk into oblivion, "*Victory In Jesus*" remains one of the most popular and widely known songs of the church. In 1939, a stroke rendered Bartlett partially paralyzed and unable to perform or travel. He spent the last two years of his life bedridden. Amid such bleak circumstances, he wrote his final and most beloved song, "*Victory in Jesus*," an optimistic number that has been sung by millions in worship services and recorded by gospel's biggest names. The three verses and refrain enthusiastically tell of one's own personal salvation experience from beginning to end. It's said that Bartlett missed traveling and teaching, but he could still study the Bible, a study from which he gave us this wonderful song during a time when much of the earth sat on the brink of World War II. The song first appeared that year in "Gospel Choruses," a paperback songbook published by James Vaughan in Lawrenceburg, Tenn.