

# Westside Church of *Christ*

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## When Life Takes You Off Guard

by Rubel Shelly

*I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

*Ephesians 1:17-21*

Life has a habit of taking us by surprise. Events catch us off guard and send us reeling. Accident, injury, family stress, divorce, job transfer, layoff — these are some of the high-stress events that can shake one's poise.

The danger is that these things can send people into panic mode. She makes some totally irresponsible statement. He acts without thinking. Harm is done to relationships that can never be undone.

The same events can shake our theological footing. Long-resolved doubts resurface. She withdraws from Christian friends and stops attending church. He begins to blame God for what is happening in his life.

Am I just imagining that people react to life's sneak attacks in these ways? Haven't you seen it too? Is some form of it going on with you right now?

Imagine that your scared-for-his-life husband offered you as a sexual playmate to the man he feared. Put yourself in the place of a teenager forced to spend years in jail because of someone's lie about you. Grasp the hurt of having all of your children killed in the same horrible storm. Keep the bitterness from destroying you when your racial identity has caused some people to deny you your civil rights. These "hypothetical" episodes are the biblical stories of Sarah, Joseph, Job, and Paul.

The people whose life stories we know from the Bible are not figures in stained-glass windows. They were real flesh-and-blood people like you and me. They emerged from their crisis situations in victory mode. Yet they lost precious things and certainly bore scars from what had happened to them.

Continued on page 4

iLive  
Colossians 3:1-4

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*Sympathy*

We extend our sympathy to Ray, Sonya, Katelyn, and Raegan  
on the death of Sonya's mother  
Dorothea Langehennig  
Services were held Thursday, July 13, 2017.

## Remember in Prayer

- W. R. Allen
- Tim Arzate
- Audrey Balch
- Fran Brasher
- William Brown
- Roger Bryon
- Jack Carter
- Karen Driver
- Reece Dickson
- Bill Ellner
- Jeff Ficks
- Abe Froese Jr.
- Bobby Gressett
- Jennie Howell
- Gwendolyn Hunt
- Jo Hutson
- Sam Johnson
- Shirley Loffler
- Joey McCann
- Jan Middleton
- Eddie Mitchell
- Franklin & Shirley Moore
- Jane Partain
- Karly Pitcox
- Cheri Rambo
- Leslie Rich
- Lynn Rich
- Jimmy Rigdon
- Fran Ritchie
- Chad Snow

### THOSE IN ASSISTED LIVING:

- Gerry Hunt
- Sybil Wallace

### THOSE IN THE NURSING HOME:

- Billie Duckworth
- Ena Bess Gatewood

### THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES:

- Matias Arzate
- GYSGT Leland Braun
- Shane Garrison
- Michael Harness
- Robb Turskey
- Jacob Watts

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Browder  
request the honor of your presence  
at the marriage of their daughter

*Tiffany Kaye*

— to —

*James Matthew Mayo*

son of Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Blaine  
and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Mayo

Saturday, the twenty-ninth of July  
two thousand and seventeen  
at three o'clock in the afternoon  
Singing Oaks Church of Christ  
101 Cardinal Lane - Denton, Texas

*Hors d'oeuvres reception to follow*

The Elam and Lutes Families  
Request the honor of your presence  
At the marriage of their children

*Rylee O'Neal  
&  
Chandler Wayne*

	August	
Saturday	5	7 pm
	2017	

*Destiny's Garden*

1134 East Loop 335 South  
Amarillo, TX 79114

*Reception to follow*

Elders

Leo Copeland  
Todd Moore  
Wes Weeks  
Dean Wheeler  
**Athen Lowrie**

Deacons

Don Dagley  
Dave Davis  
Dan Dendy  
Glen Fleming  
Kent Jackson  
Mark Nichols  
Pete Williams

Minister

Ray Young  
1-806-592-1947  
[4ray.828@gmail.com](mailto:4ray.828@gmail.com)

Last Weeks Records

Contribution:	\$3,713.00
AM Bible Class:	47
AM Worship:	91
Small Groups	N/A
Wednesday:	N/A

<u>Schedule of Services</u>	9:30 AM
<b>Sunday</b>	10:30 AM
Bible Study	5:00 PM
Morning Worship	
Evening Worship	
	7:00 PM

**Wednesday**  
Evening Bible Study

**Dates To Remember:**

**Wednesday, July 19:**

- Bible study, 7:00 PM.

**Birthdays This Week:**

- July 17: Lexie Peyton
- July 19: Travis Nichols
- July 20: Bobby Gressett  
Lilly Reece

Continued from page 1

However, if we could look into heaven at those bitter junctures of life, our hearts would be reassured. Looking into God's face, we would discover there is no sweat on his upper lip. Even if we are shocked and disoriented, he is not. Oh, his lip might be quivering with compassion for our pain, but he is sovereign over his universe. Nothing catches him by surprise. He knows precisely how to get his wounded children through their most harrowing life crises.

The sounds of a howling mob, a whip ripping into bare flesh, and a hammer driving nails into hands and feet were overwhelming sounds — until the tomb was found empty. The same power that raised Jesus then sustains us now.

So, when you feel you are about to lose it, visualize God's upper lip. Trust his promises. Know you are not alone. Wait patiently for the victory.

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**Commit everything you do to the Lord.  
Trust him to help you do it,  
and he will.  
Psalm 37:5**

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