

SICK:

- Mark Blair- Brain Cancer (nephew of MD and Teri Gentry)
- Daniel Nottingham- Having quadruple by-pass in a Midland, TX hosp. (Friend of Bill Looney)
- Phil Brooks- He will have his foot amputated on 4/19 (nephew of Phyllis Scott)
- Marilyn- On a ventilator (Grandmother of Haley Hollenbeck)
- Madeline Miller- Baby not ready to be born yet will have fetal surgery in utero (Granddaughter in law of Preston Noel)
- Aprill Thompson- Now home recuperating - lives in Minnesota (sister of Brittany Hylton)
- Cindy Biggins- Had brain tumor surgery 3/31 (neighbor & friend of Bill Looney)
- Joycelyn Musgrove- Recovering from a stroke (sister of Sally Davis)
- Pastor Don Barnes- Lead pastor of First Assembly of God
- Ethan Jernigan- Brain tumor, his next surgery is 5/11 (Grandson of Jacque Talley)
- Kandi Nichols – Covid (cousin of Preston Noel) was taken off the ventilator, will be starting rehab
- Harold Gaches- Colon Cancer (Pastor of First Baptist West)
- Duane Hunt- Cancer (Brother-in-law of Jenice Landers)
- Kirsten Eary- Health issues (16 yr old great niece of Wanda Cavel)
- Sally Davis’s friends 14 year old daughter, Gracie Shannon has been diagnosed with Leukemia, a match has been found for her. Had her transplant and waiting on results.
- Tammy Little- Cancer (Niece of Mavis Strand)
- Cindy Morris- Cancer (Niece of Mavis Strand)
- Phyllis Scott
- Marcia & Charles Elkins
- Tommy Morgan- Eye Macular Degeneration
- Jonathan Stone- Health issues
- Margaret Branstetter- Recuperating at home
- Mary Buchwald- Stage 4 Lung Cancer
- Mr. & Mrs. Bill Looney
- Awanda Glover- Health issues
- Gavyn Garza- Health issues (Daughter of Kari & Mike Garza)
- Vivian Thurman
- Mike Finley- Has MS - has back & pain issues
- Randy Newman- Health issues
- Kali Grigg- Will be starting Stem Cell Transplant in May (Daughter-in-law of Jay & Stephanie Grigg, wife of James)
- Karen Fulps- Cancer (Niece of Linda & Mike Finley)
- Donna Campbell- Health issues (Daughter of Denise Campbell)
- Dr. Dan Horton- still in lots of pain
- Charles Horton- Continued prayers

ONGOING:

- Cindy Morris- Cancer (Niece of Mavis Strand)
- Phyllis Scott
- Marcia & Charles Elkins

SYMPATHY:

- To Norman and Vickie Cantrell, and Karen and Ken Krause families on the passing of their father, Rev. Kenneth Cantrell, Thursday, April 21, 2022. His funeral service was Wednesday, April 27, 2022, First Baptist Worship Center.
- To Ronnie and Betty Vaughan and family on the passing of his brother, Donnie Vaughan, Friday, April 15, 2022.

OKLAHOMA BAPTISTS PRAYER REQUESTS:

Matt Stewart, Baptist Collegiate Ministries Director at Oklahoma City University

- Pray that their students will have wisdom and boldness as they represent Christ each day.
- Pray that they will continue to develop leaders who will have influence not only in this ministry, but in their churches as well.
- Pray for the Gospel to go forward, for there are many students who have never had an opportunity to respond to the Gospel.

NORTH AMERICAN MISSION BOARD PRAYER REQUESTS:

Wesley (Wes) and Alexia (Lexi) Winebarger, Church Planter, Travelers Church, Pittsburg, PA

- Pray sojourners will find a home within their church family, witness the transformative presence of Jesus, and lead the way into the harvest.

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Women's newsletter



Church newsletter







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May 8, 2022

FBC Lawton

NEWSLETTER

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Suffering

Twenty-three years ago, Oklahoma experienced a devastating tragedy, the May 3rd tornadoes. I remember it being a warm spring day. I was at doctor’s appointment in Anadarko when the sky went black. I can remember driving home and wondering if the storm was over. It was not. I remember watching the news, as storm chasers and helicopters videoed the damage.

As a youngster at the time, I couldn’t begin to grasp the severity of what happened. In total, 74 tornadoes tore through the country killing 46 people and causing more than a billion dollars in damage. Even as a child, I wondered why such tragedy was even possible. It seemed evil. My eleven-year-old self was right, this type of evil is called “natural evil”.

Natural evil includes things like tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, and volcanoes. These events are not caused directly by a non-divine moral agent. They are unique from things like murder and genocide that are “moral evils”. Typically, humans can do nothing about natural disasters occurring.



THE WEEKLY WORDS
BRANDON THOMPSON
DOCTORAL STUDENT

One of the most common questions I am asked is about natural evil. I think people can grasp that bad people do bad things causing harm. However, it is more difficult for us to comprehend why a tornado touched down on one house killing everyone inside and missed the house next door. It seems senseless, random, and cruel.

Luckily, as Christians we know that pain, suffering, and hurt are not senseless. In John 9:1-3, Jesus addresses the problem of pain with a man born blind. The disciples were pointing toward moral evil as the cause when Jesus showed them that pain and suffering was much more complex than that. My favorite words in the passage are the words, “so that”.

In those short two words Jesus demonstrates that we are not suffering in vain. God has a plan and often that plan is not understood by us. I am not sure why a tornado hits one house and not another, I am not sure why the man in the passage was born blind, but God

is sure. In the midst of tragedy, it is hard to remember that God knows, cares, and plans to make something good from something totally awful.

It is also important to realize that God is not causing evil to happen. God’s original plan did not involve natural evil. When humanity fell from grace, so did all of Creation. Indirectly, all the pain and suffering we experience is because of sin in general, not sin in particular. It is not God’s fault that we are sinful, but it is by God’s grace that He plans to make it right. He has a plan to redeem all of Creation and we see that plan unfold in the biblical text.

Twenty-three years later, I still struggle with the question of natural evil. It’s hard to wrap my head around the suffering, but I also know that in the midst of the greatest suffering, good can come. It happened 2,000 years ago on a hill outside of Jerusalem, when the only innocent person to live suffered a terrible death. It is understanding the cross that allows us to face suffering with a somber understanding that it is not in vain.

