

PRAYER LIST

CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister, cancer surgery in Houston TX on 12/2/2015

MIKE CUMBERLAND, out-patient therapy

DAVE DAVIS

ODELL GURLEY, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley) granddad; lung cancer treatment

EVELYN GUY, diabetic issues

CINDY HARPER, suffering from the shingles

JUDY JENNINGS, former member; rare form cancer
2027 Green Gate PL ~ Grayson, GA 30017-1857

BETTY JOHNSON, home-bound; fell but doing well

SAILOR RAE JONES & her mother Melyna, friend of Jennifer Guy. Infant Sailor heart surgery recovery

ANNALYSSA KING, back surgery recovery at home

NAN LEGGETT, friend of Mike & Renée Cumberland; lives in Bogue Chitto, MS; chronic Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. Member Mt Zion Church of Christ

MIKE McCRARY, Josh McCrary's dad

REATHA RAINER

MRS GENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues

STAN RALEY, pneumonia

FAYE RARICKS, friend of Dewey Wall

ALETHA RAY, Moriah McCrary's mom – cancer
10218 US Hwy 98 ~ Fairhope, AL 36532

TED RIVES, hospice care; recent apparent stroke

DAVID ROBINSON, Lona Moffett's dad

IRVEN & BETTY SKINNER & family, passing of sister-in-law Maxinee Alexander, of Duffee, following house fire Fri 11/27

AL ST. CLAIR

ROB WARREN

EUGENE WHITE, health issues

VELMA "DUCK" YATES

MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES

CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

None This Week

Note: If you are new to our family, or have changes to your info, please see Renée Cumberland.

Deacon Installation

December 6, 2015

Morning worship service

Lamar King

Byron Madison

Randy Rives

"For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus."

1 Timothy 3:13



Adult Christmas Party

This year's party is set for Thursday, December 17th. We will be dining and playing Dirty Santa at *Western Sizzlin' Steak House*, located on North Frontage Road, in Meridian; festivities to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Those wishing join in the fun, whether or not you decide to participate in the Dirty Santa game, please sign up on the flyer on the foyer table, or contact Renée and she will add you to the list. Please indicate the number attending in your party so we can give a total to Western Sizzlin' a week before the party. If you do plan to participate in the Dirty Santa game, please keep in mind the gift price, which remains at \$20.

Simple Christians

~ continued from cover ~

Their worship was something in which to participate, not something to watch. On the first day of the week, for instance, they would eat the Lord's supper and hear preaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29), they would all sing (Ephesians 5:19), they would all pray with various ones leading (1 Corinthians 14:15-16), and they would share in their mutual responsibilities by sharing their prosperity (1 Corinthians 16:1-2). We find no contributions being collected on any other day than the first day of the week and no hierarchy taxing them or telling them how much to give. They had no organizations clamoring for their support. They gave as they individually purposed in their own hearts (2 Corinthians 9:6-7). In all this they were all necessarily involved for each saved person was a priest (Revelation 1:5-6). No one could perform his service or worship for another.

They lived godly lives. They cared for their poor. They taught others. They sent out preachers to teach others in far communities. With simplicity of faith and fervor there was no need of centralization. Without organized machinery, the gospel was preached to the whole of civilization in a short time (Colossians 1:23). These disciples of Christ were known as Christians (Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16). They wore no sectarian names. Their religion was not materialistic or sensual. They did not seek to impress men with pious ceremony, rather, they sought to impress God with the only thing that has ever impressed Him contrite obedience (2 Samuel 15:22). Their appeal was not social or recreational. They offered the gospel, for they knew it was God's power to save (Romans 1:16), and any other appeal was beneath them.

Many sigh, "Oh, if only such could be today." But it is! Free men and women over the earth have despaired of denominationalism, seeing in it neither necessity nor relevance but only a cause of division. They desire the simplicity of what Christ authored, and their number is increasing. How many have taken such a stand? Who knows! They are related and connected only in Christ and not in some organization with machinery to keep a tally. We will not try to number them. What is important, though, is that a group of such people meet within minutes of where you live.

They are just Christians. They worship and serve God in the same way the early disciples did. Christ is their only creed and the Scriptures their only guide. They are not members of any human organization, they are simply a congregation, or church, of Christ. They, in turn, would like to share Christ with you and with all the world.

Paul wrote: *"Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?"* (1 Corinthians 1:12-13). Many people today or trying to attempt the same division that took place in the first century. Some say they are of Martin Luther (Lutherans), some say they are of John Smith (Baptists), other say they are of John Wesley (Methodists), some say they are of John Calvin (Presbyterians), and others of the pope (Catholics). Why would we not want to return to simple New Testament Christianity instead of following the doctrines and teachings of men? Jesus taught: *"This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men"* (Matthew 15:8-9).

Can people be divided religiously and still be right with God? Friend, I think you know the answer.

You too can be just a Christian and serve God without belonging to any denomination, bound by denominational laws or obligations. If such freedom appeals to you, please contact us.

Pine Vale Christmas Party Saturday, December 12th

There will be a caravan traveling to Corinth. See Randy Rives if interested in going.