

PRAYER LIST

MARK ALLEN, Paul & Nell's son
PAUL ALLEN, recovery/rehab at home
CHELSEA AYCOCK, age 24; cancer recovery;
friend of Lara King; girl-friend of Renée
Cumberland's cousin
CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister
ANN BOWLING, friend of Kitty Dooley & Linda
Collie – Golden Living Center, Hwy 39 North
TED BRWON, Sherri Clopton's dad remains at
North Pointe for rehab following stroke
North Pointe Health & Rehabilitation
211 Windmill DR ~ Meridian, MS 39305
RITA CHAPLIN, friend of Renée Cumberland,
in Waukegan, IL; cancer; on hospice care
DAVE DAVIS
SUE DAVIS, surgery recovery
KITTY DOOLEY, knee surgery recovery at home
ODELL GURLEY, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley)
granddad; lung cancer treatment
CHRIS HATCHER, brother-in-law of Paul Guy
BETTY JOHNSON, home-bound
NAN LEGGETT, friend of Mike & Renée
Cumberland
BYRON & HARLEY MADISON, motorcycle wreck,
Wed, Sept 7; they continue to recover at home
MIKE McCRARY, Josh McCrary's dad
ALAN MOTES, Shirley Raley's great-nephew – car
accident, in DCH Hospital, Tuscaloosa, AL
BETSY PARNELL, friend of Cindy Harper –
chemo/radiation for cancer
REATHA RAINER, in dementia facility;
% Adrian Rainer ~ 5310 Tara AVE
Northport AL 35473
MRS GENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues
STAN RALEY
ALETHA RAY, Moriah McCrary's mom
AL ST. CLAIR
ROB WARREN
EUGENE WHITE
VELMA "DUCK" YATES
MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES
CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

October 11 : Tom & Alana Fair
October 11 : Brandie Madison

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



Pine Vale Children's Home Fall Food Collection

The following items will need to be here no later
than Sunday, October 16th, as a representative
from the Home will be coming by to pick up at
the evening service time. As always, thanks for
your generous hearts in assisting Pine Vale and
its children when the need arises.

Place on table by porch doors.

Lasagna Noodles ~ Salsa ~ Foil

A vertical advertisement for a 'Ladies' Day' event. It features a profile of a woman with her hands clasped in prayer. The text reads: 'Ladies' Day', 'Bay Springs, Mississippi • Church of Christ', 'October 15, 2016', 'Speaker Wanda Carter (Collins, MS)', 'Registration & Light Breakfast -- 8:30 A.M.', 'Program Begins at 9:00 A.M.', and 'Lunch & Fellowship: 12:00 P.M. until ??'.

The Bible is NOT a Textbook

~continued from cover~

- We read James 5's call for us to confess our sins to one another... yet a large number of Christian men (and an increasingly large number of Christian women) struggle with pornography and don't feel safe sharing their burden with others.
- We gather and sing songs about longing for God "as the deer pants for the water," and needing Him "every hour" before listening to a lesson on the importance of walking with God. Then surveys tell us that four out of five churchgoers don't read the Bible daily.

To borrow an illustration from Francis Chan, imagine telling your child to clean his or her room, only to have them come back an hour later and say "I didn't clean my room. But I memorized what you said. I can even say it in Greek." What good would that do? Would that satisfy you? Of course not. But that's exactly what we do when we treat the Bible as a textbook.

If there is no transformation, why are we doing any of this? Why wake up on Sunday mornings to drive to the church building? Why listen to (or even prepare and present) a lesson if we have no intention of letting it change us? If that's how we're going to approach Christianity, we might as well quit. But of course we shouldn't quit. We should rededicate ourselves to submitting our lives to God's shaping. In Ezekiel God describes this process as turning hearts of stone into hearts of flesh. Ephesians 2 describes us as being dead before being made alive with Christ. The Bible isn't about a series of historical events and a list of commands. It is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16-17). It is literally all about transformation, changing the hopelessly sinful into the image of Christ.

So what do we do when we get stuck in the rut of viewing the Bible as a textbook? Give extra diligence to your study. Take notes from the sermon and/or Bible class, and take them home to study so you can meditate on the lessons from the text. Pray that God would soften our hearts and draw us near to Him. Find a Christian who is setting the example of what it looks like to walk with God and ask them to help make you a disciple of Christ.

We all struggle with a lack of obedience (Romans 3:23) and know that none of us will ever be perfect, but we also know that God loves us anyway. However, our relationship with Him will greatly depend on how we view His word. If it's become nothing more than a textbook that we can know and quote with no spiritual change and no relationship with Him, it's time to reexamine our view of God and His Word.

Posted by Jack Wilkie ♦ Focus Press ♦ Renew Your Mind

GOSPEL MEETING

Duffee Church of Christ

Wednesday, October 19 - Saturday, October 22, 2016

♦ 7 o'clock p.m. nightly ♦

♦ topics to be announced later ♦

Speaker: Josh McCrary of the Ripley Church of Christ, Ripley, MS

Please make plans to support the Duffee congregation for this meeting

Note: Family unable to travel here due to children being in school