

# PRAYER LIST

**CHERYL BARRON**, Stan Raley's sister  
**JO ANN BROSELL**, friend of Kathy St. Clair – surgery, Wednesday 2/22/2017  
**TED BRWON**, Sherri Clopton's dad, home rehab  
**LINDA BULLOCK**, recent skin cancer surgery  
**MIKE CUMBEFRAND**, The Oaks Rehab/Healthcare Rm 114 – 3716 Hwy 39 North, Meridian MS 39301  
**ODELL GURLEY**, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley) granddad; lung cancer treatment  
**CHRIS HATCHER**, brother-in-law of Paul Guy  
**THERMAN HODGE**, surgery recovery for cancer  
**JUDY JENNINGS**, former member; recurrence of rare form of cancer ~ 2027 Green Gate PL ~ Grayson, GA 30017-1857  
**BETTY JOHNSON**, home-bound  
**JORDAN KINDLE**, 14yrolld boy at Clarkdale; at St Jude undergoing chemo for cancer tumors; friends of Rob & Doris Warren family;  
**WALTER KING**, Lamar's dad, post-aneurism surgery recovery at home  
**NAN LEGGETT**, Brookhaven, MS area; friend of Mike/Renée Cumberland; fell/broke wrist & is now wheelchair bound due to continued increasing leg muscle issues  
**MIKE McCRARY**, Josh McCrary's dad  
**JENNIFER MARTIN**, auto accident spinal injury  
**BETSY PARNELL**, friend of Cindy Harper –  
**MRS GENE RALEY**, Stan's mom – health issues  
**STAN RALEY**  
**AL ST. CLAIR**  
**ZELIA STEPHENS**, aunt of Jason Smith; cancer  
**THELMA TALBERT**, Shirley Raley's mom  
**RUTH TAYLOR**, Room 102 at Brookdale Meridian, 4555 35<sup>th</sup> AVE, Meridian, MS 39305  
**AMBER TUTTLE**, Beth Dyer's cousin from Anderson, IN; suffered 3<sup>rd</sup> burns over 1/3 of her body during fire which destroyed her house  
**ROB WARREN**  
**EUGENE WHITE**, injury/fall from ladder  
**VELMA "DUCK" YATES**  
**MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE**

# ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

August 29 : Glenda Rives  
 August 30 : Will Parker  
 August 31 : Skip Martin

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

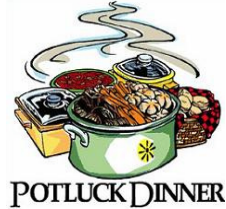
## Fourth Sunday Fellowship Today..

..following morning service.

Our Evening worship service will follow at 12:30.

As always, our visitors are our most honored guests.

Please plan to join us!

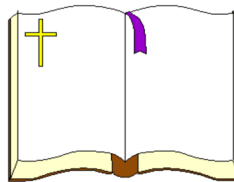


POTLUCK DINNER

Unscramble the letters to find the words in our

## About the Bible Anagram

Word List: authors, Bible, books, chapters, promises, stories, teaching, testaments, truth, verses



- hrttu \_\_\_\_\_
- bbeil \_\_\_\_\_
- eiorsst \_\_\_\_\_
- eimoprss \_\_\_\_\_
- aceghint \_\_\_\_\_
- aeemnssttt \_\_\_\_\_
- eerssv \_\_\_\_\_
- bkoos \_\_\_\_\_
- ahorstu \_\_\_\_\_
- acehprst \_\_\_\_\_

# The Bible is NOT a Textbook

~continued from cover~

- Anybody who grew up attending Bible class regularly was probably asked to memorize the great commission verses in Matthew 28:18-20 and Mark 16:15-16. How easy is it to sweep those verses under the rug and pretend like we weren't called to share the Gospel?
- 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 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