

# PRAYER LIST

**CHERYL BARRON**, Stan Raley's sister  
**TOMMY BEECH**, traffic accident recovery  
**JO ANN BROSELL**, friend of Kathy St. Clair – surgery, Wednesday 2/22/2017  
**TED BRWON**, Sherri Clopton's dad, home rehab  
**MIKE CUMBEFRAND**, The Oaks Rehab/Healthcare Rm 114 – 3716 Hwy 39 North, Meridian MS 39301  
**ANGELA DUNCAN**, knee surgery recovery  
**ODELL GURLEY**, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley) granddad; lung cancer treatment  
**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**, 14yrolde 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

NONE THIS WEEK

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!

## Pine Vale Children's Home Fall



## Food Collection

Until we receive confirmation from Pine Vale, the following items will need to be dropped off in the annex no later than Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. As always, thanks for your generous hearts in assisting Pine Vale and its children when the need arises.

BBQ sauce or Dale's type sauce

Canned Mushrooms or Green Olives

Panty Liners

# THE "SILENCE" OF THE SCRIPTURES

The above titled article by Brother Gary Workman, appeared in the March 1981, Vol. 1, No. 4 issue of "The Restorer" publication, in which Brother Workman emphasized the importance of our respecting the silence of the Scriptures. His article is worthy of our consideration:

People everywhere are in need of either an introduction or a reminder as to how to deal with what has often been called "the silence of the scriptures." It is failure to understand and respect such "silence" that is causing some erroneous deviations that are now creeping into the worship and work of many congregations. But this is not something new.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** - It was this very same failure and lack of respect that caused musical instruments to be introduced into the worship in 1860 and ultimately led to a massive split in the church. Those with the lax attitude formed what became known as the Disciples of Christ or Christian Church, the main body of which has now in recent times completely renounced the concept of New Testament Christianity and voted itself into full-fledged denominational status. Such is the inevitable result of failing to respect the "silence" of the scriptures.

**THE LAW OF EXCLUSION** - Meanwhile, faithful Christians continued to teach and preach on the necessity of Bible authority for all that we believe and practice. Included in that teaching was insistence on the "law of exclusion" – that when God specifies a particular thing (such as **gopher wood** in the ark or **vocal music** in worship) it excludes all other types of that thing (**oak or pine** in the ark and **instrumental music** in worship). The validity of the "law of exclusion" is clearly illustrated in the classic case of Nadab and Abihu (Leviticus 10:1-2). They did not violate a stated prohibition, but simply failed to respect the "law of exclusion" and so "offered strange fire before Jehovah, **which he had not commanded.**" It is this "law of exclusion" which is otherwise referred to as "the silence of the scriptures." And brethren in general used to teach diligently on these things.

**A LACK OF CONTINUED TEACHING** - In recent years, there has not only been a lack of continued teaching on this subject in the Lord's church but, in some cases, even an outright repudiation of it! A brother in California stated in a recent book that "nowhere is the Bible silent" and that any insistence on respecting such "silences" is just "well-worn Restorationist doctrine."

Likewise, two articles just published among us in Alabama, assert that instrumental music in worship "is neither scriptural nor unscriptural because **the Bible says nothing about it either way**" and that "if the apostles ever taught that instruments were sinful, **they never left one word to that effect**" (emphasis mine).

All three writers conclude that the use or non-use of instrumental music is just a matter of opinion and personal preference.

**THE LAW OF EXCLUSION ILLUSTRATED IN HEBREWS 7-8** - These brethren (and thousands of others) need a good lesson about the "law of exclusion" or "the silence of the scriptures." The principle is clearly stated in the New Testament in Hebrews 7-8. The Old Testament law gave the priesthood to the tribe of Levi without specifically eliminating other tribes by name (Numbers 8). But the silence of the scriptures had to be respected. Therefore, since "it is evident that our Lord hath sprung out of Judah, as to which tribe **Moses spake nothing** concerning priests," if Jesus were on earth "he would not be a priest at all" (Hebrews 7:14; Hebrews 8:4). When one tribe alone was named, the **silence** in respect to other tribes, amounted to an **exclusion!**

**CONCLUSION** - We must realize two things: (1) Any statement that involves an obligation, must be treated as a command, and (2) Implicit commands are just as authoritative and binding as explicit ones! In any positive command or statement, there is an implied opposite – an **implicit negative command.**

As we read the positive, we draw an inference or make a deduction which leads to a conclusion about the negative. If we have correctly understood the positive statement, the inferred negative conclusion is decisive and inescapable. Therefore, do not begin by asking, "Where does the Bible say we can't do it?" First, see if it is excluded by what is **specified.** And if it is, **respect the silence of the scriptures!**