

## PRAYER LIST

LILLIE ALFORD, Ethel Clark's sis-in-law  
LINDA BULLOCK, medical issues/tests  
CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister  
TRAVIS CREASY, Duncan & Reynolds friend  
CHRIS EMOND, Madison family friend - cancer  
ALANA FAIR, medical issues  
JUNE FRANKS, passing of husband Al  
718 Glendale DR, Kosciusko MS 39090  
JAMES GORDON, Bridget Smith's dad  
THERMAN HODGE, cancer treatment  
JACK HUNTLEY, Callens friend  
BILLY JOHN, recent health issues  
BETTY JOHNSON, Anderson South; hip rehab  
JORDAN KEMBLE, Warren friend, brain tumor  
WALTER KING, Lamar's dad  
JACK MEARS  
ANA OBANDO, Rocio Salas Jenson's mother  
GENE & CHARLENE RALEY, Stan's parents  
STAN RALEY  
GRADY & HELEN RICHARDSON, Angela  
Duncan's parents, health issues  
AL ST. CLAIR  
THELMA TALBERT, Shirley Raley's mom  
RUTH TAYLOR, nursing facility resident  
Room 102 at Brookdale/Meridian  
4555 35<sup>th</sup> AVE, Meridian, MS 39305  
BARBARA TERRAL, Jennifer Guy's mom  
BRENDA THOMAS  
MIKE & JIMMIE TIMBES, Duncan friends, health  
PERRY TUBBY, Brandie Madison's dad  
ROB WARREN SISTERS, Laura Hughes (Lyme  
Disease); & Michelle (compressed vertebrae)  
ED WALTERS, husband of close friend of  
Cindy Harper, liver cancer  
ANNIE WEBB, Cindy Harper's great-  
granddaughter – B'ham's Children's Hospital  
on ventilator due to critical lung issues  
VELMA "DUCK" YATES  
MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICESCHURCH  
MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

## ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

No Special Occasions This Week

### Men's Weekly Breakfast

will meet this Friday for breakfast at  
**iHop**

To confirm location or for more info,  
contact Tom Fair or Stan Raley

### Our Prayer

God of the year that lies behind us,  
Lord of the years that stretch before,  
Weaver of all the ties that bind us,  
Keeper and King of the Open Door.

Grant us hope and a courage glowing  
White and pure as the stars above.  
Grant us faith in a full stream flowing  
Down from the heights of Thy changeless love.

Out of the ruins of doubt and sorrow,  
Out of the ashes of pain and tears,  
Help us to fashion a great tomorrow,  
Free from the anguish of blighting fears.

Build with us, lest our great walls crumble,  
Broken stone upon useless day;  
Walk with us, lest our feet stumble,  
Grope, falter, or lose the way.

All through the seasons of sowing and reaping,  
All through the harvest of song and tears,  
Hold us close in Thy tender keeping,  
O Maker of all our New Years.

Amen

Ralph Samuel Ervin



**Teach them the importance of the church by committing to attend.** They need to see that church is a non-negotiable part of our lives and that God comes first in all things. When attendance is optional and we let all kinds of other activities take precedence, we shouldn't be surprised when the church doesn't matter to them as they become independent and make their own decisions.

**Teach them what matters in a church by your choice of where to attend.** If you choose a congregation

because the lessons make you feel good, their takeaway will be that making people feeling good is the point of the church. If you choose one because of the offerings they've catered to you, you teach them that the church is an organization that is there to serve the individual rather than the other way around. If you choose one purely because it's a convenient distance from home, they'll learn that the character of the church matters far less than our own comfort.

When it's time to choose a congregation to be a part of, two reasons should outrank all the others: biblical teaching and opportunities to serve. From these they'll learn that the Bible is of utmost importance and that we are servants of the church, not customers.

**Teach them by your words the value of your church family.** If they hear us lifting up our church family in prayer, speaking well of them, and praising them, they will see the value of having a church family. On the other hand, if they hear us picking apart the preacher or the song leader or sharing the latest gossip or speaking negatively about our fellow members, it will teach them all kinds of bad attitudes. It will teach them to think of themselves as superior to others. It will teach them to be judgmental. And, ultimately, it will teach them to have little value or love for their church family.

Instead, we must find ways to teach our children to love the people who make up the church. Speak highly of your brothers and sisters. See the good. Encourage them and build them up when you're together. Though the people around us are never perfect, we can teach our children to love as Jesus loved by caring about our church family. And, we teach them humility and grace when we show them the importance of loving people through the ups and downs.

**Teach them by your fellowship that the church truly is a family.** When we tell people that church is a family and then only see each other briefly each week, know little about each other, and rarely help build each other up and bear each other's burdens, they'll start to see "church family" as little more than a weak metaphor. Teach your kids that you mean it when you call your fellow members your family.