

PRAYER LIST

LINDA BULLOCK, medical issues/tests
CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister
BECKY BROWN, Sherri Clopton's mom
WILLIAM CAREY's MOM
ALAN DES ORMEAUX, Vinson friend; cancer
CHRIS EMOND, Madison family friend; cancer
ALANA FAIR
JAMES GORDON, Bridget Smith's dad
ANTORIAS GROVES, Ethel Clark's son-in-law,
back at work; to resume cancer treatment
EVELYN GUY, health issues
BUD HARPER, Cindy's bro-in-law, health issues
TERRY HARPER, Cindy's husband health issues
THERMAN HODGE
JACK HUNTLEY, Callens friend
BILLY JOHN health issues
JORDAN KEMBLE, Warren friend; brain tumor
WALTER KING, Lamar's dad
JACK MEARS
JAKE NESTER, Fair friend – cancer, chemo
CHARLENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues
STAN RALEY
GRADY RICHARDSON, Angela Duncan's dad
AL ST. CLAIR
MATTHEW STOKLEY, Duncan friend - cancer
RANDY SWALLOW, Linda Bullock's nephew
THELMA TALBERT, Shirley Raley's mom
RUTH TAYLOR, Brookdale/Meridian
ANNIE THOMAS, Edna Toole's mother, health
TERRY TRIBBLE, Renée Cumberland's friend
PERRY TUBBY, Brandie Madison's dad
ANNIE WEBB, Cindy Harper's g-grand-daughter
MAX WEBB, Cindy's grandson, deployed
MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES
OUR GOVERNMENT – NATIONAL & S TATE
CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

March 1 : Ethel Clark

Peace, Perfect Peace

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus made the following statement: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). Those beautiful words of comfort to Jesus' apostles should hold great meaning for us today, as well.

The world claims to give men some peace. As a result, over the centuries, men have tried many things in and of themselves to find internal peace – transcendental meditation, yoga, philosophy, pleasure, and hot tea, just to name a few. But none of those can give true, lasting satisfaction, comfort, and peace of soul and mind.

The peace that the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6) gives is real and enduring (Ezek. 37:26). It meets all the needs of our souls. And He left this peace with us in the form of the Gospel (Eph. 6:15). The word of God will never let us down. Reading it should continually soothe us and bring great tranquility to our lives.

As we read more of God's will, more "peace of mind" should come. As we righteously live what we have learned, we can be assured that we can continually "keep the peace" that Christ desires us to have in our lives (Jas. 3:18). As we tell others about the truth of the gospel of peace (Rom. 10:15), we help to spread the good news about the peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7).

Jesus left His peace with us. Let's not let it go to waste. Let's claim our piece of Jesus' peace and be "at peace" forevermore. "Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen." (1 Pet. 5:14)

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<http://www.broadwaychurchofchrist.net/>

A chance to emerge as a stronger church than before

The following is an excerpt from Jack Wilkie's new book *Church Reset: God's Design for So Much More*. To purchase or to learn more, [click here](#).

"We don't *go* to church, we *are* the church."

The phrase has been around for as long as I can remember, but it's rarely been more than just a vague saying that sounds nice but lacks any teeth. We can all agree the statement is true, but that still leaves us to decide what it means in practical terms. That's why it's so exciting to see a growing movement aimed at defining what it means to be the church and then acting on that definition. It's my prayer that this book is another step in that direction for each reader.

Change is hard to come by, though. Many struggle with great discomfort at the very thought of change, resisting it at every turn. At some point most Christians have likely heard the phrase "We've always done it that way" used as a reason to not rethink methods of the past. Many are also protective of their traditions, because the longer a tradition has been in place, the easier it is to think of as a Scriptural necessity. But God does not have to be hindered by our stubbornness. Sometimes when we're shaken out of our comfort zones He takes the opportunity to do some of His best work. I do not presume to speak for God, but that may very well be what He's doing in real time as I write this conclusion.

I began writing *Church Reset* around September 2019. When I began, plenty of rethinking and changing were taking place, but nobody could have predicted what was going to happen in our world in the months to come. As words and phrases like "coronavirus," "COVID-19," "social distancing," and "an abundance of caution" entered our vocabulary, church life got turned on its head. Though I have no way of knowing what the future holds on the other side of the quarantine, I have hope that God will bring wonderful changes to His church through this time.

The situation has already been a catalyst for readjusting our focus on what is really important. As we've lost access to our buildings we've realized that church never was the building. As we've watched worship services online we've figured out just how hollow that experience can be without each other's presence. As our church events have been canceled and plans have been changed we've had a chance to see that the real work of the church is found in the way we connect with each other and those around us. All of this represents an opportunity to begin applying the principles we know to be true.

April 29, 2020 by Jack Wilkie, the editor of focuspress.org and author of "[Failure: What Christian Parents Need to Know About American Education](#)." He also preaches for the Forney church of Christ in Forney, TX, where he, his wife, Allison, and their daughter reside. You can find his full bio [here](#).

