

# PRAYER LIST

CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister  
BECKY BROWN, Sherri Clopton's mom  
LINDA BULLOCK, medical issues/tests  
WILLIAM CAREY's MOM  
ALAN DES ORMEAUX, Vinson friend; cancer  
CHARLES DOOLEY, upcoming surgery  
TAMMIE DUNN, Linda Bullock's daughter  
CHRIS EMOND, Madison family friend; cancer  
ALANA FAIR  
JAMES GORDON, Bridget Smith's dad  
ANTORIAS GROVES, Ethel Clark's son-in-law,  
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  
LAMAR KING  
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  
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 & STATE  
CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

## ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

April 23 : Jack Mears

### Senior Sunday

~ April 25, 2021 ~

We have two graduating high school seniors this year. Please join us in celebrating their accomplishments.



Eli Hurst Northeast Lauderdale



Annalyssa King Russell Christian



This year's Senior Sunday event is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> to honor Eli and Annalyssa.

A finger-food celebration for our graduates will be held following our morning service. All ladies are asked to bring your favorite "finger-foods" for this event.

If you have questions, please contact one of the following:

Angela Duncan Alana Fair Lara King

## "WHO IS YOUR BEST FRIEND?" (from cover)

... swim?" The point is that you cannot trust even the best of people with just anything, but with God you can trust and rely on Him for anything. Humans will sometimes make promises that they cannot keep, but God ALWAYS keeps his promises. He is COMMITTED to you!

The Bible says that we are God's children: "**Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not**" (1 John 3:1). Therefore, because we are the children of God, He goes above and beyond to make sure we know how committed He is.

Notice second that God offers COMPASSION. The text reads as follows: "**Greater love hath no man than this: that a man lay down his life for his friends...**" It takes a lot of love and compassion to die for people that you do not even know, and possibly some that you do not like. Jesus said: "**I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep**" (John 10:14). Isaiah wrote in prophecy about the compassion that Jesus showed mankind by dying on the cross: "**Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all**" (Isaiah 53:4-6).

A man in the Navy asked his commanding officer if he could leave to attend a wedding. The officer told him to be back by 7 p.m. to which the soldier said, "Sir, you don't understand, I am in the wedding. I cannot be back by 7 p.m." The officer answered, "Son, you don't understand. You are in the Navy. Be back by 7 p.m." Therefore, because what Jesus did is of utmost importance, should we not show our love for Him by coming to church, teaching Bible classes, being involved in activities of the church, giving of our means, helping to lead in services, etc.?

Notice third that God offers CONDITIONS. The text reads as follows: "**Ye are my friends if ye do...**" God is a God of conditions and has placed conditions on every aspect of our lives. We choose to love Him or reject Him, but God chooses the reward and the punishment. The word "IF" is a very powerful word in the English language. Paul wrote, "**Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off**" (Romans 11:22). Therefore, so many things hang in the balance of the word "IF."

The chicken and the pig are walking by a church building and the chicken says, "Let's go make an offering to the work! We'll offer ham and eggs." The pig replied, "Wait a minute! For you it is an offering, but for me it is a total sacrifice." Many people are not willing to give themselves as a total sacrifice to God. They spend all their time just offering a little here or there (possibly attending services once or twice a month, not really involved, etc.). Jesus placed CONDITIONS on His friendships. He said, "**If ye love me, keep my commandments**" (John 14:15).

Notice forth that God offers COMMANDMENTS. The text reads as follows: "**Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you...**" The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote: "**And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him**" (Hebrews 5:9). Therefore, in order to receive the blessing of friendship, one must know about God's COMMITMENT, God's COMPASSION, God's CONDITIONS, and God's COMMANDS.

Jenny and Amanda were playing. Jenny says, "Let's play school." Amanda replies, "O.K. I'll be absent!" Friend, are you absent from being the friend of God today? God wants you to come home. Will you obey God today and become part of the family of God (Acts 2:37-47)?