

PRAYER LIST

DANNY ANTHONY, Edna Toole's cousin - cancer
CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister
BECKY BROWN, Sherri Clopton's mom
LINDA BULLOCK, medical issues/tests
LINDA COLLIE, upcoming knee surgery
ALAN DES ORMEAUX, Vinson friend; cancer
ROBERT DUNCAN, Andy's brother, health issues
TAMMIE DUNN, Linda Bullock's daughter
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
CHARLENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues
STAN RALEY
GRADY RICHARDSON, Angela Duncan's dad
AL ST. CLAIR
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
DICK VINSON, Bladder Cancer surgery recovery
ANNIE WEBB, Cindy Harper's g-grand-daughter
MAX WEBB, Cindy's grandson, deployed
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CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

July 12 : Randy Rlves
July 16 : John Reeves

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HEAVEN Who Will Be There?

~continued from cover~

... prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. And what it was like to not die, but to be just taken up in that fiery chariot. So where can I stop? Just imagine all the interesting people throughout scripture that I want to talk to! This table may wind up being four miles long if I include all those special souls. But Jesus did say in Matthew 8:11, "we will sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." For a meal? Perhaps.

Here are two more chairs. When we began our work in Memphis, our lives became one with a special family. Smith and Alene Howell took us in and literally let us be part of every single family function they had. This man was, hands down, the best elder I ever knew. He and I conducted funerals and weddings together, repeatedly hunted Colorado and Wyoming together, and shared the same tent together up there in the Rockies on every trip. Forty-five years later, his children are still like blood kin to us.

Here's a chair at the very head of the table. I've saved this one for Jesus. True, I've deeply missed family members and long to see them, but this pales in comparison to seeing Jesus face-to-face. He's what will make Heaven my real forever home. Can you imagine hearing the same voice that called this entire universe into existence, the one that said, "Lazarus come forth!" and seeing the hands that touched the blind and caused them to see? It is just too much to imagine.

Well, when everyone is seated, I still have one empty chair over here. It is saved for YOU. I want to see you there in that seat. Everyone up here who ever knew you wants you to be in that seat. You can make provisions for that to happen. Jesus died to make that possible. If you understand what you need to do to obey the gospel, then waste no time, do that today. If you want to go to Heaven, but don't know or understand what you need to do, then call some person you trust, who truly knows the Bible, to show you the way.

My Sue and I both long ago made arrangements to be there. Our hope is not in our goodness, but in the blood of Jesus. She and I have a tradition that's based on Revelation chapter 21 which tells us there are twelve gates up there—three on each side. Whichever of us gets there first will

watch for the other at the middle gate on the east side. So right here in Mississippi, before we kiss good night, or when one of us leaves the house to pick up groceries—anything—one of us says, "East side" and the other responds with, "Middle gate." Those are our parting words because an auto accident, a heart attack, or a stroke tells us we never know when our last contact will be with each other.

Now, it is only human for us to think, "How can I possibly be happy in Heaven if my loved one (spouse, parent, child, sibling, etc.) is not there?" This probably troubles all of us to some extent. The only thing that gives me peace and comfort is the promise from God that says in Heaven there will be no tears, no sadness, no death, no parting. I simply must trust His promise on this.

I really do hope to see you there. MM

by Ken Joines ~ Magnolia Messenger / Summer 2021 pages 8-9

But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.

Revelation 21: 22-23