

# PRAYER LIST

DANNY ANTHONY, Edna Toole's cousin - cancer  
CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister  
BECKY BROWN, Sherri Clopton's mom  
LINDA BULLOCK  
DWIGHT CALLENS  
LINDA COLLIE  
ALAN DES ORMEAUX, Vinson friend; cancer  
STEVE DAWKINS, health issues, doing better  
CHARLES DOOLEY, surgery recovery  
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  
TERRY HARPER, Cindy's husband health issues  
THERMAN HODGE  
BILLY JOHN, health issues  
LAMAR KING  
WALTER KING, Lamar's dad  
ALBERT EUGENE "Gene" MEARS family  
(brother of Jack Mears) in his passing Saturday 11/20  
JACK MEARS  
THEODORA "Teddy" JANET MEARS family  
(sister of Jack Mears) in her passing Tuesday 11/16  
CHARLENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues  
STAN RALEY, surgery recovery  
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  
DICK VINSON, Bladder Cancer; surgery 6/17  
SAMANTHA WARD, Caleb Warren's fiancée  
ANNIE WEBB, Cindy Harper's g-grand-daughter  
MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES  
OUR GOVERNMENT – NATIONAL & STATE  
CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

# ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

None This Week



## Adult Christmas Party

This year's party is set for Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year we will be dining and playing Dirty Santa at Ole Farm Beef House Restaurant located at 2115 Hwy 39 North, Meridian. Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Those wishing to join in the fun, whether or not you decide to participate in the Dirty Santa game, please sign up on the flyer on the foyer bulletin board. You may also contact Renée and she will add you to the list. Please indicate the number attending in your party so we can give a total to Ole Farm on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. More info on payment types they accept later.

If you do plan to participate in the *Dirty Santa* game, please keep in mind the gift price remains at \$20. A sign-up sheet will soon be on foyer bulletin board.

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving for the Christian is not just one day out of the year. It is a life that he or she lives day by day. Paul said that a Christian should not be anxious for anything but that in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to let their requests be made known unto God (Philippians 4:6). Sometimes we become self-centered. This is particularly true when we have problems in our life. We need to spend some time with the book of Philippians.

✠ excerpt from article "Thanksgiving" by David McElwain, *Meridian Messenger*, 11/27/2009 ✠

# BIBLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

MM Readers' ASK: Cecil May RESPONDS

## QUESTION:

*What is your favorite verse of Scripture?* (D.D.)

~continued from cover~

... "Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her" (Ephesians 5:25). It is a love that is willed, not felt. It is possible to love (agape') someone, an enemy for example you do not even like (phile'). You love your enemy by willing and doing according to his needs. If he is hungry, give him food to eat, if he is thirsty, give him something to drink (Proverbs 25:21; Romans 12:20). "Do not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:21).

An interesting part of the passage in Proverbs, quoted in Romans, about feeding your hungry enemy is that "by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head;" that is how you "overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:20-21). The statement is often misunderstood or not understood at all. A preacher tells of a woman he counseled with whose husband was constantly mean to her. "Have you tried heaping coals of fire on his head?" the preacher asked, intending to mean, "Have you tried being sweet and loving to him whenever he is mean to you?"

She replied, "No I ain't tried that, but I did pour boiling water on him once. Didn't do no good, though." She obviously missed the metaphor. "Heaping coals of fire on his head," refers to making him feel bad when he realizes his harmful deeds have been returned with kindly actions.

That, of course, is not a usual response to meanness. It is certainly not how our unrestrained human nature would likely respond, but, if we have learned through the Spirit's message of how God responded to us when we were ungodly and at enmity with Him, we can love not only because, but how, He loved us, overcoming evil with good.

This is also the love described in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

Agape' love is obviously much more than a romantic, sensual feeling, though it can include that. If husbands love their wives "as Christ loved the church," romantic love will very likely follow. We can act our way into a feeling. We love because He first loved us; we love those whom He first loved; and we love how He taught us to love.

MM *Magnolia Messenger* / Fall 2021 pages 4 & 5.

Cecil May Jr., Dean Emeritus; College of Biblical Studies; Faulkner University.

cmay@faulkner.edu