

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

December 1 : Angela Duncan



Adult Christmas Party

This year's party is set for Thursday, December 2nd. 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 29th. 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.



My Favorite SCRIPTURE

“Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God promised to those who love Him”
James 1:12

My childhood was a rough one. I did not grow up with God-fearing parents. In fact, life was a roller-coaster ride. My dad was an abusive husband, which made my mother very docile, causing her to be sick most of the time. One tragic week mama passed away from a massive heart attack, and the following week my brother died. I blamed my father for his death, due to an awful argument between him and my brother. Standing outside, I could hear the hateful words said between them, and I cried and walked deeper into the field by the house. Suddenly, my brother ran out of the house in a rage with dad shouting after him. My brother jumped on his motorcycle, raced out of the driveway, and as soon as he reached the highway, I saw him go under an 18-wheeler. I was very traumatized at that point and emotionally disturbed.

At 13 I ran and kept running, finding myself in my own abusive relationship. Three kids later, and an addiction to crack cocaine, I decided to leave. The streets will suck you in, and sucked in I was. The jail was a revolving door for me, but slowly I was learning about someone named Jesus. Of course, as soon as I got out, He was forgotten, or was He?

So many near misses in my life, from being shot to being beat bloody, I knew deep inside myself that someone, or something, was saving me. On one occasion, and the last, I had been up for several days getting high. I was at my wits end. That was my first time ever at praying. I said, “God, please take me off these streets”. And guess what. He did! I learned that day to be careful what you ask God for. Not five minutes later, the police stopped me. I went to court and was sentenced to ten years in LCIW (Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women).

To my surprise I grew in biblical knowledge at the prison, as well as getting my GED, several state licenses through the Ag Forestry Department, and a diploma from college, and all from going to prison.

Once I did get out, I kept in touch with my Horticulture teacher, Mr. Foy Glenn Beall. He is also my preacher, teacher, friend, and someone I call “Pop” today. Most importantly, he baptized me! He cared about my soul. Now I live with him and his wife, Beth, who I call “Mom.”

Since I have been living here (in Mississippi) with them, I have grown emotionally and spiritually, not to mention they taught me how to drive at age 50, after a long battle with fear of driving because of my brother's death.

I know now it was God's unconditional love that brought me where I am today. I am not going to say the journey was easy, but each chapter of my life, as I look back, taught me something that I can share, and maybe someday save someone else from a life full of pain, abandonment, drug addiction, abuse, low self-esteem, and co-dependency.

So many times I have wished I had been born into a spiritual family, and taught the Word of God. But, I may not have received it like I do today. The lessons I've learned along the way have gotten me to really take heed to biblical principles. So, even though I am a fairly new Christian, I am growing and becoming more mature in Christ every day. A lot of people go through hours and hours of counseling to stay clean from drugs, but when people ask me how I have been clean so long, I tell them I learned from the most read and oldest book known to man—The Bible--with God being my Counselor. You see, I was delivered. At my baptism all my sins were forgiven and forgotten by God. So the saying “once an addict, always an addict”-- I don't agree! Once you are set free and delivered from your sins, nothing in your old life is remembered. *by Tracy Jacob*