

WICK LIST:

HEALTHCARE CENTERS:

Bertharine Burton, Ruby Harrison

HOME: Freddie Alexander, Gloria Windham, Ed & Bettie Barrett, H.C. & Jimmie Nell Brown, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Brenda Rushing

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Sonya Parnell, Anna Turner, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Larry Drummond, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Esther Sutton, Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Dicey Wright, Michael Pope, Wanda Williams, Robert Turner, Kristee McDonald, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Wright, Misty Aldridge, Gregory Morris

AM - JOE SPIVY

PM - JOE SPIVY

OUR CAMPAIGNERS LEAVE ON JULY 13. PLEASE BE PRAYING FOR THEM AND THE CAMPAIGN EFFORT IN WILSON, NC

OSPEL MEETING JULY 15-18 AT ANTIOCH

OSPEL MEETING JULY 15-20 AT BLACKWATER

OSPEL MEETING JULY 16-19 AT WHITSON PLACE

BIRTHDAY:

July 11: Ruby Harrison

12: Steven Windham

ANNIVERSARY:

July 14: Robert & Deloris Brown

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HIGHWAY 78
CARBON HILL, AL 35549
(205) 924-9038
westwalkerchurchofchrist.org

TIMES OF SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING

BIBLE CLASS 9:30

WORSHIP 10:20

SUNDAY EVENING 5:00

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 7:00

ELDERS:

Gene McDonald 924-4827
Carlton Myers 221-0637
Leil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

DAILY RELIGION

Patrick Morrison

Our society is enamored with convenience. We have microwavable meals, ready in a jiffy. We have instant pudding, instant oatmeal, minute rice, and on and on. Many look for jobs that are all about less work for more money, while others fall for the next get-rich-quick-with-no-effort-involved scheme. A large number of marriages are matters of convenience rather than conviction and commitment. We want what we want, and we want it now. Sadly, Christianity is being relegated by many to “convenient” status. Scores want a religion that gives them everything they want, but requires nothing of them. We want to get something out of worship rather than give of ourselves in worship. Too many seem satisfied with a Sunday-only religion. Is this what Christianity is all about? Is there more to religion than assembling with the brethren for an hour or so per week? What will help us to live daily for our Lord?

The encouragement of the Scriptures will help us to live a daily religion. The word of God consistently encourages to live each day in service to Jesus. Our Lord taught us that we must take up our crosses daily if we would be his disciples (Luke 9:23). The Bereans were considered noble for searching the Scriptures daily (Acts 17:11). The early church was busy serving one another each day (Acts 6:1). We must ever be on guard against our adversary, the Devil, and let’s face it—he never takes a day off! That is why we are encouraged to be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord (1 Cor.15:58). We should not grow weary in well doing, for we shall reap, if we faint not (Gal.6:9). What good is a religion that does not work every day? It is not a garment that we can put on and take off whenever we feel the need to do so. The Scriptures encourage us to commit ourselves to daily Christian living.

The example of the Savior will help us to live a daily religion. Jesus sought to do the will of God every day. He constantly reminds us that he came not to do his own will, but the will of Him who sent him (John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38). Even in the face of a painful, humiliating death, Jesus was more concerned about the Father’s will than he was his own (Luke 22:42). He would teach by word and by example the importance of walking with God each day. Jesus knew that the time was coming when his work would cease (John 9:4). He taught us to seize the opportunity! Do not put off until tomorrow what you can do right now! The example of the Savior teaches us to live each day for God.

The edification of the saved that results from daily Christian living should encourage us to that end. When we are committed to living each day for our Lord, the church will grow. Notice how many times we read about the early church growing on a daily basis (Acts 2:42; 5:42; 16:5). The early church grew by leaps and bounds because the brethren followed Jesus daily! Why are we not growing like that now? Certainly there are many factors that hamper church growth in our time, but might it be that we have stopped living for the Lord on a daily basis? When we live for him day by day, the church will be made stronger as a result. Pray, study, and work every day. Encourage your brethren every day, while you have opportunity (Heb.3:13). When others see you living each day for your Lord, it will likely influence them to do the same. Let’s give Jesus our all for 365 days, not just 52!

THE JOY OF PREACHING
Dennis Gullede

Some people work at what they do out of necessity, some out of joy and some because they can't do anything else. Preaching involves all three of these motives. Some preach out of necessity. By what I mean the kind of necessity the apostle Paul felt when he said, "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (1 Cor. 9:16). Some preach out of the pure joy of doing so. Only a joyful preacher could be a worthy vessel of "glad tidings of good things" (Rom. 10:15). Some preach because they cannot do anything else. I don't mean that they lack the ability to learn to do something else. There are always possibilities at Wal-Mart. I mean that they, like Jeremiah of old, do not have the heart to do anything else (Jer. 20:7-9). When I was a preacher student at Freed-Hardeman College (now a university) twenty-five years ago, Tom Holland gave us that timeless advice, "Boys, if you can do anything else at all, don't preach."

The real joy of preaching comes when you know that in preaching the gospel you make a difference in someone's life. It's nice when people compliment your sermons, but the joy doesn't lie there. It's flattering when somebody says that you are his or her "favorite preacher" (every preacher is somebody's favorite preacher). The joy doesn't lie there. The joy comes when someone tells you how you have made a difference for the better in their life; how in your preaching you helped them to make some Scriptural and right decisions that they might not have otherwise made.

This is not the kind of joy that creates a big head. The preacher knows (or, should know) that he personally does not make a difference in a person's life. It is the gospel that changes lives. He is just the glad bearer of the life-changing message that is already inherent in God's word! God has promised that his word will not return to him void: "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the things whereto I sent it" (Isa. 55:9-10). Sometimes those of us who preach rarely know whether or not we are really getting through to the person in the pew with the gospel. We sometimes feel that our efforts are futile and therefore fruitless. Yet, in the parable of the sower Jesus reminds us that the sower who goes forth to sow will find that the seed of God's word will fall on to many different kinds of hearts (Matt. 13:3-9). The yield will be large in some areas and small in others. But, the faithful preacher will keep on preaching because the gospel is the cure for in-sick humanity. What a joy it is to do something that can truly make a difference in the lives of people everywhere. I wouldn't trade it for a stint in the Navy!