

SICK 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, Sue Lockhart, Eli Phillips, Ricky Pope, Jamie McDonald, Peyton Preston

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Kimberly Wilcox, Sonya Parnell, Anna Turner, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Jim Murrell, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Sharon Lawson, Esther Sutton, Wilma Howell, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Michael Pope, Wanda Williams, Robert Turner, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Wright, Gregory Morris, Donna Rutledge, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Joe Spivy, Kenneth Jackson, Kim Elliott, James Felton, Patricia Townley, Braden Knoles

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "A COMMENDABLE CONGREGATION"

PM - BEN WRIGHT - "THE POWER OF PRAYER"

GUS NICHOLS SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL EMPHASIS THURSDAYS AT 6TH AVE.

THERE WILL BE A NEW YEAR'S EVE SINGING AT ADAMSVILLE DEC 31 AT 7 PM

BIRTHDAYS:

Dec 25: Carolyn Myers

ANNIVERSARY:

Dec 27: Travis & Sandy Richardson

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
Neil Myers 924-9289
Bruce Windham 221-2348

DEACONS:

Danny Busby 387-0213

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

A COMMENDABLE CONGREGATION

- I. A growing _____ (2 Thessalonians 1:3).**
- A. The Thessalonians were a group that faced _____ from the beginning (Acts 17:5-9).
 - B. These brethren were in the midst of _____ circumstances and they are commended for the growth of their faith.
 - C. The only way faith can grow is through a _____ of God's revealed word.
 - D. Paul commanded us to let God's word dwell in us _____.
 - 1. The only way this can take place is by _____ God's word.
 - 2. This is what the _____ had done (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

- II. Strong brotherly _____ (2 Thessalonians 1:3).**
- A. In this same verse, the Thessalonians were commended by Paul for their love for one another _____.
 - 1. Abounding means _____.
 - 2. The _____ of their love for one another was growing.
 - B. These brethren had already been commended for this wonderful _____ in Paul's first letter to them (4:9).
 - C. Brotherly love is not limited to _____ the building.

- III. Support of _____ (Philippians 1:4-5).**
- A. Paul commended the Philippian congregation for supporting him in his work of _____ the gospel.
 - B. It is a great _____ to be able to help support those who are preaching the gospel as missionaries.
 - 1. These men and women give a great deal of their time and effort in places where the work is _____.
 - 2. At times, some even sacrifice their _____ to do so.
 - C. There are many out there who lack _____ but still stay hard at work teaching the gospel to those who are lost.
 - D. One of the great things about this congregation is that it has always, at least as long as I've been a part of it, been _____ involved in mission work.

- IV. Standing for the _____ (Revelation 2:2-3, 6).**
- A. Not everything was _____ with the congregation at Ephesus when John was inspired to write the words of Christ to them.
 - B. However, despite a lack of love, these brethren stood for the truth and would not allow error in their _____.
 - C. They _____ the truth and would not allow it to be tampered with.
 - D. We have this same _____ today (Jude 3).
 - E. It is only the truth that _____ so we must not allow it to be contaminated with error (John 17:17).

DOES PRAYER REALLY WORK?

Mark Lindley

One of the great privileges of the Christian life is the opportunity to approach the heavenly Father in prayer. God's people are encouraged to draw near to the Father's heavenly throne with boldness, seeking help in time of need.

Sometimes, Christians get discouraged and may wonder if prayer really works. One might say, "I prayed that God would heal my loved-one, but now my loved-one is dead. Why did my prayer not work?" I suppose we all struggle with the question, "Why?" The answer to the question is not always easy to understand, and, frankly, in some instances we may never find an answer that satisfies.

Nevertheless, Christians can know with all certainty that God hears and answers prayer. Biblical proof of this is James 5:16: "Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." This passage declares that "prayer...availeth much." In other words, prayer not only works, but it also works powerfully and accomplishes much! This should settle the issue for everyone who believes the Bible—God really hears and answers prayer. Prayer works!

But notice the kind of prayer that works. The verse cited from James chapter 5 indicates that an "effectual fervent" prayer is the kind that works. The term "effectual fervent" means "powerful or energetic." Prayer that avails is not merely uttering words in a cold, routine manner. It is not simply "saying" a prayer, but rather it is "praying" a prayer with sincerity, eagerness, and faith. The one praying pours out his heart to God.

Another characteristic of prayer that works is that it is prayed by "a righteous man." A righteous man is one who is just and holy, one who is a faithful child of God. God does not promise to honor the prayers of those living in rebellion to his will (Psalm 66:18), but the prayers of his righteous children avail much.

God does not always answer prayers with a "yes." However, God's people have assurance that God hears; He cares; and He answers according to his divine will.

In view of these thoughts, how comforting it is when a righteous child of God says, "I'll be praying for you." No wonder Paul encouraged, "Brethren, pray for us" (II Thessalonians 3:1).