

**ANNOUNCEMENTS****JULY 13, 2014****SICK LIST:****HEALTHCARE CENTERS:**

Ruby Harrison, Jimmie Nell Brown

**HOME:** Freddie Alexander, Fred & Romaine Elliott, Bessie & Michael Files, Cynthia McMeans, Henry McDonald, Lizzie Banks, Bobbie Dailey**PRAYER LIST:** April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Harold Walton, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Michael Pope, Robert Turner, Wonda Ivie, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, James Felton, Tommy Pope, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Brenda Holloway, Kathy Pate, Jake & Diane Chambers, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Lane Clark, James Mason, Arthur Mason, Kelly Tittle, John Pruitt, Joyce Blankenship, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Donald Rhodes, Debbie Jackson, Diane Townley

AM - BEN WRIGHT - FOUR D'S OF PARENTING

PM - BEN WRIGHT - PURSUE WHAT MAKES FOR PEACE

**THE FUNERAL FOR BERTHARINE BURTON WILL BE TODAY AT 2 WITH A VISITATION FROM 12-2****VBS AT SIXTH AVENUE JULY 13-17****OUR GOSPEL MEETING IS AUG 3-6 WITH FRANK CHESSER****THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE DONATIONS TO ICYC AND HELPED OUR CHILDREN GO TO CAMP. LIZ ROBBINS WAS NAMED PEE-WEE MISS ICYC****BIRTHDAYS:**

July 15: Danny Rushing

# THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST  
26036 HWY 78  
CARBON HILL, AL 35549  
(205) 924-9038  
[westwalkerchurchofchrist.org](http://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

David Preston 300-1927

Kevin Richardson 295-8864

Chris Robbins 388-1354

Vince Roden 924-4062

### **MINISTER:**

Ben Wright 522-8004

## **KNOWING THE BIBLE**

**Mark Lindley**

It comes as no surprise that there is a lack of Bible knowledge in our day. Although the Bible is known as a best-seller, few people actually spend time learning the Bible. On several occasions, I have heard folk shamelessly state, “Well, I don’t know much about the Bible, but...” This statement is often made in the context of a conversation about some Biblical subject. After hearing something with which one disagrees or when one wants to make a strong point, the person might say, “Well, I don’t know much about the Bible, but I believe...” and then the person will proceed to tell what he/she believes.

But think with me for a moment. If one “does not know much about the Bible,” should that not be a concern? Most people who profess to be Christians would readily affirm that the Bible is the Word of God. If that is true, should we not take the time to learn what God has said? If God is trying to communicate with us through the Bible, is it not foolish to casually dismiss the importance of Bible study? Also, if one “does not know much about the Bible,” how could one be informed enough to speak about any Biblical topic? Would it not be better to learn what the Bible says before speaking about the Bible? Granted, no one knows everything about the Bible. Everyone needs to grow in knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), and no one should have an arrogant, smug attitude that he knows it all. However, one does not have to know everything about the Bible, in order to know some things about the Bible.

Knowing the Bible is vital to salvation. If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one know he is saved from sin? If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one be sure his life is pleasing to the Lord? If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one be certain that his worship is pleasing to the Lord? If one does not know much about the Bible, then how can one know he is going to heaven? The Bible is the only book in the world that provides the answers (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

I am sure that our parents, grand-parents, friends, or a preacher might offer spiritual guidance. However, even good, sincere, religious people can be wrong (cf. Matthew 7:21-23; Acts 26:9). When our souls are at stake, we cannot afford to expect others to provide answers to our questions. Rather, in order to be sure we are saved, we must study the Bible.

## **Strengthening Our Marriages**

**Mike McDaniel**

None ought to think that they are immune to the possibility of divorce. Many people have been stunned, even shocked, to have a mate announce, “I want a divorce.” You may be quite content with your marriage, but that doesn’t mean that your mate

shares your contentment. Here are some things that every husband and wife should do to strengthen their marriage against the ravages of divorce.

(1) Center your life in God (Mt. 6:33). Make obedience to his will the top priority of your life together. Remember the words of Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." Take time to pray together. Do those things necessary to grow spiritually and become a stronger Christian. The fact is that the more you become what God wants you to be, the more you become what your mate deserves, and the stronger your marriage becomes.

(2) Communicate with your mate. It involves listening as well as talking. There should be kind communication. Once a psychiatrist asked a couple, "What do you have in common?" The wife was not the kindest of communicators and she answered, "Just one thing: neither of us can stand the other!" Often we lose control and say things we regret later. Proverbs 15:1 says, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Let's try the soft answer instead of the hard words that stir up anger.

(3) Commitment is the key. God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16), and allows it only on the basis of fornication under the law of Christ (Mt. 5:32, 19:9). One who is motivated by the spirit of reverence or respect for God, will be faithful to their marriage vows and will not have the possibility of divorce in the back of their minds as a possible future option. A wise and loving father wrote this to his daughter soon after her marriage. He said, "Likely you have already made this commitment (if not you should today): I am married to Bobby for life. I will never consider breaking my vows, God being my helper. I will overcome every obstacle. I will survive every problem. I will never allow myself to consider the possibility of another mate while my husband lives. If my marriage fails, it will be in spite of me and over my strongest efforts." Perhaps if all marriages began with this type of commitment, this type of reverence for God and His marriage law, the statistics would not show nearly one out of every two new marriages ending in divorce. Our society today needs a good dose of Matthew 19:6, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."