

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY 31, 2015

SICK LIST:

HEALTHCARE CENTERS:

Ruby Harrison

HOME: Fred & Romaine Elliott, Henry McDonald, Bruce Windham, Vercie Griffin, Gene McDonald, Margie Mays, Betty Honeycutt, Gail Windham, Wilma Brown

PRAYER LIST: April Lazenby, Sue Hinds, Louise Alexander, Donnie Bryant, Joshua Jackson, Elmer Williams, Debra Webb, Patsy Tucker, Rhonda Poe, Debbie Odom, Robert Turner, Bobby Holloway, Ricky McDonald, David Brown, Kim Elliott, James Felton, J.D. Dailey, James Horsley, Brenda Holloway, Jake & Diane Chambers, Donna Laratta, Kathy Windham, Lane Clark, Arthur Mason, John Pruitt, Madison Banks, Charles Crump, Martha Ann, Debbie Jackson, Diane Townley, Elesia Wright, Margie Thomasson, Larry Alexander, Micah Earnest, Vonciel Phillips, Roger Deihl, Wanda Self

AM - BEN WRIGHT - "POINTERS FOR PRAYING"

PM - DEREK PORTER

VBS STARTS TONIGHT AT 5. MONDAY-THURSDAY WILL BE AT 7 PM. BRING PLENTY OF FRIENDS!

GOSPEL MEETING AT CARBON HILL JUNE 14 -18

REMEMBER OUR COUNTY WIDE CAMPAIGN JUNE 13-18. WE NEED DOOR KNOCKERS AND DRIVERS

ANNIVERSARY:

June 1: Vince & Jill Roden

THE WEST WALKER WELCOMER

WEST WALKER CHURCH OF CHRIST
26036 HWY 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
David Preston 300-1927
Kevin Richardson 295-8864
Chris Robbins 388-1354
Vince Roden 924-4062

MINISTER:

Ben Wright 522-8004

POINTERS FOR PRAYING

(James 5:13-18)

I. We should pray _____ (vs. 13).

- A. Prayer is a _____ activity for the most part.
- B. It is you and I who have to have _____ time with God.
 - 1. Others don't know our _____ like we do.
 - 2. Others can't put the _____ and _____ into words about our problems the way we can.
- C. Our _____ was one who prayed individually (Mark 1:35; Mark 6:46).

II. We should pray _____ (vs. 14).

- A. As Christians, we have the _____ to join together our hearts in prayer.
- B. It is a _____ to be able to go and pray with those who are in the hospital or sick at home.
- C. How do you feel when you hear your name _____ up in prayer by someone else?
- D. The early church prayed _____ (Acts 2:42; Acts 12:12).

III. We should pray _____ (vs. 15).

- A. James had _____ about this at the beginning of his letter (James 1:5-8).
- B. Jesus taught His _____ to pray with faith (Mark 11:20-24).
- C. There is no point in going to God and asking Him for something if we don't _____. He can do it or it is too hard for Him.

IV. We should pray _____ (vs. 16).

- A. The word "fervent" means "_____ devoted and earnest".
- B. It is a prayer in which our hearts are reaching out to God and fully _____ in the activity.
- C. Prayer is a _____ with God.

V. We should pray _____ (vs. 17).

- A. James tells us that Elijah was a man of like _____ as me and you.
- B. We need to pray for people by _____.
- C. We need to pray for specific _____.

VI. We should pray _____ (vs. 18).

- A. We need to be those who pray _____ and _____.
- B. This is something that is seen in the life of _____.
- C. _____ taught the necessity of repeatedly praying as well.
- D. Prayer is not a one and done _____.

WHY NO ONE WANTS TO GO TO CHURCH ANYMORE

Wes McAdams

According to a study by the Hartford Institute of Religion Research and a new book entitled, "Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore," less than 20% of Americans attend worship services every week. They say there are four main reasons why people don't want to "go to church." Here they are...

They don't want to be lectured.

They see the church as judgmental

They see the church as hypocritical.

They see the church as irrelevant.

Certainly, not everyone in this study is a Christian in the New Testament sense, but doesn't this show you the real reason so many have stopped attending? The real reason is that over the last 2,000 years, the concept of "church" has become so diluted and twisted that people don't even know what it is anymore. The church is supposed to be the family or body of all Christians.

For a Christian to say, "The church is judgmental, hypocritical, and irrelevant," is for that Christian to call himself judgmental, hypocritical, and irrelevant because he is the church. **When Christians don't understand they are the church and see the church as an institution which they can either choose to support or not, they lose the entire concept of Christianity.** Jesus did not come to redeem individuals, but a people. One simply cannot be a Christian outside of the body of Christ (Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12). To be a Christian is to be in the church.

When someone is in need and Christians say things like, "You should call the church and they will help you," it reveals that these Christians probably see the church as an institution which exists separate from themselves. As a Christian, when you say, "The church should help this person," what you should be meaning is, "I (or we) should help this person." The church is not "they," the church is "us."

Secondly, the problem is that people see "church" as a weekly event to attend. Church is not something Christians attend when they get a chance. Church is who Christians are...every day of the week. Someone might say, "Wes, it's just semantics. You know what I mean when I say I'm going to church." Sure, I know what you mean and I also know that a few generations of saying, "Going to church," has contributed the current decline in attendance.

If you asked me, "What is family?" and I said, "Oh, that's something I attend when I come home from work," you would look at me like I lost my mind. My family is not an event I attend. My family is something I'm a part of – even when I'm somewhere else. If I started saying, "I'm going to 'family' now," when I went home, it might very well change the way I see and interact with my family.

When people see the church as either an institution to support or an event to attend, it's no wonder they see it as being irrelevant. If we want to see Christians stop checking out, we must start teaching people that **we are the church!**