

PRAYER LIST

CHERYL BARRON, Stan Raley's sister, breast cancer
LINDA BULLOCK
MIKE CUMBERLAND, out-patient therapy
DAVE DAVIS
ODELL GURLEY, Jeremy's (Elizabeth Fair Gurley)
granddad; lung cancer treatment
EVELYN GUY, diabetic issues
CINDY HARPER, suffering from the shingles
JUDY JENNINGS, former member; rare form cancer
2027 Green Gate PL ~ Grayson, GA 30017-1857
BETTY JOHNSON, home-bound; fell but doing well
SAILOR RAE JONES & her mother Melyna, friend of
Jennifer Guy. Infant Sailor heart surgery recovery
ANNALYSSA KING, back surgery recovery at home
ZANE LaBELLE, teen son of Lamar King's cousin
NAN LEGGETT, friend of Mike & Renée Cumberland;
lives in Bogue Chitto, MS; chronic Charcot-Marie-Tooth
disease. Member Mt Zion Church of Christ
MIKE McCRARY, Josh McCrary's dad
REATHA RAINER
MRS GENE RALEY, Stan's mom – health issues
STAN RALEY, pneumonia
FAYE RARICKS, friend of Dewey Wall
ALETHA RAY, Moriah McCrary's mom – cancer
10218 US Hwy 98 ~ Fairhope, AL 36532
TED RIVES, hospice care; recent apparent stroke
DAVID ROBINSON, Lona Moffett's dad
AL ST. CLAIR
ROB WARREN
EUGENE WHITE, health issues
VELMA "DUCK" YATES
MEMBERS of our ARMED SERVICES
CHURCH MISSION WORK WORLDWIDE

ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAY

November 30: Mary White
December 2: Paul Allen
December 5: Linda Collie

Note: If you are new to our family, or have
changes to your info, please see Renée
Cumberland.

Deacon Installation

December 6, 2015
Morning worship service

Lamar King
Byron Madison
Randy Rives

*"For they that have used the office of a
deacon well purchase to themselves a good
degree, and great boldness in the faith
which is in Christ Jesus."*

1 Timothy 3:13

Adult Christmas Party



This year's party is set
for Thursday, December
17th. This year we will be
dining and playing Dirty
Santa at Western Sizzlin'
Steak House on North
Frontage Road, in Meridian.
Festivities to begin at 6:30
p.m.

Those wishing 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 table, or
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 Western Sizzlin'
a week before the party. If you do plan to
participate in the Dirty Santa game, please keep
in mind the gift price, which remains at \$20.

Black~~est~~ Friday

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me." (Matthew 26:36-38).

And about the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).

Although Jesus had waited for this moment not for a night, or for a week or two, but since from even before the beginning of time (Eph. 1:3, 3:8-12), He did not come to pay a fraction of the original price for new items that should've cost far more like we do on "Black Friday," but instead, just the opposite! He came to pay an infinitely greater price than we can, could, or will ever imagine, for used, broken down, dying and decaying, dirty and sin-stained souls destined for destruction.

They say something is worth only as much as someone is willing to pay for it. I was reminded of this this past summer when an NFL player signed a mega-million dollar contract and received – are you ready for this – an on the spot, **twenty million dollar** signing bonus! "That's insane!" some would say... and I agree. Do you realize that many full time preachers of the gospel whose work has eternal implications would have to work somewhere between 375 and 400 years at today's wages in order to earn the amount of money that that one player received, simply for signing his name to the dotted line? But... someone is worth whatever someone else is willing to pay for them (at least to the purchaser who is willing to put forth that kind of investment) – in that case, more millions than you or I can begin to imagine.

But God paid far, far, infinitely more for you and I than that, that fatal, final, black Friday morning of almost two millennia ago. The perfect and pure life-blood of His only begotten Son; that's what you, yes, **you**... personally... were worth to Him (Isaiah 53:1-12; Romans 5:1-11).

What do you do with something you've stood in line a few hours or so to purchase on "Black Friday," when you finally get it home and then find out it doesn't work? Take it back? Throw it out? Surely you discard it in some form or fashion. You bought it for a specific purpose; and when it doesn't do what you purchased it to do – no matter how much of a price you paid for it, and more often than not, precisely because of the price you paid for it – you wind up returning, exchanging, replacing, or discarding it.

Consider with me for just a moment, the awesome, infinite, and unimaginable price God paid to purchase you back from sin and Satan that original black Friday morning. Then, understand that you were "purchased for a purpose." And that the purpose for which you were personally purchased by almighty God and the King of this universe, was to serve at His pleasure, speaking His praises, and spreading His promises (See: Ephesians 2:10; Titus 2:11-14, 3:8; 1 Peter 2:9-10). You were saved to serve and purchased to perform (Romans 2:4-11; Revelation 14:12-13, 20:11-15).

This coming Thursday as you sit down with unsaved family and friends to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday just a few hours prior to this year's "Black Friday" frenzy, remember: "You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and spirit which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). Fulfill the purpose you were purchased to perform! Proclaim the message you were saved to spread! Tell them all about that original, incredible, incomparable and infinitely-unforgettable black Friday so many years ago. The one where the very Son of God Himself, paid the ultimate price for a bunch of broken vessels... and be as worthy as you can possibly be, of the immeasurable price and infinite, incarnate investment which God paid for, and poured into, you; as you thus do exactly what He purchased you to. God bless!

Doug Dingley, Cleveland Church of Christ, Cleveland, OK ~ via ChurchofChristArticles.com