

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith.”*

January 1, 2012

Remember in your prayers:

- **Paul Odom**, Roger’s brother-in-law, has worsened.
- **Sarabeth Upton** is still having problems with her auto immune system and is still on oxygen.
- **Xavian Hall** had his stent removed due to infection. His condition is very serious.
- **Marvine Trigg, Margie Glaze, Kara Harrison, Rhonda Knowles and Tommy Thompson** continue to need our prayers.
- **Macon Horne, Tacoda Goshee, Bessie Sides, Xavian Hall, Paul Odom, Victor Holmes and Marvin Dryer’s mother**, as they battle cancer. **Frances Flowers** (Alzheimer)
- **Heather Flowers**, who is away at college; **Sawyer Jones, Jeremiah Hughes, Robert Langley & all of our servicemen** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel**; especially those who labor under hardships.

❖ The Chronological daily bible reading schedules are available in the foyer

BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Ladies and Men’s Bible Classes:** Mon and Tue, Jan 9 and 10.
- **Bible Class** at Donaldson- Every Wednesday @ 10:00
- **Sunday Prison Service** at Donaldson, Today, meet here at 1:30

Area Gospel Meetings:

Perry Hill Road church of Christ.....Jan. 6-8, (Fri-Sun),.....Gary Henry



Blessings & Reverses

Every person has many blessings and at least a few misfortunes. The ones he reflects upon will either strengthen or weaken him.

Our most necessary blessings are apt to be uncounted, because they are the most common: sunshine, rain, oxygen, soil, plants, animals, and a thousand other workings of nature.

The universality of so many blessings, however, does not lower their value. If this commonness tempts us to be ungrateful, let us ask: Where would we stand if the earth caved in? What would we breathe if the oxygen ran out? What would we do if the water dried up?

- by Leroy Brownlow

The Banner of Truth

Black Creek church of Christ
1235 Alliance Rd; Alliance, Alabama
436-4477

“You have given a BANNER to those who fear you, that it may be displayed because of the TRUTH. “ Psalms 60:4

Editor: Van Cooper

Schedule of Services

Lord’s Day
9:30 A.M. Bible Classes
10:25 A.M. Worship

Wednesday
7:00 P.M.

5:00 P.M. Worship

Elders

Philip Jacks 436-3055
Truman Wallace 483-7016
Van Cooper 491-9695

Deacons

Keith Chaney 491-1596
Roger Key 491-3723

Evangelist

Sammy Bynum 368-3511

Who We Are: The Black Creek Church of Christ is simply a group of Christians dedicated to serving God. We believe the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and it is to be our sole guide. We are committed to preaching the gospel of Christ, which is man’s only hope for eternal life.

We are interested in helping anyone who is searching for the way to God. We welcome the opportunity to privately study the Bible with you. If you would contact us, we would be happy to meet with you. In addition, you are invited to visit one of our public assemblies (information is above). At our public Bible studies, we have classes for adults and children of all ages. If we can help you in knowing more about God and His Word, then please visit, call, or write us.

(Visit us on-line at (WWW.blackcreekchurch.com)

Putting Our Best Foot Forward

Introduction:

Welcome to 2012! There is no better way to start a brand new year, as a Christian, than to worship our Creator on the Lord's Day. We are blessed to have this opportunity on the first day of this New Year.

There is a phrase that we going to focus on today, and Lord willing, this year ahead, that is, "*Putting our best foot forward*". The origin of this statement goes back to 1613, when it appeared in a poem written by Thomas Overbury. The phrase means to be "set out on a journey, or task, with purpose and intent".

In our time together let's consider our purpose; our task; and our journey—*so that we can continue in them every day this year*. Let's open the scriptures together as we consider these thoughts.

Our Purposeful Focus

There are different ways of living this life; that is made obvious by observation. There are some people who are just living—*floating along down the river of life*. Paul, in Ephesians 4:17-19, says that these worldly floaters are: pursuing futility, living in darkness, separated from God because of their ignorance and willful blindness, and simply directed by their own lusts. Peter, in 1 Peter 4:2-4, further describes these ones as: those who

pursue the lusts of this world; those who think that a disciplined life is a strange idea; and those who mock the seekers of truth.

In contrast to those floaters there are those who have a reason for all the things they do in life. They are those who seek with determination, the will of God (Matthew 6:25-33). These are the achievers—*who see a goal and gain it*.

Which, do you suppose, should describe a Christian? Certainly, the fitting description is of those who live with purpose. There are different ways that the world measures success; we need to understand that spiritual success is the greatest success, regardless of what the world says.

As Christians, we live with goal reaching discipline, as Paul did (1 Corinthians 9:24-27). We, like Paul, must be determined to do God's will, always desiring to succeed. We are pushing forward; not floating along. We have direction—*always ahead* (Philippians 3:13); we have diligence (Philippians 3:14); and we have drive (Philippians 4:13).

Our Task:

We have some work to do. We must grow for the Lord as individuals, continually bearing fruit (John 15:1-8) and increasing in knowledge (1 Timothy 4:13-16; 2 Peter 3:18). We must, as a group, grow in love (Philippians 1:8-10) by Encouraging one another (Romans 12:10). We also have the task of

seeking others. We must strive to add to our number by offering the hope of truth to all (Mark 16:15-16) and knowing the hope of their reception (Matthew 13:1-23).

It is not easy to accomplish our task. We must be motivated continually by our undeniable need to achieve. We must achieve personal growth, so we are prepared to receive our reward (2 Timothy 4:8). We must achieve strength group, so we have help in time of need (Romans 12:13). We must strive to achieve increased number, so more are saved and less are lost (Matthew 25:46).

We have help toward our success. We are able to lean on the strength of the Lord (Ephesians 6:10-18). We have encouragement from our family in the Lord (1 Peter 1:22). We also have the confidence of the truth and hope of the gospel (Romans 1:16).

Our Journey:

Life is a journey. A journey on which we travel for an uncertain time (James 4:14). It is because of this uncertainty that we must take action now! The worst thing that we can do on this journey is float without direction. Time is too precious and forgiveness is too necessary. We must get busy achieving the spiritual goals set out before us (Ephesians 2:10).

We are journeying toward our Heavenly home. The place prepared for the faithful (Hebrews 11:16). We acknowledge the reality that the

way is difficult but doable (Matthew 7:13-14) and we push ahead knowing that we set on a course that will lead us the best of the best (1 Peter 1:6-9).

Conclusion:

By making the effort of participating in worship today, the first day of 2012, we have all "put our best foot forward". We have begun this year's journey with purpose and intent. There is not better way to start our New Year than to focus on worshipping God, as we have today.

As Christians, we have begun with a commitment to continuation. However, if there are those among us who are not yet Christians, what could possibly be better than starting this New Year with the newness of life? Jesus has established a road for us to follow (Matthew 7:13-14). But you must first, enter that road through obedience to the gospel (Acts 2:38-42). If you are ready, will you put your best foot forward in obedience? The time is now.

By **T. Sean Sullivan**