

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

March 13, 2016

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS---**

- **Jimmy Parker, Terry Langley, Eric Heddon, Roger Key, Sue Whitehead, John Ozley, Sara Ozley, Aladean Jacks, Kynethia Kelley, Amanda Kelley, Myra Garrison, Stefani, Kate Miller, Johnny Richardson, Tim Craven, Mickey Aldridge, Beverly Craven, Tuesday Pierce, Faye Wilkinson Goodwin, Sarabeth Upton, Rhonda Knowles.**
- **Sawyer Jones, Jeremiah Hughes, Robert Langley, Ana Reichelderfer & all of our servicemen and women** who are defending freedom. **Our nation** and its leaders. **Those that preach and teach the gospel;** especially those who labor under hardships. **Ben Brownfield, Shannon Brown, and Terry Tatum** (Christians' at Donaldson) and **Robert Gibson and Walter Aldridge** (released Christians who are struggling).

**BLACK CREEK UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Daniel Hunter** will preach for us today @ 3:00
- **Donaldson Bible Classes** Every Wednesday @ 10:00 & 11:30
- **Ladies and Men's Bible Class-** Monday March 14 @ 6:00

**Area Gospel Meetings:**

No meeting notices received this week..



**Those Needing our Prayers.....**

**Aladean Jacks** is Self Nursing Rehab room 204, for 21 days.

**Ruth Parsons** (Ann's aunt) is doing some better but is having trouble swallowing.

**Roger Key** is not much better.

**Becky Oglesby** (Melanie's friend who has breast cancer) was unable to have her chemo this week due to a low white blood count.

**John Ozley** vascular examination revealed problems with blood flow in his leg. Surgery for this will depend on results of infection in leg after the antibiotic treatment is exhausted.

**Jimmy Parker** is not doing any better.

**Ronald Wood,** Mike's father, under went his first chemo treatment this week.

**Terry Tatum** (Christian who is incarcerated) has requested prayers.

# Black Creek 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

10:30 A.M. Worship

Wednesday

7:00 P.M.

4:00 P.M. Worship (3 PM on the second Sunday of every month)

Elders

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

Deacons

Jeff Swindle 475-3043  
 Matt Carter 491-0414  
 Roger Key 491-3723  
 Mike Wood 522-5703  
 John Powell 641-5181

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](http://WWW.blackcreekchurch.com)

A friend in the church asked, "How can I pray for you this year?" I told her, "Please pray for those I have the opportunity to share the gospel with. Pray that they may grow in faith and be active in their walk with Christ." I asked for this prayer because too many people find the joy of salvation, only to lose their faith before it grows to maturity. Each time it happens it breaks my heart.

Betty lived in the neighborhood. She had a sinful background and was living with a man. She knew something needed to change. The gospel gave her life meaning and joy. We studied the Bible every week. She enjoyed the worship of the church and started caring for her new spiritual family. I can still remember how she smiled the day she was baptized into Christ.

Then something happened. Her interest in Bible study decreased. She found excuses for missing worship, and she drifted away from her new friends in the faith. Several of us reached out to draw her back to Christ. She responded for a few weeks, but then would drift away again.

Those who share their faith with others know this story is not unique. No one becomes a disciple expecting to fail, but many do. I'm tired of seeing it happen. Please consider some of the ways I've seen people lose their faith. If you see these habits form in your life or in someone you love, please do something about it. A soul is too precious to waste.

**Isolate yourself from your spiritual family.** The front of our new church building is covered with white stone. During the construction I stopped by to check on the progress. When I arrived I saw an expensive SUV parked in the grass. A woman was filling up the back of her SUV with stones that were lying in a pile on the ground. I asked her, "What are you doing?" She explained, "I'm going to use these stones to border my garden." I motioned toward the building and said, "We need those stones to finish

our wall." She indignantly responded, "Do you mean I can't have these?" "No ma'am, we need these stones." In a huff she moved toward her car to unload them. But, as soon as I turned away, she jumped in her car, sped off across the lawn, jumped the curb and raced down the street with a car full of stones. Later, as I reflected on this bizarre event, it occurred to me the thief did not take the stones that were mortared to one another on the wall. It was easier for her to steal the stones that were just lying in a pile. In the same way, it is difficult for the devil to snatch away a believer who is devoted to the fellowship. It is that soul that is disconnected from other believers who is easily stolen away (John 10:1-10).

The answer to this problem is not simply attendance at an assembly. The mortar that binds believers together is service. You love others as Christ loves you and it drives you to do good works. The resulting fellowship creates a bond that is difficult to break (Heb. 10:23-25).

**Don't share your struggles with anyone.** Every believer struggles with personal sin and failure. All of us have questions about the character of God, the nature of salvation, and the function of church. Some share their concerns, but many hide them. Perhaps it's pride, shame, or the unapproachableness of a friend that causes us to bottle up our struggles. We may look like disciples on the outside but our hidden problems threaten to shatter our faith.

If we only knew! Our struggles are not unique. We are not alone. God knows and is willing to forgive, and fellow believers care and are willing to talk. So, have the courage to confess and to ask for help. Your soul is worth it (James 5:16; Psalm 73:15-17; Acts 18:26).

**Don't fill your life with godly thoughts.** If you only ate a snack once a week you would quickly die. This is what happens to some believers. Their spiritual diet is limited to a Sunday snack.

The irony is that new believers *want* more about

God, but spiritual truths are like a foreign language to them. At first, sermons seem strange, reading the Bible is confusing, and prayer is uncomfortable. Some give up and plug back in to worldly interests.

These dear ones need patience. They need to be told that faith takes diligence. Growth is the result of godly habits. Otherwise the message of the gospel is easily lost in the pursuits of modern life. Our culture spews out skepticism and cynicism about godliness, and it engulfs righteousness beneath a sea of pleasures. Yet, there is no substitute for the daily discipline of prayer and Bible reading. When it is embraced the beautiful language of heaven begins to redefine our lives.

**Be demoralized by weak and sinful Christians.**

Lisa said, "I just love this church because the people are so great!" I quickly told this new believer, "Don't be deceived. We are not perfect. We are only forgiven sinners. Love God!" A few weeks later after an encounter with a sorry saint Lisa said, "Thanks for preparing me."

The love of the church might initially draw someone to Christ, but a person must then learn to love Christ even when believers are unloving (John 13:34-35). Ultimately, our faith must be in a God, not people.

When we encounter sinful believers, it is not time to run. It is time to love them with the same patience and sacrifice Jesus expresses toward us. We must all remember that God will hold us accountable for how our attitudes and actions impact others (Matt. 18:5-6).

There are many other reasons why people lose their faith. These are enough to help you care more deeply about the faith of others and to strengthen your own. I told you about Betty. I heard the other day she died. Cancer got her.

*By Tim Jennings*