

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ray and Liz Sturgill are still recovering. Liz will be having her dialysis stint relocated soon, is receiving dialysis treatments at Spencer three times a week and home health care visits.

Sheila Wilson continues to receive chemotherapy at IU Health Martinsville and home healthcare visits.

Jesse and Susie Riddle are both battling respiratory infections.

Delores Hendrickson is back home and doing better following a brief hospitalization.

Jeff Sturgill is recovering at home from back surgery.

Bob Hawkins had another outpatient procedure for a problem with veins in his legs.

Gerald Dunn, brother of Susie Riddle, is in a health care institution in Bedford and is experiencing memory issues.

Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems. She will have a monitor implanted to help determine if there are issues with her heart.

Karen Sproles is still confined at home and is receiving home health services.

Iris Hash is feeling better and is staying with her daughter.

John Richardson is in the Countryside Nursing Home in Avon, IN.

Terry Richardson is in rehab at The Waters in Martinsville.

Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.

Haven Duncan is suffering from some issues while in the Army at Ft. Benning, GA.

Jessica Knoy, Dave and Tina's daughter-in-law's mother, is recovering from a stroke.

Sheila Eyster is in Florida.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru)

Election of Church Trustees:

In accordance with State of Indiana law, the church is required to elect trustees. The current trustees are Ken Roosa, Ray Sturgill and Dave Knoy. Dave Knoy's term expired 12/31/22 but in the 1/4/23 men's business meeting a vote was taken to renew Dave's service as trustee for another three years to continue to serve with Ken and Ray.

2023 Planning Sessions:

The men and women of the congregation are invited to attend a session on Saturday, January 21st at 8:00 AM at the church building to discuss planned works of the church for 2023. A pitch-in breakfast will be served then following breakfast, the men and women will have separate meetings to identify planned works for 2023. All are invited to attend.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday, February 5th, following the morning services. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon song service then will dismiss for the day.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, February 1st at 5:00 PM.

Radio Program:

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

God's Plan For Our Salvation:

1. **Hearing** the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. **Believing** what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. **Repentance** (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. **Confession** (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. **Baptism** (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. **Faithful Christian Living**, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

January 8, 2023

MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST

**540 E. Morgan Street
Martinsville, IN 46151
(765) 342-6027**



Schedule of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

Radio Program:

“Preparing For Eternity”

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

JESUS' BURDENS DURING THE CRUCIFIXION

Victor M. Eskew

If you are burdened, pray! If you are having difficulty making it through each day, pray! If you think you are near the point of giving up, pray. God can and will strengthen you.

When we experience struggles, problems, and difficulties, we often will tell others: "I have a lot of burdens on me." These are not physical burdens. They are emotional burdens that lay heavily on one's mind. Interestingly, they can cause our physical bodies to grow weak. These emotional difficulties often make it hard to put one foot in front of another.

Jesus knows what it is like to experience a pile of emotional trials. There were many that came upon Him on the night of His betrayal and on the day of His crucifixion. The first thing that was placed upon the shoulder of Jesus was betrayal by a friend. "And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, the same is he; hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, Master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him" (Matt. 27:47-50). What a tragic event! One whom Jesus chose and deeply loved, betrayed Him into the hands of his enemies. And the price was a mere thirty pieces of silver.

As the mob led Jesus away, another painful occurrence happened. The other eleven disciples fled from the scene. Mark writes: "And they all forsook him, and fled" (Mark 14:50). Jesus stood alone at that time in the torch-lit garden. Not one of His followers remained close by his side. Not one was willing to be with Him as he was taken to the palace of the high priest.

Matthew tells us that "Peter followed him afar off unto the high priest's palace, and went in, and sat with the servants to see the end" (Matt. 26:58). Surely, this was a good thing. But, it proved only to be another heartache that Jesus had to suffer. Three times Peter was confronted about being a disciple of the Christ. And, three times he boldly denied the claim. Yes, three times, Peter proclaimed: "I know not the man" (Matt. 27:70, 72, 74). Jesus was in close proximity to Peter when this happened. In Luke 22:61, we are told: "And the Lord, turned, and looked upon Peter..." Even though Jesus had predicted Peter's denial, it did not lessen the pain Jesus experienced. Peter was the one apostle who had boldly affirmed that he would never be offended (Matt. 26:33).

Still another hardship Jesus faced was being condemned knowing He was innocent. Jesus had never violated the Law of Moses. He never committed a crime against the Roman Empire. All He has done is speak the truth and perform multitudes of good works. Even so, the sentence of death was spoken against Him. "And they were instant with loud voices, requiring that he might be crucified. And the voices of them and of the chief priests prevailed. And Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they required" (Luke 23:23-24).

Have you ever been accused of an evil you did not commit? Have you ever experienced punishment for something you did not do? Do you remember the anguish of that experience? Multiply that many times over and you will have some understanding of the agony Jesus experienced when He heard those words that would bring about His death.

Another burden Jesus felt was the constant blasphemy of His enemies. It was constantly said: "If thou be the Son of God." Too, the Jews told the authorities: "He claims to be a king." Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus was a King. Yet, who He was questioned and ridiculed even while He hung on the cross. "And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, he saved others, let him save himself, if he be the Christ, the chosen of God" (Luke 23:35). "And the soldiers also mocked him" (Luke 23:36). "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him" (Luke 23:39). It is never enjoyable to have others making fun of you. Even if you know their claims are false, their scoffing and evil speaking still pierces the heart.

Yet, another strain put upon Jesus involved His mother. Mary was loyal to her Son. She was at the crucifixion. She stood near the foot of the cross watching her son writhe in pain and anguish. That could not have been easy for Jesus to bear. We do know that at some point, He committed the care of His mother to his apostle John (John 19:26-27).

Burden after burden was placed upon Jesus that Thursday night and Friday. Note, this was in addition to the physical afflictions Jesus bore in His body. As we watch our Lord, we see strength. We see patience. We see courage. We see faithfulness. How is this possible? The answer goes back to the quiet of the Garden of Gethsemane. When Jesus entered in that place, He did something very important. He prayed and resigned His will to the will of His Father in heaven. In fact, He did so three times (Mark 14:32-36). The key words of His supplication were "nevertheless, not what I will, but what thou wilt." Whatever came upon Him during those next several hours, He would endure knowing that God's will was being done. He arose from the dust of the ground with renewed faith, strength, and determination. The heavy burdens of that night and following day would not overcome Him.

Dear readers, we must do exactly what Jesus did. We, too, have our problems, challenges, and enemies we face. They make life hard. They burden us with weights that sometime seem unbearable. What is our recourse? Prayer! When we pray, we follow in the footsteps of Jesus. When we pray, we also adhere to the divine counsel of the apostle Paul. In Philippians 4:6-7, he exhorts us, saying: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

If you are burdened, pray! If you are having difficulty making it through each day, pray! If you think you are near the point of giving up, pray. God can and will strengthen you. He will grant you tranquility deep within your soul. Yes, the counsel of four little words is essential: "Give it to God!"