

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Ken's shoulder and neck are doing well. He does have some soreness.
Judy Coley had surgery on 7-10-20.
Jeri Adams (Tina's Aunt in Fla.) had a minor setback and is back in the hospital.
Minnie Flick (Tina's other Aunt) having back trouble and caring for her sick relatives.
Merl McCurry (Tina's Dad) is doing much better.
Steve Flick (Tina's Uncle) Not doing well at all.
Rusty Knoy (Dave's brother) is at home and doing well.
Don Richardson – no real update on Don's condition as I have been unable to contact him.
The last we heard was that he is walking and eating better, still has some confusion but is improving. Prayers are needed.
Iris Hash is having stomach problems but is feeling better. Other testing to be done at a later date.
Karen Sproles balance problem - appointment in July for possible knee correction.
Liz Burdsall has an injury to her leg and foot. She is having difficulty with balance. It is not healing as well as expected.
Delores Hendrickson and her brother need our prayers.
Stephanie Sturgill – Suffering from very serious Cancer (Stage 4)
Ernest Brown is at home recuperating from eye surgery. A cancerous tumor was removed.
Teddy Burgess (friend of Evelyn Murphy)
Rick Skiver, Ken Roosa's brother, is in Hospice care.
Sean Mathews – Stomach problems (ongoing)
Zachary Baxter, Susie Riddle's grandson, deployed in the U.S. Navy
Edwin Parnell, cancer (Mike Parnell's brother)
Al and Gertrude Reynolds are at home. They are doing well.
Dean and Shirley Cook are at home. Shirley has shingles but that is improving.
Jerry Pflaum (Shirley Cook's brother) is holding his own and is doing surprisingly better.
Cindy Murray was at home sick on 7-5-20 but is doing better.
Eric/Lori Bowlen are staying in with Lori's parents for the time being.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale

Pray For The Work We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia)
Charles DiPalma (Mission work in Australia and New Zealand)
Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

New Addresses: Charles Henard (317 557-1621- Cell)
2995 Little Hurricane Rd.
Martinsville, IN. 46151

Upcoming Events:

Tomorrow with **all** of its Blessings!

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).

July 12, 2020

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 – 7:00 PM

Thursday

Ladies Bible Study – 11:00 AM

Radio Program:

“Preparing For Eternity”
Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

Psalms 33:12 "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance"

Things are being torn apart in our country. Tension, anger, violence, destruction, threats and accusations are flying off the charts. Blood is boiling and statures are falling. History is being restructured and rewritten. Open letters have been sent demanding change.

First, Satan loves to divide people. He wants us to take our attention off the real problem and that is him. He will use issues and people to get folks upset, divided, and angry with one another. Our country has a history, just as you and I do. And, that history isn't always good. Slavery was a part of this country. Slavery was a part of Biblical history, especially Israel. Slavery oppresses people and allows the mighty to control the weak. The principles of the Gospels end slavery. We must understand that we are all from one blood, created in the image of God and should treat others as we would like to be treated. Our verse today speaks of a nation whose God is the Lord. In many ways, most ways, this country has left that understanding by the policies of its leaders.

Second, demanding change and forcing people to compel to change doesn't look very different than slavery itself. Force and fear are being used now to demand change. That is never the proper way, nor the godly way. When nations push each other, wars break out. When neighbors push each other, fights break out. Two wrongs never make a right. Vandalism, violence, destruction of property, hatred will never lead to the right changes. And, brethren who get caught up in such things need to remember who they are. We are to be citizens of Heaven, first and foremost. Calling things out often brings things to the attention that was neglected, overlooked and put on the back burner.

Third, it is easy to become what one is opposing. In fighting racism, some have become racists themselves. They have swung so far the other way that they have become what they oppose. Inconsistencies are the death of most arguments. It's always easier to point the finger at others and find their faults than it is to look in the mirror at our own hearts. The answers to the country's problems begin with self and in our homes. From there, it extends to our congregations. Has there been prejudice and racism in the church? Yes. Is there still? Do we gut the whole system and come up with a better plan? You can't do that with God's pattern. We begin with where God wants us to be.

Fourth, using a broad brush of generalities fails. There are always exceptions. Those exceptions kill the arguments. Not everyone in the south is racist. Not everyone in the confederacy was a racist. Study history. Some were fighting for the rights of the state over the power of the national government. When we lump groups of people together and make assumptions that they all believe a certain way, you will find exceptions. That destroys what you have just said. That weakens your point. That unfairly accuses innocent people of something that they do not believe in. Broad generalities lump a few bad apples with those who are doing right.

Fifth, somewhere we got the notion that if you do something that I do not like, and then you have to stop. We pressure others to change because what they are doing bothers us. It's one thing if someone is forcing me to do wrong. I need to stop and get away from that situation. But why should you change if I am bothered? It seems very selfish for me to say, 'you must stop what you are doing because I do not like it.' There are shows on TV that bother me. I don't watch them. There are proper channels to express my disagreement. But pressuring someone to change, because I do not like something is no better than that person pressuring me because I'm not doing what he is. I know what it's like to be bothered and upset about things that I didn't agree. But demanding others change because of me smells of arrogant selfishness in my book. Sometimes my wife does things that bother me. I know I do many things that bother her. We will be bothered. Just think about worship on a Sunday morning. Some are bothered about the temperature of the building. It's never the right temp for everyone. Most places now have the thermostat under lock and key. Why? So people wouldn't change it to suit them. The selection of songs bothers some. The sermon topic bothers some. The length of the sermon bothers some. Now, with social distancing, everyone is bothered. The weather bothers us. The bugs bug us. After a while, we realize, that's life. I can go through it always bothered, or I can make sure the outside doesn't bother my insides. Does everyone have to change because I'm offended? No. You can't legislate morals. It won't work.

Finally, what's the answer to all of this? Jesus. It has always been, Jesus. Through Jesus, we find the path that we ought to travel on. Through Jesus, we learn how to conduct ourselves. Through Jesus, we put more attention upon where we are, than where the other guy is at. And, until we embrace Jesus, racism, hatred, violence will continue. As the country pulls father away from the Lord, the problems will multiply. Among the people of God, grace, forgiveness, and love must be the banner under which we can unite and be one. Have there been mistakes? Yes. Have we had to change our thinking? Yes. Are we perfect? No. Can we do better? Can I do better? Yes. Have I made mistakes? Yes. Have I learned anything to make things better? Yes.

Independence-it is a right, a blessing, a privilege and an honor. In many places, even today, speaking against others, especially those in charge, would lead to a swift and violent death. Oppressed people want to be free. Free people need to do what they can to make things right and better for all.

Roger Shouse