

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Beverly Anderson suffered a heart attack and is now recovering at home.
Mike Parnell's son, Bill, had a cancerous tumor removed from his spine. He started aggressive chemotherapy at a hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas on Sept. 7.
Ray Sturgill is going through cardiac rehabilitation.
Floyd and Judy's niece's husband, John Newlin, was diagnosed with a blood cancer.
Ernest Brown is undergoing tests to see if he has a blockage in his lower leg.
Darryl Grimes (Ken & Sherrie Roosa's son-in-law) received news that his cancer is inoperable but is scheduled to visit the Cleveland Clinic to get a second opinion and to have a diagnostic procedure performed. Please keep Darryl, his wife and family and Ken and Sherrie in prayer.
Charlie Henard's mother has Alzheimer's but is doing well.
Clay Sturgill (Ray's brother) continues rehab in Whitesburg, KY. He is doing better
Please pray for Dave and Tina's granddaughter, Haven Duncan, who is going through some difficult times. Pray for her mother, Hilary and sister Hannah as well.
Karen Sproles is doing better but is still receiving therapy.
Iris Hash is being treated for stomach problems. She is feeling some better but waiting to see a specialist in Terre Haute.
Delores Hendrickson fell and is recovering at home.

Deepest Sympathy:

Our prayers go out to Ken and Sherrie Roosa at the passing of Sherrie's brother, Jerry Schutte, in California.

Pray For Our Shut-ins:

Gloria Hale, Jean Collins, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash

Men's Business Mtg. - Wednesday, October 13th at 5:00 PM.

Morgan St. Fall Gospel Meeting:

Pray for our upcoming gospel meeting with brother Mark Day to be held November 12-14.

Ladies' Pizza Lunch and Christmas Tree Painting:

On October 24th following the morning services, the ladies will be having pizza for lunch in the basement. Following lunch they will proceed to Shelly's Ceramics in Martinsville to enjoy painting of porcelain Christmas trees.

Pray For The Work We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Northwest Florida School of Biblical Studies

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).

October 10, 2021

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

Radio Program:

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

Website:

www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

OPEN DOORS

In the Bible, there is such a thing as a literal door/gate being opened (Acts 5:19; 12:14). In the book of Acts, as well as in letters written to first-century Christians, we also read about the Lord symbolically opening doors for His people. When God opens a door it means He provides an opportunity.

After Barnabas and Paul completed a lengthy preaching trip, they reported to the church in Antioch of Syria “*all that God had done with them, and how he had **opened the door of faith** unto the Gentiles*” (Acts 14:27). What had the Lord done? He granted Paul and Barnabas the chance to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. That was wonderful because the Gospel has the power to save Gentiles and Jews alike (Rom. 1:16), and both need God’s good news due to their sins (Rom. 3:23).

In a later instance, Paul told the saints in Corinth that he had been in the city of Troas, and there “*a **door was opened** unto me of the Lord*” (2 Cor. 2:12). Paul was there to preach the Gospel, but in that instance he had another pressing matter which caused him not to remain in Troas.

Through John, the Christ spoke these words about Himself to the saints in Philadelphia: “*These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, **he that openeth, and no man shutteth...I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it...***” (Rev. 3:7). How encouraging those thoughts must have been to those disciples who lived in a time and area in which Jesus’ followers faced severe persecution.

What have we learned from the passages above? It is undeniable that the God of heaven opens doors for His servants, and He can keep doors open despite the efforts of humans to close them. Thank God that in His providence (God

providing for His children in non-miraculous ways), He grants His children opportunities to serve.

There is another aspect of open doors that we must not neglect. What is that? Praying for them. When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he made this request of the brethren in Colosse: “*...praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ...*” (Col. 4:3). Paul was convinced that our heavenly Father would respond to the prayers of His saints by opening doors to proclaim the Gospel to lost people. Brethren, let us send up such prayers today. Let us pray for evangelistic doors to open in North Korea, Iraq, China, and other places where New Testament Christianity has not been welcomed. At the same time, let us pray for doors to open to teach the good news in the community where we currently live. Do not stop there: let me encourage you to pray for *you* to have opportunities to teach a lost soul.

When we beg God to open doors for us to serve in ways that will glorify His name and benefit His Kingdom, we need to be ready to step up, perhaps even step out of our personal comfort zone, and take advantage of the doors He has opened. It does not make sense, and it does not show a great spirit on our part, if we plead for open doors but then fail to take advantage of them.

Thank God for open doors! Let us give Him the praise, and let us be praying for, seeking, and leaping through the doors He opens.

Roger D. Campbell

