

THOUGHTS ON PRAYER

1 Thessalonians 5:17
“Pray without ceasing”

Weight lifting is an Olympic sport that I find it both entertaining and educational. It is impressive to see people lift weights far in excess of their body weight. When you watch them, you can be sure of this, that moment is not the first time they have attempted to lift that weight. They have been in the gym for hours on end, training and lifting. When the time comes, they meet the challenge. They do not start the process when they walk out on stage in the Olympics. They have already prepared themselves for the test.

So it is with prayer and spiritual strength. Jesus went to the Garden to pray, He was about to face the most decisive crisis in human history. Would He go to the cross or would He call for the angels to deliver Him? He went to the Garden to pray. After a while, He returned to His friends to find them sleeping.

He roused them from their sleep and said “keep watching and praying that you may not enter into temptation” (Matthew 26:41). They ignored Jesus and continued their nap. Shortly, our Lord answered the greatest challenge of the ages. As for His friends, they fell flat on their spiritual faces. Unlike the Olympic weight lifter and totally unlike Jesus, they failed to prepare themselves. Our strength to face the temptations and challenges of life will always be in direct proportion to the preparation we have made through prayer. That makes those three words very urgent. “Pray without ceasing.”

--Ron Harper--

Light the Fire

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”

2 Timothy 1:7

It's a scary world out there. Just last week, we heard of a congregation of God's people being terrorized by a gunman whose only goal was to harm people. It is no wonder Christians are apprehensive to evangelize in their own communities. Times have changed. We cannot simply knock on doors without fear of being threatened. There are two opposing realities within our world: the reality that sin is rampant and the reality that the gospel must be spread.

I do not think it is accidental that Jesus sent his own evangelism parties out in groups of two. Luke 10:1 tells us that Jesus appointed seventy people to go ahead of him in cities and tell people about him. These seventy people were sent out in pairs. Why? It's simple. One man cannot do it all. However, Jesus did not sugarcoat the task at hand. It would be challenging, people would not accept them or their message but they were to keep speaking about Jesus no matter the cost.

Peter and John when beaten by the Sanhedrin in Acts 4:20 boldly stated, “we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard.” Don't misunderstand me, I know none of us have seen or heard Jesus in a concrete way (i.e. a face to face encounter). Even so, one of the most powerful ways to spread the word of God is to tell people what God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit have done for us in our own lives. That's exactly what Paul did. Why should we be any different?

We have a message. We have a purpose. We have a command to obey. We have a God to serve. We cannot do it alone! Until we as a congregation get excited and on fire for the Lord, no progress will be made in our community. It's time to light the fire in our hearts again!

Joshua Houston

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Selma Boyd, Pat Davidson, Wayne Dodd, Bonnie Arnett, Nora Fann, Odell Grissom, Ann Jenkins, Sue Reeves, Ernestine Taylor, Carolyn Thomas, Laura Wiser, Naoma Woodcock, Houston Henry, Ernie Colvin

SHUT INS:

Tommy & Shirley Bibb, Oleta Bullard, Houston Henry, Dan Stephens, Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Louis Wilson, Melba & Jeanie Young

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

***MEMBERS**

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

NHC: Lizzie Bush, Sue Reeves*, Ernestine Taylor*

STONES RIVER MANOR: Laura Wiser*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*

SMYRNA: Geri Melton*

WOODBURY: Jeweldean Hall*

TN VETERAN'S HOME: Edna Vance*



TOGETHER WITH THEIR FAMILIES

*Mallory Bowman
and
Jake Wilbanks*

REQUEST YOUR COMPANY
AT THE CELEBRATION OF THEIR UNION

SATURDAY, THE SEVENTH OF OCTOBER
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN
AT ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

SALEM CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST
Reception to follow

A huge **THANK YOU** goes out to the entire Salem Creek congregation for all your support in purchasing pizza, drinks, chips, and all the wonderful desserts. Also, thanks to everyone for helping serve all the refreshments. Thank you young people for your participation as you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. This program has existed for thirty plus years because of folks like you interested in helping the youth of this county engaged in Bible study in a fun way of competition. Thanks so much again for all your support.

Robert McKnight and Jeff Glidden

NEWS & NOTES

- We extend sympathy to the family of **Christina Mingle**. She was the mother of Wendell Mingle and grandmother of Kasey Troupe. Services were held at Woodbury Funeral Home.
- We have received a **Thank You card** from Jim and Wynona Bowman.
- There will be a **Youth/College lock-in** on October 13th-14th for 4th grade – college here at the building starting at 7pm.
- There will be a **Ladies and Men's self-defense class** on Saturday, October 21st. Class will begin at 9am – 5pm with a lunch break. Sign-up sheet is in the foyer. If you have any questions, see Jeff Milstead.
- Our annual **Senior Saints Banquet** is planned for Saturday, November 11th at 5 pm at our Church building. Seniors are those 60 or older (younger spouses are welcome). This will be a catered meal. Please sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer if you are planning to attend no later than November 8th. If you need a ride, please write yes in the space provided. Please see Keith Short or Larry Benson if you have any questions.

The Visitor

October 1, 2017

Salem Creek church of Christ
2525 Salem Creek Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

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P.O. Box 332067
Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

Email: office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.salemcreekcoc.org

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday

Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm

Wednesday

Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May)	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Rick Acklin	Rick Corum
Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Joe Byars	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

September 24, 2017

Sunday	AM worship	219
	Bible classes	180
	PM worship	149
	Contribution	\$5,893.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	147
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	20

When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. Ladies class will be canceled

To Our Honored Guests...

*We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!
We were honored by your presence!*

GREETERS

*Please be at the door
30 minutes prior to service*

October 1

Jerald & Peggy Hill

October 8

Jeff & Karen Milstead

