

## How's Our Prayer Life

by Jon Mitchell

It is my sincere hope that all of us pray to our Father in heaven, and pray often. The Bible says to *"pray without ceasing"* (1 Thess. 5:17), and we should remember that this verse is a command from God that he expects us to obey. Prayer is not an optional thing if we want to be saved; since Christ is *"the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him"* (Heb. 5:9), we must obey the commands to pray often if we want to see Heaven.

We should also want the Lord to be pleased with our prayers and to answer them. Have we ever stopped to consider what exactly it is that we pray for? Have we ever thought about for whose benefit it is that we are praying for? We should. Consider the example of Solomon's prayer and God's response to it (1 Kings 3:5-14). He did not ask that God give him a long life, or a lot of money. He did not ask that God do something bad to his enemies. Instead, he asked for wisdom and understanding to make the right judgment calls in life. God was so impressed with this that he not only gave Solomon wisdom, but also granted to him all the things that he didn't ask for.

We can pray to our heavenly Father about our jobs, our health, our school work, and our finances. We have the example of a man God called honorable

who prayed for these types of things (1 Chr. 4:9-10). These aren't bad things to pray about, and praying about such things is certainly better than not praying at all. However, how many of these things will be with us a century from now? None!

Let's remember to pray also for the spiritual, the things that we can keep forever such as love, mercy, humility, understanding, meekness, patience, and honesty. These are qualities of the heart that truly matter to God and will truly help us reach heaven. They, rather than our successes in this world, are what matter in the long run. Remember also that *"it is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35), so we should pray for the spiritual and physical well-being of others more than for ourselves.

We should all want to get to heaven as our top priority, so let's make sure we are aiming at the right target by asking for the best things to help us and everyone else get there. Let's seek first God's kingdom and righteousness before all other things, and He will provide the rest (Matt. 6:33).

## A Land Being Destroyed by Lack of Knowledge

by Dan Jenkins

they had conquered thirty-one kingdoms (Josh. 12:24). They could have had more if they had conquered the nations on their southern and northern borders.

God had blessed them. "The Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it" (Josh. 21:43). Two verses later, the Holy Spirit says, "Not a word failed of any good thing which the lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass." The future outlook was so glorious.

As you read the book of Judges, you cannot fail to see how dismal the situation had become. How had all of this come about? To answer that question might help us understand what is happening in our land right before our eyes!

The generation which entered the Promised Land was so different from the preceding one. Their fathers had left Egypt and, even before crossing the Red Sea, they murmured, failing to remember what God had just done. They crossed the Red Sea and, before arriving at Mt. Sinai, complained about the lack of water and food. He gave them water out of the rock and over 12,000 days of free food from heaven. They then complained for the next forty years until the death of Moses.

That second generation was so much better. They knew God and obeyed Him. From the time they entered Canaan, they worshiped him. The Bible describes it this way, "So the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua...another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor His work" (Judg. 1:7-10).

How did they leave God? They failed to listen to Moses. "The words which I command you today

As the book of Judges closes, the future of Israel is so dismal. It had been that way for hundreds of years. Centuries before, the Jews had entered a land which flowed with milk and honey. Under the leadership of Joshua,

shall be in your heart. You shall teach them to your children..." (Deut. 6:7). The situation came about because they failed to teach their children!

The very same thing is happening in America. Our fathers knew the Bible. They knew about seventy-one men in the Bible whose thumbs and big toes were cut off; the dead man who as he was being quickly buried



and came alive again; the king whose skull was crushed by a stone throw at him by a woman; fields of grain which were burned by foxes; the

woman on the moon; the floating iron axe head; the man who killed a lion when it was snowing. They taught us about God and what He has done. What have we done? Look at the list above. Do your children know these things? Do you? Think!

# Correspondence/Encouragement

## Inmate Correspondence:

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### **WVBS Online School**

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### **Scott & Paula Spillyards**

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### **Gertrude Walker**

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### **Louis & Patty Williams**

1201 Ficklin Circle  
Corsicana, TX 75110

## Mission Works

### **Westhill Works**

Benevolence Program

### **Local Works**

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies  
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv  
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

### **Prison Works**

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

### **Foreign Works**

Four Seas Bible College, Singapore - Peter & Pooi Fun Chin  
New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

## Leadership

### **Elders**

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### **Ministers**

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Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)  
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

# Prayer List

**Mollie Southard** went Thursday for a stress test, in hopes that she could have surgery on her broken shoulder Friday.

**Gertrude Walker** misses everybody and would love to have visits.

**Mary Barham**, wife of Bobby's uncle, Jerry, has cancer and needs prayers.

**Our Love & Sympathy** are extended to the family of Mary Beamon at her passing. Please, keep Brian, Christie, Faith and all of their family in your prayers at this time.

**Continue to Remember:** Gwen Culwell, Neta Marshall, Velma McDougald, Bud Moore, Henry & Eula Parrish, Barbara Shore, Paula Spillyards, Patty Williams, Anna Bolton, Meagan Gould, Frankie Torres

**Service Men:** Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

# Announcements

**"Dear Friends** of my Aunt Gay, I want to say a big thank you to all the members who participated in the lovely meal provided for her family. This was a service of love and was greatly appreciated. All of the food was delicious and pleasing to the taste as well as the eyes. Again, I want to say many thanks to those who went above and beyond in taking care of the family so well." Sincerely, Nan Stockard

**"Dear Westhill Family,** We appreciate everyone's gifts, cards, thoughts, and prayers and the extremely good lunch for our family after dad's passing. Thank you all so much!" Love, Teresa, Charlotte, Libby and the Buster Hayes family

**"Dear Westhill Family,** Thank you for your prayers, cards, calls, and visits. Thanks to all who brought us the wonderful food, and to those who stayed with Mother. This multi-fractured ankle will keep me off my feet for many weeks. Your help has been a tremendous relief for Louie, who has to take care of Mother and me." God bless you all, Patty Williams

**Bountiful Baby Baskets** at the back of the auditorium for Gina Orosco and baby. Gender neutral gifts appreciated. Baby is due May 16.

**Going Away Ice Cream Supper Tonight** for James & Sue Welch. We love you, and we will miss you!!!

**Open Door Thursday 3:30 - 6:30 PM** in the Outreach Center for Jr. High and High School.

**Prom Alternative** is Saturday, April 30. See Cory for more details.

**Save the Date:** 2016 WOW Ladies' Retreat - September 23-24 at the Summers Mill Retreat Center in Salado, TX. Jeanny Gilpin of Salem, VA will speak on "Mary in a Martha World." **Register during the month of May!** Cost: \$65 for room and 2 meals; Optional \$12 for T-shirt.

**Senior Graduation Banquet** will be Thursday, May 26 at 6:30 PM. **Please, sign up at the back of the auditorium.**

## Birthdays This Week

April 21 - Ali Williams

April 23 - Wade Braly, Jim Milam, Jan Sain

## Next Week's Adult Class

Jesus Seeks Rest but Performs Miracles (Mat. 15:21-39; Mark 7:24-8:26; John 7:1)

## Records for April 10, 2016

Bible Class .....	199
AM Worship.....	259
PM Worship.....	151
Wednesday .....	143
Contribution .....	\$8,076.80

## Privileged to Serve

<b>Song Leader</b>	Mark Blaylock
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Joshua Haden
<b>Communion Leader</b>	Joe Glass
<b>Communion Servers</b>	
Bryan Bearden	Carter Bearden
Dan Gibson	Ricky Jennings
David Mahoney	Percell Milton
Darrell Olsen	Eric Olsen
Brody Owens	Austin Roughton
Billy Roughton	Larry Rowden
Jose Sosa, Jr.	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Wade Hall
<b>Nursery</b>	Sheri Bayes & Martha Dowdle
<b>Security</b>	Mark Blaylock, Mike Drain, Wade Hall
<b>PM Song Leader</b>	Tyler Baumgartner
<b>PM Opening Prayer</b>	Ken Green
<b>PM Closing Prayer</b>	Kyle Slaughter
<b>Wed. Song Leader</b>	Justin Williams
<b>Wed. Devotional</b>	Hank Jett
<b>April Contact Elder</b>	Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464