

Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:

Joni McConnell fell and was in the hospital for a couple of days. Fortunately, she had no broken bones but was bruised badly and is in significant pain. She had an MRI to determine her issues with balance.
Connie Davis continues to recover from her hip replacement surgery.
Iris Hash is staying with her daughter, recovering from her hip replacement surgery.
Virginia McKinney is having issues with her hip and will have tests performed.
Floyd Coley had a radiofrequency treatment to burn some nerve endings on one side of his back on Monday. He will have the other side of his back treated this Monday.
Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough.
Sean Mathews continues to struggle with GI issues and is now on a special diet.
Shirley Cook's brother, Richard Pflaum, has been diagnosed with lupus.
Mike Parnell's sister-in-law, Ethel Parnell, is suffering from dementia.
Jesse Riddle is now off hospice care but is often able to attend Sunday AM service.
Shirley Cook's son David will have a heart catheterization on August 20th.
Linda Jones fell at home and has cracked ribs.
Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.
Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee.

Pray For Our Shut-Ins:

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

Benevolence Opportunity:

For the month of August, we are asked to bring in pasta (e.g. spaghetti noodles, elbow macaroni, etc.) red spaghetti sauce and white alfredo sauce. These items will be donated to the Metropolitan School District of Martinsville food pantry.

Men's Business Meeting:

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, August 7th at 5:00 PM.

Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:

Our next pitch-in dinner will be Sunday, September 8th, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will conclude our gospel meeting.

2024 Fall Gospel Meeting:

A fall gospel meeting will be held September 6-8 with brother Tom House of the Plainview Church of Christ in Fulton, MS.

Annual Fish Fry:

We will be having our annual church fish fry on Saturday, October 12th at 5:00 PM.

Radio Program:

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

God's Plan For Our Salvation

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

August 18, 2024

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

FIGHTING DISCOURAGEMENT

Johnny O. Trail

Every person faces discouragement in their lives—even the child of God. Paul makes this evident in various places and offers solutions to the problem. He underscores the discouragement in the lives of the Corinthian brethren in his letter labeled Second Corinthians.

In 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 he says, “We are troubled [hard pressed] on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.” The Corinthian brethren had been greatly mistreated but they had not been “in despair,” “forsaken,” nor “destroyed.” Since all people face discouragement, how can we be equipped, through God’s word, to overcome the disappointments we face in life?

The tribulations we face are short in duration as one considers the nature of eternity. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, “For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.” We must always remember that the bad in this life pales in comparison to the blessings that await God’s faithful.

To fight discouragement, we must make sure we keep our real goal in mind. This is exactly what Jesus did as He faced the reality of His crucifixion. Hebrews 12:2 says, “Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Instead of continually focusing on the object of His torment, Jesus focused on the “joy” that awaited Him as He completed the plan of redemption. We need to remember that we are merely here for a short time, and Heaven is our ultimate dwelling place.

To fight discouragement, we must encourage ourselves in the Lord. King David had to encourage himself when the people were devastated by losing their families at Ziklag. The text in 1 Samuel 30:6 says, “David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.” In the midst of losing his own family, David’s followers wanted to blame him for the calamities that befell them. His grief and worry were compounded in this setting, but he did not lose sight of his need for God. It becomes evident from his life that David’s trust and confidence were in God. Christians would do well to have

the same mindset today.

To fight discouragement, we need to focus on the good things and not the negative. There are plenty of things in life that are bad and create feelings of depression. To alleviate the feelings of depression, one must change their focus. When we re-direct our thoughts, it can help with the discouragement we face in life. Philippians 4:8-9 says, “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.”

Parallel to this concept, we need to count our blessings. When we consider all that God has done for us, it becomes evident that we have very little to be discouraged about in our walk of life. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11 says, “Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness; Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.” God provides us with more than we could possibly have need of as His children.

To fight discouragement, we need to develop and maintain a regular prayer life. Paul encouraged the Philippian brethren to turn their anxieties over to God. He said in Philippians 4:6-7, “Be careful [anxious] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” It helps to know we do not bear our burdens alone. God hears and knows what our needs are. Sharing our prayer requests with our brethren also helps as we struggle with trials and tribulations.

To fight discouragement, we need to remember we have a High Priest, Jesus Christ, who is interceding so that we might come boldly before the throne of Grace. Hebrews 4:15-16 says, “For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” As our High Priest, the Son of Man understands what it is like to deal with problems in human terms. God is not aloof from what we struggle with in our daily routines of life.

God has sought to encourage His people in their darkest moments. We can have His assurances when life makes no sense. We can have His love when others have forsaken us. God provides the remedy for the problems we face in life if we are His Children.