





## Prayer Concerns

**Samantha Brazel**, GayLee's granddaughter, is in a residential hospital in Anderson. She had a feeding tube placed in her stomach as she has severed difficulty swallowing.

**Rachel Hewitt** is requesting prayers for some clients who have lost loved ones recently and also who have some serious decisions to make.

**Charlie Weaver** has been diagnosed with cancer in his upper lungs, prostate, and femur. They are still waiting for him to be scheduled for an endoscopic bronchoscopy to do biopsies on hot spots. He is also scheduled for prostate surgery on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Long Term Prayers for Family and Friends

**Juanita Brunnemer** (Shut-in), **Polly Burchfield** (Shut-in), **Susie Crecelous** (GayLee's friend, bone cancer & lupus), **Pam Dowty** (Ronnie Sutton's sister, Parkinson's), **Robert Ewing** (GayLee's nephew, bone & liver cancer), **Tom Gardner** (Rachel's former teacher, colon cancer), **Moe Handy** (shoulder, back & sciatic pain), **Rex Hembree** (Della's brother, lung cancer, radiation treatments), **Marilyn Hiser** (cancer treatments), **Ted Houchin** (chronic lymphocytic leukemia), **Martin Julian** (Shut-In), **Sharon Lasiter** (cancer treatments), **Noah & Gay Logsdon** (Shut-in), **Andy Mytides** (Cindy Davis's friend, kidney failure), **Leah Ranker** (David & Janice Kent's 4yr old great-granddaughter, Rett syndrome), **Anthony Ross** (Gay Logsdon's nephew, dialysis), **Vonnie Stonebraker** (Sowder's neighbor, cancer treatments), **Barb Surber** (Dementia), **Nancy Vermillion** (Burris's friend, cancer treatments), **Delbert Vibbert** (Lougene's nephew, COPD), **Charlie Weaver** (A fib w/premature ventricular contractions), **Wanda Weaver** (stage 4 kidney disease and lupus), **Joel Westberry** (neck & spine), and **Nancy White** (John Denzio's aunt, hospice).

## Missions

**Fiji Bible Institute** (Jason & Devin Pierce family); **India** (Jerris & Juanita Bullard, Steve & Renee Gaudreau); **Shults/Lewis Child & Family Services** (Staff & Residents); **Caleb Pierce** (Bear Valley Bible Institute)

### Daily Bible Reading Plan

Sunday, December 22	1John 1-5
Monday, December 23	2John / 3John
Tuesday, December 24	Jude
Wednesday, December 25	Revelation 1-3
Thursday, December 26	Revelation 4-6
Friday, December 27	Revelation 7-9
Saturday, December 28	Revelation 10-12



## Celebrations This Week

### Anniversary

27<sup>th</sup> Cliff & Inez Dailey (61yrs)



Our Wednesday evening Bible study this week will be cancelled due to it being Christmas Day.

## Ministry Donations for the Homeless

Do you have blankets, shoes, socks, gloves, hats, sweaters, pants, or jackets that are taking up space? Please consider giving to the homeless. Lisa Robling, former member and sister-in-Christ, works with a group who provides a weekly hot meal and clothing to the homeless population. They are also accepting shelf staple food with pop-open lids, such as orange juice, tuna snacks, pop tarts, or any item that is single serve that can be opened and eaten without having to be cooked. These items are placed in a sack and given to them for next day use. If you have any of these items, please place them on the table in the foyer, and our Morning Glories group will get them to Lisa.

## Financial Peace University

The next financial class begins on January 19<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall. For more information, or to sign up, go to [whitelandchurchofchrist.com/FPU](http://whitelandchurchofchrist.com/FPU). For questions, see Eric or Amy Wiwczaroski or email them at [FPU@whitelandchurchofchrist.com](mailto:FPU@whitelandchurchofchrist.com).



## Morning Glories Ministry Brunch

The next brunch for our ladies will be on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to join them for a time of fellowship, food, devotional and ministry planning.

## Love Feast Fellowship



January 12<sup>th</sup> is our family fellowship meal following our worship service. Everyone is encouraged to bring your favorite dish and dessert to share.

## Meditation of God's Word

### Compelled by Love

*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. <sup>15</sup> And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.* (2Corinthians 5:14-15, NIV2011)

While there is a lot of spiritual truth in this passage, the essential teaching is that Christ's love compels us to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died for us and was raised again.

The main subject is commitment to the lordship of Jesus in every area of our lives. We are to live no longer for ourselves but for Him. We are to make His will the rule of our lives and His glory the goal for which we live. But what is the wellspring of this commitment? What motivating principle would cause a person to live no longer for themselves but for God?

Paul says the love of Christ compels us to make this kind of commitment. Compel is a strong word and often has a negative association with force or coercion. But here its meaning is positive. The love of Christ is the governing influence which controls the life. It is not a fear of consequences or expectation of reward that motivates Paul. Rather, the love of Christ manifested in dying for him is the driving force of his life.

One modern translation translates the first phrase of 2Cor 5:14 as: *"For the love of Christ continuously constrains me."* Note the use of the word *continuously*, indicating that Christ's love is the constant wellspring of Paul's motivation every day. Paul never lost sight, never forgot, and never took for granted the death of Christ on his behalf. And as he reflected on this manifested love, he was motivated, no, he was compelled to live for the One who died for him and rose again.

When I think about what Christ has done for me, I find myself motivated to obedience by a deep sense of reverence for Him. Reverence is a sense of profound awe, respect, and devotion. It is a recognition of God's worthiness and infinite majesty of His being. Because of who He is, God is worthy of my most diligent and loving obedience, even if I never receive a single blessing from His hand. The fact is, of course, I have received innumerable blessings from Him.

God is worthy of my loving obedience because of who He is, not because of what He does. Because of this, Paul writes in Rom. 12:1, *"Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship."*

May we all continue to grow in the grace of our Lord. As we do, we will grow in our motivation to obey Him out of a sense of gratitude and reverence to Him. His love will compel us!

...Ronnie Hewitt