



TRUE LIGHT

Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. ~ Psalm 119:105

A PRAYER FOR OUR CHILD

Dear Father of all nations and Creator of all things, we come to You on behalf of our child. You gave us this child almost two decades ago with the understanding that we could care for him until he was ready to leave our home and go off into the world on his own. He says he is ready. A few days ago, he graduated from high school. He says he is ready for his independence. He says he is ready and able to take care of himself. He says he is ready ... we are not so sure.

Father, we have tried to do things according to Your plan. We have loved her. We have taken her to church and even gone with her. We have taught her Your truths in our home. We have taken every precaution we were aware of in order to insure that Your word would be imbedded into her heart and soul. We have done all that, yet we are still frightened at the idea of her being on her own. We are eager for her to make her own way, but we wonder if we have missed something. We wake up early and lie awake well into the night reliving conversation after conversation hoping we have not forgotten anything. She says she is ready to go, we are not so sure.

Father, as we watch him prepare for these never-again-to-be-repeated activities, we struggle with what is ahead. We know we are to "Seek first your Kingdom" and we have tried and continue to do that, and with all our might we have tried to love You and serve You. We have tried, yet we know we have failed many times along the way to live like You would have wanted us to live. We are grateful for the way Your grace has covered us, and Your presence has carried us during those times when we were completely helpless and totally clueless. Father, he says he is ready, but we are not so sure.

Father, we are not doing a very good job in this area of letting go. We thought we were prepared for it. Of course, during those times when she exerts her independent spirit, we think that we may actually be ready

for her to be out of the house. Then we think about how it will be when she is gone: her room will be empty, the music will not be too loud, the washing machine will get a rest, and the phone may be for one of us, if it rings at all. She says she is ready, but we are not so sure.

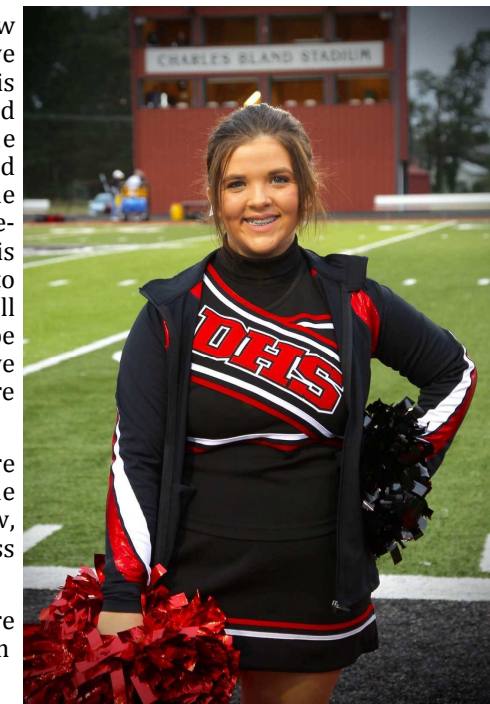
Father, a few days ago we heard his name called and he walked across the stage, received his



diploma, celebrated with his friends and began to finalize plans to leave in the fall. We will not know where he is all the time. We will not know the friends he will spend time with. His car will not be parked in the driveway. We will go out to eat without him and we will come home without him. Father, he says he is ready, but we are not so sure.

Father, we have prayed for her every day since we realized we were going to have a baby, we have watched her grow, and we have done everything we knew to do to prepare her for what lies ahead. Now, we pray that we have done our job well. We will never know unless we let her go. She says she is ready, but we are not so sure.

Father, we place our child in Your hands. Of that one thing we are sure.
Tom Norvell, www.heartlight.com



May 23, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Worship:
8:45 a.m. (masked)
Sunday School 9:50 a.m.
10:30 a.m. (masks optional)

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Joe Watson
Rodney Williams
Tim Woods

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Bernie church of Christ

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

CELEBRATING THIS WEEK

BIRTHDAYS

May 23 - Cooper Karnes
 Marietta Reams
 May 25 - Logan Northern
 Mary Burke
 May 29 - Kayli Lawrence
 May 30 - Emily Beard
 Elwood Rush



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Velveeta Cheese * Disinfectant Spray
 (i.e. Lysol) * Light Bulbs * Nuts * Toilet
 Tissue * Spaghetti Sauce

PICK UP DATE AUGUST 16

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

May 26 - David & LaRhonda Billingsley

SAFELY ASHORE

In Papua New Guinea, the Kandas tribe awaited with excitement the arrival of New Testament Bibles printed in their language. To reach the village, however, the people bringing the books had to travel on the ocean in small boats.

What gave them courage to travel across great waters? Their seafaring skills, yes. But they also knew who created the seas. He's the One who guides each of us across our life's churning waves and deepest waters.

As David wrote, "Where can I go from your Spirit?" (Psalm 139:7). "If I go up to the heavens, you are there; ... if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" (vv 8-10).

These words would resonate deeply with the Kandas, who live on an island nation whose tropical coasts, dense rainforests, and rugged mountains have been called "The Last Unknown." Yet as believers there and everywhere know, no place or problem is too remote for God. "Even the darkness will not be dark to you," says Psalm 139:12, and "the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."

On stormy waters, therefore, our God speaks, "Peace, be still!" and the waves and wind obey (Mark 4:39). So, don't fear life's deep or turbulent waters today. Our God safely leads us ashore.
 Patricia Raybon

Attendance for May 16: 109
 Contribution for May 16: \$4161

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

"...I was sick and you visited me..." Matthew 25:36

Remember: Curtis McClard is in Southeast Hospital currently undergoing tests on his leg, and is not doing very well * Pam Claeys is in room 41 at Cypress Point in Dexter for rehab * Mike Duley will see his surgeon next month for additional surgery on his foot * Karla Jacques has been sick * Amber Fisher (Millie's niece) is being treated for a septic wound

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Louella Akers * Kristi Altman * John David Barnett * David Burleson * Janie Burleson * Pam Claeys * Scott and Judy Flannery * Sue Flowers * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Grant Howard * Don Jackson * Morris Karnes * Luke Ethan Mason * Sonja Mays * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Kevin Mickey * Reba Owens * Ida Roberts * Gayle Rodgers * Waynetta Rodgers * Elwood Rush * Jane Smith * Leon Smith * David Terrill * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Sharlette Watson

Those dealing with cancer (non congregational) :

Cathy Bennett * Gina Bogle * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Randy Cravens * Bill Fitzpatrick * Jo Carolyn Flowers * Kim Goins * Ronnie Goins * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Andy Kelley * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Paula Mason * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Tammy Telker * Bobby Thornton * Paula Walls

Other health issues (non-congregational):

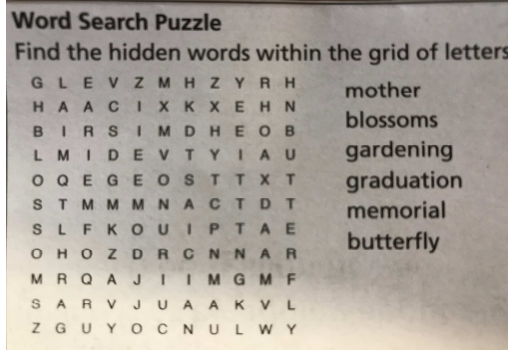
DeeDee Burch * Mary Burke * Jerry Grimes * Lem Hubbard * Dana Jo Jackson * Clyde Jacques * Lola Johnson * Beckie King * Nikki Lawrence * Jerry Don McGowan * Paul Maddox * Brenda Robinson * Gene Rowland * Kevin Steed * Traci Suiter * Paige Tanner * Heather Whitehead * Eva Latham

Our Shut Ins

Pauline Allen * Fern Botsch * Pam Claeys * Travis Cooper * Sue Flowers * Don Jackson * Shirley Johnson * Sonja Mays * Elwood Rush * Bettie Thurston * Marty Watson * Joy Watson

Please stay for a potluck lunch following services today in honor of our graduating seniors: Caris Forrester, Luke Tanner, and Bronwen Young.

Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.
 Proverbs 22:6



Reminder: Our regular worship service schedule will resume June 6. Sunday school will begin at 9:30; worship at 10:15 and Sunday evening services will be at 6 p.m.

GOT PLANS?

Caden, a young man of almost 18, was anticipating attending his first choice of a college on an academic scholarship. He was involved in a campus ministry in high school and looked forward to participating in a similar ministry in the new environment. He'd saved money from his part-time job and also had an excellent lead on a new job. He'd established some great goals, and everything was coming together exactly on schedule.

And then in the spring of 2020 a global health crisis changed everything.

The school let Caden know that his first semester would probably be online. The campus ministry was on hiatus. The job prospect dried up when the business closed. As he despaired, his buddy glibly quoted words from a well-known professional boxer: "Yeah, everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

Proverbs 16 tells us that when we commit all we do to God, He'll establish our plans and work things according to His will (vv 3-4). True commitment, however, can be difficult. It involves an open heart to God's direction, along with a willingness to resist charting our course independently (v 9, 19:21).

Dreams that don't come to fruition can bring disappointment, but our limited vision for the future can never compete with God's all-knowing ways. As we yield ourselves to Him, we can be certain that He's still lovingly directing our steps even when we don't see the path ahead (16:9).
 Cindy Hess Kasper