

# God Is Not A Genie

Dan Murphy

The Lord is sometimes viewed as a genie. We just rub the lamp of prayer and He performs favors at our command. Jehovah is much more than a wish granter. He is more personal than an imaginary genie who appears and disappears as needs arise. God wants a relationship with us and prayer is an avenue of communication with Him.

A genie is portrayed as one who grants the wishes of even the most selfish and foolish individuals. However prayer is not the Lord bowing to our every demand but the molding of our hearts and lives to His divine plan. John writes, "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us" (1 John 5:14). His scheme of things was set up before the world began and all of us have opportunity to be in the good pleasure of His will (Eph. 1:4, 5).

A genie must honor the demand of the one who rubbed the lamp. Jesus taught that we do have to ask: "Ask, and it will be given to you..." (Matt. 7:7). Our petitions are more than commanding from God; it is placing our trust in the Father's wisdom and providential care. In a parable a widow persuaded the judge to act on her behalf by her continual pleading (Luke 18). At times God honors our prayers when we persistently call on Him.

An imaginary genie grants the wishes of even the vilest person who rubs the lamp. The wicked and those who neglect God's will cannot expect an answer to their prayers. James emphasizes that "the effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:16). Of the righteous Peter says, "His ears are open to their prayers" (1 Pet. 3:12).

No, God is not a genie who grants our every request when we rub the lamp of prayer. He desires a relationship with us. We must place our life within His will. Also, we must persistently ask and live in a manner pleasing to Him for our prayers to accomplish much.

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## *The Messenger* Rolling Hills Church of Christ

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Minister: **Dan Murphy**  
Telephone: **859-498-1013**

Elders:

Mike Donaldson

Charles Smallwood

Charles Wills

Clyde Abner

Bobby Davis

Dwayne Goldy

Rod Kendrick

Paul Robinson

Allen Willoughby

Deacons:

Wayne Bailey

Robert Garrett

Kenney Gullely

Charles Moore

Gerald Vinson

Don Wilson

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Sunday

Bible Class - 9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship - 10:30

Evening Worship - 6:00

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:00 P.M.

Visit our Internet Web Site:

<http://rollinghillschurchofchrist.org>

Email us at:

[elders@rollinghillschurchofchrist.org](mailto:elders@rollinghillschurchofchrist.org)

[dmurphy@rollinghillschurchofchrist.org](mailto:dmurphy@rollinghillschurchofchrist.org)

[office@rollinghillschurchofchrist.org](mailto:office@rollinghillschurchofchrist.org)

## Privileged To Serve

If you can not serve as assigned please contact  
Jerry Willis, James Burden, or Bobby Davis as  
early as possible.

### Sunday A.M. June 22

Song Leader: Rob Frederick

#### Reading:

Matt. 6:1-4 & Prayer: Wes Vernon

1 Cor. 11:23-29 Rod Kendrick

Prayer: Vernon Tipton & James Cody

Foyer Assist : Allen Willoughby

Greeters: P. Sutton, J. Davis, C. Murphy

### Sunday P.M. June 22

Song Leader: Josh Williams

Speaker: Zach Dayton

Prayers: High School Campers

### Wednesday P.M. June 25

Song Service With High School Campers

Devotional: Austin Johnson

Prayer: A Camper

### Sunday A.M. June 29

Song Leader: Kirby Hinds

#### Reading:

Acts 4:32-37 Kenney Gullely

Matt. 26:17-29 David Ingram

Prayer: Paul Robinson & Johnny Johnson

Foyer Assist : Myron Yates

Greeters: D.Mansfield, R. Johnson, C. Collins

### Sunday P.M. June 29

5th Sunday Singing Service

Prayers: Charles Wills & Wes Vernon

### Wednesday P.M. July 2

Song Leader: David Donaldson

Prayer: Earl Collins

### Serve Communion During June

Allen Johnson Lindsey Back

Johnny Bennett Mike Donaldson

Zack Donaldson Clyde Abner

Ken Webb (rear) Gerald Vinson

Close Building June Arthur Ricketts

Announcements June: Gerald Ingram

## **Remember These In Prayer**

**“The fervent prayers of a righteous man can accomplish much.” James 5:16**

### **Members Sick or In Need of Prayers**

**Roy Horseman** is in St. Joe MS. Please remember him and Naomi in prayer.

**Ruby Lawrence** had successful knee replacement surgery on Tuesday and expects to come home at the end of the week.

**Emma Moore** has returned to room 53 at Windsor Care after a stay in the hospital with a broken hip.

**Linda Bennett** had outpatient surgery on Thursday.

**Willie Thompson** is back at home but must have a 24 hour caregiver.

Continue to remember: **Pauline Cockrell, Patty Barrett, Patty Kuhns, Bettie Congleton, Ann & Tom Cody, Eureka Donaldson, & Gladys Fugate.**

### **Loved Ones and Friends**

**Ardith Daniel** requests prayers for a friend, **Cailey Gillian**, 3 yrs. old, who had a trampoline accident on Tuesday evening. She is in in a body cast.

**Dane & Susan Conley** request prayers for **Steve and Cindy Carroll** who were injured in an auto accident.

**Doug Mansfield** requests prayers for his friend, **James Schaffer**, who has cancer.

### **Loved Ones In The Nursing Home**

Blanche Crockett, **Benny Groves**, Dorothy Justice, Hazel Kalar, **Ila Knox**; **Emma Moore**; Nancye Smoot, **Dallas Sutton**, Willie Thacker, **Albon Thompson**, Bruce Triplett.

## **For the Record**

<b>Budget: \$6800</b>	<b>June 15: \$ 7282</b>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 15</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
Bible Class	165	187
Sunday Worship	346	377
Sunday Evening	194	191
<b>Mid-Week Service</b>	<b>June 18</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
<b>Bible Study</b>	211	202

**Visitation Group #3** will meet Sunday evening after worship in the fellowship hall.

**Our sincere sympathy** is extended to the family and friends of **Carol Risen** who passed away this week.

**The Menifee County supporting visitors** will be discontinued due to their change in meeting times. The elders thank everyone who has participated in this good ministry.

**The Owingsville church of Christ** invites you to come to the Open House of their new church building which is located at 5410 Highway 60 East. Service will be from 2 to 3 PM Sunday, June 29. Dan Murphy and Alton Norman will speak.

We rejoice with **Ruby Lawrence** who responded Sunday asking for prayers for strength. Ruby has recently had a lot of health issues and, of course, is grieving the death of her daughter. Please encourage & pray for Ruby.

**Steve and Ruth Lech** are very happy to let everyone know they finally have a new address. Please list them in your directory at 117 Derby Drive.

**TEACHERS:** We will have a training session for the Cradle Roll Class at 9:30 AM, Sat., June 28<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in learning to teach or improve their abilities are encouraged to attend. Kathy Chaney (Debbie Smallwood's sister) and Monica Mink (Debbie's daughter) will be conducting the session.

**The Summer Youth Series** will begin Monday, June 30th, with a meeting at the Versailles congregation. Young people please make plans to attend.

We need many people to sign up to help in the kitchen for the next 4 weeks of camp. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board. Please help!

The elders are setting a rotation schedule for a “contact elder” for each month. If you need to meet with the elders, let them know of an illness or death, etc. please contact **Jimmy Welch** during the month of June. **Charles Wills** will serve in this capacity for July.

**We enjoyed a great week of Day Camp with a full house.** The cooler weather helped the children and staff remain comfortable and happy. We appreciate the entire staff for all their hours of work!

The Day Camp program for the parents and all interested persons will be Friday evening at 6:30 here at the church building. Come out and hear the children sing!!

**High School Week at Camp** begins Sunday at 4PM. To qualify for the \$75 camper fee, ALL campers must pre-register no later than 4 PM on the Saturday before your camp week begins on Sunday. Registrations after 4 PM on Saturday will cost \$85. Get your registration forms to Bettye if you want the take advantage of the discounted pre-register fee.