

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church November 2016



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The Power of Protective Prayer

By Connie Bernard



"Don't forget to call home." As parents, how many times have we said these words? When our children are small and under foot, we know where they are at all times-well, most of the time. I also usually knew when my children were into mischief. When it got quiet in the house, I knew that I'd better go find them. There was no telling what they were getting into.

As parents, we prayed protective prayers over our children. *Jesus, keep their bodies strong. Let them grow healthy. Do not allow any disease to touch them. Let them be safe.* Then, time flew by and our babies were heading out on their own. I have always prayed prayers of protection, even before we had children, but I learned a whole new way of praying protective prayer. We all pray protective prayers, but they vary and change as life changes. James 5:16 states, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." In my daily prayers, I pray that the Lord always finds me righteous. I always want to be pleasing to Him.

Our daily prayer should always consist of thanksgiving *and* repentance. In repentance, we are acknowledging our humanity and inadequacies, humbling ourselves before Him. He will always honor a broken and contrite spirit (Psalm 51:17). When we come to Him in this manner and we are known by Him - when we have that close communion with Him - then we can go boldly before the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16) with our petitions.

Years ago, when Brother Bernard made trips before the wall went down in Eastern Europe, there were times I did not hear from him until he landed back in the States. I learned to live by trusting God and continually praying prayers of protection. I also learned to really appreciate the statement, "No news is good news." My petitions, for the most part, center around prayers of protection for my family. Sure, there are times that we have specific and urgent needs, but our protective prayers are of great importance.

Ladies, let me encourage you. You may have raised your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4) and still they have wandered away from God. There are times that your protective prayers are the

only thing that is keeping them. You may be asking, "How do I pray for my daughter that has left us and God?" This is hard, but do not ever lose hope. His word will not return void (Isaiah 55:11).

In closing, let me leave you with a prayer to pray and apply to your own situation:

God, put a protective hedge about our daughter. I ask that you dispatch ministering angels to watch over her. When she lays her head down at night, Lord, bring to her remembrance Your goodness and grace. Let your grace, Lord, be always present in her life. Woo her with Your love. Let her reach out to You when she feels unsafe or insecure. Show Yourself to her. Protect her heart, Lord, from deep hurt. Protect her mind, Jesus, from the devices of the enemy. Keep her safe from harm. Touch her body, Lord, and keep her strong. She was dedicated to you. I pray that you will woo her with your love. Let her feel Your spirit at night when she is alone with her thoughts. Invade her thoughts and confirm to her that You are still there, that You still love her, and that You are watching over her. I thank You, Jesus, because You love me and you are mindful of me. You care about the little things and the great things in my life and in her life. I know You will honor every prayer I pray. You will answer according to Your perfect will. You are our sovereign King and you care. I know you will answer, and I thank You for it.

Whether our children are two, twelve, twenty, or even fifty, we still worry about them. It is a great comfort to know that we can pray a protective covering over them and have assurance that He will answer. He is trustworthy.

Note: Sis Bernard is married to Rev, David Bernard, UPCI General Superintendent's wife. They travel all over the world and speak at many special meetings and conferences. They have three married children and grandchildren.

Our Prayers Never Die

By Miriam Sponsler



Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (Revelation 5:8 NKJV).

Our prayers never die.

Our God is awesome and always faithful, even when we wonder if He really hears us when we pray. We may ask, Will He really take care of this one? That heart is too wild, too hard, too confused, too lost! Will my prayers be in vain?

Never fear. God knows our thoughts, our desires, and our heart's cry. When we pray according to His will He hears us and truly cares. He is more anxious to hear our petitions and answer them than we may believe or even understand. But God is Faithful.

Some of my early childhood memories are of my mother in her closet of prayer, crying out to God for her children's salvation. The youngest of seven, I had the privilege of being raised on a Pentecostal pew but my older siblings did not. She prayed relentlessly for their salvation, even when not a ray of hope could be seen. I believe her prayers are still alive and working on hearts.

Because prayers never die, my father was baptized at eighty-eight years of age after mom prayed for him nearly fifty years. One brother came back to God after a number of years living an ungodly lifestyle and now pastors a revival church. Another brother came back to God after decades of running from God. His return to God occurred after mom had already passed on to Glory. God is eternal, and He is not confined to our time table ever.

Luke 18 tells the parable of the unjust judge and the persistent widow and the unjust judge granted her request because of her continual asking. If we know we are praying in the will of God I believe we can persist in our praying, showing faith that God will answer. Our faith may be tested, but He will answer in due time.

Do not give up on that wayward child. Be encouraged. Keep praying and believing. We cannot possibly begin to imagine God's ways and His timing is perfect. Our prayers are so precious to Him and are stored in golden bowls. They do not die.

Note: Miriam is married to Mike, the love of her life for forty-two years. She served as evangelist's wife, pastor's wife and now missionary's wife in Argentina. She is the proud mother of two awesome sons and daughters-in-law and Nana to two incredible grandsons!

Prayer Warrior

By Linda Reading



I hear the title of "prayer warrior" many times in reference to mothers praying for their children. A prayer warrior is one who intercedes for others through the ministry of intercessory prayer.

I am single (never married) and have no children; yet I find myself praying for children often. I love to see them respond to the majestic touch of His Spirit. Jesus prayed for children.

"Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence" (Matthew 19:13-15 KJV).

My nieces who are now adults, tell me in the past when they talked to me and would hear, "I will pray for you," they knew I was going to battle for them. God has healed, protected, and given them direction in life. They know the power of intercessory prayer.

A young boy came to our church years ago while living in a foster home. He would wait for his foster parents to pick him up after Sunday school, and I would sit on the church steps with him until they arrived. I would listen to him talk about his troubled life and would pray with him before he left the church that day. Our prayer was simple, but it stayed with him even after he was back home with his birth mother.

I received a telephone call a few years later when he was a teenager. He needed a friend, and looked up my last name and called each phone number until he reached me. He was troubled, and he told me that he knew I would pray for him and his situation. I prayed as a warrior as I stood in the gap for him.

Wrap your children, nieces, nephews, or children of your friends in prayer. Intercede for them as they walk in this present world. I challenge you to be a prayer warrior for children.

Note: Linda Reading enjoyed her ministry in music for many years during the pastorate of her parents in Greenfield, Indiana. She relocated to Florida in 2010 after treatment for non-Hodgkin lymphoma stage IV in 2008. She celebrates each day as a gift from God.

From the Mailbox

This newsletter is such a blessing. Just received my email and read it immediately. I especially like Sister Bernard's article Prayers of Protection. I have three daughters who left the church after growing up. I pray for them and their families. Thanks again. -Etoise N

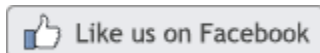
Thank you for this newsletter. I sincerely needed this today, at this very moment. Praying for my boys now. -Nadeen

Dear beloved, I thank you a lot for your encouraging teachings! It is wonderful teachings with testimonies, and how to keep the promise of prayers! Kindly, I request you that: I wish to receive Swahili language and English. Thank you, -Onserio.

Praise Report

I just received this testimony from our Ladies' President in Venezuela, Deisy Graterol and I thought it would be good to share. God Bless, Kathy Crossley

"We asked prayer for one of our pastors, Sis. Lina de Bracho. She had many tumors around her thyroid, and also skin cancer on her nose, She was operated on and God worked a miracle. The doctor was dumbfounded by the amount of tumors they found and said that she would not be able to talk for a long time. One week later she went for her check-up, and the doctor was totally shocked that she talked very clearly and with a full voice. He also was able to tell her that there was not a sign of cancer and there would be no chemotherapy! To God be the glory! We are grateful for the united prayer of our ladies of the United Pentecostal Church. May God continue to bless you."



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Watch Ladies Prayer International 1-minute Video clip.

From the Editor



Debbie Akers

God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Farsi, Czech, Chinese, Swahili, Hungarian, Tagalog, Indonesian, Romanian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Hindi and Georgian.
Please help us pray for a Serbian, Bulgarian and Japanese translators.

If you wish to receive any of the above translations please send request to LadiesPrayerInternational@aol.com and we will be delighted to add you to our mailing list!
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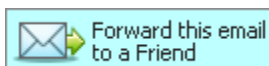
Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on the first Monday of each month to unite in focused prayer for their children and the children of the local church and community.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (I John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).





Ministries we support...

TUPELO CHILDREN'S MANSION

Children live in an environment with opportunity to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.

NEW BEGINNINGS Maternity care for birthmothers considering adoption and child placement for adoptive couples.

HAVEN OF HOPE A program for girls ages 13-16 with behavioral and emotional issues.

LIGHTHOUSE RANCH for BOYS Healing broken and hurting lives of teen boys.



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