

*Praying For Direction and an Increase  
Union Salem Church – Jonestown, PA*

Union Salem went through a re-birthing process about 2 years ago. Last year we celebrated 150 years of ministry. We are still a small congregation but we are growing. Our main activities are our Sunday morning services and a Tuesday night Bible Study. We recently completed a SWOT analysis (very encouraging) and have handed out assignments for more research. Before we decide what projects to tackle we want to seek God's face. We have been learning that the church moves forward not by human determination but by revelation. We have planned an evening of prayer July 18<sup>th</sup>, with Carolyn Boussum. We will be seeking God for the direction our discipleship and outreach should take this next year and in years to come. There are many opportunities and vast number of possibilities, i.e. next year is Jonestown's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We asked the mayor how we could help. The team came back with a list of ideas. We can't do everything but we can do something. Pray with us as we seek God, pray through the Scriptures, and receive His direction for our discipleship and outreach ministries.

**A WORD FROM GOD'S HEART**



God is our refuge and strength, a very present and well-proved help in trouble (Ps. 46:1).

We praise our King of Glory for the unity He has given us. Father, we come together to your throne of mercy and grace to ask for a cushion of your Presence, your peace, and your hope in comforting the hearts and meeting the needs of the Leibensperger family.

Lord, we are grateful for Kevin's life and ministry that glorified God, his godly leadership and his call for prayer that have impacted our lives. May loving arms and words surround Deb & family in the days to come.

To God's glory through Christ's Name and His Spirit, we pray. Amen!

*Prayer Mobilization Team Members*

to keep and cultivate the land. It is as if the Lord has seen that we cannot keep covenant, so He will. I like the notion that even though it was our job to keep and cultivate, God is the keeper.

I have recently learned this verb is used more often in referring to how the Levitical priests KEPT the law. Shamar refers to the work of the Levitical priest in the Temple of God. I begin to think of myself as a Levitical priest. I am to keep the temple: my body, my journey, my story, my life, my uniqueness.

This wonderful promise of God later on in Genesis reminds me that when I fail to keep, when I fail to obey what God commanded Adam when He placed him in the Garden; God is keeping me. God is my Keeper.



Jacob's response is the essence of musing. He said, "God is in this place – truly. And I didn't even know it!" He was terrified. He whispered in awe, "Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven."

Jacob has seen God, albeit in a dream. Words almost cannot hold the experience. He is afraid. This word for fear is used 314 times in the Bible. Yare means to cause astonishment and awe or to inspire reverence or godly fear.

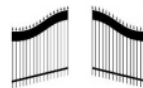
The fear gives way to worship. He worships. He sets up the stone as a marker.

How am I going to worship in the "running" from a place, to a place? Where is the "stone" I will set up as a marker for this present "journey" I am on? How do I make this "temple of God" a worship Gate through which His Kingdom comes, as I pass through this "journey"?

God is my Gate Keeper.

To see God in a new way and utter forth mumblings in response... is to muse.

*Cheryl Mong*  
Contributor to HeartCry



Gate of Heaven

# HEARTCRY

August 2010

*Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, "God is in this place -truly. And I didn't even know it!" He was terrified. He whispered in awe, "Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven."*

In Genesis 28 Jacob is fleeing his home after stealing Esau's birthright. Abraham had blessed him and sent him on his way to get a wife. Nonetheless the bitter taste of deceit and betrayal must still have been lingering on Jacob's tongue. God appeared to Jacob in a dream. You remember the story. The angels were descending and ascending to heaven on Jacob's ladder.

God told Jacob:

"I am God, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. I'm giving the ground on which you are sleeping to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will be as the dust of the Earth; they'll stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will bless themselves in you and your descendants. Yes, I'll stay with you. I'll protect you wherever you go, and I'll bring you back to this very ground. I'll stick with you until I've done everything I promised you."



The New American Standard Bible uses the word keep. "I am with you, and will keep you." Keep is the verb shamar, a covenant word. The Old Testament Word Book defines it as "to exercise great care over."

I'm not altogether sure of the connection, but it is the verb used in Genesis 2:15 when God tells Adam

(continued on back page)



**PRAYER MOBILIZATION TEAM**  
of the Evangelical Congregational Church

# August

## Seeking God: His Heart and Blessings Awakening to God's Call for Prayer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Pastor Schmoyer: Pray for our first Block Party & Picnic (8/1): good turnout for meeting neighbors & VBS Camp (8/2-6): we will be well-prepared and many neighborhood kids will attend.	<b>2</b> Pray that we choose to seek God first and then His blessings (Matt. 6:33).	<b>3</b> Awaken us to God's call to fervent prayer and His desire for unity (Ps. 133:1).	<b>4</b> National Conference Leaders: Team unity as they reorient themselves without B. Kevin and for God to be their compass in guiding them through confusing waters (John 17:21).	<b>5</b> B. Wagner: Direction in establishing affinity groups and structure for the Church Health Commission.	<b>6</b> G. Lewis: For wisdom and understanding from the Lord in this time of transition.	<b>7</b> Leaders' Wives: Give M. Moury, B. Wagner, D. Lewis, A. Brown, and J. Sigman wisdom and calmness as they support their husbands who are assuming extra responsibilities.
<b>8</b> EC Pastors: Discerning minds for what is most important each day and smooth transitions for pastors and families going into new churches (Eph. 5:16).	<b>9</b> Pastor Holubec: Balancing time commitments to family, church and leading the Chr. Ed. Committee.	<b>10</b> Pastor Jacobs: Ministry to women addicted to heroin and God's insights into effective ways to impact and disciples these women.	<b>11</b> Pastor Kramer: Pray with us as we seek God, hear His voice, and receive His direction for our discipleship and outreach ministries.	<b>12</b> Pastors' Wives: Grant wisdom and strength as they encourage their husbands and care for their families.	<b>13</b> Living Hope Ministry: Ask God for open doors to present this ministry of healing and freedom in our churches. (Roberta Dimick, Director; Cheryl Mong, Co-director)	<b>14</b> Prayers for Hope and Healing: God's ministry of comfort and renewed strength for Dr. Ragsdale and family in the loss of his wife.
<b>15</b> Pray for rest, healing, and renewed hope in the lives of Keith and Cheryl Mong.	<b>16</b> Pray that others in a crisis (unemployment, financial loss, illness, etc.) will reach out to the Lord and receive His hope and strength for each new day.	<b>17</b> National Prayer Conference – Lititz Trinity EC Church – Oct. 29-30, 2010: May God's blessing go before in awakening the hearts of those who attend to His Call for prayer.	<b>18</b> "Lord, do you want me to attend the Prayer Conference? If so, I'll go."	<b>19</b> Conference Preparation Team: Hear God's voice and respond in obedience to His directions.	<b>20</b> Pray that Trinity's Praise Team will be in tune with God's leading in worship.	<b>21</b> Global Ministries: Pray for the process of recruiting/training and deploying "Mission Mobilizers" to work in local EC Churches to help them make missions a real part of the congregation's DNA.
<b>22</b> Ask God to identify 7 people who are called as intercessors to work closely with Randy to pray for specific needs/issues for Global Missions.	<b>23</b> Missionary Families: Brian Wagner Family and their safe return to Rift Valley Academy in August and to settle back in quickly before school begins.	<b>24</b> Nick Lakatos Family: Safe travels and that language study in Costa Rica and worship training in Mexico along with cultural adjustments will go well.	<b>25</b> Women's Ministries: Ministry Committee will sense God's complete direction in planning to bring glory to God in the April 30, 2011 Women's Retreat & the Allegheny/Ohio Retreat.	<b>26</b> EC women will be stirred and will choose to live committed lives for Christ and reflect God's awesome love, faithfulness and joy to others.	<b>27</b> Praise and celebrate God's holy name as we seek His face and rejoice in Him (Ps. 105:3).	<b>28</b> An Expression of Thanksgiving to God for giving our former Bishop the vision to initiate the PMT.
<b>29</b> Discipleship: Pray that the making of disciples will become the key mission of all our ministries.	<b>30</b> Seek God for directions in developing disciple making cultures in our churches.	<b>31</b> As a denomination may we answer the Call of the Holy Spirit to become people of prayer.	