



HeartCry

December

December 2007

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The road ahead was uncertain at best. There were indications of where they should be going, but even the “definites” weren’t making much sense anymore. Pack up everything. Head to some backwater village in the middle of nowhere, just because someone told them they had to. And then what? Nobody knew.

Except that any day now, something that had stretched their faith would be bursting on the scene. Or rather, Someone.

I wonder what that young couple would have faced if it had happened today instead of 2000 some odd years ago. Their road was fraught with uncertainty. These were dangerous times. Israel was a nation being held hostage. The pregnancy was unplanned - at least by the people about to serve as parents. It would be extremely embarrassing for them to have a child who wasn't theirs. Probably damaging because of all the innuendo and intrigue - “who would want to go that carpenter - he can't handle his personal affairs, let along his business ones” - or so the tongues would wag.



Would they be encouraged to seek the Lord before they take matters into their own hands? Would they press on, trusting that the Lord would provide for them, no matter how difficult the road? And when we face similar things, how can we pray?

Evangelical
Congregational Church



Evangelism &
Discipleship
Commission

Prayer Mobilization
Team

A familiar verse reminds us that if we trust in the Lord with all our heart, and lean not on our own understanding... that if we acknowledge Him in all our ways, He will make our paths straight. (Proverbs 3:5-6).

When our lives take uncertain paths, how should we pray? What kinds of things should we ask for? We want clarity, but could there be something better to ask for? I believe there is... even though knowing the road ahead would be a good thing. Perhaps what we most ought to pray for is what Mary and Joseph experienced in the flesh, even if they didn't know the full implications of it. We need to ask for Christ to be with us as we go. Because if He is, uncertain or not, the road ahead will lead us to the place where He will show up, where He will touch our lives, where He will manifest His presence, and bring His joy to the world at large.

May you be blessed as you walk with the Lord Jesus Christ!



Send us your stories:

We serve a Lord who is moving actively in our lives. He is answering prayer, bringing hope, touching and changing lives. But our venues are limited... we see and hear only in part. When we notice Christ moving, we are encouraged, but it's often easy to lose sight of the great things He's doing in the midst of our everyday lives. I'd like to see our eyes opened to the bigger picture... and you can help!

Have you seen the Lord moving? Is there an answer to prayer you've experienced that would bless someone else? If so, we need you to share them.

Please submit your stories in writing to:

HeartCry
c/o Rev. Brian Garner
Faith EC Church
402 North Temple Boulevard
Temple, PA 19560

Or via e-mail to: revbdg@comcast.net

The Warrior's Arsenal: resources & tools

Jesus Prayed

By: Arthur Wallis
ISBN: 87508-559-8

Wallis states in his introduction that, "For the present reviving to become the revival for which we long, God needs men and women who are willing, at a call from Him, to give themselves to the ministry of intercession." This book is written to give us insight on how Jesus prayed at the hour of dedication, the hour of acclamation, the hour of decision, the hour of revelation, the hour of transfiguration, the hour of instruction, and the hour of temptation.

Christian Literature Crusade
31 powerful pages



A Life of Obedience

By: Andrew Murray
ISBN: 0-7642-2867-6

Learning to trust His time, His place, and His will comprises the one sacrifice which God requires of us - obedience. Murray teaches us that Christians can learn obedience by abiding in Christ, using the Scriptures as a "daily Textbook," and depending wholly on Jesus, the Master Teacher.

Bethany House
105 pages

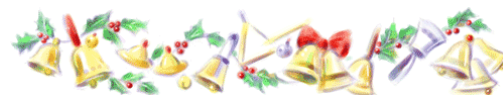


The House of the Lord

By: Francis Frangipane
ISBN: 0-88419-284-9

In this challenging book, Francis Frangipane shows churches how to lay aside individual differences and doctrines and come together united in worship and warfare - to rebuild the house of the Lord and bring healing to their cities.

Creation House
202 pages



Total Forgiveness

By: R.T. Kendall
ISBN: 978-0-88419-889-5

When everything in you wants to hold a grudge, point a finger, and remember the pain, God wants you to lay it all aside. Uncover the physical, emotional, and spiritual consequences of unforgiveness, and see why God adamantly wants you to forgive others. True inner peace awaits you as you avoid the quicksand of bitterness and experience the incredible freedom found in total forgiveness!

Charisma House
185 pages

Incense Before the Throne

Faithful Praying in Uncertain Days



Have you ever noticed that it is extremely easy for us to think we are faithful when everything is going our way? But then, Satan throws a monkey-wrench into our neatly ordered systems, and we find ourselves grasping once again for the reins of our life, often forgetting to even ask the Lord what we should do. Prayer gets pushed to the sidelines, or is forgotten altogether. *“Father, please forgive us for forgetting You.”*

We ought to remember that we are never really in control. Scripture is very clear about that. “Mortals make elaborate plans, but GOD has the last word (Proverbs 16:1 - The Message).” Job experienced the heartache of seeing his life fall apart around him, despite the fact that he was doing everything right, and that he was striving to please the Lord in all he did. He said, “My days have passed, my plans are shattered, and so are the desires of my heart (Job 176:11).” It’s heartbreaking when our plans don’t come together. But it should also send us to Someone who can do amazingly more than we are able to consider. *“Lord, my plans have fallen apart. I’m not sure where I’m headed or what I’m doing. I need Your help.”*

Do you realize how much God cares for you? Do you know how precious you are to Him? How much you matter to Him? I doubt any of us really do... we might have a theological grasp on it, but if we really understood the depths of His love for us, we’d be overwhelmed with it. The fact that He sent His one and only Son to die in our place, to win our freedom, and to bring us safely into His arms ought to speak to the value He places, not just on the whole world, but on us as individuals. Do recognize that it means to find that “While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).” God demonstrates His love to us through His Son. We need to recognize the depths of His love. That love will carry us through difficult days. *“Daddy. How strange it feels to call You that. To know that You love me that much. I’m not sure I really grasp the depth of Your love for me. Or for others. Help me to see how much You love me. And to know that You are a Father who cares.”*



Our perspective is extremely limited. We can’t see what’s just beyond the horizon. The trees looming front of us don’t let us see the clearing just up ahead. We think all there is is forest, and forget that the King is welcoming us to His castle, not only as His child, but as His Bride. It’s easy to get lost and confused. We haven’t traveled this way before. But the King knows the way. Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me. (John 14:6)” *“Don’t let me get distracted by the things before my eyes. Be my vision, Lord. Help me to see You leading me through every circumstance and situation.”*

But sometimes as we attempt to walk with Him, even as He leads us, we stumble in the way. The hem of our wedding gown gets caught in the brambles, and we fall face-first into the dirt and grime of the world. In our pride, we might even push Him away when He extends His hand to lift us out of the mire. But still He reaches out to lift us to our feet.

“Christ’s love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness (Ephesians 5:26 - The Message).” “If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself (2 Timothy 2:13 - NIV).” *“What kind of love is it that reaches out to me, even as I am pushing it away? Teach me to accept Your love. And to grow in that love.”*

Ultimately, as Christ carries us, we find ourselves seated with Him in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). We have Him at our side, and we are at His. We are blessed beyond measure. And even if the journey was hard, our reward is great. *“Lord, help us to realize that You are our reward. And that nothing compares to You.”*



Faithfulness in difficult times is not a matter of us simply “gusting it out” or striving for more. It is a matter of looking to the One who holds us, and letting Him carry us, no matter how often we fall. May you look to Him in the midst of life’s uncertainties. And May He carry you all of your days. *“Jesus, thank You for Your love for me. The road ahead is unclear. I admit that. But You are faithful. And certain. You never fail. You won’t leave me alone. You won’t walk away. That, I can rely on. Carry me. Hold me. So that at the end of the road, I might be found faithful too.”*



More Prayer Resources

Campus Crusade for Christ’s Online Prayer Guide:

<http://www.godsquad.com/prayer/index.htm>

Examples of Prayer Guides can be found at:

<http://www.prayerclosetministries.org>

Prayer Resource Books can be found at:

<http://www.prayershop.org>

Subscribe to Pray! Magazine:

<http://www.navpress.com/magazines/Pray!>

And everyone went
off to his own town
to register.

Luke 2:3



Tidbits on Prayer

“Prayer is the midwife of mercy, that helps to bring it forth.” – Matthew Henry



“God never denied a soul anything that went as far as heaven to ask for it.” – John Trapp



“All God’s giants have been weak men, who did great things for God because they believed that God would be with them.” – Hudson Taylor

“Oh! men and brethren, what would this heart feel if I could but believe that there were some among you who would go home and pray for a revival – men whose faith is large enough, and their love fiery enough to lead them this moment to exercise unceasing intercessions that God would appear among us and do wondrous things here, as in the times of former generations.” – C.H. Spurgeon



“It seems to me that there are but few who really live with a passion for God – especially a passion just to be with Him. Today there is such a noise coming up before the throne of the Most High, the clamor of so-called praise, singing, and joyful shouting. But I wonder if the same people who love to sing and shout, loudly exclaiming the praises of God, really have such an intense glory in their secret life with the Lord. When the meeting’s over and there’s no one there to listen except the only One who matters, do you still have that same passionate joy in your spirit, just to be alone with the Living God?” – Keith Green

Prayer for Life along the Rabbit Trails

December 2007

Pray for:

December 1 - Churches pondering change and all of its implications.
December 2 - Congregations planning special outreach events
December 3 - Courage as we trust the Lord in uncertain times
December 4 - Individuals facing changes in life
December 5 - Those experiencing "birthing pains" - the difficulties in seeing something new come to pass.
December 6 - A willingness among us to experience newness of life in Christ - with all of its implications and ramifications.
December 7 - Comfort for those experiencing rough roads in life.
December 8 - encounters with those walking alone
December 9 - the church to be "oasis" for those in need of refreshing
December 10 - our eyes to be open to the "gifts" others bring



December 11 - that believers might find joy in the midst of pain
December 12 - that when unbelievers experience pain, the church would help them find hope.
December 13 - peace in the midst of all the hectic activity
December 14 - Christ to be remembered as the reason for the season
December 15 - words of life to be spoken through the church
December 16 - words of hope to fill our mouths
December 17 - words of life to minister healing to hurting hearts
December 18 - tender "kicks" from the feet of the Lord showing that He is birthing something new within His Church.
December 19 - growth in the Body of Christ
December 20 - God's comfort for those being stretched by growth

December 21 - Peace to carry us through uncertain times
December 22 - God's love to help us conquer our fears
December 23 - The light of Christ to shine from the lives of His people
December 24 - hearts and homes to be ready to receive the Lord Jesus Christ
December 25 - the joy of New Life to fill our hearts and homes
December 26 - the church to find rest in Jesus Christ, even as we strive to make Him known in the world
December 27 - excitement within the family of God over new lives being won to Jesus
December 28 - opportunities for those who are mature in faith to disciple new believers
December 29 - the church to look upon the world with the love of Christ
December 30 - the Light of Christ to shine brightly in the midst of darkness
December 31 - The Lord's continued guidance and protection in the New Year

