



HeartCry



January 2008

Always Ready

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Abram was minding his own business when the call came. "Leave this place. Go to the land I am going to show you." And within a short amount of time, something amazing happened. He went. And not just by himself. He took his family with him. Almost as if he were prepared to go at a drop of the hat. When God spoke to Him, he was ready to answer.



It was the same for Phillip, even if the call didn't make sense on the surface. He was in the midst of a successful evangelistic campaign. People were coming to the Lord, accepting Jesus as their Savior. Things were going very, very well until the time came for him to head south. I'm not so sure he knew what was ahead, but he was willing to go. And he was willing to go "suddenly".

There are many other examples of people who were prepared to move at a moment's notice I'm sure Noah didn't waste time starting on his boat-building project, Daniel didn't wait until tomorrow to begin his diet with his friends, Paul could have listened to those around him and not set off by ship late in the transit season - it probably would have saved him a shipwreck or two - but he listened to the Lord's timing... even if it didn't seem to make sense.



Evangelical
Congregational Church



Evangelism &
Discipleship
Commission

Prayer Mobilization
Team



What does it take to be a person who is “always ready” to respond to the Lord - to be the one who will go as soon as the call comes in? First, it takes a real relationship. Jesus said that His sheep would know His voice. That’s the key. A person who is always ready is always listening. They know the voice of God. When He speaks to them, there is no doubting the origin of the sound.

Secondly, it takes a healthy mixture of trust and adventure. Trust in Christ Jesus - that His way is always best and His plans are better for us than we can imagine. And a willingness to try new things when He calls us to do them.



Still Looking

We are still looking for your stories of answered prayer. Please send them to revbdg@comcast.net for inclusion in next month’s HeartCry.

More Prayer Resources

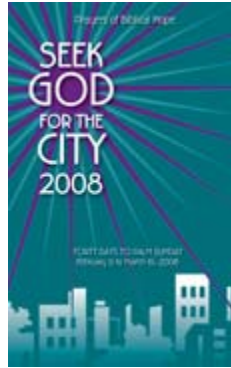
To sign up to pray for our President:
<http://www.prayercalendar.com/>

To help you pray for men and women in the military, this website is helpful:
<http://www.militaryministry.org/prayer/prayer-calendar/>

For insights into the life of a local group trying to do 24/7 intercession, check out:
<http://www.rhop.net/>

Seek God for the City 2008

Helping Christians pray with biblical hope for their communities.



High hope, low hype, and centered on Christ's glory.

Get a look at the latest edition of Seek God for the City. The newly-crafted prayers and crisp look will help your people pray for friends and neighbors with vibrant prayers ablaze with biblical hope.

Lead your people to step into a forty-day adventure of praying the desires of God with vivid, relevant prayers from the promises of scripture. The 64-page booklet is a proven tool that unites and guides whole churches in persistent prayer for spiritual awakening throughout their communities.

It's timed to guide prayer through the forty days leading to Palm Sunday, February 6 through April 26, 2008. A children's companion version and a Spanish translation will soon be available.

We are offering a complimentary review copy to leaders in recognized positions of pastoral or prayer leadership. Call our office at 800-264-5214 to request a review copy.

It's affordable. For as little as \$1.20 each, the significant quantity discounts make it possible to equip many in your church or community. (\$3 single copy price.)

It is very convenient to view a sample page or place an order on line. For more information please visit us at www.waymakers.org.

Take a look at your calendar. Seek God for the City comes earlier next year. It is not too soon to order copies now.

Steve Hawthorne, Director

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Incense Before the Throne

Concerned about the Small Stuff

The other day we were having one of those typical parenting moments around the dinner table. Everyone was tense. Tempers were flaring. Our middle son was blaming everyone around him because he couldn't complete a school project because he lost the paper explaining how to do it. Mom was at fault, his brothers were at fault, his teacher was at fault... the only one exempt was him. I had had enough. And we hadn't even started to eat or thanked God for the meal. This was looking to being an interesting night, and I wasn't looking forward to it. Finally, I growled a "silence" to my boys. If nothing else, we were going to eat this meal. And so, begrudgingly, they bowed their heads, and closed their eyes, and tried their best to keep quiet while dad offered thanks for the food.



In a moment of inspiration - or was it agitation? - I asked the Lord to teach us all to trust Him, and to help our child find the paper he needed to get the work done. It was more of an afterthought than a prayer, but I spoke the words, not even sure if the Lord was with me in this or chuckling at our foolishness.

No sooner was the prayer over than my wife pushed her chair away from the table and rushed into the kitchen. At first I thought she had forgotten something, but she quickly rushed back in triumphantly waving the offending instructions. "The Lord showed me a vision of where it was!" she smiled.

Our son was skeptical. He thought she remembered where the paper was hidden during one of mom's cleaning sprees. I'll never forget her retort... "If I put your paper away, I wouldn't have hid it underneath the dog's bed. God showed me where it was. I'd have never thought to look there."

Who hides papers underneath a dog's bed? And who would ever think to look for one there? We laughed. Tensions were calmed. And it became a moment that taught us all. We paused to praise the Lord - to thank Jesus for His involvement in even the little things of our lives. Things like missing papers. And if Father God involves Himself in something so minor, so simple and ordinary, and does so just because He loves us and cares about us... how much more so will He involve Himself in things of eternal importance?

Friends, never doubt that our Lord cares about the small stuff in your life. Seek Him always in prayer. We won't regret it.

Tidbits on Prayer

Out with the Old, in with the New



January is a time that many people start thinking about committing to new things. Take this as an opportunity to evaluate your relationship with Christ, to ask forgiveness for areas where you may have fallen, and to ask Him to not only restore your hope in Him, but to make you the new man or woman that He desires you to be. *Lord Jesus, in this special time of the year, I rejoice in the blessings of the past, and long for your presence in the now. I know I've not been the person you want me to be. Forgive me. Help me to grow in You.*

God offers His children a new heart with the law of the Lord written upon it. He will take away our heart of stone, and give us a new heart... one of flesh... that beats in rhythm with His. No longer to be incredibly wicked and deceitful, but to beat with the love of Jesus. *Thank You, Lord for the promise of a new heart. Help me to understand what it means to be Your beloved child. To have Your Word in my heart so that I don't sin against You. I want to be pure. I want to be Yours. Thank You for the promise and the proof of Your Word which tells me I am.*

Life in Christ is a new life. A full life. Jesus said that He has come that we might have life and have it to the full. *My life wasn't complete until I met You, Lord. I thought things were okay, but then You called me. And as I stepped off into this new adventure with You, I've found that what I thought was good was far from it. Thank You for filling my heart and life. Thank You for giving me a life that will never end, and finding that You are that life.*



After the holidays, we find ourselves needing to make room for the new things we've received. It means letting go of some of the old stuff that has been comfortable and familiar. We let go of the old, not because it wasn't meaningful, but because we have to clear space for something better. But making decisions about what we need to let go of is hard. *Father, I don't know where to start. I like my stuff. I don't want to let go of it. But I see You standing before me with blessings so wonderful I can't resist them. I need to know where to make space. So take from me the things that are too hard for me to let go of, so that I might receive from You all that You desire to give.*

January 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 A fresh vision of Christ's love	2 Renewed Passion for ministry	3 Refreshed understanding of Scripture	4 Courage to face tomorrow	5 Ministry leaders to make Godly decisions
6 Faith for the future	7 Churches to reach their communities for Christ	8 Christians to remember what it was like for them on the day they were saved	9 Partnerships in ministry that will touch our communities	10 The EC Church around the world	11 Children to come to know the Savior	12 Adults to have faith like a child
13 Family members and friends who don't know Jesus	14 Believers to develop godly maturity in Christ	15 Unity in the Body of Christ	16 Fresh outreach ideas	17 Discipling opportunities	18 Growth in our relationship with the Lord	19 New message ideas for pastors running on empty
20 Joyful expressions of love to our Lord	21 Testimonies of Christ's intervention to flow in our worship	22 Renewed unity in church leadership teams	23 Preparations for National Conference as they begin	24 Churches preparing for ministerial changes	25 Pastors praying about a new place of ministry	26 Renewed hope for those who are spiritually weak
27 Refreshment for burned out leaders	28 A captivating witness in the world so they'll ask "the reason for our hope"	29 Every Christian church to grow by bringing people into the Kingdom	30 Freedom from spiritual bondages	31 New Friends to share Christ with		

