



Bishop's Prayer List

- The Stationing Process – may everyone involved be tuned into God's voice and hearing His calling to match congregations and pastors for healthy ministry
- The Strategic Planning Team – guidance to prioritize and refine the proposals so that they align with God's agenda and provide us with practical direction
- The training events being offered this spring – that many will seize the opportunity and come away with all they needed and more
- For our E.C. international partners – where the kingdom is enlarged Satan often pushes back hard. The spiritual warfare is real, intercede for those in the heat of it.
- For freedom to rejoice with those who rejoice – celebrate and affirm churches that are reaching out in new ways, adding services, and experiencing growth
- For freedom to weep with those who weep – empathize with and encourage churches that are unsure about their future and looking for God's next step
- Personally – for focus, clarity and better management of my time and schedule. I'm finding year #2 far more stretching than the first.

PRAYER MOBILIZATION TEAM
Of the Evangelical Congregational Church
100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067
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HeartCry Prayer Letter and Calendar

Can Unraveling Lead to Freedom?



What happens when everything you believe in and live by is smashed to bits? Does catastrophe work to re-form our lives? Can we begin to see God as He actually is and not the way we imagined Him to be? On our good days, we know we have the companionship of God. When it appears we have nothing else, is that enough?

To the unraveled, Jesus speaks thee words...

How often I've ached to embrace you, children, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings... Matthew 23:37



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When I was a little girl, my grandmother would say, "Come get under my arms, right here." We would be piled in the bed on a Saturday morning, perhaps, and we would fight for those "wings" arms. Lots of cousins meant someone would be outside the "wing-wing". But we would nestle right beside each other there in the safety of a "Grandmother hen's wing."

This is a memory of shalom.



Dan Allender defines shalom in *The Healing Path*, "Shalom involves rest and gratitude; it provides a momentary balance and harmony where all things seem right. We know few moments of this peace, but it is not unfamiliar to us." For a moment, the "whole lot" of us were safe under Gramma's "wing" arm. I dare say that something in our souls remembered Eden.

Jesus chose these words, words spoken to little children, to confront the Pharisees of the day in Jerusalem. Before that verse in Matthew 23, He had called them frauds or hypocrites seven times. The word in Greek means pretender or actor.

Jesus tells the pretenders that they live a life that is all spit-and-polish veneer. He warns the crowd not to follow them. "Be careful

about following them. They talk a good line, but they don't live it. They don't take it into their hearts and live it out in their thought patterns, in their behavior. It's all spit-and-polish veneer." Matthew 23:3

What words are here for me today?

I know myself to be a pretender at times. Yet, also, deep inside, I long to follow Jesus and to worship Him in spirit and truth, Can both things be true? Absolutely.

The convergence of soul comes when I recognize the Pharisee in myself and let Jesus pick me up and put me under His wing. In one sweeping act of shalom, I am content. *If Jesus longs to put the Pharisee in me under His wing, I am a willing chick. I want to rest there and let all the parts of me know Him.* The Pretender. The Pharisee. The Daughter. The Truth-teller. The Weak. The Chick. The Woman. The Server. The Teacher. The Follower. All of me that wants all of Him. There is where I am protected. This is where I am made clean. This is where I am unraveled and then made whole! This is where Shalom happens. Amen.

*Cheryl Mong
For the Prayer Mobilization Team*

Praying for God's Heart

1. Pray for light to shine in the midst of darkness
2. Pray for increased passion for souls
3. Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit
4. Pray for the compassionate heart of Christ
5. Pray for renewed vision for your calling
6. Pray for the lost of your community
7. Pray for your Pastor and church leadership
8. Pray for God to prosper your church during these difficult economic times
9. Pray for angelic protection over geographic boundaries at church and home
10. Pray for our Nation and President
11. Pray for the Nation of Haiti
12. Pray for the Church of Haiti
13. Pray for a church plant in Oil City, PA
14. Pray for a city nearby that needs a powerful witness of Jesus Christ
15. Pray for God's protection over Israel
16. Pray for UN support for sanctions against Iran
17. Pray for the Nation of India and our many churches in India
18. Pray for those affected by the harsh winter
19. Pray for those fighting the battle with cancer
20. Pray for unity among believers and churches
21. Pray for our Bishop and Conference ministers
22. Pray for the Strategic Planning Team of the EC Church
23. Pray for Shirley Ragsdale's health to be restored
24. Pray for the safety of the EC leadership as they travel to India
25. Pray for the prospering of our Global Missions Commission under the leadership of Randy Sizemore
26. Pray for Les Cool and the Church Planting Commission of the EC Church
27. Pray for the marriages of our Pastors
28. Pray for the residents of our Retirement Village
29. Pray for the EC Center staff
30. Pray for the evangelistic efforts of our denomination
31. Pray for Evangelist Joe Toy

