

## Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church Intl

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### Prayer Changes Hearts

By Amy Stoops



"Whatever it takes, Lord!" is the prayer my brave mother-in-law prayed for twenty years, while her oldest son walked outside the ark of safety. She trusted big, she prayed hard, and she fought fiercely. Today, that "boy" of hers is a Sunday school superintendent, sings on the praise team, and allows God to use him for His glory. I am convinced that his salvation came about because his mama trusted God through paths that a "Whatever it takes, Lord" prayer led him. She prayed him home.

I watched and learned, and it's a good thing I did. Now I have a daughter that needs her mom to trust enough to pray, "Whatever it takes, Lord." The Lord gave me a scripture that has become a promise I cling to. "And there is hope in thine end, saith the Lord, that thy children will come again into thine own border" (Jeremiah 31:17). My girl is coming home. Prayer, effectual and fervent, will bring her back.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 is on my desk at work. It is there so I can remember to pray it over my children every day. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments and do them."

Pray when it's dark. Pray when it's scary. Pray when it seems useless. Pray when hope flickers; pray when hope glimmers; and pray when hope bursts into red hot flames of restoration. Biological mama, adoptive mama, bonus mama, spiritual mama, your prayers are powerful! Your prayers light the way home.

Note: Amy Stoops is actively involved in the kingdom of God. In addition to being a minister's wife and mother, she serves as principal of Dirigere Christian Academy (K-12), and Maine District Ladies secretary.

### Prayer Journey

By Crystal Wallace



I love to travel! I love to travel to see friends and family, thus traveling to familiar places, but I also love to travel to new places and see new sights. One of the benefits of being a missionary is being able to travel. Over the past few years, we have visited thirty-one states and two provinces while on deputation. We have also been blessed to travel to nine European countries.

Some journeys have been made with family and friends, and these trips have resulted in many wonderful memories. However, many times the journey had to be made solo...alone...all by myself. Those aren't always as pleasurable; however, something good can be taken away from every travel experience.

One of my favorite photos from my childhood is of me and my dad kneeling beside a couch in prayer. I was between three and four years old at the time. This picture constantly reminds me of how blessed I am that my prayer journey started at a young age.

Throughout my lifetime, this particular journey has been a process, and an education. At times, it has been rough due to bad roads, detours, wrong turns, and breakdowns along the way. Occasionally, it seemed like storms would mean delaying the journey. At other times, the weather was perfect, the roads clear and free from congestion, and the journey saw me soaring to new heights.

Many times, I've been blessed to have family and friends traveling with me, and those are cherished times. But there have been times when the situation demanded I travel alone. And so, did Jesus:

"And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone" (Matthew 14:23).

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35).

(See also Mark 6:46, Luke 6:12, Luke 5:16, Luke 9:18, Matthew 6:36-39.)

Sometimes the journey has seemed long, lonely, and difficult, but in prayer, I've journeyed from doubt to faith, battle to victory, weakness to strength, sickness to health, and fear to confidence. All this because I had a mom and dad who didn't just talk about prayer, they demonstrated it in our home, and they started me on my own prayer journey at a very young age.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6).

Note: Crystal Wallace and her husband, Kevin, are UPCI overseas representatives to Belgium.

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## Home from the Land of the Enemy

By Wanda Chavis



I still have a copy of Cortt's military orders to Iraq in my old Bible. One glance at that tearstained paper reminds me:

- God doesn't always say yes.
- I had trust issues.

I had FAITH God was going to delete those orders. He was going to keep my son at home. My faith ended there. I did not TRUST that Cortt would come home safely if he went to war during the invasion of Iraq. Yet, he was gone.

For days on end I could not pray. I was afraid and worried. But let me be honest; I was also angry. Why talk to God now? He had obviously ignored me the last four months while I prayed and fasted.

Finally, I sobbed out my frustrations and repented when God showed me my trust issues. He assured me He would bring Cortt home safely; He had a plan and purpose for Cortt in this time of war.

I prayed the weirdest prayer for the next year. Can I share this prayer with you who are praying for prodigals? In reality, your child is away at war - in a foreign land. Perhaps missing in action; even a prisoner of war. You feel it is a place far from God. But is there such a place? If God is omnipresent, how can you get far away from Him?

God assured me Cortt would come home safely, so my prayers were not for His physical safety. My prayer was always for his morale and mental health. I would intercede desperately for this and didn't understand why. I finally looked up the definition of morale: "moral or mental condition with respect to courage, discipline, willingness to endure hardship; capacity to maintain belief in oneself and others."

I remembered Luke 12: 28, which says, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." I wanted my son to return home "whole." I rebuked and threatened the enemy from damaging Cortt's mind or causing him to question his worth or value. I prayed against feelings of isolation, depression, and loneliness. I prayed for his spirit to be encouraged.

As you pray for your prodigal, pray for these same things. Cover their mind with the blood of Jesus. Even in the story of the prodigal in Matthew 18, when he came to himself, he remembered how good it was at his father's house. He had left home, disappointed everyone; but through it all, his morale wasn't destroyed. Re-direct your prayers. Your child will return home from this war, safe and sound.

"Thus saith the LORD; Refrain thy voice from weeping, and thine eyes from tears: for thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD; and they shall come again from the land of the enemy" (Jeremiah 31:16).

Note: Wanda Chavis and her husband, Jeff, have served in pastoral ministry at the United Pentecostal Church of Spring Lake, North Carolina, since 1981. Wanda serves as the District Ladies Ministries president and owns Picture of Health & Thermography, LLC.

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## Occupy Until He Comes

By Aimee Staten



In today's world, it is far too easy to become overwhelmed by the assaults of the enemy. In fact, it is expected. Everywhere we look, there is sickness and struggle. People all over the world are experiencing higher rates than ever of depression, suicide, and mental illness.

It's enough to make the most stoic Christian woman throw up her hands in defeat! I will admit that I have sometimes felt like giving up. Then I read Luke 19:12-13 again and realize I might have missed some of the meaning of "occupy until He comes."

When our family answered the call to pastor, I thought I knew what to expect. I found out quickly, however, that whatever I thought I knew wasn't enough. My prayer life wasn't enough for the battles we

would go through. My emotional stability wasn't enough for the struggles we would face. I was shaken by doubts and fears.

Here's what God gave me in one of my lowest times: When a powerful nation wins a military victory over a hostile nation, that is only the beginning of the fight. That nation must then occupy the enemy's territory until freedom is achieved for its citizens. It's simply not enough to fight the battle and then leave the field, but that's where I was.

It was during this personal struggle that I came across Raymond Woodward's lesson on Effectual Fervent Prayer. "Unwavering determination and untiring effort are required to preserve a precarious peace and defend a fledgling freedom against those whose ideology prefers dictatorship to democracy, and who will stop at nothing in their attempts to sabotage the process and reverse the progress. Victory may be declared, but occupying forces must see to it that victory is enforced."

An occupying force changes the very complexion of a nation. Whether it intends to do so or not, the occupied nation begins to adopt the culture and habits of its occupiers.

When God called you, it wasn't a mistake or an oversight. He called you - with your particular set of skills, your personality and, yes, your flaws. He called you to occupy until He comes.

I don't know about you, but my faith has grown so much - even during this terrible time in our world - because I have finally figured out that my God is truly all powerful. . . and He is on my side. My side!

Maybe it's time we stop seeing ourselves as under attack by the enemy and turn the tables. Arm yourselves. Let your glory shine as you march out with confidence, knowing that your King has your back.

Occupy - don't just make do - be a force to reckon with under the mighty hand of God. Occupy and change your local culture with the power of your prayers and spread the anointing of the Holy Ghost everywhere you go.

Note: Aimee Staten is married to David Staten, and they, with the help of their grown daughter, Aubrey, pastor in Globe, Arizona. Aimee is a former journalist and is currently a county grants administrator and secretary for Arizona Ladies Ministries. She enjoys historic houses, decorating, long walks with her husband, and thrift shopping.

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## From the Editor



### God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in English, Arabic, Chinese, Czech/Slovak, Dutch, French, Georgian, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Sinhala, Sri Lankan, Cree and Thai

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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).