

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church Intl May 2021



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All Around the Table

By Connie Bernard



As I write this today I had an entirely different devotion on prayer lined out. But in the last few weeks, I have had a burden to amp up my prayers for all our children; and I have been much more specific in my prayers.

Psalm 128:1-4 says, "*Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, who walks in his ways. When you eat the labor of your hands, you shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the very heart of your house, your children like olive plants all around your table. Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord*" (NKJV).

When I thought upon this passage, the phrase "your children like olive plants all around your table" leaped out at me. I love when our children are with us and we are able to be all around a table, but that does not happen often. Our children live in different locations, and it is difficult to get together throughout the year other than Christmas or Thanksgiving. But I pray for them each day, and I am specific in my prayers.

When I pray, I visualize them all around the table with me. I visualize Jesus putting His arms around them wherever they are. We must be specific, ladies, with our prayers. Reach out with faith and visualize that prayer being answered.

Recently, I was praying for our children and asking the Lord to give one particular daughter a special anointing as she ministered at a conference. I asked the Lord to give her a special anointing and a personalized word to her while she was away from her family. I asked God to specifically be personal with her.

We do not order God around, but when we sincerely ask Him things with a heavy heart, He does answer. In His own time! We tend to get impatient when it comes to things we think need to be done right now. I had specifically asked Him to touch her and to give her a word or a confirmation that He saw His daughter, where she was and what she was going through.

We say prayers and are specific — determined for Him to answer. And then we forget. Life takes over and we tend to go our way nonstop. Well, I continued on my way. When I talked with my daughter after the conference, she told me about an experience she had while at the conference. The Lord brought someone directly to her and gave her a word. It was a word the lady would not have known anything about.

When she told me, I started weeping because I *knew* God had answered my prayer and given her a confirmation. He did exactly what I had petitioned to Him. Ladies, He is a gracious and merciful God. He sees

all things and knows the desires of our heart for our children.

Whether your children are young at home, or adults working for God, or adults who have fallen away from God, it matters not to Him. They are still His children. When you go to the throne and specifically ask for things concerning your children, know that He sees your heart and your desires. He knows, even more than we do, where they are, what they need, and when they need it.

He is a loving Father who loves our children even more than we do!

Note: Connie Bernard serves faithfully alongside her husband, David K. Bernard, who is the General Superintendent of the UPCI. Some of her favorite times are those spent with her children and grandchildren.

Living Intentionally

By Becki Enis



A photograph can stir memory and emotion. Most of us have had the experience of opening a photo album or rummaging through a box of miscellaneous keepsakes and within moments we feel the emotion of a moment forgotten. Or, we sense the smell of our childhood home, a favorite spice or scent in the air. We are a composite of tens of thousands of memories each of which, though seemingly forgotten, come to life again in unexpected ways.

Parents daily create an atmosphere for their children. There are memories that shape their personalities, their spirituality, and their choices in life. The opportunity is available to build intentional memories that will serve to guide our children and grandchildren through life. The scriptures instruct us to “Train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6) and what better way than planning intentionally to build happy, wholesome, and scripturally based memories.

We are all influenced by what our senses perceive. Our world offers such a variety of stimuli through media, fashion, and duplicity of character that is processed and stored away. The counterbalance to these carnal influences is the Holy Word of God exemplified through our lives and lifestyle. The last part of Proverbs 22:6 reads “when he is old he will not depart from it.” Intentional training and exemplifying are the foundation blocks for that choice.

In spite of every effort, some children have chosen the prodigal way seen in Luke 15. The word prodigal translates as “a person who leaves home and behaves recklessly, but later makes a repentant return.” The father of this prodigal prayed and waited expectantly for his son’s return. That son “came to himself.” He was broken and realized the waste and emptiness of his life. It was like the black and white image in his mind became enhanced with color, alive with memory. He reflected on the love of his father and it gave him courage. He longed to return. Life’s humbling circumstances served to bring memories of what he had left and set him on the course of return. A course exemplified by his father.

The enemy seeks to steal, kill, and destroy, but John 10:10 reminds us that the Father offers abundant life. The Lord entrusts our family and friends into our lives so that all our lives can be abundantly blessed. “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Colossians 4:6). Being intentional in how we fulfill that trust is our personal opportunity to create a lifetime of memories that will influence the future.

Note: Becki Enis, as wife of Missionary Arlie Enis, served thirty-five years in the Europe/Middle East Region of the United Pentecostal Church, Intl. She is mother of three children and eight grandchildren. Cincinnati, Ohio, is now home where Becki serves as Administrative Assistant to the pastor of Tree of Life Church.

When Mom Doesn't Pray

By Mary Loudermilk



“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9-10, ESV).

Not every mom prays for her child. Not every mom knows *how* to pray for her child. Perhaps she does not attend church, has never been taught about God, or isn't in the picture at all (death, divorce, abandonment).

But everyone, regardless of age or circumstance, needs to have someone praying for them! That someone could be you or me.

I'm not sure when I first really thought about the children who come to church alone. Some are brought by neighbors or friends. Others may arrive in church vans as part of an outreach program. Or a teen may attend with a school friend. Whatever way they arrive at the church door, they need someone covering them in prayer.

Let me tell you about just a couple of these kids. (I've changed their names.)

A friend brought Joey to church when he was about eleven years old. He came from a rather rough neighborhood, and his father owned a bar. When Joey asked to be baptized, his parents objected for a good while but finally gave permission. Joey loved church and came faithfully. I still remember seeing him proudly singing in the choir one Sunday morning. He looked so happy. Then one day he was gone. I never learned if the family moved or just what happened. Joey would be in his thirties now, but I've never forgotten the eager boy who loved our church. I pray wherever life has taken him that God will lead him back to the experience he had as a child. I call his name in prayer.

Grandma and Grandpa often brought their grandson, Kyle, to church with them. His mom had been raised on a church pew but married an unbeliever. Now, with her son attending church, mom made her way back to God. The father did his best to distract the boy by planning father/son activities on Sundays. When mom became ill and passed away, the father pulled the boy completely away from the church. Mom and the grandparents prayed while alive, but who will pray for Kyle now?

A number of those I pray for are now adults. Some were my Sunday school students. A few are the children of now deceased friends. Or, a parent may have drifted away from God, leaving the children without a godly influence in their lives. Even when parents still serve the Lord and faithfully cover their child with prayer, there is power when we bind together. Prayer is never wasted.

How do you pray for someone else's child? The same way you pray for your own. Pray for their salvation, protection, friendships. Pray they make wise choices in life. Pray for their faithfulness, integrity, purity. Just pray — because prayer does make a difference.

“The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much” (James 5:16, NKJV).

Note: Mary Loudermilk, who resides in Hazelwood, Missouri, enjoys time spent with friends and rambles down back roads. If there's a tearoom or interesting restaurant along the way, so much the better. She is a devotional writer for *Reflections Magazine* and the More to Life website (<https://www.moretolifetoday.net/>).

From the Editor



God is doing mighty things!


God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in
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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 (1 John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38). [Text L](#)