

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church Intl
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Shields and Bucklers

By Kay Burgess



Psalms 91:4 *“He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: **his truth shall be thy shield and buckler**”.*

What’s a buckler anyway you ask? Excellent question – I’m so glad you asked! I wasn’t sure either, although I have read about them in the bible many times. Then I had the opportunity to visit several medieval castles in Spain, and there in those historic armories with all sorts of weird & scary weapons, I discovered that shields and bucklers are by no means the same.

Shields are larger, heavier weapons held by straps attached to the forearm that could be employed against an attacker or stuck into the ground and used as a deterrent against oncoming projectiles. A buckler is also a shield, somewhat smaller, more rounded, also held by the opposite hand, also very effective as an offensive weapon.

Yet David declares in Psalms 91:4 that the Lord shall be our shield *and* buckler – why the distinction? The shield offers more overall protection and can be used as part of a shield wall, whereas the buckler would more likely be used for personal defense in times of faster, more aggressive fencing. Up close & personal, when the attack gets all up into our personal space.

David’s distinction lets me know that either way – whether we are fighting in company with our brethren or whether the enemy has attacked us individually – God is our refuge and strength and has already provided for our protection and defense.

Psalms 91:4 specifically declares *“his **truth** shall be thy shield and buckler”*. Today more than ever, His **truth** is what sustains us and protects us. The word of God has not changed or diminished in any way, regardless of the enemy’s attempt to cancel everything even remotely godly or good. We can stand firm on the truth of God that he will never leave us or forsake us. We can trust that any weapon formed against us will not prosper. When the enemy comes in like a flood (or a pandemic!) the Spirit of the Lord in us (His **truth!**) shall lift up a standard against him.

So fight on, my sister! Keep fighting the good fight! Put on the whole armor of God and pick up your weapons of the spirit! Build a wall of prayer and praise around your home, your family, your church, your city. Use the weapons that God has provided for your defense – the enemy has no power against them!

The buckler also serves one other important purpose: gripped tightly in the left fist, it is used for deflecting blows and *for protecting the thrusting hand*. I don't know about you but that excites me! That tells me that not only do we have the weapons that we need to vanquish the enemy, but our great God has also provided *protection* for us as we use them! When we trust in, and employ, the word of God in our lives we have a tried-&-true promise that He will be our defense. "*As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a **buckler** to all those that trust in him*". (Psalms 18:30)

Note: Wife, mother, veteran missionary, Kay Burgess lives in Madrid, Spain, where she and her husband pastor Tabernáculo de Vida Madrid and serve as Superintendents of District 1, Madrid. She also currently serves as National Ladies Secretary for Spain.

Prayer That Annihilates Condemnation

By Shirley Buxton



Both secular and sacred history tell of prayer meetings that are known to have shaken cities, even countries—if not continents. For my part, I have been favored a few times to be in an atmosphere of such compelling, burning prayer that all who were there knew we were hovering in the holy presence of God. "I saw angels lining the walls of this sanctuary," one of my sisters said afterward, and although I did not see angels, I knew they were there, and some of us had shed our shoes, and I had buried my face in the carpet. . . and shaking as though swept by the spinning of a great storm, I wept. For in a singular way, the pure, the divine One had ranged about us frail human beings, and we could hardly take it in. To this moment I find it impossible to precisely and accurately describe those minutes.

Apostolic church schedules tell of opportunity for corporate prayer, and our ministers urge us to appear at these meetings. Some are segregated by groups: women, men, leaders, youth. "Remember, pre-service prayer 30 minutes before service starts," is often part of current announcements. A time for prayer is carved out in each service. Frequently those who need a healing gather in the altar area and are anointed with oil as the Bible instructs.

Our ministers and the Holy Ghost within urge us to prayer in our homes, and on a regular (or not so regular) schedule we kneel or sit in a special place and pray. Some have a particular method to approach this prayer time; some have lists as reminders of particular needs and some "wing it," praying randomly as thoughts gather.

But many of us are plagued with the idea that we don't pray enough. We find it hard to pray as we believe we should. Satan accuses us and we feel condemned.

I'd like to help you with that today, so you may be free of that guilty feeling. While dynamic church prayer meetings can never be replaced by anything else—at least on that scale—and while you should have a time for personal devotion in your home, I want you to understand there are other effective ways to pray. The kind of prayer I'm encouraging today is a fulfillment of the Scripture that says, "Pray without ceasing." Now we all know it is nonsensical to think Paul meant we should constantly be on our knees, or sitting in our prayer chair, or living down at the church in the prayer room. No, what he meant is that we should live in such a way, with such deep and true conviction, that a sense of the holy is constantly with us, no matter what we are doing. We may be giggling with a red-haired baby, or peeling russet potatoes, or playing softball with our small son, but deep inside, perpetually there, is the abiding presence of God. And in a moment, we glimpse eternity for the baby, or it strikes us anew how blessed we are to have french fries for our family, or to think there are mamas who do not, and to remember many of their babies go to bed hungry . . . and at that moment, we breathe a prayer for them. Not loud, maybe. Perhaps not even muttered, but we're thankful, we're burdened. We may weep. And indeed, some days we fall on our faces and wail for the woes of humanity.

Be not condemned by satan. Be a woman of prayer who in the depth of your soul has secured a virtuous, sanctified niche where dwells the spirit of God. Guard that place where glory may flare at any moment so that worship ascends freely from your being, no matter where you are or what you are doing. Protect that space. Cultivate eyes that tear up in the neighborhood market as you become aware of a young woman who reaches in to handle a melon or a scoop of green beans or a papery yellow onion. And you then remember that she will live forever . . . somewhere.

Note: Shirley Buxton was born into a Pentecostal preacher's home, married a preacher, and has sons, relatives, and multiple friends who are preachers. Months ago, after 64 years of marriage, the love of her life slipped away to heaven, and although she yet grieves, she continues to say, "I've lived the best life in the world." The work of God is her heart.

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, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Sinhala, Sri Lankan, and Thai

Please help us pray for more translators!

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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](#)

Ministries we support...

TUPELO CHILDREN'S MANSION

Children live in an environment with opportunity to grow spiritually, physically and emotionally.

NEW BEGINNINGS Maternity care for birth mothers considering adoption and child placement for adoptive couples.

HAVEN OF HOPE A program for girls ages 13-16 with behavioral and emotional issues.

LIGHTHOUSE RANCH for BOYS Healing broken and hurting lives of teen boys.

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