

Ladies Prayer International Newsletter



United Pentecostal Church Intl December 2021



How do You Smell?

by Linda Gleason, UPCI Ladies Ministries President



"On November 13, 2000, the Portland newspaper, the Oregonian, posted a small excerpt that read as follows: "When a man robbed a bank in San Diego, the only thing about him that the teller could remember was his awful body odor. Apparently, that was enough. After police broadcast the information, a motel owner, alerted by the man's BO, called police, and the man was arrested."

Every human being has a certain scent. Our human scent is like an invisible liquid that continually pours off us. Wherever you go, that scent drops from your body leaving a trail. That is why dogs can successfully track people. If they can smell a garment that the person wore, the scent is on the garment. If they can find that scent on the ground, their trail begins, and they can follow wherever the person walked.

Every family has a *family smell*. You can't smell your own, but others walking into your home will experience your family smell. Jesus has a family smell. His smell was brokenness, love, compassion, empathy. He traversed His world and left His mark wherever He walked.

If we want to be identified with the *smell* of Jesus, we must be broken. The outer shell of self-centeredness, selfishness and worldly desires needs to be destroyed so the inner spirit - the Jesus smell - can be released into the world. Even as the alabaster box of ointment that we read about in the New Testament had to be smashed for the fragrance to be enjoyed, our fleshly spirit and desires must smash so the fragrance of God's spirit can be experienced. Only then will people know that you are different; that you have been with Jesus.

Mom, your household will smell like you. You control the atmosphere of your home. People who walk into your home will feel that atmosphere. They will "smell" the scent of your home. If we, as mothers, manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our lives – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance – we strongly influence our home and our children. Your children will follow your pattern of living. They will *smell* like you!

We live in a world of turmoil. We witness inhuman brutality, vicious hatred, and unbelievable violence – even within the home. While Jesus came to bring peace on earth, sin has turned our world into a war zone filled with evil, sadistic monsters. But, with the Lord, we can still have strong homes where the peace of God pervades and there is family happiness and joy. That makes a strong home because "the joy of the LORD is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

We make our choices. Choose joy. Choose peace. Choose love. Choose God's way for the home. We cannot see the results of choices we make today that influence the tomorrows of those about us. Sarah knew God had promised Abraham he would be the father of a great nation. But, because God wasn't fulfilling His plan in her time frame, she took matters into her own hands and convinced her husband to bear seed of her

maid. From that day until today, the results of her action have caused death and destruction between two nations.

God told Rebekah that two nations were in her womb and the elder would serve the younger. Rather than allow God to work everything according to His wisdom, she influenced her son to lie, deceive, and manipulate his elderly father. Oh, yes, he received the blessing. However, it resulted in him being forced to flee for his life, and she never saw her son again – or his children, or his blessings.

How is your influence affecting your home and what legacy will you leave with your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren? Look around you. Take a sniff...*How do you smell?*

Note: Linda Gleason and husband, Gary, reside in Oregon City, Oregon and recently retired from over four decades of pastoring. They are parents of four children and have four grandsons and one granddaughter. Linda received the Holy Ghost as a child on the mission field of Sri Lanka. She enjoys family get togethers, traveling to ladies events and relaxing in the back yard. She has been involved in Ladies Ministries for over four decades and currently serves as national president.

Jesus, Our Joy and Peace?

by Ingunn Bakke Turner



“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

As mothers, we want to provide for our children in every way. If there is a problem, we find a solution. If there is a need, we do everything we can to meet that need. God made us that way.

The past year and a half have been challenging, not only for us, but for our kids. My own two boys are in their early teens, and months of lockdown were difficult for them. Long hours of school in front of the computer screen and not being able to see or meet friends began to affect them. Yes, we had more time for prayer and Bible reading together, and it was a special time in many ways. We slept more and ate more. We laughed together and bonded as a family. We did what we could to make the best out of a difficult time. And yet, for all those moments that were refreshing, we soon realized that we needed more than refreshment. We needed a deep move of God. We needed Him to restore our souls.

Refreshment is needed, but it is temporary. We need physical rest, and we need time with friends and family. All of this is good. But there comes a time when our souls are weary, and the only remedy is to come into God's presence and let Him restore us. David said it best: “He restores my soul” (Psalm 23:3). It's only in His mighty presence that our joy and peace can be fully restored.

As soon as it became possible, we took our boys to a youth retreat where they could be in a strong spiritual atmosphere with other young people. I realize that this might not always be possible. For several years our two boys were the only kids their age at our local church. But the effort to get them there was worth it. God did a work in them that no new gadget or fun activity could ever produce. The genuine smiles on their faces were a testimony to the awesome work of restoration that only God can do.

Do you need your joy and peace back? Are you feeling weary? Let God surround you, let Him lift you and restore you. Get lost in His presence. He is truly able to restore.

Note: Ingunn Bakke Turner and her husband Nathanael Turner are Global UPCI representatives to Estonia. They pastor in the capital city of Tallinn, where they live with their two teenage sons, Christopher and Michael.

From the Editor



God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in:
English, Arabic, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Czech, Dutch, Fijian, Filipino,
French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish,
Sri Lankan, Swahili, Swedish, and Thai.

Please help us pray for more translators!

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of this thriving prayer ministry and for helping us spread the word about the FREE newsletter
and Facebook page!



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)