

On Wings Like a Dove

A Ministry for the Loved ones of Prodigals and Prisoners

Psalm 55:6

"The LORD bless you
AND Keep you:
The LORD make His Face
Shine UPON you, AND BE Gracious
to you:
The LORD lift up His
Countenance UPON you,
AND Give you Peace."
NUM 6:24-26

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Prayer Support Groups

On Wings Prayer Support Group

First Monday of each Month
Calvary Central
5000 County Club Rd
Room B 1309
6:30 to 8:00pm

June 6 Speaker: Storehouse for Jesus Director will share her testimony. In July we will take a break. Kickoff will be August 29.

River Oaks Prayer Support

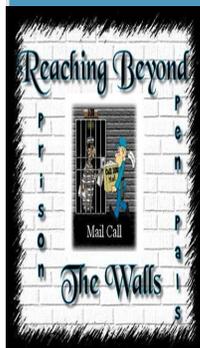
Second and Fourth Tuesday
each month
6:30—8:00 River Oaks Church
Room #4.

Led by Jeff and Sherye Hall
The group is studying the book *Circle Maker* by Mark Batterson.

First Baptist Church in Sparta

meets for Prayer/Support each
Monday night at 6:30.
Leaders are Joseph and Carolyn
Caldwell

Inmate Pen Pals



We are in desperate need of Pen Pals. We have 45 inmates waiting. If you are interested, please call Joan Young at 336.996.9944 or email her at

yjoan73@gmail.com

Words from Sandra

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers. ⁷ If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7 TLB*

Once again God did amazing things at our Spring Retreat. We were privileged to have one of our board members, Velma McCloud, lead us to Battle in Prayer for our Prodigals. The key verse reverberates in my ears: "Don't fret or worry. Instead pray".



In our project time we painted a frame and inserted the key passage into it. Hopefully each attendee will put that in a prominent place so they can be reminded of that truth often.

We learned about scheduled and spontaneous prayer, spiritual warfare praying, and types of prayer. What a blessed time with the Lord as we got away on that mountain to fellowship and hear from God both individually and corporately. Here are some comments from the participants:

"I came away a stronger person knowing I have to hand over my worries and concerns to the Lord as everything is in 'His Time'."

"The Retreat impacted me in such a positive way. I think the most beneficial thing I am aware of is to not let the negative thoughts get through as it is the Enemy and I am really trying hard to not allow myself to go to that dark place of negativity like I used to. Since coming back from the Retreat I can truly say there was only one time I could have gone back to the old way but the words of Velma radiated into my brain and I would not allow myself to go there and allow the Enemy to take away my Peace as God is Stronger than Satan and will bring us all through whatever our circumstances. I Thank You again for a wonderful faith-filled weekend of wonderful Spiritual ladies and God's beautiful scenery to look at and bring me peace and calm I really took

it all in and am still dreaming of what a wonderful weekend it was and it was what I needed".

"The retreat was great as always. I loved Velma's teaching. The encouragement to pray more fervently in these times is certainly needed. I was helped by the reinforcement of the need for more consistent prayer time and journaling. The realization that we are in a war and we better be prepared. Velma's teaching has helped me to be bolder and stand for what I believe in these troubled days. The fellowship was a welcomed treat for me!"

We want to thank all who helped make the Retreat time special. Sheila and Sandra for their special gift of food preparation. What a gift of love to our attendees. To Velma for leading us into the Word of God and teaching us how to battle in this War we find ourselves in for our Prodigals. To Cynthia who assisted Velma with the power points and for her input. To Mildred who led us into worship and began to find her voice at the end. To Gay for her gift of hospitality as she decorated our tables so beautifully. To Gay and Debbie as they helped provide meaningful projects for our afternoon time. They put so much hard work into the preparation. To Karen and Barbara for their work on the booklets and preparing the materials.

God has certainly blessed On Wings with faithful volunteers. Without whom we could not do what we do. People are amazed when they hear that we have so many unpaid folks connected with our ministry who are so dedicated to come week after week, year after year to assist. May they receive God's highest and best blessing on them and their families.



Quiet Talks on Power
by S.D. Gordon.

Here is a nugget for us mothers. "And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and "(listen to these pathetic words) "it grieved Him at His heart." Will you please remember that "grieve" is always a love word? There can be no grief except where there is love. You may annoy a neighbor, or vex a partner, or anger an acquaintance, but you cannot grieve except where there is love, and you cannot be grieved except wherein you love.

I have sometimes, more often than I could wish, seen a case like this. A young man of good family sent away to college. He gets in with the wrong crowd, for they are not all angels in colleges yet, quite. Gets to smoking and drinking and gambling, improper hours, bad companions, and all that. His real friends try to advise him, but without effect. By and by the college authorities remonstrate with him, and he tries to improve, but without much success after the first pull. And after a while, very reluctantly, he is suspended, and sent home in disgrace. He feels very bad, and makes good resolutions and earnest promises, and when he returns he does do much better for a time. But it does not last long. Soon he is in with the old crowd again, the old round of habits and dissipation's, only now it gets worse than before; the pace is faster. The upshot of it all is that he is called up before the authorities and expelled, sent home in utter disgrace, not to return.

The boy's friends, professors and all those who knew him said he came of good family, good blood in his veins; and yet he seems to have gone right down with the ragtag. It's too bad! Too bad!! I am so sorry, they all say.

But down in that boy's home there is a woman----a mother, heartbroken---secretly bleeding her heart out through her eyes. She goes quietly, faithfully about her round of life, but her hair gets thinner, and the gray streaks it plainer, her form bends over more, and the lines become more deeply bitten in her face, as the days come and go. And if you talk with her, and she will talk with you, she will say, "Oh, yes, I know other mothers' boys go wrong; some of them going wrong all the time; but to think of my Jim----that I've nursed, and loved so, and done everything for---to think that my Jim--" and her voice chokes in her throat, and she refuses to be comforted. She grieves at her heart. Ah! That is the picture of God in that Genesis chapter. He saw that the world He had made and lavished all the wealth of His love upon had gone wrong, and it grieved Him at His heart.

This world is God's prodigal son, and He is heartbroken over it. And what has He done about it. Ah! what has He done! Turn to Mark's twelfth chapter, and see there Jesus' own picture of His Father as He knew Him. In the form of a parable He tells how His Father felt about things here. He sent man after man to try and win us back, but without effect, except that things got worse. Then Jesus represents God talking with Himself. "What shall I do next, to win them back?---there is My son----My only boy---Jesus---I believe---yes, I believe I'll send Him----then they'll see how badly I feel, and how much I love them; that'll touch them surely; I'll do it." You remember just how that sixth verse goes, "He had yet one, a beloved Son' He sent Him last unto them, saying, they will reverence my Son." And you know how they treated God's Son, His love gift. And I want to remind you that, speaking in our human way--the only way we can speak--God suffered more in seeing His Son suffer than though He might have suffered Himself. Ask any mother here: Would you not gladly suffer pain in place of your child suffering if you could? And every mother-heart answers quickly, "Aye, ten times over, if the child could be spared pain." Where did you get that marvelous mother-heart and mother-love? Ah, that mother-heart is a bit of the God-heart transferred. That is what God is like. Let me repeat very reverently that God suffered more in giving His Son to suffer than though He had Himself suffered. And that is the God of the Old Testament! Let me ask: Is He to blame? Has He not done His best?

Let it be said as softly as you will, and yet very plainly, that those awful words, "damned" and "cursed," whatever their meaning may be, are true of your friends. Then add: It is not so because of God's will in the matter, but in spite of His will. Remember that God exhausted all the wealth of His resource when He gave His Son. There can come nothing more after that".

Prayer Thoughts

by Janet Linville

You've blown it. You have really messed up this time. You know that God heard your prayer asking forgiveness, and you really meant every word. But you still feel guilt and condemnation. Let's face it. Life is hard, and most of the time we make it harder by blaming ourselves for things we did in the past. But God says, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1)."

What does that freedom really mean? It means that you are not saved from the pit of hell to be imprisoned in self-punishment. God has set you free. You are no longer a slave to self-condemnation and self-hatred. The Bible says, "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1)." This is not written permission to live life the way you want to. God knew that people would be tempted to think that, so Peter writes, "Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God (1 Pet. 2:16)." Forgiveness is for everybody who asks, not for just really "holy Christians." God desires for all of us to be released from all the heartache and burden of guilt.

Taken from Prayer Portions, by Sylvia Gunter



Our board member, Sheila, began writing to an inmate a few years ago. After he was released, we went to a Celebrate Recovery Group to meet him. He was doing pretty good but got off the straight path. He called me recently and came to see us at the office. He was shaking as we talked and said that he was scared. He was scared of making a new way, of responsibilities, of becoming a father soon,

and with messing up again. I reminded him that the spirit of fear does not come from God. He expressed his uncertainty that he had ever truly accepted Christ and His love. I shared with him and offered him the opportunity to make certain of God's love right then, and he did. He prayed the sinner's prayer and we all rejoiced with him. The next day, he sent a text that he felt refreshed and renewed. I was reminded of I Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow." Praise God that Sheila and others in Jimmy's life planted the seed, then others watered, now God will make it grow. Join me in rejoicing over this young man's decision and pray for continued growth.