

On Wings Like a Dove

A Ministry for the Loved ones of Prodigals and Prisoners

Psalm 55:6

Christ
is
Risen!

455 South Church Street
Office: Tuesday-Thursday 10:00-2:00
or by appointment (336-829-5060)
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Prayer Support Groups

On Wings Prayer Support Group

First Monday of each Month

On Wings Office:

455 S. Church Street
(beside "God's Acre" in Old Salem)
Winston-Salem, NC
6:30 to 8:00pm

April 3: Cynthia Moore will share on
Being Fearfully and Wonderfully Made
May 1: Richard Maas
"Why Do I Do That?"

River Oaks Prayer Support

Monthly: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays
6:30—8:30 River Oaks Church
Room #4.

Led by Jeff and Sherye Hall

First Baptist Church in Sparta

meets for Prayer/Support each
Monday night at 6:30.

Led by: Joseph & Carolyn Caldwell
Current study is:
"War Room Bible Study"

Ladies Bible Study

Join us each Tuesday from 12:30
to 2:00 for our Ladies Bible
Study, "Praying to Change Your
Life" by Suzette T. Caldwell. Led
by Janet Linville, On Wings Prayer
Coordinator.



Our next study is:
"Discerning the Voice of
God How to recognize when God is
Speaking" by Priscilla
Shirer. Begins on
Tuesday, April 11.
Barbara Bonney will
lead the study. Pur-
chase the workbook at the study.

My Call to Ministry

By Sandra Kearns

"I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house" Isaiah 42:6-7.

God called me into full time ministry from this Isaiah passage but I didn't really understand what it would be like, even though I had watched my own Dad as a full-time Pastor. I just knew God had called me to minister to families of prodigals and prisoners and I stepped out in faith to follow Him in this new adventure, learning as I went.

Because of the study of Experiencing God I was always watching to see how God was working so when I was introduced to our first family I recognized this divine encounter to be from Him. This is when the light bulb came on, this is when I knew God was calling me to minister to families walking this journey.

I walked with this couple as the husband turned himself in to Federal Prison and she walked away to life alone. A life of trying to keep their home afloat and have the resources she needed to sustain their home until his return. I watched as he walked into the unknown to be amongst strangers, not just to visit but to live there separated from his wife and extended family. He was filled with shame and remorse for his actions.

Each time I sit with a new family and hear their story my heart breaks for them, for their prodigal. At the same time memories of my own journey come flooding back. When I go to visit a son or daughter in the local jail and walk down that long hall I am reminded about my walk down the same halls to visit with our son behind the Plexiglas.

Here are a few things I have learned in ministering to others:

- Not everyone is going to share your passion.
- God is not impressed with my list of tasks each day. He wants me rest in Him, to focus on Him, to obey Him. To spend time with Him.
- People don't always agree with your methods.
- People walk away from Truth and it will be disappointing.
- People lack commitment.
- It's tempting to get discouraged and want to give up
- Criticism will come no matter what you do.
- You may be betrayed or misunderstood.

- You're going to need prayer support.
- Your faith will be tested.
- You're going to have to put a guard over your tongue many times. People will express their anger or sometimes slander your name or ministry.

But in light of all that, there are those who do have your passion for the ministry and stick closer than a brother. There are faithful prayer partners who lift you up, as well as the ministry, and the families you minister to on a daily basis. There are participants in the Bible Studies and the Prayer Support Group who are seeking to grow healthy in their own journey with a prodigal.

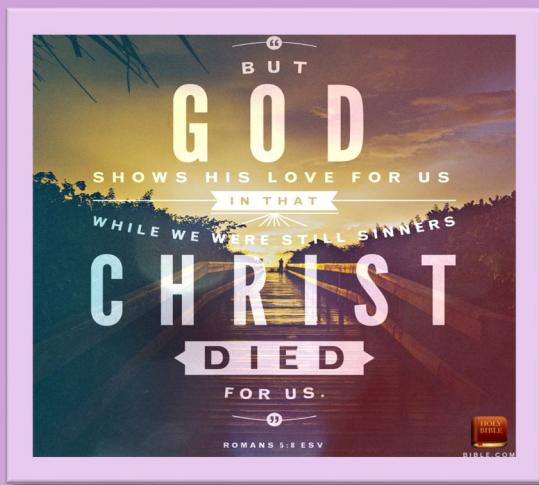
Many are growing and fellow-shipping together, helping to carry each others burdens just like the Word tells us to do. Its such a blessing to see someone come out of a literal fetal position of shame, and guilt to emerge transformed into something beautiful. It's also awesome to see some of these ladies reach out to new families with the love of Jesus by walking with them in their struggles. Giving wise guidance and leading them to God's Word and Prayer.

These are the things that keep us going. Keep us reaching out. Keep us focused on our mission. Recently the board changed our mission statement to read: *We seek to provide biblical guidance and emotional support to the families of prodigals and prisoners. We are called to love and pray for those who have chosen to wander from God's purpose and plan for their lives, and for them to find salvation, reconciliation, and restoration through His Son Jesus.*

We love the Prodigal and we want to reach out to them as well. We are in the process of developing a mentoring program for returning citizens. We want to help them be successful after serving their time as they come back into the community sometimes with little support. Please pray for these efforts. Our Bible outreach in the prisons amazes us as it has grown. I am going to share one inmates recent letter to us on the back. It's this kind of feed back that makes you know your efforts are not in vain.

We are grateful for the guidance God is giving us each and everyday as we seek Him. We are so appreciative of the support of all who help us in numerous ways. It's a blessing to serve and lift you up to the Father.





LETTER FROM A PRISONER

This is a portion of a letter we recently received from a prisoner.

"I got really depressed and I guess it started to show because a friend of mine came over to talk to me and I explained what was going on. He said let's pray on it and put it in God's hands. Now up until that point God was very far from my thoughts. But the minute my friend sat down with me to pray I started thinking back over my life and I realized who but God could have brought me along out of every situation in my life, but Him. As we prayed I noticed my friends Bible and how nice it was. So I asked about it and he told me of this ministry called On Wings Like a Dove and that they sent him the Bible. So he gave me the address and I wrote to you and I received my Bible, well the moment I opened it, I got down on my knee's and I turned to John 3:16 and read and asked God to please forgive me and to open my eyes and heart to him and to change my life. Well I've hardly put it down since and every time I read the scriptures I hear God calling me and Jesus asking me to take up my cross and follow Him. My eye's have been opened and my life has been changed. I realize what my purpose it now. God wants me testify and bear witness to others of the works he has done in my life and how he brought me along to this point. And now I confess and testify to everyone I can, which is another reason why I felt the need to tell my story to you after reading yours because surely I was there and God raised me up. but if it wasn't for the prayer of my friend and the Bible that I received from your ministry I might not have made it. So thank you from the bottom of my heart and God Bless you and the work you do".

Randy

Prayer Thoughts

By Janet Linville

Feelings From The Lord's Prayer:

Our...Family feeling
Father...Intimate feeling
Hallowed be thy name...Reverent feeling
Thy kingdom come...Majestic feeling
Thy will be done...Submissive feeling
Give us our daily bread...Reliant feeling
Forgive us our debt...Cleansed feeling
Lead us not into temptation...Victorious feeling
Deliver us from evil...Triumphant feeling
Thine is the kingdom...Dependent feeling
And the power...Magnificent feeling
And the glory...Exalted feeling
Amen...Completed feeling

(taken from *Praying The Lord's Prayer*, by Elmer L. Towns)

Recommended Book of the Month

Arrested: Making Decisions for Yourself and Your Incarcerated Loved One



"When your loved one is in trouble, a natural response is to reach out and help. But sometimes fear, pain, and uncertainty can get in the way. In this booklet, Lennie Spitale offers suggestions to guide you through the process of dealing with the sudden incarceration of a family member or friend. From receiving the news to hiring an attorney and beyond, here is information to help you make wise decisions".

Lennie Spitale has been involved in prison ministry for nearly forty years. A former inmate himself, he came to faith in Jesus Christ in 1975. He later served as a para-chaplain for Cru, as director of prison ministries for Vision New England, and as part of the chaplaincy training team for Good News Jam and Prison Ministry.