

April 2005 Communicator Insert

PRAYER MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Who hasn't ever taken a stone and tossed it into a still pond; then followed the ripples as they fanned out from where the stone was first dropped to the very outer edges of that pond? I find it amazing how one little stone casually tossed into the waters could actually have an impact far beyond from where it first began. That rippling effect is an example of how effective our prayers can be. Even if it is just one person, crying out and seeking God for our cities, states and our nation, that one prayer can have an impact. Now picture 200 million stones being tossed into that water. Wow! What a stirring that would bring to those still, stagnant waters and that is exactly what you have an opportunity to do. Your prayers along with an estimated 200 million others can stir things up from our cities to the world.

"Global Day of Prayer" is an event calling for a world wide day of prayer to bring people together to pray, repent and stand in the gap for our cities, nations and the world. It is challenging all of us to step up and take the responsibility we have as Christians to impact the world for Christ! So pick up your stone and be ready to toss it into those stagnant waters. Whether you are able to actually attend the gathering or set some time aside that day. Don't let May 15th pass you by without you having asked God what part does He want you to play in this world wide day of prayer.

A.Brackin/apr05

SEEKING HIM...

With the "Global Day of Prayer" there are three different elements in which you can choose to participate in, whether it is one or all of them. First there is a call for 10 days of united, strategic prayer leading up to Pentecost Sunday. Second is the stadium event on May 15th from 3:00pm – 6:00pm at Philips Arena and then following that with the 90 days of blessings (united and strategic outreach to the community). Ask God how He wants you to participate in this world wide day of prayer.

TESTIMONY...by Diane Melanson

In March 2005, Annette Brackin wrote a small testimony for the Prayer Ministry Spotlight on how fear affects our lives. Part of the insert included a quote from Deuteronomy 31:8, where God says: "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." The day after it appeared in the Sunday bulletin, I was going to the hospital for breast cancer surgery. I carried that piece of purple paper with me through all the pre-op stuff (wire localization, tracer injections, intravenous insertion, etc) right up to the door of the operation room.

As we were going through this ordeal, my husband had just been terminated from his job and since we are Canadian, we have to sell our home here in Atlanta and go back to Canada as soon as possible. My mother was also diagnosed with a recurrence of her breast cancer at the same time. If there were ever a time to feel fear, for me, this would have been it. Instead, I felt the most wonderful calm I have ever experienced. There was no fear, no anxiety; just a certain knowledge that my Lord, himself, went before me into the OR, that He was with me during the surgery and that He overcame any fear that tried to rise up.

The same piece of purple paper went with me last week as I went back to the OR to have another surgery to be sure that all the cancer was gone. And the same peace went with me. I have appropriated that scripture for the next few months as I undergo radiation treatments and as we prepare to move back to Canada. I know that my Lord is also going before us, up to Canada, to prepare a job for my husband and home for us. And, He will be with us as we go. (By the way, there was no more cancer after the second surgery, praise Jesus!)

God's timing always amazes me. That Annette would choose to highlight that part of her life experience at the same moment that I needed to see that scripture and absorb it, such is God's hand of blessing. We need to remember that we are not alone; that God created the body of Christ in order for us to be woven together. The thread that God uses to bind us together in our experiences and relationships is invisible but stronger than anything man can conceive.