



Mothers of Prayer Intl Newsletter

United Pentecostal Church International Ladies Ministries

September 2014

Mothers of Prayer Intl

Who we are . . . Since 1999: Mothers of 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...

1. The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
2. That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (I John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
3. That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).

Oh, that I may become as a little child!

By Kathy Streeter



Jesus said "...Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not..." Mark 10:14-15. In Matthew chapter 18:1-3, the disciples asked Jesus "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And Jesus called a little child unto him. Jesus said "Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

These verses let us know that children are very important to the Lord. But why is that? What is so special about little children? There are many characteristics that immediately come to mind - innocent, trusting, simple faith, happy, unconditional love, quick to forgive.

Over the years we have had many foster children live with us and the majority of them have been "little children" between the ages of 2-8 years old. I remember vividly two of the children that were brought to our home. They were a 2 yr. old girl and a 6 yr. old boy. They came wearing clothes at least two sizes too big and they had no shoes. The children were filthy and their clothes had mold growing on the inside. The little boy's teeth were so rotten they would bleed at night and five of them had to be pulled. They lived in the worst part of town. Their front yard looked like a junkyard. It was made to look like they were having a garage sale so no one would suspect that the people coming in and out that were buying drugs from them. Their mother was crippled because of a bone disease and walked all hunched over like an ape. But to my amazement, when I would pick the mother up and take her to the children's doctor appointments with us, the children would be thrilled to see her! They loved her unconditionally! It didn't matter that they lived in filth and had very little food to eat. It didn't

matter that strangers would come in and out of their home to buy drugs at all hours of the day and night. It was not a safe place for kids and they were severely neglected. But they loved their parents anyway!

Even though all of the foster children had been abandoned, abused or neglected in some way, they still loved in spite of their circumstances. I believe that is what Jesus was talking about when he said except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Offenses will come but we must forgive. Life is not fair but we must keep hope. We must love as Jesus loved...when he was falsely accused, beaten and bruised. We must be able to forgive and love as little children love...unconditionally!

Note: Kathy and her husband Rick pastor New Life UPC in Marshalltown, IA. She is the Iowa District Ladies Ministries President. She also works for an elementary school as a paraprofessional and is the mother of two children, Tristen, age 13 and Chase, age 12.

Train Up a Child

By Elizabeth Turner



When we were first married, my husband and I didn't know how parents could bring children into this wicked world and have them turn out to be good people, so we practiced on our dog! Really.

We decided that if either of us would tell the dog, "No," the other would not give in to the dog's whimpering pleadings. We would be fair, but firm. There would also be repercussions for disobedience. Our life with our dog became quite enjoyable.

Not long after our epiphanous dog-rearing tactics began, we both came into the church and began to realize the Bible held a wonderful roadmap for how to bring up children so they would, indeed, become good people. And when the Lord blessed us with a daughter, and then a son, we found that our dog-rearing tactics and disciplines transferred quite smoothly and effectively!

Particularly valuable to us in this new venture of parenthood were the wise words of Sister Faith White (then the wife of the late Brother Doyle Spears). She taught that we needed to let our children know what behavior we expected of them and what the consequences of disobedience would be. Then, if the child disobeyed, we must keep our word and mete out the promised punishment.

She said that she would always follow the punishment with having the child tell Jesus what the child had done that was wrong and ask Jesus for forgiveness. Then she would always gather the child in her arms and tell her how much she loved her. We found this to be a wonderful way to lead our children in the way they should go.

The other wonderful practice Sister White shared with us was that every night, after putting their children to bed, she would return and stand at the door and pray quietly for the children. For our own children, we would say the Lord's prayer together while tucking them in, then Brother Turner would remind each of them to remember that the Lord our God is ONE LORD.

Later, I would return and offer up the following prayer for our daughter and then for our son, sincerely meaning every part.

Thank you, Jesus, for our Rebecca. Keep your mighty hand of protection upon her and save her in heaven. Whatever it takes, Lord, save her in heaven. Give us the wisdom to raise her in such a way that she will WANT to serve You, she will be EAGER to serve You, and she WILL serve You every day of her life.

Give her some talents to use for You, Jesus, and make the way that she will use those talents only for Your

glory.

Give her a disgust for sin, yet a compassion for the sinner. Help her to see this old wicked world as it really is without partaking of the world. Help all this to make her greatly appreciate You, Jesus, Your Word, Your Spirit, Your Truth, Your People, and Your Church.

If You would tarry long enough that she would marry, then I pray that even now You are raising up that young man to serve You well. Help them to know that no one else is right for them, but that they are right for each other when the time is right. Give them patience to wait for Your perfect timing, Lord.

I pray that any child they have will be a tremendous blessing to their work for You and not a hindrance. Help us always to work as a family for You, and help them to always work as a family for You. Give each of them a special calling to work for You, and give them the grit, the determination, the love, and the burden they need to give their all to serving You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Note: Elizabeth Turner is the wife of missionary William Turner and has helped to raise their two children, Rebecca, who has been an AIM missionary in Turkey and is now a member of the UPC church in Columbus, Georgia, and Nathanael, who is our UPCI missionary in Estonia.

The Most Important Lesson

By Debbie Velie

I remember kneeling at the end of the second pew in my home church in Knoxville, Iowa, pleading for a baby. We were open to any adoption - I just wanted a baby! Tom and I had discussed adoption when we were dating. It was something I had always had a heart for.

I asked my co-workers if anyone knew any local couples who had adopted. We were referred to a couple who had adopted internationally. They kindly agreed to meet us. When we met their beautiful daughter, adopted from India, we knew international adoption was for us.

We found an agency, completed the homestudy and piles of paperwork and then - THE WAIT - and we continued to pray. We had chosen Korea and had been told the wait would be approximately six months. Even that seemed like a long wait!

A couple months later, feeling discouraged by the waiting, I took a vacation day to work on projects at home. The call came that day - we were offered a baby girl - just what I was hoping for. We couldn't wait until Friday to drive to Des Moines to the agency to sign the paperwork to accept the profile and see a photo of OUR baby. (This was before laptops, scanning, and cell phones.)

A few weeks later, we were standing in the Minneapolis airport, anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Northwest flight that was bringing our baby home. We were told we had broken the record for completing an international adoption. I will never forget that day! As they put our beautiful Cori in my arms, I could not stop crying and kept repeating, "My baby, my baby." "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him" (1 Samuel 1:27).

Three years later, we waited at the same airport for the arrival of another beautiful miracle baby girl from Korea, our Shaina. God is so good.

While my girls were growing up, I prayed every day that God would bless them with a husband that would be

faithful to God and to them. "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22). Both girls are married to wonderful young men. And, the blessings keep coming. We now have four beautiful grandchildren.

I could never have imagined that one day our life's ministry would involve adoption. What a blessing to work with brave birthmoms and anxious adoptive families (we know just how they feel).

I continue to pray for my "babies" and their families. Pray for your children every day.

Note: Debbie Velie lives in Tupelo, MS. She is a licensed social worker and Domestic Program Director for New Beginnings (for 25 years). Wife to Tom, Mom to two beautiful daughters and Mommo to four amazing grandchildren.

From the Editor



Debbie Akers

God is doing mighty things!

It has been my goal and vision since I was first asked to start this newsletter that it be available in various languages. God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in English, Spanish, French, German, Dutch, Portuguese, Russian, Greek, Arabic, Farsi, Czech, Chinese, Swahili, Hungarian and Tagalog. Special thanks to Sisters Dianna Tuttle and Jerolyn Kelley and the team of translators that make this happen each month! Also, Reverend Don Hanscom is working to translate into Urdu, Hindi, Thai, Tamil, Sinhalese and Laotian! So under the direction of Sister Gwyn Oakes, UPCI Ladies Ministries President, to better represent our mission of prayer for our children around the world, going forward we will be known as Mothers of Prayer Intl. We are rejoicing and ask God to continue to bless this prayer ministry.

-Debbie Akers, UPCI, Mothers of Prayer Intl, Coordinator and Editor

Please send Praise Reports and Prayer Meeting Ideas to: MothersOfPrayerIntl@aol.com or debiakers@aol.com

Praise Reports

After dropping my children off at school, I drove around our city and prayed. I prayed for my kids protection, that they would had a successful year at school, and their stand for righteousness would be contagious. It just takes one strong voice to sway young people. My son started a no cussing campaign when he start first started high school and now the other boys pray before playing basketball and apologize if a foul word with out of their mouth. Young people can be leaders space teach your children to be bold. My dad always told me, "If people can be bold enough to do wrong, you be bold enough to do right." Jana Allard

From the Mailbox

Thank you sister Debbie Akers, every topic is a blessing of strength and wisdom that I need as I grow in the Lord, God bless the Ladies Ministries! -Shiela T

31 Biblical Virtues to Pray for Your Children (16-18)

16. Peace-Loving -- "Father, let my children make every effort to do what leads to peace." (Rom. 14:19)

17. Joy -- "May my children be filled with the joy given by the Holy Spirit." (1 Thess. 1:6)

18. Perseverance -- "Lord, teach my children perseverance in all they do, and help them especially to run with perseverance the race marked out for them." (Heb. 12:1)

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