



MAY BEACON

National Day of Prayer May 1st

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of
Wherefore, let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
for what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

The Bible is replete with examples of intercessory prayer. The Israelites were a stubborn and rebellious people. Moses prayed that God would be merciful to them, forgive their sins and lead them to that land that flowed with milk and honey. The Psalms are full of both pleading and praise concerning God's covenant people. Job desired a man who would be able to arbitrate between sinful man and a Holy God. All the major and minor prophets acted in that way. Isaiah looked forward with elegant prose to the perfect intercessor that was to come. Jeremiah wept over a rebellious people who would not listen. The Minor Prophets warned of sin and judgement and prayed for revival. In the New Testament Paul would have given up his place in heaven for the sake of those who were so slow to believe. Jesus is our perfect intercessor. In Romans 8 we read, "Christ Jesus who died, more than that, who was raised to life, is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us." We need to have a prayer list. Our scope in prayer should be larger than our family, our friends and our church. Our Sovereign God is not limited in His ability to answer prayer. So pray remembering that "the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much".
Leonora Kepple

THE OLDER BROTHER

The following is an excerpt from an essay entitled THE OLDER BROTHER. It has its basis in the parable of The Prodigal Son and is written by Michael F. Ross- "Fifty Days of Prayer for the PCA"-The Parables of Jesus, Christian Education and Publications.

"Imagine this: After the fall, in the midst of the Father's pain and grief over a prodigal humanity, the Son of God said to the Father, as He reached from throne to throne, and took His Father's hand: *'Don't worry, Father, I'll go get them. I'll work our plan. I'll become one of them and live in the Far Country with them. I'll be gone for a while--only a short while--and when I return I'll bring your sons and daughters with me. Every one of them will come home. Not one shall perish in the Far Country. And I won't leave that place until I've rescued them all.'*
That is what our older brother, Jesus, has done. He left His home in heaven to dwell with us in the Far Country. His promise to His Father He has made known to us: *'And this is the will of him who sent Me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has give me, but raise it up on the last day.'* (John 6:39) Jesus has come to raise us up from the pigpen and take us home to God. How wonderful He is to chase us down in this Far Country.

How do we rate as older siblings--people who've been with God for a while? Are we censorious, angry, resentful of all those gays and lesbians, liberals and leftists, godless and grossly immoral? Or do we say, in our prayers, *'Don't worry Father, I'll go get them and bring them home?'*

*All Scripture references are from New Geneva Study Bible-New King James Version. Thomas Nelson Publishers

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

PRAY FOR THESE:

6-7 a.m. - Praise for an awesome God, Creator, Redeemer, Encourager.

Lev. 11:44,45; Josh. 24:19; I Sam. 2:2; Ps.99:9; Is 1:4;6:3;41:14; 16, 20; 57:15;Ezek. 39:7; Amos 4:2; John 17:11; Acts 5:3,4, 32; Rev. 15:4

7-8 a.m. - Confession of our sins of commission, and omission. Repentance of sins of our country, church, our community, our family, and personally.

II Chron.7:14, Ps. 51, Matt. 3:2; Matt 4:17; Mark 6:12; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30; 26:20; Luke 3:8; Acts 26:20.

8-9 a.m. - Prayer for our families without Christ.
Matt 28:19,20; Luke 24:46-48; Rom 12:2; Prov. 22:6.

9-10 a.m. - Prayer for our unsaved neighbors and friends.
I Peter 2:12; Gen. 1:28-30; Ps. 8:6-8; Acts 14:16,17.

11-12 noon - Prayer for New Life Presbyterian Church, it's Pastor, Elders, Deacons, Sunday School Superintendent, Youth programs, Building Project, Evangelism Outreach, Mother-Daughter Banquet, Vacation Bible School, Worship Team, Missions Committee, Nursery Volunteers, Church Secretary-Harriet, Ushers, Cleaning Committee, Grass Cutters, etc.

Heb. 8:7-13; Jer. 7:23; 31:33; John 10:16; Eph. 2:18; 4:1-6; I Cor. 3:16, Eph. 2:19-22.

1-2 p.m. - Prayer for our Government. Pray for the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of our government. That none of the branches of government would seek to usurp the power of the other branches.
Rom 13:1-7; I Pet. 2:13-17.

2-3 p.m. - Pray for President Bush and Vice President Cheney and the individual members of their cabinet. Our armed forces and their safety and their families without their loved ones.

I Tim. 2:1-4; I Peter 2:13-14.

3-4 p.m. - Pray for our Senators, Casey and Specter and Representative Murphy.

4-5 p.m. - Pray for our State officials, Governor Rendell, Senator Regola, Representative Casorio.

5-6 p.m. - Pray for Penn Township, the Penn Township commissioners, the Penn Trafford School Board, Penn Trafford Teachers, and Aides. Build a hedge of protection around the Penn Township School District. Pray for those who home school their children.

II Chr. 16:9

6-7 p.m. - Pray for the National Election in November. For all the candidates seeking elected offices, particularly the President and Vice President. That their motives would be to Glorify God and not themselves, whether they realize it or not.

7-8 p.m. - Pray II Chronicles 7:14 for our nation, that we would seek the Lord, turn from our sin and that He would heal our land.

8-9 p.m. - Pray for our Building Project. That we might be used of God to more effectively reach Penn Township for His glory. For local officials to approve all our plans.

9-10 p.m. - Pray for opportunities to share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ with anyone we come in contact with and act on those opportunities.

10-11 p.m. - Pray for our spouses, parents, siblings, and children.
James 1:19; Heb 10:24; Joshua 1:7; Dan. 6:10; Phil 1:21; Ps. 78:1-8.

