



Prayer for today

Dear Lord,
Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred,
let me sow love,
Where there is injury,
pardon
Where there is doubt,
faith,
Where there is despair,
hope,
Where there is darkness,
light,
Where there is sadness,
joy.

O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much
seek to be consoled
as to console,
not so much to be understood
as to understand,
not so much to be loved,
as to love;
for it is in giving
that we receive,
it is in pardoning
that we are pardoned,
it is in dying
that we awake
to eternal life.

[St Francis of Assisi]

THEY ARE HUNGRY

In the city where we live, the winter has definitely arrived and the nights are cold. I look forward to snuggling down into bed with the flannelette sheets and extra blankets. The heater is on and the house is a sanctuary.

There are some for whom winter is not so easy. They sleep on the streets of our city and they have only the clothes on their backs to keep them warm. Perhaps some cardboard boxes they have found will act as a buffer to the chilly winds. Each night they line up in parks and soup kitchens to receive a warm meal and something to get them through the dark hours.

To be able to work with these people each week has been something that has kept me grounded. We cook and package up meals, take blankets and whatever warm clothes we can find to hand out and try to make a difference in the lives of many for whom life has taken a terrible turn. When I take things for granted, I am reminded of those who have nothing. When I am tucked up inside the warmth of my home, my thoughts often go to those who are sheltering in doorways and old buildings waiting for the warmth of the morning.

In a spiritual way, we can find ourselves cold and hungry. Sometimes it's because of what life has dealt us, other times it is because of hardship or circumstances, but we feel cold and empty. Perhaps we wait for the warmth of a smile or someone to let us know the summer is coming. Just as we are looking out for the physical needs of others, we should be watching to help when the hearts of those around us are in trouble. We can offer a word of encouragement; we can pray; we can come alongside and be a support. Many people are hungry and longing for sustenance from us...we just need to reach out.

Who have you 'fed' today with faith and hope? Perhaps those around you are hungry and you didn't even know it. Why not pray that God will use you to bring life and richness to someone else.

We are all very precious to Him.

With love

Karen Wilson
Baptist Women's President WA



Karen is the WA President for Baptist women. She is currently working for Willow Creek, USA as an Executive Director for GLS Asia. She has a husband and two children [21 and 18] and has a strong desire to see people live and minister out of a place of health and passion.



Your Stories:

My story continues April 2010

Cancer! What do you do with that word
When its given as a diagnosis, for you?
Ovarian cancer, from the Doctor I heard.
A scary thought. A possibility that's true.

Shock, apprehension, shaking, fear
Thoughts of chemo and death come unbidden.
Though almost expected, it was hard to hear
My symptoms for some time I've kept hidden.

Then relief! For now I knew
I'd wondered and stewed for a long time
I could talk about it now and work it through
Instead of denying and acting a mime.

I'd prayed and given it to God some time before
Accepted that this might be my sentence to die
After wrestling with thoughts and fear, I saw
I could accept whatever, with God I could fly.

I'd felt like Job, come under attack
From every which way – accident, family, more,
Then like Abraham I'd felt, with Isaac
My own life prepared to give for my Lord.

Could I let go of everything dear?
My family, my life, my women's work too?
Would I submit all to God, let go of my fear
To experience Him completely in heaven so true?

Then carried, in prayer, by God indeed
Surrounded by love and strength and peace
He gave me all I could ever need
My struggling and worrying for now to cease.

So many people who prayed and who cared
I never knew so many would care about me
But they rang and they came and they shared
My pain to share and my burden to carry.

In prayer I had wrestled and agonized
I'd groaned and talked and struggled with God
Till into His hands I gave Him my all
My life, my health, my family, all that I had.

My God is so good, whatever may come to be
He comforts and helps me, surrounds me with love.
I knew that whatever He sent or allowed for me
Would be perfectly good, from my Father above.

I can trust Him and know He knows what's best
And leave all in His hands, His will to do
As in Him I completely abide and rest,
Waiting for Him to do whatever He wants to do.

Lots of tests, then surgery in hospital I had,
The tumour to have taken away
Then benign, benign, benign, the surgeon said,
What a relief! Such good news to say.

I've been through the test, God's brought me
through
He's given me back my life and health for now
He surely has more work yet for me to do
I'll love Him and serve Him the best I know how.

Going back to Church and among friends was hard
I felt vulnerable, and guilty for being so well
I felt like a fraud who'd deceived all, then starred
Being so well after receiving the threat of death
knell.

What's life and material possessions and such –
look higher!
God requires of us to trust Him
and not our earthly stuff
His love transcends all we could ever want or desire
He provides us with all that we need –
and that's enough!

As I've thought about this experience and all that
entails
I've discovered much more to this than was
first apparent
God's set me free from this fear of cancer,
and death pales
With the thought of eternity with Jesus my Lord,
my true parent.

Joy Prangnell



Joy's Story

Don't forget to send in
YOUR STORIES to share
with others.

The simplest testimony
can bring great
encouragement to
others.

Just write in 250 words
or less something of
what God is doing in
your life.

Then, email it back to
us to share in future
editions of e-news
Connect.



Register
NOW!

Special Early Bird rate
closes on July 31st!



Fresh 2010

Saturday September 18