



PRAYERWATCH NEWSLETTER

Maranatha Chapel's Prayer Ministry, 10752 Coastwood Rd, San Diego CA 92127, email: prayerwatch@maranathachapel.org

Summer 2005

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Hearing God

*America Needs to Speak to God...
The Church Needs to Listen*

By Greg Dunn, Maranatha Chapel Prayer Coordinator



The National Day of Prayer is on May 5th this year. It is a special time for America to speak to God. Our Christian presidents have all looked to God as their guide and they have all declared or participated in national days of prayer. From Washington to Bush, our leaders have been willing to admit that we need God's help to do it right in government and in our homes. The verse that is most commonly associated with the National Day of Prayer is 2 Chronicles 7:14; "if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then

I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land." This verse tells believers to do three things. We are to humble ourselves, because we are proud. We are to pray in such a way as to look God in the eye, that's real "seeking" prayer. We are to repent because we have all sinned. If we as Christians do these three things, God will hear and God will heal. Amen to that!

On May 15 America is going to participate in a new and very exciting event, The Global Day of Prayer. This is a time for the world to listen. May 15 is also Pentecost Sunday, the day the organized church has chosen to recognize what happened in Acts chapter two. On that Pentecost day almost two thousand years ago the church was changed forever. God spoke.

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance...Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?...And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?... We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God. "...So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?... Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words..."For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day."But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy'".

(Acts 2:1-4,7,8,11,12,15-18)

God spoke with wind, fire and language. He is still speaking. He poured out His Spirit on all flesh. He is still pouring. We can still see Him (visions) and we can still hear Him (prophecy). The problem is that many in our modern self sufficient churches have stopped looking and listening. We may still be talking and labeling the effort "prayer" but that is not the kind of two way communicative relationship God has in mind. He didn't send His Son just to save us from sin. Jesus came that we might have an abundant life

Prayer Opportunities

† For Prayer

Contact: Greg Dunn
(858) 613-7800 ext 110

† Emergency Prayer Chain

Church Office, Kristin
(858) 613-7800

† Sunday Morning Prayer

Contact: Bill
(760) 591-7525
9:15–9:55 am Prayer Chapel

† Prayer Chapel (After Services)

Contact: Greg Dunn
(858) 613-7800

† Moms in Touch

Call for a location near you
(858) 486-4065

† Women's Wednesday Prayer

1st and 3rd Wednesdays
8:00 AM in the Prayer Chapel

† Weekly Prayer Walk

Contact: Christy
(858) 505-2566
Every Wed. 5:00–5:45 pm
Meet at Gazebo

† Wed. Pre-Service Prayer

Contact: Ricky
(619) 595-0718
Wed. 6:15–6:50 pm, F-107

† College and Career

Contact: Glenn Hirashiki
(858) 613-7800
Thursday 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

† Men @ Prayer

Contact: Elmer Getz
(858) 675-0500
Sat. 7:30–8:30 am, F-107

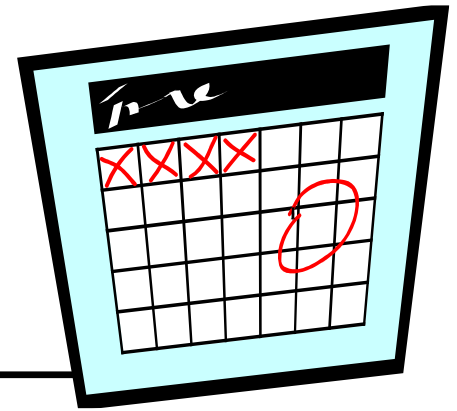
† Prayer for Revival

Contact: Candace
(858) 565-0314
Every Saturday,
call for location



prayerwatch
OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Event Calendar



Sign-ups Continue 365 Days of Prayer

Sign-up to pray and fast for Maranatha's Pastors, Staff and Congregation. Prayer starts October 2004-September 2005
Sign-up for your day at the prayer table in the foyer.



National Day of Prayer

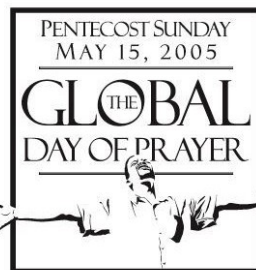
May 5th, 2005

"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

North County Events:

Escondido, Prayer Breakfast, Center for the Arts, 7:00–9:00 am

Escondido, City Hall Fountain, 12:00–1:00 pm



Global Day of Prayer

Sunday, May 15th

6-8PM

At Maranatha Chapel

Pastor Ray Bentley will be hosting Bishop George McKinney as the guest speaker for this year's Global Day of Prayer. Joining Pastor McKinney will be his very own St. Steven's Cathedral Worship Band as well as the North County Inland Regional Praise Band.

Come and join this citywide gathering of over thirty churches.

Fellowship with our global family in Christ during this special time of inspired praise and prayer.

of communion right now with the Father.

Dallas Willard in his book *Hearing God* said: "Today there is a desperate need for large numbers of people throughout our various social groupings who are competent and confident in their own practice of life in Christ and hearing his voice. Such people would have the effect of concretely redefining Christian spirituality for our times. They would show us an individual and corporate human existence freely and intelligently lived from a hand in hand, conversational walk with God. That is the biblical ideal for human life."

I am currently teaching a bible study called "Hearing God" and we are using Dallas Willard's book of the same title as our supplementary text. I highly recommend the book to any who want to think and pray through this vitally important subject. At the beginning of the class I asked the participants a question: "Have you heard God speak to you?" I thought their responses might be of interest. Here are just a few from Christians just like you.

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Yes, I have heard God speak to me! Today is an anniversary of sorts for me! 7 years ago, to the day (4/18/1998) I sort of closed my heart to God...not in the sense of what we think of as "backsliding" but rather in the sense of intimacy...I shut down from believing that He was personal, intimate & that His sheep know Him & hear His Voice & follow Him. I sort of became a "Christian Deist" in my heart...and the Relationship He was drawing me towards with Himself sank down into Religion: a monotonous duty. I still went to church, still prayed, still believed IN God, but I just didn't trust Him.

He has spoken many times to me since then, in unmistakable ways & my most recent example would be on this very day...before I left for work today, the verse that He gave me (spoken with great gentleness!) was Psalms 85:8, "I will hear what God the LORD will speak, For He will speak peace To His people and to His saints; but let them not turn back to folly."

Wow! This was the capstone of an intimate conversation with Him over the weekend & reflecting upon these past 7 years (satan will go for our weak point & he knows mine is trusting God's Voice) and a confirmation that He has healed me of this root of unbelief...and then, here was your email waiting for me this morning, my "anniversary," so to speak, and there was the identical verse He'd spoken to me a few hours earlier! He confirmed, in a personal way, that He is doing a new thing and that I need not fear or return to my old ways of not believing He wants to speak to me or that I can hear His Voice!

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In answer to your question, "have you heard God speak to you?" I have. There have been several experiences, but the one that comes to mind is when I gave up drinking alcohol. Back in February I went to Maranatha on a Wednesday night and during worship I was suddenly given an image in my head. Jesus was standing by His cross with a great light behind him. He reached for me to come to him and so I walked toward Him. I had two wine bottles in my hands and I handed Him the empty bottles and He simply knelt down and put the bottles behind the cross into the light. He stood up and told me that He would take this from me. After I saw this, I sat down and cried. All I had to do was believe. Well, I am clean now because of Jesus.

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God spoke to me at a transitional point in my life. My wife of 22 years passed away, and my pastor of 22 years, who I loved like a father retired a month later. As I worked through these changes I prayed for the Lord's leading. Clearly, my life would be headed in a new direction. I wanted to be led by the Lord. The Holy Spirit laid Maranatha Chapel on my heart. I was familiar with the church. I had attended services occasionally. The Lord spoke to me. He led me to make Maranatha my new church home. He is now using my "singleness" to bear fruit in numerous ministries and outreaches through Maranatha. As I've stepped out in faith in these opportunities to serve, I have been blessed mightily.

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God wants to talk with you as well...please give Him a chance.



We are Praying for You 9:00 am Every Sunday

By Bill Mattingly

As I was waiting in a doctor's office, I picked up a magazine to read. I think there was something on the cover about health that caught my attention (appropriate for a doctor's office), but as I thumbed through the pages I found myself reading an article on what activities men and women find most spiritually satisfying. To my surprise, out of 1625 respondents, 37% of the women and 26% of the men reported that PRAYER was their most spiritually gratifying activity! I was astonished - what about Bible study, worship, fellowship....

For me, fulfilling prayer began when I participated in the Shield of Goshen; a personal day of prayer and fasting. I didn't think I could go a day without food! After successfully completing that day, I had an insatiable desire to pray! I had previously pretty much just prayed for myself, but now everything was fair game - armed with the knowledge that it pleases God for us to pray (talk to Him), and He delights to answer our prayers for all kinds of people and situations, according to His will. I realized that without prayer, God's work could not advance. I began to pray for Maranatha, the pastors, the various ministries, each and every person that walks through the doors. I prayed for the government, world crises, persecuted Christians, people with special requests...there is no end of things that can be prayed for.

God has asked us to pray continually. I never quite understood that verse—how could I pray every minute I was at work—I would not have a job long? Pastor Estean encouraged me to pray before my feet hit the floor in the morning. I took his advice, and now when I do this I feel like I am going into the day fulfilled and prepared. But how could I pray at work all day and still concentrate so that my work pleases the Lord? It dawned on me that when God asks us to pray continually, he doesn't mean every minute of every day. He wants us to set aside some time regularly (and that is different for each person) and to make this a priority and a discipline that we continue throughout our lives.

But there is more...God said that if two of us agree about anything we asked for, it will be done (Mt. 18:19). Not only that, the next verse in Matthew (in the context of prayer) says "where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." So in God's eyes, there is something really special about praying with others in the Body of Christ. Ever since I stepped out and joined the 9:00am Sunday Prayer Group a few years ago, I now understand what this means. Praying together in unity has a unique impact and power (the gates of Hell cannot prevail against the Church!) and brings a blessing from God that is satisfying beyond description.

I want to encourage everyone to be involved in a prayer group as a part of your commitment to continuously pray. The 9:00 am Sunday group would welcome you - just show up when you can and share the blessing!

Praise Reports!

Taken from the praise reports placed in our weekly offerings.

Prayers are answered!

During the Wednesday night service on healing a few weeks ago, a woman laid hands on me and prayed with me for my mother in law who has congestive heart failure. My mother was not able to go on a list to receive a new heart because her immune system was too weak...God has healed her! The doctor's can't explain why she is better now!! She is improving each day! Praise God !!!!

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I found a place to live with Christian people in a place better than I could have picked. Praise Jesus!
Thank you Lord!

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10 months ago I asked for prayer to help me stop drinking & smoking. I have stopped. God took away my addiction for both. I have lost 25 lbs and on April 25th I will run the La Jolla half marathon. 10 months ago I never would have thought it. I never liked running either. God has changed my life.

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Praise God for our relative, coming to the Lord this past week! Thank you Jesus!

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Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

Prayer Watch is published on a quarterly basis. If you have a question, a comment, or an article on prayer you would like to submit, please contact:

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858-613-7800

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