



PRAYERWATCH NEWSLETTER

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

Fall 2005

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H₂O

Elements for Effective Prayer

By Greg Dunn, Maranatha Chapel Prayer Coordinator

I hope you had a great summer in the Lord. During the last few months I have been experimenting with an email based class on the subject of "Hearing God." As we studied the bible on this critical subject we used a supplemental text of the same title. Almost sixty people signed up for the class and many stuck with it through the summer and have either completed the course or are well on their way to doing so. I was encouraged that overall the concept was successful. People could work at their own pace, at a convenient time for them and without the need for fitting in one more meeting into their busy schedules. The class obviously was about hearing God and the book *Hearing God*, by Dallas Willard, gave all of us a strong foundational understanding of why and how God speaks to us. The book was not an easy read but I recommend it to everyone who truly wants to better understand God's communicative process. Be warned, that with hearing comes the opportunity as well as the responsibility to obey. This forces me to disclose that I did have a hidden agenda for all of us, concerning the Hearing God class. It is vital that not only do we want to have faith in the fact that we can hear God speak, we also have to possess the faith to obey Him when He does. The class realized that God loves to chat with His children but they also came to see that He has serious assignments for us as well, as we partner with Him in bringing in the kingdom. One of the most important God-given tasks of those who hear God speak is to intercede for others. As priests and kings it is our duty to serve others and there is no better or more blessed way to do that than through intercessory prayer.



Over the years I have surveyed and collected statistical data concerning Maranatha Chapel's prayer needs and consistently the two most requested types of prayer are for healing and for salvation, in that order. We know that God wills that all be saved (2 Peter 3:9). With that said, it is sad to realize that regardless of God's wishes, some choose to perish rather than to receive forgiveness and new life through faith in Jesus. We also know by both the word of God and by experience, that prayer for the lost makes all the difference. To contrast this fact, it is also evident that the effectiveness of prayer for those in need of physical healing is not as clearly taught, understood or experienced throughout the church. In spite of a lack in general of specific teaching on the ministry of healing, I believe the bible is clear on the subject. God our Father does not want anyone to be sick needlessly and if some affliction is necessary for correction or sanctification, our loving Father doesn't want that period of adjustment to last a second longer than necessary. I had a great father; to me he was as perfect a model of our Heavenly Father that this world could have come up with. He would have died for me and if he had to punish me, as he often did, it really did hurt him more than it did me. In my case, once the necessary correction was administered and humbly received, all was forgiven and restored. The same is true with God. In fact, the bible tells us that our best earthly fathers are no comparison to God the Father. Luke 11:11-13 says: *"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"* My Heavenly Father loves me and he wants to see me filled with his Spirit and healed in my body. Be aware that there is a difference between suffering in His name and just plain old sickness. As a Christian the first is to be expected and the second is to be delivered from. We need to honestly distinguish suffering from sickness and treat each one appropriately as the bible teaches.

You may have wondered what the title of this article is all about, "H₂O, Elements of Effective Prayer". It stands for Hearing, Healing and Obedience. If we are willing to hear what God has to say about healing we must be obedient to follow His instructions concerning it and believe He is generally in favor of the idea. With that in mind I would like to invite you to read a series of very brief devotions on the subject of divine healing. Andrew Murray, a well respected pastor and author, wrote much on the subject at the turn of the century and his small book, *Divine Healing* is available free to all on the internet. We know that faith comes by hearing so it stands to reason that if the church overall seldom hears about God's true intentions concerning healing, she will have a hard time praying in faith and in one accord for God to heal others or ourselves. (continued on page 3)

Prayer Opportunities

† [For Prayer](#)

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

† [Emergency Prayer Chain](#)

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

† [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
(In Recess until 9/7/05)

† [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

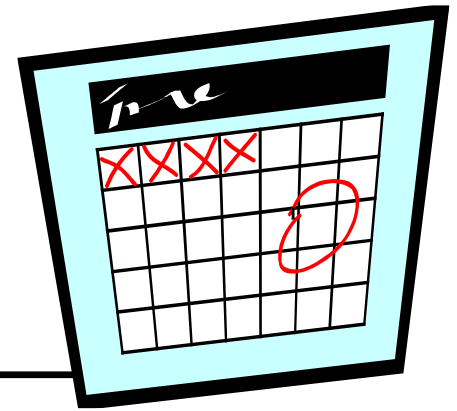
† [Prayer for Revival](#)

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



prayerwatch
OPPORTUNITIES

Prayer Event Calendar



Sign-ups Begin Again 365 Days of Prayer

Sign-up to pray and fast for Maranatha's Pastors, Staff and Congregation. Prayer starts October 2005-September 2006
Sign-up for your day at the prayer table in the foyer.

See You At the Pole

September 21, 2005

www.syatp.org

See You at the Pole is a student-led, student-initiated movement of prayer that revolves around students praying together on the third Wednesday of September, usually before school and usually at the school's flagpole. It involves students in elementary schools, middle/junior high schools, high schools, and colleges/ universities all over the world. Adults often pray in support of the students on campus by gathering nearby, at their places of work or worship, or at city halls.

Day of Prayer

for the Peace of Jerusalem

October 2, 2005

www.daytopray.com

The Day of Prayer for the Peace of Jerusalem is held on the first Sunday of every October with a call for sustained, fervent, informed and global intercession for the plans and purposes of God for Jerusalem and all her people.

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

November 13, 2005

www.persecutedchurch.org

The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) is a global day of intercession for persecuted Christians worldwide. Its primary focus is the work of intercessory prayer and citizen action on behalf of persecuted communities of the Christian faith.

Following is chapter one of *Divine Healing*, by Andrew Murray:

Pardon and Healing

“But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins (then saith he to the sick of the palsy), Arise, take up thy bed and go unto thine house” (Matt. 9:6).

In man two natures are combined. He is at the same time spirit and matter, heaven and earth, soul and body. For this reason, on one side he is the son of God, and on the other he is doomed to destruction because of the Fall; sin in his soul and sickness in his body bear witness to the right which death has over him. It is the twofold nature which has been redeemed by divine grace. When the Psalmist calls upon all that is within him to bless the Lord for His benefits, he cries, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, who . . . forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases” (Ps. 103: 3). When Isaiah foretells the deliverance of his people, he adds, “The inhabitant shall not say, I am sick; the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity” (Isa. 33:24).

This prediction was accomplished beyond all anticipation when Jesus the Redeemer came down to this earth. How numerous were the healings wrought by Him who was come to establish upon earth the kingdom of heaven! Whether by His own acts or whether afterwards by the commands which He left for His disciples, does He not show us clearly that the preaching of the Gospel and the healing of the sick went together in the salvation which He came to bring? Both are given as evident proof of His mission as the Messiah: “The blind receive their sight and the lame walk . . . , and the poor have the Gospel preached to them” (Matt. 11: 5). Jesus, who took upon Him the soul and body of man, delivers both in equal measure from the consequences of sin.

This truth is nowhere more evident or better demonstrated than in the history of the paralytic. The Lord Jesus begins by saying to him, “Thy sins be forgiven thee,” after which He adds, “Arise and walk.” The pardon of sin and the healing of sickness complete one the other, for in the eyes of God, who sees our entire nature, sin and sickness are as closely united as the body and the soul. In accordance with the Scriptures, our Lord Jesus has regarded sin and sickness in another light than we have. With us sin belongs to the spiritual domain; we recognize that it is under God’s just displeasure, justly condemned by Him, while sickness, on the contrary, seems only a part of the present condition of our nature, and to have nothing to do with God’s condemnation and His righteousness. Some go so far as to say that sickness is a proof of the love and grace of God.

But neither the Scripture nor yet Jesus Christ Himself ever spoke of sickness in this light, nor do they ever present sickness as a blessing, as a proof of God’s love which should be borne with patience. The Lord spoke to the disciples of diverse sufferings which they should have to bear, but when He speaks of sickness, it is always as of an evil caused by sin and Satan, and from which we should be delivered. Very solemnly He declared that every disciple of His would have to bear his cross (Matt. 16:24), but He never taught one sick person to resign himself to be sick. Everywhere Jesus healed the sick, everywhere He dealt with healing as one of the graces belonging to the kingdom of heaven. Sin in the soul and sickness in the body both bear witness to the power of Satan, and “the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil” (I John 3:8).

Jesus came to deliver men from sin and sickness that He might make known the love of the Father. In His actions, in His teaching of the disciples, in the work of the apostles, pardon and healing are always to be found together. Either the one or the other may doubtless appear more in relief, according to the development or the faith of those to whom they spoke. Sometimes it was healing which prepared the way for the acceptance of forgiveness, sometimes it was forgiveness which preceded the healing, which, coming afterwards, became a seal to it. In the early part of His ministry, Jesus cured many of the sick, finding them ready to believe in the possibility of their healing. In this way He sought to influence hearts to receive Himself as He who is able to pardon sin. When He saw that the paralytic could receive pardon at once, He began by that which was of the greatest importance; after which came the healing which put a seal on the pardon which had been accorded to him.

We see, by the accounts given in the Gospels, that it was more difficult for the Jews at that time to believe in the pardon of their sins than in divine healing. Now it is just the contrary. The Christian Church has heard so much of the preaching of the forgiveness of sins that the thirsty soul easily receives this message of grace; but it is not the same with divine healing; that is rarely spoken of; the believers who have experienced it are not many. It is true that healing is not given in this day as in those times, to the multitudes whom Christ healed without any previous conversion. In order to receive it, it is necessary to begin by confession of sin and the purpose to live a holy life. This is without doubt the reason why people find more difficulty to believe in healing than in forgiveness; and this is also why those who receive healing receive at the same time new spiritual blessing, feel more closely united to the Lord Jesus, and learn to love and serve Him better. Unbelief may attempt to separate these two gifts, but they are always united in Christ. He is always the same Savior both of the soul and of the body, equally ready to grant pardon and healing. The redeemed may always cry: “Bless the Lord, O my soul . . . , who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases” (Ps. 103:3).

If you found what you read about divine healing interesting, there are thirty two more chapters on the same theme available to you at: www.spiritoffire.org/ebooks/

Check out the online book *Divine Healing* by Andrew Murray and let me know what you think. I suggest you try to incorporate the reading of a chapter into each of your daily devotions. The scriptures are full of God’s intentions towards those He loves. David encourages us to never forget, Psalms 107:1, 20: “*Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever . . . He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.*”

Praise Reports!

Taken from the praise reports placed in our weekly offerings.

Prayers are answered!

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Praise God, He provided a boatload of money for my taxes! Hallelujah!

===

Thank you for praying for me. My eyes are back on the Lord and off of myself.

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The pastors prayed for my serious skin problem, God healed me in April!

===

Praise God for speaking to my husband and me so vividly the past two weeks about how He wants us to remember the Sabbath and keep it holy. Thank you Jesus, for being so specific and personal.

===

Praise Report: God lifts the burdens of my heart and breathes His encouragement into my mind.

===

I prayed for a year about reducing my work schedule to devote more time for the family. God has done unthinkable work in my employer's heart and has also showed me that He loves me and cares for even the smallest details of our lives.

Wednesday Prayer Pray For The Harvest

Wednesday 6:15–6:55 pm Room F-107

Hosted By Ricky Capistran



"CALLING ALL INTERCESSORS"

An Open Letter to All Maranatha Church Members:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This letter is an invitation to any and all who attend Maranatha to come and join us in praying for (Y)OUR church.

What we pray for:

Our pastors, staff, volunteers etc.

The preparation of the Wednesday Night service

Holy worship

God's Word to penetrate deeply

Our missions and other outreach endeavors

Souls to be saved

Emergency situations

Anything else that may be pertinent to the times

Of course I realize that it is just not practical for everyone to come at 6:15 P.M. because of family responsibilities, late work schedules, other commitments, etc. However, if you are one of those who can be there, I strongly recommend that you come and join us. I can guarantee that you will be blessed. God will honor your service. Instead of staying home watching "Friends" on TV, I invite you as an alternative to come and "Make Friends" with others who love to communicate with God in intercessory prayer. There's something wonderful about praying together corporately with other believers. I can't exactly put my finger on it but I know that the Holy Spirit will be there with you to bless your heart in a supernatural way. "Behold, how good and how pleasant [it is] for brethren to dwell together in unity!" [Psalms 133:1](#)

There are many verses in the Old Testament where God was asking for intercessors on behalf of His people. One is found in [2Ch 16:9](#): "For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of [them] whose heart [is] perfect toward him."

Jesus put it this way while speaking to Peter at Gethsemane:

[Mat 26:41](#): "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed [is] willing, but the flesh [is] weak."

Do you feel that God is calling you to participate in some sort of ministry at Maranatha but you don't know just what it might be? Perhaps the prayer ministry is the answer. Anyone can pray. You don't need a Doctoral degree in Theology to be an intercessor. You only need to be one who can look up to heaven and say, "Lord, please help us !!!!!!"

Eight years ago I was looking for a way to serve God at Maranatha. One of the pastors suggested that I join the prayer team. He said that it was the very best ministry I could be involved with. I thought, "OK, I'll do that until something really important comes along." Well, eight years have since passed and I'm still there. God surely has a funny way of doing things.

If you hear God's voice calling you to ministry ... and you're not yet sure what it might be ... I suggest that you drop into the prayer room on Wed. night while you're waiting to hear His exact directions. Who knows? Maybe eight years from now you'll still be there!

Your intercessor and brother in Christ,

Rick Capistran

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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