



PRAYERWATCH NEWSLETTER

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

God's Shield

By Greg Dunn, Maranatha Chapel Prayer Coordinator

"...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one." Ephesians 6:16

Once again we are asking for a year of fasting and prayer for the pastors, staff, and congregation of Maranatha Chapel and for Israel. We are praying for God to shield all of us from "all the fiery darts of the wicked one." There is no doubt the Devil hates us and has a horrible plan for our lives but we know it is also true that God loves us and protects us from the Devil's evil intentions; I am very glad of that fact. I am also glad that it is God's shield that is protecting us. In fact all of the armor that we are advised to put on in Ephesians chapter six is from the Father, it's not our armor it's His, it's not our shield it's His. That comforts me because if it was my armor and my shield it would not stand against the enemy. Any armor that I could build would be constructed from the materials I had on hand and assembled with whatever skills I have acquired in this life. That's a scary thought! Two pound coffee cans, left over air conditioning parts, all held together with pop rivets and duct tape with a garbage can lid for a shield. A well placed BB could take me down; just imagine what a demonically aimed fiery dart could do! No, we must put on all of God's armor to survive Satan's attacks; leave the home made armor at home.



It's interesting to note that we are instructed to wear on our persons all the other elements of our defensive armor. We are to put on the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Gospel of Peace Sandals and the Helmet of Salvation. But when we come to the Shield of Faith we realize that it must be held up in front of us and in the proper position for it to be effective. If our shield is leaning up in the corner or if we are sitting or standing on our shield at the time of attack it won't do us much good when the fiery darts start to fly at us; we have to hold it up and face our enemy for the Shield of Faith to guard us.

The Greek word translated "shield" in our Bibles is thureos (thoo-reh-os); it comes from a root word that means door. This is a big shield, big as a door! The Romans used it to provide complete coverage from attack both from above and in front of them. The soldiers of that day would march forward side by side with the edges of their large shields up against the shields of the soldiers on either side of them. This strategy made the advancing ranks of warriors a solid moving wall with no gaps for the enemy to strike through. This is why it is so important that we pray, worship, study the Word and fellowship together, so that when the enemy attacks (and he will) we can come together with our shields of faith and not only protect ourselves but overrun the devil's position.

You might be saying to your self right now that, "this all sounds very good but it is my experience that as a Christian I have felt suffering and pain, the devil has wounded me." You're right, even the diligently armored and faith shielded Christian gets zapped from time to time. Why is that? The scriptures state that the shield of faith will stop ALL the fiery darts of the evil one. We believe the promises the Bible makes to us, so what is going on? The answer is transformation. I would like to quote from the book, *Overcoming the Adversary* by Mark Bubeck on this subject.

"As Satan's fiery darts penetrate the shield of faith - if in God's sovereignty He allows them to do so - they cease to be Satan's flaming missiles. Rather, they become the refining and purifying messengers of God's love. Fire can destroy or it can refine...I recall as a youth melting down lead to be poured into various shapes and molds. I loved to get the torch so hot that the molten metal seemed transparent. The hotter it got, the more latent impurities would rise to the top and have to be skimmed off, always leaving the metal purer than it was before.

That illustrates what God is doing as He lets some of Satan's fiery darts pass through His shield. Under His sovereign eye God never lets Satan's work go any further than He intends. James 1:2-4 says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." First Peter 1:6-7 states, "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

Fall 2004	
Inside This Issue	
God's Shield	1
Opportunities	2
Prayer Calendar	2
Praying God's Will	2
Exciting Healing	3
How to Start	4
Praise Reports	4

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

† Weekly Prayer Walk

Contact: Christy
(858) 505-2566
Every Wednesday 5:00—5:45 pm
Meet at 5:00 pm at Gazebo

† Wed. Pre-Service Prayer

Contact: Ricky
(619) 595-0718
Wednesday 6:15—6:55 pm, S-110

† College and Career

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

† Wives in Prayer

Contact: Tammy
(858) 385-0432
Friday A.M.

† Men @ Prayer

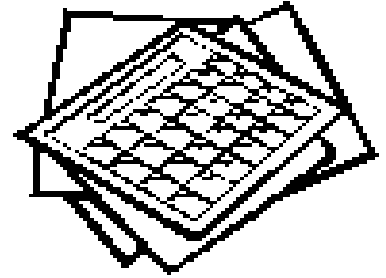
Contact: Elmer Getz
(858) 675-0500
Saturday 7:30—8:30 am, S-110.

† Prayer for Revival

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

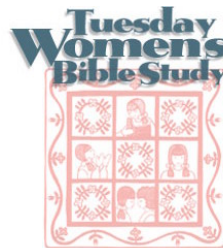


Prayer Event Calendar



**Sign-ups Begin
September 11, 2004
365 Days of Prayer**

Sign-up to pray and fast for Maranatha's Pastors, Staff and Congregation. Prayer starts October 2004-September 2005



Starting Sept 14, 2004

Women's Bible Study with Fern Nichols
Igniting a passion to Pray
Tuesdays, 9:15—11:30 am or 7:00—9:00 pm



THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

November 7, 2004

**International Day of Prayer
for the Persecuted Church**

www.persecutedchurch.org

Praying God's Will

Mission America Coalition, The Lighthouse Movement

How do you know if you are praying in accordance with God's will? Well, for one thing, if you are asking the Lord to bring about something that He has gone on record (in the Bible) endorsing, you can be sure your intercession is aligned to His purposes.

Praying the Scriptures back to God is a technique many Christians use. It means meditating on a passage of the Bible that deals with human need, sin or faithlessness and then personalizing the text by asking the Lord to address those issues in your life or in the life of someone you are concerned about (i.e. neighbors, colleagues, family members).

For example, when you read Psalm 23 you can see that David has reached a point in his relationship with the Lord where he feels like a lamb in the safe enveloping arms of a Good Shepherd. He admits that he has no real wants. He is refreshed and comforted even though there are problems (enemies) in his life. Is that true of the person who lives next door to you on your block? If not, why not pray through Psalm 23 line by line and ask the Lord to make the reality of those verses come alive in that person's heart?

“God’s Shield”, continued from page 1

Consider the assurance of 1 Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

Following is a prayer written by Mark Bubeck, selected from the same book as mentioned above. I offer it as a guide on how to pray about taking up the Shield of Faith.

“Loving Heavenly Father, I take by faith the protection of the shield of faith. I count upon Your holy presence to surround me like a capsule, offering total protection from all of Satan’s flaming arrows. Grant me the grace to accept Your refining purpose in allowing any of Satan’s arrows to pass through the shield, and even to praise You for it. Help me to concentrate upon Your presence and not the enemy’s arrows.”

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I claim the protection of the holy angels to guard and shield me from the assaults of Satan’s kingdom. May these ministering angels be present to interfere with the strategy of Satan to harm me and my family. I appropriate the victory of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and hold it against the advances of the evil one. With gratitude and praise, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I rejoice in Your victory.
Amen.”*

Before I end this article there is one more brief point I would like to make. God’s armor is bulletproof and proven, our security is guaranteed but there is a higher purpose for all this defensive protection; it is so we can go into battle. It is so we can wield the Sword of the Word according to the Heavenly orders we receive through prayer. Ephesians 6:12-13, 18 tells us, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand...pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”

Thank you for participating in Maranatha Chapel’s year of prayer and fasting. Standing side by side with God’s shield of Faith in place, we will not only survive attack but we will take back lost ground and capture new ground for our Lord, as we await His soon return. **Maranatha!**

Another Exciting Healing..

By Pam Zukor

On a Wednesday evening, as we were praying for the pastors before the service, my friend and prayer partner Bessie had a vision of a crippled woman walking with a cane, being healed as she passed through the Maranatha foyer on her way to a service.

That next Sunday, Bessie and I came out of the 8:30 am service. Heidi, the wife of a dear fireman friend, came up to me. She was walking with a cane and I asked what was going on. She told me that she needed back surgery and it was scheduled for that next week. She was scared, naturally, and didn’t want it. I thought, “Well there has to be something that God can do!” So...I told her I would pray for her (thinking I will pray for her casually during my prayer time, but then thinking that that might not be good enough). I introduced her to Bessie, and the Lord then said “pray for her NOW.” So, Bessie and I laid hands on her on Solomon’s Porch and we asked the Lord for her healing. She then proceeded into the sanctuary of Maranatha with her husband to attend second service.

A day later, I emailed her the healing scriptures that the Lord has given to me over the last few years so she could build her faith and seek her healing. (See last PrayerWatch Newsletter)

A few months later my husband and I attended the San Diego Fire Department Prayer Breakfast held at Horizon Christian Fellowship. Jamie, my fireman husband and I were a touch late. I was praying that I wouldn’t miss anything and that we would get a seat. Just as we entered the parking lot, I saw Heidi and her husband David drive up. We walked to the breakfast together and Heidi told me of her healing.

She told me that she had meant to email me, but got busy. During the church service on the day Bessie and I prayed for her, Heidi had felt her legs grow stronger and as she walked out of the sanctuary she realized that her back began experiencing less pain. She had been healed! Within the next few days she went back to her doctor and he said she didn’t need the surgery. And now, she is swimming and walking and getting even stronger every day.

Praise be to the God who heals. As His word says in **Exodus 15:26** “...for I am the Lord who heals you!”

How to Start Praying

By Ruth Bell Graham

Men of God, whose payers are recorded for us in the Bible, never read a book on prayer, never heard a sermon on prayer. They just prayed.

Satan fears prayer because God hears prayer. Satan will stop at nothing to distract a person from praying or to get him to postpone praying or, failing to do that, to discourage him from praying.

This article is simply to encourage you to start.

Start praying where you are, as you are, about whatever concerns you, about whatever is lying most heavily on your heart, about whatever is irritating or frustrating you at the present.

Suggestion: Keep a prayer list. Make your requests specific and date them. Then date the answer. Like the ungrateful lepers, we tend to forget.

It may be impossible to date the answers to certain requests. For instance, if I pray for patience, I will not find that on such and such a date I suddenly became patient. But if I pray for guidance in a particular problem, for the conversion of a friend or for the resolving of some apparently hopeless difficulty, recording the answer as well as the request will be a cause for worship and a means of strengthening my faith.

Be pointed. Be persistent. Be patient. But pray.

Taken without permission from "Ask in Prayer" by Ruth Bell Graham. (I am sure she won't mind)

Praise Reports!

Taken from the praise reports placed in our weekly offerings.

God Heals and Restores!

"I praise my God because after five years of sickness He has healed my body and I feel great! Glory to His name, I almost died."

"I was prayed over here at Maranatha for colon cancer and God has healed me!"

"My brother, who has attempted suicide several times is now a new believer in Christ!"

"My relationship with my sister has been restored. Praise God and thank you for your prayers!"

"After twelve years, my husband turned his heart over to the Lord and is a changed man! Praise the Lord!"

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 Greg Dunn at Maranatha Chapel 858-613-7800 or email at: prayerwatch@maranathachapel.org