



McCLAIN MINISTRIES

Since 2000 A Monthly Christian Newsletter Publication

February 2009



**GOD'S UNDYING LOVE
IS NOW AND
FOREVER**

This Month's Issue

LIFE EVENTS



MELVA'S CORNER – Inspirational Message

COMFORT IS AVAILABLE



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LET US CONTINUE TO PRAY



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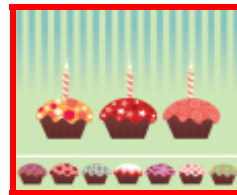
**SPECIAL ARTICLES – PRAY THE
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Life Events

Happy Birthday



**Sunnye McShann
Michael Williams
Mary Simpson
Ricky Jones
Jan Smith**

Pray for our Troops



Pray for our nation and its protection from terrorism and for the success of President Barak Obama's executive order to prohibit controversial interrogation tactics.

Give thanks and praise to God for the dedication and service of our military troops as they safeguard our freedom around the world. Pray for their protection and well being, asking God to cover each one with His extraordinary blessing and care.

MELVA'S CORNER

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

COMFORT IS AVAILABLE

To be part of the covenant community of God does not take care of all your problems. Exempt you from suffering. Provide you a pass on the bad things other people in your world are having to endure. So when the peace is broken between nations or in a neighborhood, innocent adults and children get hurt too. When the economy slumps or a company folds, people who had nothing to do with world economic policies or corporate criminal behavior lose their jobs. Their houses. Their families. Speaking of families, when one or both adults fail at their marital commitment, any children caught in the undertow may suffer most.

If there is suffering among God's people, there will be a need for comfort. So some look for comfort in trying harder to make things work better. Sometimes that strategy works! Peace is restored. The company is saved or reorganized on a better footing. Or the marriage is put back together. Others take comfort in chemicals or pornography, new locations or new relationships. Some break and never recover. A few give up on living and take their own lives in utter despair.

The circumstances around the man Isaiah and the book that bears his name were highly problematic. The Northern Kingdom had already fallen in 721 B.C. and the Assyrian armies that had conquered its capital city were a constant threat to the Southern Kingdom as well. The social life of the people had been influenced greatly by a prosperity that had turned into greed and exploitation on the part of the privileged few – and daily anguish for the oppressed majority. The religious establish

-ment had sold out to the spirit of the times and was catering to the wealthy over the poor. Telling the people whatever their patrons wanted them to hear. Utterly indifferent to justice, righteousness and mercy. Sound familiar?

Finally a decent man ascended to the throne, Hezekiah. He initiated a good-faith series of political, social, and spiritual reforms in the nation. And God blessed his work with things ranging from fifteen extra years to the king's personal life to supernatural rescue of Jerusalem from besieging Assyrian forces in 701 B.C. to the presence of prophetic voices such as Isaiah's to point the way back to God. However, it was too little too late. The religious reforms were short-lived. Hezekiah died at age 54 only to be replaced by his idolatrous, immoral, and politically corrupt son Manasseh. And the sparing of Judah from Assyria would not be repeated when the Babylonians came onto the world stage and marched on Jerusalem in a series of three invasions and deportations of captives that started in 606 B.C. and continued through the sack of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. The people would need comfort, if there were any to give. They would certainly look for a comforter.

Isaiah is called upon to speak a word of comfort in the name of God. But his message did not point to himself as the people's comforter. It pointed them back to God. And it pointed them forward to the coming Messiah.

That Isaiah's message did not end with his own limited ability as a human comforter to the people of God is apparent from the fact that he died as a martyr during the reign of Manasseh. Hebrews 11:36-37 seems to reflect the preserved tradition that Isaiah was murdered in a most gruesome way – sawed in half! Then what became of "comfort" for the remnant? Who sustained them during Manasseh's repression of truth

-telling prophets? How would they be encouraged to hang on during those dark, dark days?

Twenty years or more before his own death, a Spirit-gifted Isaiah was allowed to foresee the Babylonian exile that would occur after his own departure from the scene. So he gave this word from God:

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, **“Hear the word of the LORD Almighty: The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD. And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon” (39:5-7).**

Although Hezekiah heard that message in the Neville Chamberlain fashion of welcoming peace and security “in my lifetime,” he seems not to have questioned that whatever glimpse of the future God gave through Isaiah would indeed come to pass (39:8-9). So, at Isaiah 40:1, this ancient writing takes on a new and different tone. So new and different, in fact, that critical scholarship sees a new writer here – the “second” Isaiah who writes a couple of centuries after the eighth-century prophet who knew about Assyria and Hezekiah. After all, how could a man who died under Manasseh’s cruelties know anything about exile in and return from Babylon? How indeed! Unless, as Peter affirmed and I believe, he was one of those blessed persons who **“spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (II Peter 1:19-21).**

Isaiah was given a sure word of comfort that his disciples could hold in their hearts and share with those who would hear until the dark days in Babylon had passed. The comfort-word was as sure as the judgment

-word had been before it. And perhaps it would take the experience of judgment and suffering in Babylon to make the hearts of many hear this message. Those of us reading it in a post-exile, post-John the Baptist, post-Jesus of Nazareth period discover even more than they could have grasped. God-breathed Scripture given through Isaiah looked beyond his day and that of the returnees from Babylon to the arrival of God’s Messiah. So the comfort-word here actually embraces us as well.

Isaiah’s original call and commission came back in chapter 6; there he saw a vision of God, heard His voice, and was authorized to deliver a message of judgment. In chapter 40 he is summoned and re-commissioned; he is called to the courts of the spiritual realm again and commanded to speak comfort to the people of God. The good news of deliverance here stands as a lighthouse beacon to those who have received the bad news of judgment due to unrepented sin.

Isaiah’s new message is for people whose whole world has been shattered. And for people like that, cheap comfort is not only a waste of time, it is cruel. Comfort that is not grounded in reality is no comfort at all. But the word that Isaiah is commissioned to bring to them is not like that at all; it is based on truth at every point.

In the first two verses, the progression of verbs is “comfort,” “speak,” and “proclaim.” And the four emphatic truths upon which Isaiah is told to stand in giving this message of hope are these: you are God’s people (v.1), your sin has been paid for (v.2), you will be taken along the path of God’s own glory (vs.3-5), and God’s word in this matter can be trusted (vs.6-8).

First, God does not forget His people in their times of trouble. Suffering does not cancel the fact that you are His son! Devastation does not revoke your status as

His daughter! The prodigal was still the prodigal son. He still had a father. He still had a home to which He could return. And if it took a pig pen for that son to realize how precious his family status was or perhaps it took his older sibling's arrogant, ungracious treatment of him to bring him to his senses.

Second, God's covenant people live in forgiveness even during their times of crisis, exile or suffering. I find the language here a bit peculiar. Isaiah was told to deliver this message to the soon-to-be-exiled people of Judah: "That her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins."

Speaking prophetically of the fate of the captives, Isaiah was able to announce that it would not be a permanent exile. The nation's "hard service" to her captors would end. But was her sin paid for by captivity and labor? Wouldn't thirty-five years have been enough? No instead she was made to pay double that in seventy-year captivity. Our sinful behaviors often lead to suffering. True enough. But the suffering that comes as repercussion and punishment doesn't atone for sin, doesn't pay our debt. Forgiveness is by grace alone, not by our suffering or as a reward for our good works. There is something else going on here that doesn't receive explanation until Isaiah 53. It is the suffering of the Faithful Servant on behalf of sinful people that pays for sin.

We are catching a glimpse of the shadow of Christ's death here. So for descendants out of Judah or for you to receive "from the Lord's hand double for all [our] sins" may be a poetic reference to the fullness of grace. God's grace is dispensed always and forever in a "doubling" measure that is always greater than our sins. Where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more!

(Romans 5:20). But the word "double" here can also mean "to fold over" or "to fold in half." An old Eastern custom allowed that a man who owed a debt he could not pay could have his debt written on a notice and nailed to his front door by his creditor. If anyone saw the embarrassing notice, took pity on the man and paid his debt for him, the creditor would accept payment and proceed to double the notice over and nail it to the door as a testimony to a debt fully paid. The humiliating notice that here resides a man who has not paid his debts thus became a testimony to someone's kindness to a man whose debt had been paid in full. That imagery is found in Colossians 2:14 where God is praised for "having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and stood opposed to us" by "nailing it to the cross." God's people live as pardoned and paid-up folk, people whose sin debt has been trumped and doubled by grace!

Third, God is determined to bring His once-exiled-but-now-forgiven people home.

**Thunder in the desert!
"Prepare for GOD's arrival!
Make the road straight and smooth,
a highway fit for our God.
Fill in the valleys,
level off the hills,
Smooth out the ruts,
clear out the rocks.
Then GOD's bright glory will shine
and everyone will see it.
Yes. Just as GOD has said" (40:3-5 MSG).**

The language reminds us of the exodus, but it is also just a little different. As the Lord again shows His "bright glory," His route of travel through the wilderness will nonetheless be wondrous to behold. "Everyone will see it" means that this is not some secret processional. It will be done with the world watching just as when Cyrus defeated the Babylonians and allowed the Jews to return home after seventy years as

captives in a foreign land. Those who have been aliens and exiles finally will be home.

It is no wonder that early Christians took this language and appropriated it to the coming of Christ. Thus John the Baptist is represented under the figure of one who is out in the desert to prepare the highway for Christ (Matthew 3:3). And Jesus is, in His own words, “The Way” that leads to the Father (John 14:6). All of those who are following The Way to the Father are “strangers” (I Peter 1:17) – “resident aliens” might be a more expressive term – in this world and are moving toward a city with foundations. We are “just a passin’ through” this world on our way to the Father’s Kingdom. We are in exile now from the everlasting Kingdom of our God.

Peter used the metaphor of Christians as “strangers” or “resident aliens” in his letter to scattered, suffering saints of the first century. He reminded them what was being “kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power” until Christ’s return. As for the ordeal they were passing through at the time: **“These [trials] 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” (I Peter 1:7-8).**

Fourth, God’s word on all these things can be trusted, for His promises are as eternal as His own being and nature.

**All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.**

**The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the LORD blows on them.**

**Surely the people are grass.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God stands forever
(40:6b-8).**

If all this is true – that God loves and forgives leads and never fails to keep His word to His own – then we should proclaim His name among the nations. We should be living witnesses to His goodness. We simply must share the “good tidings” of His nature and work with everyone. Our strong warrior-savior is also the gentle shepherd-pathfinder who will see to His own.

**You who bring good tidings to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.
You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem,
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Sovereign LORD comes with
power, and his arm rules for him.
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.
He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young
(40:9-11)**

In our calm, Sunday-morning moments of pious worship, it is so easy to affirm these things. God loves His people. He is forgiving and merciful. He is preparing a place for His own. And His promise on all these things is certain! But what about the dark days? The house has burned to the ground. The diagnosis is scary. The son or daughter you love is God-knows-where doing God-knows-what. You are scared. You are alone. You are doing everything you know to do to fix what is broken and to right what is wrong. But . . .

Ah, Isaiah understands those feelings. He has had them himself. And he knows the people to whom he is writing – and those who might ever read them even centuries later – surely think the same thoughts and utter the same sentiments on their less-than-best days. What does God give him

to say about that?

**Why do you say, O Jacob,
and complain, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?
Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in [wait for, RSV] the
LORD will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint (40:27-31).**

Spirituality in its biblical form shuns pat answers. It does not deny the reality of suffering. It doesn't pretend that fear and loneliness, disease and pain, war and death are nothing. It doesn't tell a nation going into exile for seventy years, "Be glad of it. You'll get the chance to travel – and experience a new culture!" It doesn't tell a mother grieving the death of her child or a child mourning the death of his parents' marriage, "Oh, it's nothing really. You're going to find out just how resilient you really are now. This just isn't as bad as you think." It never, ever offers such half-witted counsel. And it isn't in the tradition of our faith for us to tell ourselves that it is weak to be human, to feel life's hurts, or to weep. Stones don't feel, but people do! Jesus wept at the gravesite of his friend Lazarus, even though he knew full well what he was about to do.

Maybe we have a hard time receiving comfort because we try too hard to gloss over the painful things of life. If we just won't look, we won't have to feel. If we don't have to feel, we won't have to cry.

If we don't cry, we can convince ourselves that such things just don't matter. What madness! What utter madness!

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. What good would it have been for the prophet to explain to the Israelites that exile was nothing at all, that slavery to a foreign power was just a different sort of lifestyle and they'd get used to it, that they could find God's glory in the shadowlands of pagan Babylon? No: Get up to a high mountain and declare, God has heard you and He's coming to the rescue! Resurrection Day/Easter declares not that God has made friends with death but that God has defeated it, not that Jesus has shown that premature death doesn't matter but that He's shown it matters so much that it must be beaten. Premature Death is an enemy. A defeated enemy, since Resurrection Day/ Easter, yes; but an enemy none the less. Appropriate grief and appropriate tears are God's gifts to help us through the valley. To deny them is to become emotionally stunted. To accept them isn't to close your mind, but rather to open it to the reality of just how much you loved and hence just how much you believe you've lost.

The same thing can be said about sin and salvation. The Bible can offer pardon because it takes sin seriously. Until we do, we cannot receive the gospel message. Once we see the depths of our sin against the glorious, incomprehensible goodness of the God Isaiah worshipped, will we flee to Him through Christ. There we will find wisdom beyond our comprehension. Holiness beyond our experience. Grace beyond our sin. Strength beyond our weakness.

So when you sense how great a problem sin is in your life, when you are frustrated by the promises-turned-failures of leaders and systems of this world, when you are discouraged about the cultural situation of glorified immorality, when your personal situation make you feel – remember that the answer is God. Read Isaiah's description of

His greatness and power (40:12-26). Then remember that it is this One True God who created heaven and earth and in whose sovereign control the fate of all humanity lies who cares about you. Knows your name. Never tires of coming to the aid of His people. "Do you not know? Have you not heard?" Yes, we know; but we forget. Yes, we have heard the message; but life wears us down. Then in the midst of it all, see God, come to you, and "renew" – the word more literally means "exchange" – your strength. Exchange your weakness for His strength. Let His power be made perfect in your weakness.

It is time to stand together on Zion's high mountain to proclaim the good tidings! It is God alone who can meet our need. It is God alone who merits our trust. Oh, for ears to hear such a message – and for hearts to believe it. 📖

Higher Mountains... Higher Praises

"LET YOUR REQUESTS BE MADE KNOWN"
Jannice G. Horton

At the beginning of each year I join a ministry in a 21 day fast. In looking back over last year's fast, I came to realize that God has answered my prayers:

1. Automobile exchange without a problem.
2. My son's purchase of a business.
3. A closer walk with God
4. A restored relationship between two of my nieces.

This fasting season, God has given me:

1. A word of knowledge for a couple of people close to me.
2. College scholarship resources for my daughter

This fast means more to me than any other fast I have ever done. I feel like I am accomplishing something. I feel I have a

purpose, I see some areas where I am strong and weak that I never noticed before, but above all I see Me. I must decrease and He (God) must increase if I am ever going to enter into His rest and overcome the world's way of doing things. Keep me in your prayers.

A GOD OF RESTORATION
Evelyn McGee

I just want to give thanks to God for my son's truck that was recovered Friday night January 30th. It was stolen from his driveway in the early morning hours. The police had no clues but God knew exactly where it was. Thank you for prayers.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Denise Jones

I thank God for a spirit - filled birthday celebration Friday night, January 30th. My Husband, Son and Daughter surprised me with a birthday dinner at Bonsai Japanese Restaurant. What a blessing to be surrounded by loving relatives and friends. You can always depend on God to remind you of the really important things in life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mark your calendars for the month of **February 2009**. Please join us and take the next step in your walk with God.

Home Bible Workshop Schedule



February 14 & 28
Home Bible Workshop
5:00 P.M. CST
"Faith Moves Mountains – Doubt Creates Them"

The Power of Partnership

I am so thankful our paths have crossed. In fact, I believe it was a divine appointment. Over twenty - five years ago, an encounter with God changed my life forever, and I believe He'll do the same for you. I consider it a privilege to have the opportunity to share the truth of His life-changing power and grace with you.

God called me to teach the truth of the Gospel to the body of Christ with special emphasis on God's unconditional love and the balance between grace and faith.

At McClain Ministries we are working diligently to fulfill that call by training others and by developing ministry materials designed to help you in your relationship with the Lord.

Your interest in partnership is evidence of the fact that not only has this ministry affected your life, but you also have a desire to help someone else and believe this message can provide that help. Together, through partnership, you and I can reach thousands of people with the good news of the Gospel.

I believe the message the Lord has entrusted me to deliver will change the way the body of Christ perceives God. However, it doesn't matter how important the message is or how well I deliver it, until the message is sent, no one will hear. Partnership makes the delivery possible.

The Apostle Paul understood his role as the messenger, but he also understood that partnership was not only about what he received but what the partners received as well. **In Philippians 4:19 he wrote, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."** This was written by Paul to his partners.

The Philippians were the only ones who supported him after leaving town. In fact, they wanted to give more but didn't have the opportunity. Paul was saying that there is a special provision for those who recognize the power in partnership.

For me, it has never been about "you" supporting "my" ministry. If you're a partner, then consider this our ministry, and together we will accomplish God's will. In fact, I'm an extension of you and your obedience to God. Like Paul, I'm just the messenger that God has called for a specific purpose. If I fulfill that call, the fruit will be evident to everyone, and if I don't, then God will find another messenger and direct your support to that person.

Although I am committed to doing my part to bring revival to America, we have an awesome opportunity to make a big difference in people's lives around the world. Our current projects must be funded by those of us who are more blessed.

Do you remember when you first began to partake of the message from this ministry and how it affected your life? There are thousands just like you all over the world, waiting to hear the truth that will set them free. Will you help us? Together, we can do it.

You may never realize what your gifts accomplish during your life on earth, but I can promise that in eternity, people from all over the world will thank you for your investment in their lives. I want to thank you in advance for your consideration and response.

Please make your gifts payable to, **"McClain Ministries."** All funds given for Community Outreach projects will be used for that purpose exclusively until the projects are fully funded. Any surplus will then be applied to the McClain Ministries general account.

HERE ARE OUR CURRENT PROJECTS:

Computer Clinic



Tutoring Classes



Community Pantry



National Bulletin Board Service



Internet Radio Station



We are pleased to offer the ability to make donations to McClain Ministries online using your credit or debit card. As you all know we have five (5) ongoing projects at this time. And all of our projects are funded through donations. Thank you so much for your support.

Just simply use the link to go to our website at:

<http://mcclainministries.org/>

Then Click onto the **DONATE** button
Enter the amount and update

Scroll to the bottom of the page and you will see the following narrative.

Thank you for your Support!

WEBSITE OFFERING

www.mcclainministries.com

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A VICTORIOUS NEW YEAR? (Excerpts)

The reality that under girds everything that will happen in the New Year is this: Human nature will remain an issue and we will continue to contend with the constant tension between light and darkness. If we reverence God and obey His counsel, we will fare well spiritually — in spite of any other factors such as a global fumbling economy, shortages of natural resources,

or killer diseases. If we stray from the path, though, we will die spiritually — in spite of wealth, prosperity, or healthy longevity.

God knows everything that will take place in 2009 and is willing to share it with you. I can recall a time twenty centuries ago when some people were in a room with the Lord and pondering the fact that they were entering a new era whose imponderables stood to overwhelm them. I want to take you there and relive its essence with you. I want us to hear what was said that night by Jesus, who is totally **God – Realized**, and know that we still need to hear what He said as we face this critical time in our history.

The work of the church (Body of Christ) requires two hands. One hand is gospel proclamation and the other one is a tangible exhibition of the gospel's power to build right relationships. The greatest barriers to bringing the world to faith are not bad preaching, bad music, and poor acoustics so much as the ugly realities of gossip, negative criticism, an unforgiving spirit and the refusal of Christians to seek reconciliation with one another.

Our failure to have the influence we should on the world lies largely in the fact that we are battling darkness and its grip on the world with one hand tied behind us! I am committed to seeking and living the unity of the Body of Christ with you. I won't talk about you if I have some grievance with you, but you can expect me to talk with you. I plead with you to do the same with one another.

Do you know why it is important for us to pursue the unity of the Body of Christ? It has been commanded by our Lord, for one thing. And it will be necessary to make an impact on a world that is disenchanted with "religiosity" (i.e., the structures and boundaries of traditional denominations) but eagerly searching for "spirituality" (i.e., meaningful truth about God, the destiny of

mankind, and how to live wholesomely).

WHERE IS GOD?

As we enter the New Year, our nation is enduring a large scale banking crisis spawned by greed. Unemployment is spiking while the economy plummets. Domestic auto manufacturers are leaking money. Globally there's an economic downturn.


In addition to these grave economic concerns, many scientists insist that global warming threatens to topple an ever delicate ecological balance. The possibility of domestic terrorist attacks looms like a towering mountain on the horizon. The United States remains in a war in Iraq for which there seems to be no tidy exit strategy. The Taliban appears to be reemerging in Afghanistan. Tensions, as always, are running high between the Israelis and Palestinians, continually making the region volatile. There's this news that Iran may acquire nuclear weapons. North Korea's ruthless dictatorship is problematic, to say the least. Relations between world powers India and Pakistan are tenuous. August brought armed conflict between Russia and Georgia. Just last month saw terror attacks in Mumbai, India. While racism and ethnic tension in our own country remain chronic issues.

And although we remotely feel the stress of what is going on around us – and although we know that many of our friends and love ones are experiencing major bouts of depression the reality of it all doesn't really ring true until we have a personal experience visit us. When the crises literally enters our world; when darkness hits home, then and only then can we identify with many of the ominous issues at hand. We've all heard of these menacing periods in the Christian life defined as, "the dark night of the soul." Some of us, per-

haps most of us if we're honest, don't really invest much emotional stock in the excess suffering another has endured . . . until we experience it firsthand. Outwardly, we know what to say, how to respond and what glib words of wisdom to bestow. Inwardly, I think, we shrug off the uncomfortable exchange of those around us in the hopes that it will never happen to us . . . and we too soon forget the intensity of others war inflicted scars.

Eventually, the unspeakable makes a direct hit - we're the ones who are suddenly paralyzed by some stunning blow we didn't see coming. Mind you, the particulars of the troubling circumstances don't seem to be of much consequence, for the response is almost unilaterally universal - that of gut-wrenching panic and abhorrent denial, even among the faithful. It could be a financial blow, the death of a parent, a lingering betrayal from a former friend, a child gone wild, or even a minor illness turned terminal.

However the specific "trial" takes shape, we're generally forced to face our own shortcomings. Not that caring friends won't come alongside and lend a hand of support, rather, it's simply that every person has to face down his or her own fear, worry, anger, regret, addictions even, and then make sense of the blind-siding pain in light of God's promised care. And where is God we wonder?

Whenever we find ourselves struggling to understand life's pain and injustices, we must eventually come to a definitive understanding of what has occurred and that important question, "Where exactly is God?" We often have to do this while we are suffering, seemingly alone. As seasoned followers of Christ, we instinctively realize that God's Word alone offers the respite and care our difficulty and neediness demands. God promises to be our refuge and a very present help in time of trouble. (Psalm 46:1) 



PRAY THE SCRIPTURES

Scriptures to Pray for the President, Our Leaders and the Nation

Bringing our President and our nation before Almighty God is the very best thing we can do to support our nation and its leaders. Seeking to uphold our leaders and those they lead, believers have found prayer to be the surest way to bring positive change to our world.

The following Scripture verses have been adapted to be prayed back to God. Use them to pray for the President, members of his cabinet, the Supreme Court Justices, leaders of Congress, or local officials. They are also appropriate to pray for church leaders and pastors.

PRAYERS FOR THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I pray that You, O Lord will continually bring goodness and sweetness into the President's life rather than sorrow, causing him to know that taking joy in You makes him strong. Nehemiah 8:10

I pray that the President will delight himself in You, Lord, knowing that You will give him the desires of his heart. Psalm 37:4

I pray that the President will trust in You, Lord, with all his heart, and lean not on his own understanding. I pray that in all his ways he will acknowledge You, and You will direct his paths. Proverbs 3:5-6

I pray that you will always help the President to have a gentle answer that turns away wrath, keeping him from harsh words that stir up anger. Proverbs 15:1

O Lord, remind the President continually that You alone are His strength, and that it is You who allows him to accomplish any high and lofty goals. Habakkuk 3:19

I pray than when the President faces obstacles he will remember that victory comes not by might nor by power, but by Your Spirit. Zechariah 4:6

I pray that the President will always love You O Lord, with all his heart, with all his soul, with all his mind, and with all his strength and that he will love his neighbor as himself. Make him aware that there is no greater command than this. Mark 12:30-31

O Lord, grant that the President remembers often Your deep and abiding love for him, knowing that he will ultimately be victorious spiritually because You died for him. Romans 8:37

I pray that the President will put bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil away from him with all malice. I pray also that kindness, tenderheartedness and forgiveness will characterize him, just as they do God and His Son Jesus Christ. Ephesians 4:31-32

I pray that the President will turn to you for his strength, knowing that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. Philippians 4:13

I pray that you will grant the President the passion and the will to do all his work heartily, remembering that he is serving You and not men. Colossians 3:23

O faithful Lord and God, strengthen and protect the President and guard him from the evil one. II Thessalonians 3:3

I pray that the President will submit willingly to You, O God, resisting the devil so the enemy will flee from him. James 4:7

I pray that the President, by doing good, may silence the ignorance of foolish men. I Peter 2:15

I pray, God, that the President will resist the temptation of pride and will humble himself under Your mighty hand, that in Your time you may lift him up. I Peter 5:6

Lord, I ask You to help the President to confess his sins before You, remembering that You are faithful and just and will cleanse him from sin and forgive him for all unrighteousness. I John 1:9

O God, let the President always be confident in approaching You, remembering that You hear his prayers when he asks in accord with Your will. May he always pray this way, with confidence. I John 5:14-15

THE GOD EFFECT OF PRAYER

6:00 P.M. Hour of Prayer



SPEND TIME PRAYING FOR OTHERS

Use this wonderful supernatural tool the Lord has blessed us with **the 6 o'clock hour of power**. This is the time to intercede for the needs of others, the concerns of the ministry, and to pray for the leadership within our community, our nation, and our world.

Hearts throbbing as one, prayers ascending to heaven multiplied by those praying in **one accord**. Sharing burdens, joys, and petitions to bear. Lay all your cares at the foot of the cross and encourage others to do the same. Lives are being changed. Breakthroughs are happening.



Let Us Continue To Pray

We began our united prayer for leaders on New Year's Day in our January 2009 Newsletter and supplemented it on January 14th with a special Inaugural Prayer. In February, we want to continue our focus on prayer at the national level with the following:

Pray specifically for Mrs. Michelle Obama who celebrated her 45th birthday on January 17th, asking God for great joy and blessing for her in the weeks and months to come. Pray for her as she provides support and strength for her husband, guidance and instruction for her daughters, Malia and Sasha, and love for her mother, Marian Robinson. Pray for a godly and gracious spirit in the White House as the family adjusts to life there. Pray that she continue her role as a moral compass for our nation and the world.

Continue to pray for President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Jill Biden, as they now step up to serve our nation, taking leadership at a crucial moment in our national life.

Pray for confirmation hearings taking place on Capitol Hill, asking God to guide each subcommittee charged with this great responsibility into His wisdom and insight. Pray for each cabinet appointee as they make rounds of members of Congress seeking to build strong relationships that will serve our nation.

Give thanks for the legacy and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. whose life we celebrated on Monday January 19th with a special day of service to others, called for by President Obama. Pray that this first National Day of Community Service gloried God and reaped maximum benefit to all of our citizens.

Pray for our nation and those suffering from this week's massive storm that began in the Midwest and has been blamed for at least 42 deaths, most due to hypothermia, traffic accidents and carbon monoxide poisoning. The storm left a million homes without power. President Obama on Friday, January 30th declared a federal emergency for Missouri.


Pray for economy and intercede for all those impacted by unemployment. Tens of thousands of Americans lost their jobs this past week and the final three months of last year sent the economy into its worst decrease in a quarter-century.

Pray for God's will to be done for President Obama's economic recovery program. Saturday President Obama called on the U.S. Senate to approve the economic stimulus bill that the House of Representatives passed this week. The president hopes to sign a final bill by mid-February.



Pray for our military as they work to safeguard our freedom, giving thanks for their sacrifices on our behalf. Suicide rates among active-duty U.S. military personnel are continuing to increase. Intercede that the Defense Department will be able to commit more resources to getting these men and women the help they need.

You answer us with awesome deeds of righteousness, O God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, who formed the mountains by Your power, having armed Yourself with strength, who stilled the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations. Psalm 65:5-7 (NIV)

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV) 



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