

Central Gwinnett Gazette

C E N T R A L G W I N N E T T M I N I S T R Y

**UPCOMING
EVENTS:**

- July 30th—Guest Speaker: Scott Kirkpatrick from the Stone Mountain Ministry
- Labor Day Weekend—Atlanta Singles Conference "Speak: Your servant is Listening" - Downtown Sheraton
- Sept. 8-10th Central Gwinnett Teen Girls Retreat in Gattlinburg
- Oct. 12-14th—2006 International Leadership Conference in Virginia Beach

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The Prayer of the Righteous

By Richard Alaway

*Simple! Specific! Faithful!
Powerful! Effective!*

As Christians we all understand how important the discipline of prayer is in our lives. The scriptures are full of individuals like us who looked to God at different times in their lives and received answers from God. I believe these accounts are recorded in God's Word for us to learn from (Needless to say, many people offered-up prayers to God, and God chose to include the ones we read about in His book deliberately). What a compliment! The life and faith of some of these individuals ought to be looked at more closely, so that we can learn from and prayerfully imitate them. I'm amazed at how simple, specific, and faithful their requests were to God. Here are a few.

1) Eliezer (Chief Servant of Abraham)

"Give me success today" (Gen 24:12-14)

Abraham had sent his chief servant to go find a wife for Isaac from among his own people. Eliezer understood the enormity of the task be-

fore him and took his petition before the Most High God. The prayer is simple, specific, and very faithful. He wanted success that day. Not the next day, or next month. That Day! What does God do? *"Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came out with a jar on her shoulder"* (Gen. 24:15). God is



incredible! He grants Eliezer exactly what he was asking for. You know the rest of the story (If you don't, read it, and get inspired).

When was the last time you prayed like this? Try it! What do you have to loose by being this specific? I encourage you to imitate this little known servant.

2) Hannah

"Remember Me" (1 Samuel 1:1-20)

Have you ever felt God has

totally forgotten about you and your situation? Let me introduce you to "sister" Hannah. Hannah was a woman who could not have kids and her co-wife Peninah tormented her soul for years over that fact (In OT times, having children was a big deal). One particular year as they made their trip to Shiloh to offer sacrifices at the temple, Hannah prayed a different kind of prayer. She basically made a deal with God. She poured her heart out to Him in anguish, and God heard her. All she wanted was her own son so that the taunting from Peninah would stop. God answered her, and she kept her promise by bringing her son Samuel to Eli. Some of us make promises to God in prayer only to renege after God blesses us. We should always keep our vows to God. God later gave Hannah three more sons and two daughters (1 Sam 2:21). In total she ended up with six kids. Remember all she asked for originally was just one. Ask God to "remember" you in prayer and get ready to receive His grace.

3) Solomon

"Give me Wisdom" (2 Chronicles 1:7-12)

How would you feel if you had to fill the shoes and legacy king David left behind? That was the situation young king Solomon found himself in after David's death (Assuming the throne after "a man after God's own heart" was no easy task). God asked Solomon to ask Him for anything, and Solomon asked for wisdom. Solomon could have asked for a zillion other things but he asked God for the most important thing—"wisdom to guide His people." God was so impressed with his request that he gave Solomon so much wisdom that no one like him has ever existed. God also gave him tons of wealth, riches, and honor. Solomon's prayer again was simple and very genuine, and God did much more than Solomon could ask or imagine. How often do you ask God for wisdom in prayer? Let's ask God for wisdom to make the right choices and wisdom to make the best decisions in life. Solomon got it right. Let's imitate him.

4) Elijah

"Answer Me" (1 Kings 18:36-37)

We all know about the "Showdown at Mount Carmel" (This would make a great movie). Elijah challenged the false prophets of Baal to a duel to determine who the true God was: Yahweh or Baal? Elijah was outnumbered 950 to 1 (450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of the goddess Asherah). Baal's prophets cried-out to him all day long and he didn't answer (Baal was obviously deaf and had his cell phone turned off). When the time came for Elijah to pray, his petition was very specific, simple and faithful.

"Suffice it to say that when God's children pray, God moves with power on their behalf."

We all know the outcome. God brought about a powerful miracle that day and God's people were challenged to return back to their God. Elijah was not afraid to ask God for a powerful answer. How foolish Elijah would have looked in front of the false prophets of Baal and God's people if God had not answered him. Elijah knew God would not disappoint him. Are

you this confident and faithful when you approach the Father?

5) Hezekiah

"Deliver Us" 2 Kings 19:14-19

King Hezekiah and the people of Israel were under siege by Sennacherib King of Assyria. Hezekiah received the threat letter that had been sent and spread it out before God in the temple. He knew he lacked the power and the means to fight that battle and cried out to God for deliverance. God sent an angel that night who killed 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp! One prayer unleashed such power. What if Hezekiah had not asked God to deliver them? Prayer changes events. Our prayers allow God to move powerfully on our behalf daily. What do you pray about daily? Are you asking God to unleash His power in your life?

6) Nehemiah

"Grant me Favor" Neh. 1:11

Nehemiah is a great example from the OT of someone who constantly turned his problems into prayers. In almost every chapter of the book that bears his name, you find Nehemiah taking his problems to God in prayer (Nehemiah 1:5-11; 2:5; 4:4-5,9; 5:19; 6:9-14; 9:32; 13:14, 22, 29, 31). Nehemiah prayed con-

stantly about different situations he faced and never quit. Praying was part of his make-up. He asked God for favor in the eyes of King Cyrus. God moved in Cyrus' heart and then some. The odds of Nehemiah receiving his request were very slim. Faithful men and women never see the odds. They see the awesome God who rules the universe! The initial success of his prayer did not cause Nehemiah to become self-reliant (Some of us get lazy in our prayer lives after some initial victories) If anything, more problems and challenges were to come his way as he attempted to rebuild the broken walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah knew where his strength came from and always went back to God.

Is this the way you operate on a daily basis? How often do you petition God to move in the hearts of people for His sake? God wants to "move" on your behalf. Come on, be a Nehemiah.



The prayers these men and woman lifted up to God back in OT times changed their lives forever. Let me encourage you to study the passages further and decide to rekindle your prayer life. Find a place and a time to pray daily.

Spend that time with God. You need it, I need it. Also, get in the habit of praying with other disciples. You will see a difference. The above OT characters were ordinary men and women like us. They had no halos above their heads but they kept their prayers simple, specific, and faithful. I have many personal stories and accounts I can share over the last 20 years as a Christian as I saw God move powerfully through the prayers of many. I have included none in this article to keep it short (I will continue to share those experiences in my sermons and lessons). Suffice it to say that when God's children pray, God moves with power on their behalf. Unleash His power daily.

Women's Corner



Update on Ladies' Summer Bible Series

By Sherry Rouse

We have had a wonderful start to our Ladies' Summer Bible Series so far. On June 9, Kaianne Clarke spoke about "Does God hear me?," encouraging us to read our Bible deeply, pray continually, and even connect with God to the point we "throw up" what we are thinking and feeling to him (1 Thes. 5:16-18).

On June 16, I spoke about "Help! How do I get it all done well?" I

have come to the conclusion that we can't be "superwomen" (work 100%, Mom 100%, school 100% and be spiritual 100%), but we can set priorities with God being first and using our jobs and other things we do to reach out and spread God's love to people (Matt. 6:25-34). I also talked practically about not worrying, but giving things over to God (Phil. 4:6-7) and writing down things that need to get done and crossing them off when done!

On June 23, Suzanne Carmen spoke about "Are you controlling or under control with your family?" She referenced a book she has been reading called *Families Where Grace is in Place* by Jeff Van Vonderen, and exhorted us to have a family full of Grace, where we are grateful, and are not manipulative with our families. Sarah Hartline led June 30th's bible study on "You've got

a friend" and talked about 1 Cor. 13:1-8. We also looked at the practicals from Col. 3:12, the things with which we need to clothe ourselves. She ended with this thought "Love is not leisure, it requires work."

We still have three more classes to go, so we hope you will join us. 9:45-11:00am Friday at Sherry Rouse's house: 2675 Wyndham Place Drive, Lawrenceville. Phone number 770-935-1670.

July 14-Jan Jennings - "I want to Change, but How?"

July 21-Roxanne Galbreath - "Spiritual Checkup." (location TBA)

July 28-Lisa Washington - "A Passionate Relationship with God."

Looking forward to seeing you there! Babysitting is available.

Deacon Corner			Weekly Attendance and Contribution		
			Date	Attendance	Contribution
Karl Lynn	Single Parents	770-978-4747			
Ken Watson	Benevolence	678-376-2677			
Peter Berry	Benevolence	678-376-1878	6/11	369	\$11,403
Patrick Freeman	Kingdom Kids	770-921-1811			
Glenn Hayes	Kingdom Kids	770-985-6921			
Dan Stehr	Visitation	770-925-2943			
Bill Francis	Visitation	770-806-8645	6/18	390	\$7,792
Todd Reynolds	Middle School	770-682-0027			
Russ McGarr	Middle School	770-381-5045			
Steve Collier	Teens-Parents	770-717-5784	6/25	362	\$7,450
Joe Hartline	Teens-Parents	770-277-4765			
Danny Emmett	Hope, events	770-985-4542			
Todd Shultz	Communications	770-277-4276			
Birt Anglin	Ushering	678-849-0180	7/2	371	\$9,249
Jeff Mueller	Order of Worship	770-492-0544			
Kendall Knight	Music Service	770-972-6887			

Children's Ministry Update

People were bringing little children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. (Mark 10:13-16)

I hope everyone is having a great summer so far. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the people that have volunteered to teach in the children's ministry at any point in the past. All of the planning and work to organize the classes would not mean anything if we didn't have people to teach them.

I also want to recognize and say a special thank you to the people that

Work behind the scene to make it all happen:

Dan and Cathi Stehr have been handling registration for over 8 years and Cathi has recently taken on the added task of teacher coordinating.

Mary Rutland has been handling purchasing and supplies for over 6 years. Wanda Ousley has been handling the curriculum for over 4 years. Todd and Tracey Reynolds have been teaching the Middle School class for over 6 years.

Russ and Sue McGarr have been teaching the Middle School class for over 2 years.

Actually, saying "thank you" is not even remotely close to conveying the amount of gratitude we should feel towards these individuals. It's easy to take for granted that we drop our children off at class and pick them up week after week without considering the amount of work it takes to keep the classes running smoothly.

smoothly.

Thanks to the Flowers who have supervised on Sundays for the past 7 months straight. There are also numerous people who have taught classes for multiple rotations in a row, and we are grateful for their sacrifice (often classes would have been canceled if they had not stepped forward).

In terms of news from the children's ministry, we are currently trying a three month teaching rotation instead of the usual four month rotation. The next rotation will begin in September, and we will start signing up teachers in early August. If you have not taught recently and are able to, I want to encourage you to sign up for the next rotation. I believe that teaching children about God is one of the most rewarding, noble and satisfying ways to serve in the kingdom.

2006 International Leadership Conference at Virginia Beach, Virginia

Mike Fontenot --
Hampton Roads, Virginia

The Hampton Roads Church invites all church leaders to join them for the 2006 International Leadership Conference to be held at the Virginia Beach Conference Center October 12 - 14, 2006. The program will begin Thursday morning and end Saturday at noon. Of course everyone

is welcome to stay for Sunday services with the Hampton Roads International Church of Christ.

These dates are the week after the peak season so hotel rates will be very reasonable. More information will be published on DisciplesToday.net as the details are finalized. This early notification will allow churches and leaders to plan their 2006 schedule accordingly.

FAMILY GROUPS

If you have not yet connected with a family group, we invite to join any of our eleven different groups below:

John Yang — Lilburn
Glenn Hayes — Loganville
Phil Dawson — Lawrenceville
Audie Flowers — Lawrenceville
Russ McGarr — Lilburn
Karl Lynn — Snellville
Ward Rutland — Lawrenceville
Barry Jennings — Lilburn
Mike Garrett — Snellville
Joe Washington — Lawrenceville
Gary Roberson — Lawrenceville