



PRAY FOR SCOTLAND

Dear Friends, this is the second installment of email using Alvin Vander-Griend's booklet "How Do I PRAY for my neighbours?"

I HOPE that you have been as encouraged by Alvin and the prospect of being a Lighthouse in your community as I have. Maybe you have taken up the "challenge" to get to know your neighbours in prayer and in talking to them. When we started our Lighthouse of prayer for our cul-de-sac we realized that we didn't even know our neighbours' names. So we decided to start to pray and then to be intentional to get to know them by name and seek opportunities to know more about them so we could pray "informed" prayers. We started a journal that we added information to every time we learned something new and also when God put things on our hearts to pray for.

In using the BLESS Body - Labour- Emotions- Social- Spiritual prayer pattern we have added more and more so when we pray for the single mum we think of the pressures and difficulties it must be to be a single mum and ask God to lead us in prayers that will bring glory to him in that home.

Now when we are traveling we take time to continue to pray for them every time we are in the car, starting a drive is our prayer trigger for remembering our neighbours at home. I believe that HOPE - Houses Of Prayer Everywhere is on God's heart for our nation of Scotland. I'm in the USA at the moment and they are celebrating 4th of July and one thing that has stood out to me is the Banners with the words **One nation under GOD** and one banner with the scripture from 2 Chronicles 7:14 (New International Version)

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 will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

I believe that we would see great changes in our villages and towns if Christians everywhere started to gather in 2s and 3s and simply just started to pray asking God to change circumstances in our lives and our neighbours' lives.

Blessings, Ola Nordstrom

God needs our prayers - Alvin Vander-Griend

"Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites...I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands." As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. Exodus 17:9-11

God sometimes teaches us in surprising ways. When Israel faced a serious military threat, Joshua and the army went out to fight, but Moses went up on a hillside to pray. When his praying hands were up Israel was winning. But when they were down, the enemy was winning.

Why, we may ask, would God allow his people to suffer defeat when there was no prayer? The answer is that God was teaching his people that he chooses to move in response to prayer and that he will not move without it.

Though he is almighty, all-wise, and fully able to work without us, God chooses to work through our prayers. He calls us into a working partnership. Without us, he won't work.

When God first taught me this important principle of prayer, it had a simple but pointed application for me. It was as if God said, "Alvin, when your children go to school each morning, they are heading into battle. If you as a parent keep your hands uplifted, they will be winning. But, if your prayer hands come down, they will be losing." I have never forgotten that lesson.

Since that time I have come to see that as church leaders and faithful Christians “lift up holy hands in prayer” (1Timothy 2:8), the church grows strong and is able to break down the gates of hell. When believers in neighborhoods and workplaces lift up praying hands over those around them, the powers of darkness are pushed back.

The most common testimony of House of Prayer members as they pray over neighborhoods is that of transformation. They speak to drug houses closing, crime rates falling, marriages being restored, families coming back together, and people being converted. What’s happening as God’s people pray over their neighborhoods is the same thing that happened as Moses prayed over the battlefield at Rephidim. The forces of evil go into retreat.

What we need most for solving the problems in our society is not more money, more education, more ideas, books or strategies. Our prime need is hands lifted up in prayer. “We can accomplish far more by our prayers than by our work. Prayer...can do anything God can do! When we pray, God works” (The Kneeling Christian). Where are your hands right now?

Reflect

- Where in God’s kingdom are people winning against the powers of darkness, because of your prayers?
- What kinds of things do you think God might want to do on your street or at your place of work in response to your prayers?

Prayer-Starters for Prayer Exodus 17:9-11

Praise God for the wisdom of his plan to govern the world through the prayers of his people.

Ask God to help you understand why your prayers are so important to him.

Thank God for honoring your by choosing to act in response to your prayers.

Commit yourself to pray faithfully for neighbors or work associates so that God may work in response to your prayers.

Pray a blessing on your neighbors, using the pattern of the Lord’s Prayer:

Think of each household you are praying for, and ask that God will hallow his name in each place establish his kingdom and destroy the works of the powers of darkness, and help each person involved to know and do God’s will as the angels in heaven do.

Pray that each person or household will have their daily needs met, will repent and find forgiveness of sins, and will be kept from temptation and the devil’s snares.

Thank God that he is willing and able to answer this prayer, because his “the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever.”

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