



PRAY FOR SCOTLAND

Dear Friends,

This is the 3rd instalment of the Summer of Prayer emails using Alvin Vander-Griend's Booklet:  
**"How do I PRAY for my neighbours?"**

This last week I had several conversations about being a Lighthouse of Prayer, one with a family that doesn't know any of their neighbours. Their kids are very involved in sports and they both work full time so when they come home they drive into the garage, walk straight into the house and they don't go out much so they don't meet the neighbours. The other conversation was with a single lady in full time ministry who knows most of her neighbours and reaches out to the homeless shelter across the street. Both conversations were about "being a lighthouse - that sounds great but how will I find time to be that"? How do we find time to pray for all these needs? In a time when we have so much to do and so much information.... TV, Radio, Internet, Emails and newsletters like this one that urges us to take on yet another thing to do and pray for.

I have been thinking about this as we have spent hours in the car. I must say that I get overwhelmed sometimes when I open my email inbox and there are over 100 emails in there and many of them "newsletters". I did not have an answer to my friends as I feel very challenged myself about how to deal with all this information with integrity and how to prioritise what is for me to be involved in? The only thing that I have concluded is a sense of yet another area to bring to Jesus in prayer and listen to what is on His heart and do that!

I have sensed a very deep need to pray for our neighbours in Scotland. We find time to pray for our neighbours at home on a daily basis. As I told you in the last email we use every start of a drive as a prayer trigger. I don't know if you have seen a movie on DVD, "Faith Like Potatoes," the true story about a farmer in Africa who finds Jesus and starts to trust Him for everything. In one season of drought He calls farmers, black and white, together in the biggest stadium in South Africa for prayer that God would send rain! They also use the scripture from 2 Chronicles 7:14. Maybe there is a call to fall on our knees for Scotland in 2s and 3s in our homes in this season to cry out for His help, that He might be glorified in our Nation and our communities be transformed?

Blessings  
Ola Nordstrom

## **You are welcome to the Throne - Alvin Vander-Griend**

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16*

Access to the throne of God is the foundation of all prayer. All pray-ers must approach the throne. Every true believer is welcome there.

Access to God's throne is an amazing privilege. The One we approach is the sovereign, all-powerful, holy Ruler of the universe. What a privilege to be welcomed into his presence!

God's throne, we are reminded, is a throne of grace, not a throne of judgment. This means that if we have come into his presence through the blood of Christ, we are acceptable to him. God doesn't scrutinize us to screen out unworthiness. He extends a hand of welcome.

We are invited to approach with complete confidence. We won't run into a closed door. We won't have to beg or grovel to get in. God is expecting us. He is glad we have come.

Sometimes when I pray, I like to imagine myself right there in the throne room of heaven. In my mind's eye I see the One upon the throne high and lifted up. His glory fills the room. I see angels all around. It's enough to overpower me with dread, except for one thing: God recognizes me. He knows my name. He looks at me, smiles, and extends a hand of welcome. "Tell me why you have come," He says.

This wonderful welcome is not extended to us because we are so good and worthy in ourselves. The truth is, we deserve to be barred from his presence because of our sins. But Christ has dealt with our sins and made us acceptable to God. We have been adopted as sons and daughters. We have a place in the royal family.

We can come to the throne with our own concerns. We can also come as intercessors, with the needs of our families, friends, and neighbors on our hearts.

Intercessors in Houses of Prayer regularly talk to God on behalf of their neighbours. One House of Prayer member reported that after she and others had prayed for their neighbours for about a year neighbours became more friendly, people stopped abusing drugs, two unemployed women found jobs, a father stopped drinking, a woman was miraculously cured, a person was delivered from an evil spirit, several persons came to know Christ, and a Bible study began. Wow! What was happening in the throne room had a transforming effect on earth.

That's something of what God has in mind by extending his welcome to us. He wants to change us, and he wants to change our world.

## **Reflect**

Why is it possible for believers to approach the throne of God with confidence?

How much confidence do you have when you pray?

What are some ways in which you could increase your confidence?

## **Prayer-Starter for Praying Hebrews 4:16**

Praise God for making his grace and mercy available for the asking.

Ask God for the mercy and grace he generously offers to you.

Ask God for the confidence you need so that you can pray effectively for yourself and others.

Thank God for his welcome.

## **Pray, as guided by the Spirit, for those who live or work near you:**

Discern God's guidance as you pray for your friends, neighbours, or work associates by seeking the answers to questions like these:

What strongholds may be holding them in bondage to the evil one?

What false concepts of God may be keeping them from turning to him?

What sins are they unwilling to relinquish?

What misunderstandings are causing them to hold back?

Let your prayers be directed by what you sense and by the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

**Prayerwalk your neighborhood so that you pray "onsite with insight."**

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