

A Publication of Churchland Assembly of God

Celebrating the New Year "2010" with a week of prayer....

"They raised their voices together in prayer" - Acts 4:24

There is an incredible connection that happens through prayer between believers and the Heavenly Father. It is something that intersects the physical with the spiritual and goes far beyond human comprehension. God desires relationship with us and our dialogue with Him through prayer is where he reveals the deep things of His nature. Paul reminds us in the book of Philippians that our determined purpose is to become more deeply and intimately acquainted with God.

The Early Church (Acts) regularly experienced God's miracles and leaned heavily on prayer. The believer's sought God's wisdom in making decisions. (Acts 1:23-26), his intervention in difficulty (Acts 12:5), his blessing in Ministry (Acts 13:3), His strength in trouble (Acts 20:36). Group prayer times can be dynamic, exciting, and fulfilling experiences that draw members closer to God and closer to each other. **United group prayer is a powerful tool to pull down strongholds of the enemy**

and for God's people to pray passionately and effectively for the needs represented - trusting and believing for the answers.

Even before there was a Church, Jesus clearly expected believers to pray together. The famous promise, **"For where two or three come together in my Name, there am I with them"** is given in a context of praying together. **"If two of you on earth agree about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in Heaven."** (Matt. 18:19-20). This expectation also seems to be implied in the wording of the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6. Note that all the first-person pronouns in this prayer are plural, implying that it is primarily as a prayer to be prayed in a group setting.

In Jesus' time of greatest trial, in the Garden of Gethsemane, He took with him the 3 most trusted disciples, asking them to keep watch with Him and pray. Knowing the temptations they would face in the next few days and already having predicted their denial

of Him, Jesus warned them, **"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation"** (Matt. 26:41). Jesus gave them each other to keep them watchful at prayer. How much more, two thousand years later, does the church need to be a Body that prays together and keeps each other watchful? Corporate prayer makes a difference! We are moving into the year with so much uncertainty in the world. We need to hear a fresh word from God.

Will you help us celebrate the first full week of the New Year 2010 in prayer nightly? (January 3rd - 8th). We will meet each evening at 7:00 p.m. (Sunday & Wednesday included) to invest our time in prayer from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. I am asking as many as will to plan to attend at least a couple nights with us, especially if you have any type of ministry in the Church.

I am counting on YOU! Help us make this year the best year for attendance in prayer. This week is going to lay the foundation for our church this year!

This Sunday, January 3rd, 10:30 a.m. each family will receive a book entitled, "Overcoming Obstacles In Prayer." This book will give you insights into road bumps and obstacles that you run into in your prayer life and offers some easy ways to overcome them. Don't miss this Sunday morning. You need this book as we start the Week of Prayer!!!

The youth are moving forward in 2010 with transition and transformation.

The Elevate Youth Ministries has changed to **Fridays** (under the leadership of Rich & Sue Sposito) at **7:00 - 8:45 p.m.**

The Café is from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. There will be contemporary worship, discipleship, games, prizes, fun and a strong **"Jesus presence."**

Invite your friends.

Prayer was routinely on Jesus' agenda.



Food Bank needs... Thanks for giving to our Food Bank. Items especially needed: pastas, sauce, peanut butter, jam, cereals, canned meats, soups, etc. What a blessing to help those in need!

The Vessel

*The Master was searching for a vessel to use:
Before Him were many,
Which one would He choose?
"Take me," cried the gold one.
"I'm shiny and bright;
I'm of great value and I do things just right.
My beauty and luster will outshine the rest,
And for someone like you, Master, Gold would be best.*

*The Master passed on with no word at all,
And looked at a silver urn, grand and tall.
"I'll serve you dear Master, I'll pour out your wine;
I'll be on your table whenever you dine.
My lines are so graceful, my carving so true,
And silver will always complement you."*

*Unheeding, the Master passed on to the brass,
Wide-mouthed and shallow and polished like glass.
"Here, here!" cried the vessel, "I know I will do;
Place me on your table for all men to view."*

*"Look at me," called the goblet of crystal so clear,
"My transparency shows my contents so dear.
Though fragile am I, I will serve you with pride,
And I'm sure I'll be happy in your house to abide."*

*Then the Master came next to a vessel of wood;
Polished and carved, it solidly stood.
"You may use me, dearest Master," the wooden bowl said,
"But I'd rather you used me for fruit, not for bread."*

*Then the Master looked down and saw a vessel of clay
Empty and broken it helplessly lay.
No hope had the vessel that the Master might choose
To cleanse, and make whole, to fill and to use.*

*"Ah! Now This is the vessel I've been hoping to find.
I'll mend it and use it and make it all mine.
I need not the vessel with pride of itself,
Nor one that is narrow to sit on the shelf;
Nor one that is big-mouthed and shallow and loud;
Nor one that displays his contents so proud;
Nor the one who thinks he can do things just right;
But this plain earthen vessel filled with power and might*

*Then gently He lifted the vessel of clay,
Mended and cleansed it and filled it that day;
Spoke to it kindly - "There's work you must do...
Just pour out to others as I pour into you."*

by B. V. Cornwa

"If a man therefore purge himself ... he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." II Timothy 2:21

Deacon Nomination: This year, Javier Montanez's term expires. He can be re-elected. Nominations are open. Members may submit a nomination by placing the name on a piece of paper, signing it, sealing it in an envelope and giving it to the Pastor. Nominations will close on Sunday, January 17th. Our Annual Business Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10th.

Please note: Wednesday suppers will begin again on January 20th!



MISSISSIPPI keeps the faith when it comes to prayer - God/Faith Factor: 82%

By Maria Recio, McClatchy News Service

Mississippi is, far and away the most religious state in the country - ranking first among the 50 states in a nationwide poll in four categories: the importance of religion to residents; the frequency of prayer; the attendance at worship services; and the certainty of a belief in God.

According to the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life survey released Tuesday, Mississippi scored highest across the board, with 82% of Mississippians saying religion was important in their lives; 60% saying they attend services at least once a week; 77% saying they pray daily; and 91% saying they believe in God with absolute certainty.

Other Southern states also ranked high in the poll, with Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and South Carolina all scoring 70% or higher on the importance of religion in people's lives.

North Carolina was eighth at 69%; Georgia ninth, 68%; Kentucky 10th, 67%; and Texas 11th, 67%. Virginia was 18th at 59%.

The Pew Center found that "at the other end of the spectrum," fewer than four in 10 people living in New Hampshire and Vermont, each at 36%, and Alaska, with 37%, said religion is important to them.

The national average: 56% of citizens say religion is important to them.

"If you will be prayerful, You'll be careful."