



A House of Prayer
for All Nations

The Ram's Horn

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THE SHEPHERD'S CORNER

By Pastor Dan Switzer, Ed. D.

Ask, Seek, Knock~ Our Father Teaches Us Through Prayer

Recently our family had doughnuts for breakfast. After our four-year-old son Joshua enjoyed his doughnuts, he promptly asked my wife and me if he could have a snack. Of course, we found great humor in this. We had to explain to him that he had just had something sweet and that it was not appropriate for him to have a snack, or a dessert, for breakfast. As I thought about this occurrence, I realized a very important spiritual truth related to prayer: Just as we as parents teach our children through what our children ask for, our heavenly Father teaches us his children through what we ask him for.

In Matthew 7:7, Jesus declared, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you" (NIV). With this passage, Jesus is getting to the end of his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew chapters 5-7), and he is summing things up. Like a good father, he is teaching us how to be good children. He is teaching us how to ask—how to pray. And yes, He is teaching us what are those good gifts that we are to ask for.

In Matthew 7:9-11, Jesus asks, "Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give *good gifts* to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give *good gifts* to those who ask him!" (Italics added). In effect, Jesus is saying that our Father God knows what exactly are appropriate gifts—good gifts—to give us. Jesus explains to us that if we as humans give what is good to our children, how much more will our Heavenly Father give good gifts to His children—to us!

God knows exactly those gifts that are best for us. He knows what is good for us. Likewise, he knows what is bad for us. He teaches us through our asking—our

Asking, Seeking, Knocking

praying—what to ask for. He teaches us how to be good children. He teaches us what is good for us. And like trained (or disciplined) children, we learn what to ask for. We learn what is good for us. We learn what is appropriate to ask for and also what is inappropriate to ask for.

Matthew 7:8 says, "For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." For these three words—"ask, seek, knock"—the present imperative is used; in other words, they speak of a continuous asking, seeking, and knocking. As God's children coming to our Father, we are to ask in a way that is not demanding but not passive either. We are asking of our Father, who is compassionate and loving to His children. We are not asking of some cold deity that doesn't care for us; we are not crying out to some cosmic force that doesn't care for us. Likewise, our lives and requests are not in the hands of "fate." On the contrary, we have a personal and loving God who cares for us. And as children who love our Father, we are to do our asking in a courteous manner—not in a demanding tone.

We are to "seek." This seeking speaks of persistent searching. We're to persist in prayer; we're not to give up. Likewise, we are to "knock." This knocking is active. However, while we are to knock, we are not to bang down the door or barge into the house. Again, we need to be courteous as children—showing persistence and patience at the same time. As we wait for our heavenly Father to answer our prayers, He teaches us—we grow in patience, in the fruit of the Spirit, and in godly character.

The Bible says that the ancients inherited the promises through faith and patience. Often we pray about the hard things we are going through—our hardships, or trials. God has a way of teaching us through these trials and helping us to grow as children. During the process of praying through our trials, we learn and grow as children of our loving Father God!

Remember that Jesus is coming to the end of his sermon, in which he has emphasized the life we are to live. He has shared the importance of our attitudes, He has talked about being salt and light in the world, He has shared of having a secret and true relationship with Him, He has shared what it means to get to the heart and true meaning of the law, He has shared what it means to walk

Continued on page 4

This Issue of The Ram's Horn

- 1 The Shepherd's Corner
- 2 Mission News
- 3 Seasonal Activities
- 4 Calendar



News from the Nations

Matt & Rosemary Ulrich, Paraguay, Wycliffe Bible

Translators – Even though it has taken a year to do the revision work on the Maka translation of the Gospels, Matt and his helpers Otto and Mike have been pleased with the results. They are now finishing work on John. Then Luke and John still need to be checked for understandability by the older generation. The next step is to run consistency checks and do the procedures for type-setting as directed by a mission computer expert. Since the possibility of getting Bible paper in Paraguay is almost nil, we probably will have to have the actual printing done in Korea where most of the Bible printing for small people groups is done.

Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rockville, MD – Pray for the staff, the volunteer workers, and each person who walks through the doors of the Center seeking help and ministry for her life and her unborn child.

Branch Ministries, Botswana, Rob and Mary Grindley – Thank you for your continued support of Branch Ministries and your active participation in the Lord's glorious work in Africa. In him we are being built together as we create dwelling places—new churches and the Children of Promise orphanage in which God himself lives by His Spirit and Christ Jesus is the chief cornerstone. We are so grateful and encouraged by you, His faithful servants.

Living Grace Ministries, Thurlow and Lynda Switzer – We thank God for your prayers and for His ministry in the midst of the local church leaders at the Living Grace convocation, *Stewarding the Mysteries* in late February. Continue to pray for the monthly *Family Life Seminars* and the *Parenting Seminars* at Northgate, Or HaOlam, and Crossroads Valley Chapel. We hear testimonies of how God, by His Spirit, is changing marriages, families, and homes. We give Him praise!

Living Grace Christian School – This month the staff and students complete the third quarter of the school year. Pray for God's continuing grace and strength for the students, parents, and teachers.

Adwoa Yeboah-Marfo, Marfo Children's Village, Ghana – Adwoa serves the orphan children diligently as she and her staff care prayerfully for them night and day.

Revive Israel, Tikun, Asher & Betty Intrater – Asher travels world-wide sharing the message of Messianic Judaism and the restoration of Israel. Pray for the local congregation in Jerusalem and for the Israeli Bible training school.

Young Life, Montgomery County – As the clubs do spring outreach meetings, pray that many students will open their hearts to the Lord.

Evangelistic Ministries International – Pray for Michael as he is ministering in New Jersey and in several churches in Florida.

Crossroads Valley Chapel, Frederick, MD - Jesus Christ: He is the reason why we do everything we do. We were lost and He found us. We were alone and He was our friend. Our lives were a waste and He made us valuable again. We were vulnerable and He offered protection. We found security and our lives became purposeful and meaningful because of the grace of Christ and His many promises. We cannot get enough of Him.

Pray Also for:

Or Ha Olam, Light of the World Congregation
Jesus Is Alive Ministries with Apostle William Tetey, Lome, Togo

Stanley and Karen Redwood, Jamaica

"The birth of Christ brought God to us, but it took the cross of Christ to bring us to God."
Author Unknown



Camp Courage Is Now Accepting Registrations for this Summer's Sessions

Encourage your child to be a champion this summer! God told Joshua, a mighty champion, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." The mission of Camp Courage is to help instill this attitude of courage in your child. Five sessions are scheduled as follows:
All-Around Program, June 20-24
All-Around Program, June 27-July 1
Soccer Camp, July 18-22, 9 am – noon
Chess Camp, July 18-22, 12:30 – 3:30 pm
Adventure Nature Camp, July 25-29
To register, pick up one of the red brochures in the church foyer. You can also register online at northgatecc.org—look for the Camp Courage link on the right side of the home page.

Middle School Discipleship Club will meet on

Friday, March 18th, 7:30 pm
At Pastor Dan and Silvia's home
Ron and Kahlia Davis are the assistant leaders.

Say Yes to God

"Many think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather, he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions. In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God."

Written By Bill Hull

Northgate Community Church

Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!

Worship Schedule

Sundays, 9:45 am - Congregational Prayer
Sundays, 10:00 am – Worship Service
Midweek Flock Home Groups
We are always ready to serve you –
Pastors Dan, Rick, Thurlow,
and Elder Vance

FLOCK HOME GROUPS

Germantown

Thursdays, 7:30 pm
Rick & Sue Brown

Germantown

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm
At Betty Money's

Rockville/Silver Spring

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, Devroy & Ruth
McFarlane

Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, McRory Area;
Alfred and Jacky Johnson

Montgomery Village

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm,
Shawn & Mindy Swander
Assistant Leaders Tim & Deborah Switzer

Middle School Discipleship Club

For all 6th – 8th graders, Fri., Mar. 18, 7:30 pm;
Dan and Silvia Switzer
Assistant leaders Ron and Kahlia Davis

Sisters of Faith

Sisters of Faith Breakfast, March 12th,
8:30 am, at Bob Evans in Milestone

Men Under God

The men's breakfast meets at the
Gaithersburg Hilton on Mar 5th, at 8:00 am.

March Birthdays

Camila Diaz, Mar 4
Promise Johnson, Mar 6
Anna Switzer, Mar 6
Geoff Parr, Mar 12
Jonathan Bishop Richards, Mar 13
Ishmael Vaughn, Mar 14
Claude Johnson, Mar 20
Eleanor Doody, Mar 21
Linda Kauzlarich, Mar 21
Jacob Parr, Mar 30

March Anniversaries

Shawn & Mindy Swander, Mar 5

Praise and Prayer Requests

1. Pray for continuing grace and strength to Gwen in her rehabilitation
2. Rick Brown – recovering from thyroid surgery
3. Praise – Jim Wood is back home
4. Praise - Benga Alabi's job at Dulles Airport
5. Lourdes Reynolds's niece's baby Richard, microcephaly -- his life will be a testimony of God's love and power to the glory of Jesus.
6. Karen O'Connor – provision and protection
7. Pray for our nation's leaders
8. Northgate pastors, elders, and families
9. Dan Doody's son-in-law Dave – healing from cancer and a blood clot in his leg; grace and strength for family
10. Virginia Page – encouragement, healing
11. Jimmy Brown – pray for his rehabilitation following shoulder surgery
12. Madeline Cooksey – strength and healing
13. Cheryl Toms - pray for her as she has chemo therapy.

Check out this blog spot: Living Grace

Ministries, and leaders in friendship with LGM, under the editorship of Pastor Jon Switzer of Crossroads Valley Chapel in Frederick, MD, set up this blog spot: www.logsfortheire.blogspot.com.



Adventure in Family Life and Parenting Series

Apostle Pastor Thurlow Switzer and his wife Lynda will minister at Northgate on the Biblical principles of grace-filled, spirit-led Christian Family Life and Christian parenting on the following Sunday mornings and weekday evenings:

Sunday, March 13, 10 AM

Monday, March 14, 7:30 PM

Sunday, April 10, 10 AM

Monday, April 11, 7:30 PM

Sunday, May 8, 10 AM

Monday, May 9, 7:30 PM

(Nursery will be provided on Sundays and week-day evenings.)

How God Is Changing Our Lives

By Linda Kauzlarich



I admit, I'm a Glenn Beck fan. But I'm not writing to say what a great person I think he is. I'm writing to tell about just one thing he taught me—pray on my knees.

Not too long ago, I needed to go some place, and (if anyone really knows me) I couldn't find my glasses. I looked absolutely everywhere, with the usual prayer on my lips, "Please, God, tell me where they are." For some reason, after about four to five minutes, I thought of Glenn and his often encouragement for us to pray on our knees. For months I heard him say this but because of my surgeries, I never did. But this time the prompting was so strong, so I stopped searching, got on my knees (it didn't hurt all that much after all!) and prayed.

I forgot to pray about finding my glasses. I prayed about lots of other stuff and even took time to worship. Usually by this point in my frantic searching, worship just doesn't enter my mind. But this time it just seemed to come so naturally.

When I finished, I stood up and was at peace. Then I went into the kitchen to get some water and, lo and behold, as I was drinking, there were my glasses! In plain sight! How did I miss them? Hmm, is there something about Glenn's admonition to "pray on your knees?"

Pray Without Ceasing

"Faith is to the soul what life is to the body. Prayer is to faith what breath is to the body. How a person can live and not breathe is past my comprehension, and how a person can believe and not pray is past my comprehension, too."

By J. C. Ryle

What Is True Joy?

"Joy is an abiding attitude of praise and thanksgiving regardless of the circumstances, which flows from one's confidence in God's sovereignty."

Loretta Martin
Women's Session
Living Grace Convocation 2/25/11

Continued from page 1

in the freedom of forgiveness and have open communication (prayer) with God, and He has taught us to store up treasure in heaven and to seek first His kingdom and righteousness. Jesus is saying that all of these keys to life—these “good gifts” with their abundant blessings—are ours if we ask and seek and knock with boldness, persistence, and sincerity.

Hebrews 4:16 says, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” As children of our loving Father, we need to learn to come boldly to our Father and to see God’s good gifts come about in our lives. With God, all things are possible. In Matthew 17:20 Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” God wants to move the spiritual and emotional mountains in our lives—the things that weigh us down and keep us from becoming productive disciples of Christ—and give us the secrets to the Kingdom—the very treasures of God himself.

In John 15:7 Jesus declared, “If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you.” The key question is this: Are we remaining in Christ and is God’s Word remaining in us? When we’re walking in the true vine of Christ, our main desire is to advance His Kingdom in the lives of others. When God’s word is within us, God ultimately grants the secret treasures of His Word to us. As children of our loving Father God, may He teach us of His wonderful gifts—indeed treasures—in His Word for which we are to ask, seek, and knock! May God’s wonderful presence and grace be your abundant portion!



March 2011

		1	2 Flock Group Leadership Equipping, 7:30 pm	3	4	5 MUG Bkfst 8:00 am
6 Worship, 10 am	7	8	9 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	10	11	12 Sisters of Faith Bkfst, 8:30 am
13 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> Worship, 10 am <i>Family Life Series</i>	14 <i>Christian Parenting Series</i> 7:30 pm	15	16 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	17	18 Middle School Discipleship Club 7:30 pm	19
20 Worship, 10 am <i>Spring Begins</i>	21	22	23 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	24	25	26
27 Worship, 10 am	28	29	30 Flock Groups 7:30 pm	31		

Northgate Community Church - Reaching People from All Nations for Christ!