

Set Free Update

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PRAYER MINISTRY

Men Ought Always to Pray



*Bless those
who curse you,
pray for those
who mistreat you.
- Luke 6:28*

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<http://www.heartlight.org>

The apostle Luke began chapter eighteen of his account of Jesus' ministry by recounting the parable Jesus told--"Also [Jesus] told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not turn coward (faint, lose heart, and give up)" - Luke 18:1 (AMP).

The rabbi who taught his disciples to pray was the self same rabbi who, rising early would go to a solitary place to commune with his father--our Father. The example he left his followers turned out to be the

hallmark of their ministry--they steadfastly gave themselves to prayers (Acts 2).

In his book, *The Lost Art of Intercession*, Dr. Jim Goll writes about men who most fully illustrated Christ in their character, thereby powerfully affecting the world for Christ. These men, according to Dr. Goll, "spent so much time with God as to make it a notable feature of their lives." One of such men was Charles Simeon who devoted daily the hours of 4:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. to the Lord. Mr. Charles Wesley was another individual who spent significant time each day with the Lord, and like Mr. Simeon, he too began at 4:00 a.m. According to Dr. Goll, someone who knew Wesley said this of the man, "He thought prayer to be more his business than anything else and I have seen him come out of his closet with a serenity of face next to shining."

As leaders, board members, encouragers/prayer partners (volunteers) of Set Free Ministries, we have "a charge to keep and a God to glorify and to fit never dying soul for the sky above (Charles Wesley)." One of the ways to go about this task is through intentional intercessory prayer for and on behalf of those to whom we minister. I do earnestly pray that we will come to that place where, like the prophet Samuel, we will be able to boldly say- "Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you..." (1 Samuel 12:23).

Submitted by Lincoln Pupoh

A LIVING INHERITANCE

Do you ever ask yourself why you are living on this earth? What and who are you living for? If you should die before Christ comes again, what do you want to pass on to those who are left behind? Your wealth or possessions? Your fame and fortune? Many are living as if this is their eternal home, and if their job, money, family, friends and house are taken away they have nothing to live for anymore, and they want to die. "For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an **INHERITANCE** in the kingdom of Christ and God" (Eph. 5:5). But what and who is your hope and faith in? Although the Christian's hope on this earth is in Christ alone, there is an inward struggle between this life and the life to come. The apostle Paul also felt that struggle when he said "For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you" (Philippians 1:21-24). Paul said this while he was in chains, and suffering at the hands of his enemies. Part of him wanted to die. He was more concerned that Christ was preached than he was about his own life, but he also came to the conclusion that he was needed on this earth.



Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. — 1 Peter 2:12

There is a spiritual battle that is being fought with the world, flesh, and Satan; between Christ and Satan. It is a conflict between the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light. Paul recounted his conversion in Acts 26, where Jesus said to Paul, "But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness...**I now send you**, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to

light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an **INHERITANCE** among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." Paul then says that he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision but obeyed the call of God in faith (vs. 19).

Would you please join us in that battle? We all need encouragement to fight the good fight of faith, to finish the course, to run the race that is set before us. On Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at noon, we will be having a brown bag lunch at Immanuel CRC in Hudsonville for those who would like to join us for a time of fellowship and encouragement.

Submitted by Elaine Keyzer