

April 2008 Prayer

When the celebration of Easter is given deep thought in our heart and mind, we realize that Christ's death and resurrection was the public announcement to the world that God's Kingdom had come to Earth...God declared His Son (with whom I am well pleased, God said on the Mount of Transfiguration)...and Jesus declared His victorious power over His enemy and the sin of humanity. The fall of man, created in the image of God, experienced the greatest global disaster the world will ever know...and at Easter, Jesus established the process of recovery...

His loving longing is toward the human race...that He might bring us to God...and when this takes place, He puts a message in our hearts to share with our world...the message of reconciliation. For the current month, April, in line with Easter in our hearts...let me mention some thoughts and prayer focus.

Before doing this, I want to give you a part of a sentence from my friend who ministers at the United Nations, for whose ministry I requested prayer in March, for countries and leaders. This is just part of his sentence. "The prayers for the Arab League were far more effective than I dare put in writing." (I hope to report more to you in an email soon from a personal conversation with my friend.)

Why is this important to us? Because it is easy to assume that some things are too big for us to pray about...that our prayers are inadequate and unworthy of His attention...that the needs are so awesome, it will take more than prayer...these thoughts come to all of us and have a source. That source is the enemy of God who does not want us to pray.

I don't know the author of this little verse I think of often: "Satan trembles when he sees... The weakest saint upon her knees."

The greatest thing happening in our world today is the coming of the Kingdom of God. And it is building and growing around the work of the King...Jesus Christ. He works through His servants...we are His servants in a broken world...becoming darker and darker as more and more human beings are born without any knowledge of Jesus Christ, the light of the world... people who live in darkness and do dark things.

But we need to remember that "where sin abounds, grace does much more abundantly..." This is the message of Easter...the message we can tell.

Our focus for prayer this month we may obtain from our own lists of world evangelists, missionaries, mission organizations...everyone who is ministering the Gospel to our world. Do more than casual praying....

1. Remember that Satan has strongholds in many countries...in the hearts and minds in captivity by Godless religions. He will laugh at our casual praying for it will never affect strongholds. There must be earnest praying, perhaps even fasting if God leads you to do this. Every day, ask God to bring His Easter to the country in which your church or denomination or friends have ministries.

2. Remember countries where there are no known or permitted missionaries. Ask God to bring Easter to that nation...ask Him to open the hearts of leaders to feel uncertain in what they believe, to feel afraid and insecure in their kingdoms, leading them to search for God ...always ready to be found.

3. No stronghold is taken without labor by Christian workers. The toil and tears of Christ's followers are part of the picture, even though it is always Christ working through us that brings about His victory. Pray for those who are on front lines in this spiritual warfare....for they will be attacked in ways beyond our imaginations.

4. Included in your lists, please don't forget the countries and leaders you have at hand...if we lay these aside now, whatever territory has been taken will be reclaimed by Satan and his forces. He waits for us to grow weary not only in well doing, but in our prayers. I think when we get to Heaven we will all be surprised what was most valuable in our Christian service on earth...I think it will be prayer. Always being reminded:

Jesus said then and now: "WITHOUT ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING"

The prayer He taught us to pray: Thy KINGDOM COME, THY WILL BE DONE"

5. May your hearts be strangely warmed like those two on the road to Emmaus, who met with Jesus...with whom He broke the bread and shared his Word.