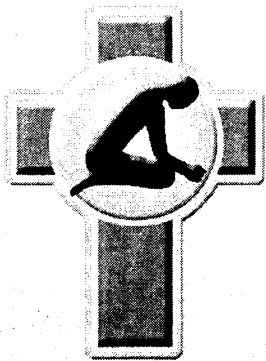


THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE PRAYER CLOSET
MINISTRIES, INC ©COPYRIGHT 2001



VOLUME VII

JULY/AUGUST, 2004

ISSUE 4

WARFARE PRAYER FOR THE LOST

When we pray for lost people, we are entering into spiritual warfare. We are going against the enemy and his forces of evil. Satan has the lost person bound (**Ephesians 2:1-3**). He desires to continue his devious hold over this person. He in no way wants to give up his grip in this person's life. We are praying for this hold to be destroyed. We are asking for this person to be set free and experience Christ's salvation. This puts us into the midst of spiritual warfare. We are going counter to Satan's purpose for this person.

I'm not sharing this in order to scare or discourage any believer. You must know that praying for the lost is spiritual warfare. Satan and his demons are real. Their desire and efforts to blind and lead lost people to hell are just as real. Praying for the lost is a spiritual battle that has eternal consequences. It is pleading with God to touch and change people along with asking for the destruction of Satan's powerful and murderous schemes.

When we pray for the lost, we must plead with God to save and deliver people. Yet, we must also pray against the attacks and schemes of the enemy. The Bible teaches the reality of Satan and his demons. They exist and are laboring to lead hosts of people to an eternal hell. Because of this, we must pray against the works and plans of the enemy. Through prayer, we are to fight and agonize for

those whom Satan intends to doom to hell. It is not an either/or option. We must pray for God to save while also warring against the enemy and his demons.

Through Jesus, you are more than a conqueror. Because of the blood and righteousness of Jesus, you have nothing to fear. Because of Jesus' name, you have mighty power to pray for the lost and fight against the schemes of the enemy. You can make a temporal and eternal difference in the lives of the lost through your intercession.

In this issue of *The Prayer Closet*, we will focus on warfare prayer for the lost. We will offer a variety of Scripture prayers and ideas to help you fight for the lost on your knees. It is our hope and prayer that these materials will enable you to stand in the gap for the lost and pray the harvest in.

Why Do We Need To Do Spiritual Warfare In Behalf Of The Lost?

We must pray for the lost because of Satan's work in their lives. *First, Satan has enslaved the lost.* The Bible tells us that the lost live under the power of darkness in the kingdom of Satan (**Colossians 1:13**). The Word also reveals that Satan has taken them captive to do his will (**2Timothy 2:26**). The

Dr. Kevin Meador, P. O. Box 278, Hickory, MS 39332 (601) 646-2295

EMAIL: prayercloset_1998@yahoo.com

WEB PAGES: www.prayerclosetministries.org - www.kingdompraying.com

Scripture teaches that the lost walk according to Satan's evil desires, "And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience" (**Ephesians 2:1-2**).

From these verses, we can see that lost people are bound by Satan. They are unable to resist him. They are powerless to overcome his evil and powerful grip in their lives. They must have something outside of themselves to set them free. This is why we must pray. It is only the power of God released through prayer that can break this satanic stronghold over peoples' lives. It will take the almighty power of God to destroy Satan's grip in the lives of people. And this power flows as we seek God for the lost.

Second, Satan hates people and wants to destroy them. The Lord Jesus Christ described Satan in this way, "He was a murderer from the beginning" (**John 8:44**). Jesus also describes him as a thief, "The thief does not come except to steal and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (**John 10:10**). In contrast to Jesus, Satan desires to kill and destroy. It is his desire to wound, hurt, and condemn people to an eternal hell. He has no love or pity for anyone. He only wants to steal, kill, and destroy.

This is why we must pray for the lost. It is only through prayer that we can thwart his murderous schemes. It is only by pleading with God that lost people can be delivered from Satan's destructive goals. We must stand against his deadly, wicked plans by seeking God for the salvation of those who do not follow Jesus Christ.

Third, Satan actively works against lost people. He labors to keep people from coming to Christ. He strives to continue his devious hold on the lives of people. The Word of God declares that he blinds the minds of unbelievers to keep them from understanding and believing the gospel (**2 Corinthians 4:4**). He seeks to snatch the Word out of a person's heart to hinder them from being saved

(**Matthew 13:4, 18-19**). He lies to unbelievers so that there will be no room for the truth in their lives (**John 8:44**). The Bible teaches that Satan actively works against people coming to Christ. He opposes any attempt to bring someone to Jesus Christ.

Because of this, we must pray fervently for the lost. Leading people to Jesus involves spiritual warfare. Satan will not give up his murderous grip in the lives of people. He does not want to release his captives. He will not do it unless he is forced through the Word of God and prayer. Prayer is our weapon to fight for the lives and eternities of those who are lost. Through prayer, we come against this active opposition of the evil one. Through prayer, we can see people set free and come to Jesus in true faith.

Warfare Prayers

The following are Scripture prayers that you can use to pray for lost people. You can use them to pray for individuals or areas. These prayers will enable you to pray against Satan's work and to plead for God's work in those who need Jesus. They are based on the Word of God. You can plead them with confidence and expectation. You can use these or develop your own from them. The key issue is to pray God's Word for those who are bound by Satan.

Father, I plead that _____ would surrender to Jesus in true faith. I ask that _____ would turn to Christ that He might destroy the works of the devil in _____'s life. This is why You sent Jesus. I pray that _____ would receive Him and would be set free from the grip of the evil one (**1 John 3:8**).

Father, Your Word says that the devil is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He is attempting to destroy _____. I plead in Jesus' name that You would save _____. I ask that You would deliver _____ from this wicked plan of the enemy. I ask that _____ would turn to Jesus and experience eternal life (**1 Peter 5:8**).

Father, Your Word declares that Satan schemes against people. He has developed a plan to keep _____ from coming to Jesus. He is working to hinder _____ from giving his/her life to Jesus. I ask that You would hinder, frustrate, and destroy his schemes against _____. Remove them so that _____ will surrender himself/herself to Jesus as Lord and Savior (**2 Corinthians 2:11**).

Father, Your Word says that the devil blinds the minds of unbelievers. I pray in Jesus' name that You would remove what the devil is using to blind _____'s mind. I ask that You would destroy whatever the devil is using to keep _____ content in unbelief and lostness. Let the light of Your gospel penetrate _____'s mind and heart. Draw him/her to Jesus (**2 Corinthians 4:4**).

Father, Your Word declares that the devil will attempt to snatch the Word from _____'s heart. I ask in Jesus' name that You would prepare his/her heart. I plead that _____ would receive Your Word. Cause him/her to meditate on it and apply it to his/her life. Use Your Word to show _____ his/her need and to draw him/her to true faith in Jesus (**Matthew 13:4, 18-19**).

Father, Your Word says that Satan is a liar. He is lying to _____ in order to hinder him/her from coming to Jesus. I plead that You would enable _____ to see through the lies. I pray that _____ will receive the truth of Your Word and will be saved by it (**John 8:44**).

Father, I ask that You would deliver _____ from the kingdom of Satan and darkness. Place _____ into the kingdom of Your dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (**Colossians 1:13**).

Father, Your Word says that Satan is the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. I ask that You would hinder and destroy that work in _____'s life. I

plead that You would shatter his attempts to keep _____ from coming to Jesus (**Ephesians 2:1-2**).

Father, Your Word teaches that Satan is a tempter. He desires to lead people into sin. Father, I pray that You would bind Satan's tempting power in _____'s life. I plead that You would cause _____ to hate the sin that the enemy uses to keep _____ bound and lost (**Matthew 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 3:5**).

Father, Your Word declares that Satan is the prince of the demons. He has numerous demons to do his work. I ask in Jesus' name that the demons assigned to _____ would be thrown into confusion. Cut them off from communication with the evil one. Hinder their efforts to keep _____ from hearing and believing the gospel. I plead that _____ would turn to Jesus in true faith and repentance (**Mark 3:22**).

Father, I pray that You would change _____'s mindset concerning Jesus and Your Word. I plead that the arguments and reasons that _____ has against Jesus and Your Word will be torn down. I ask that they would be demolished. Shatter these things so that _____ will receive the truth and will surrender to Jesus (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

Father, I ask that You would destroy the pride that is keeping _____ from Jesus Christ. I plead that You would break _____'s desire to rule his/her own life – to decide what is right and wrong. Show _____ that he/she is not God, but that You are. I pray that _____ would repent and surrender himself/herself to You through Jesus (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would shield _____ from the lies and temptations of Satan. I know that he is attempting to feed _____ lies, thoughts, and temptations that will keep him/her from repenting and believing in Christ. Cut off

Satan's access to _____. I pray that _____ would hear and believe only the truth of the Word of God (**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**).

Father, I ask that _____ would turn to Jesus in true faith. Cause him/her to know that Jesus is the only hope for salvation, life, and freedom. I plead that _____ would turn to Jesus and would be set free from bondage and oppression of the evil one (**Acts 10:38**).

God's Character And Your City\Community

The following is a prayerwalking guide that you can use to pray for your city or community. It is based on God's character. The great need of our cities and communities is God. This guide can help you pray for your city or community to experience who God is. You can use these or develop your own from them.

Father, You are the true God. I pray that every person in this area would come to know You and worship You alone (**Deuteronomy 6:4**).

Father, grant healing and hope to the people of this area through Your great compassion (**Psalms 86:15**).

Father, fulfill Your good and eternal purpose for this area. I ask that You would accomplish all that You have purposed for this city\community (**Psalms 33:11**).

Father, I pray that every person in this area would trust in You because You are faithful (**Psalms 146:6**).

Father, I ask that every person in this area would believe and obey Your reliable Word (**Psalms 33:4**).

Father, You see and know all things. You see the crime in our area. Expose and bring to justice all the criminals in this area (**Psalms 11:14**).

Father, I plead that everyone in this area will seek You and find out how good You are (**Psalms 34:8**).

Father, I ask that the people of this area would repent and receive Your forgiveness (**Ephesians 1:6-7**).

O God, grant Your help and strength to those who are suffering and struggling (**2 Corinthians 12:9**).

Father, I plead that the people in this area would hate sin as You hate sin. Cause them to hate what You hate and to love what You love (**1 Peter 1:15-16**).

Cause the people of this area to reverence You and worship You as the angels of heaven do (**Isaiah 6:3**).

Father, I ask that the people of this area will know that You are not a respecter of persons and will accept anyone who believes in Your Son Jesus (**Acts 10:34**).

Father, I ask You to intervene and help the oppressed and needy in this area (**Psalms 140:12**).

Father, I pray that the people in this area would experience Your love, which is better than life itself (**Psalms 63:3**).

Father, enable the believers in this area to love one another in the same way that You love them (**1 John 4:7**).

Father, I plead that You would withhold Your judgment but will have mercy on this area. Grant spiritual awakening to this entire area that people may praise You and rejoice in You (**Psalms 78:38**).

Father, have mercy on the people in this area and deliver them from all that binds and wounds them (**Lamentations 3:22**).

O God, save and sanctify the people in this area by Your almighty power (**Jeremiah 32:27**).

By Your right hand and almighty power, shatter all the schemes and attacks of the evil one on this area (**Exodus 15:6**).

Father, I ask that the people of this area would turn to You and rely on You as their ever-present help (**Psalm 46:1**).

Father, I pray that the people of this area would call on You and experience Your presence and power (**Psalm 145:18**).

Father, You know our secret sins. They are ever before You. Convict the people of this area and lead them to repentance (**Proverbs 5:21**).

Father, You see and know the misery of the people in this area. Touch and comfort all who are suffering and agonizing in silence (**Exodus 3:7**).

Father, convict and draw those who have hardened their hearts to Jesus. Reveal Your patience to them by continuing to convict them and speak to them. Save them by Your mighty power (**1 Timothy 1:13-14**).

Father, I ask You to grant every believer in this area endurance and encouragement. Enable them to be faithful and to overcome through faith in You and Your Word (**Romans 15:5**).

O God, I ask You to preserve the people of this area from suffering, sickness, and death. Do what is right and good for them (**Psalm 36:6**).

Father, cause the people of this area to know that You are the only One who never changes and that You can be trusted no matter what (**Psalm 102:26-27**).

Father, You are the God who reigns. You are sovereign over all things. I ask in Jesus' name that You would deal with the most pressing problems in this area. Intervene by Your sovereign power (**Psalm 115:3**).

Father, send forth Your light into this area. Save and transform people by Your unchanging truth (**Psalm 43:3**).

Father, teach the people of this area Your way. Empower them to walk in Your truth (**Psalm 86:11**).

Praying For Your Worship Leader

Your worship leader is an essential and valuable part of your leadership. You may have a minister of music. You may have a praise team that leads worship in your church. However your church worships, it is crucial to pray for those who lead in worship.

When we worship, it is a time for encountering God. This encounter with God will affect the health and growth of the church. The life and ministry of your worship leader will have a significant impact on the quality of your worship – this encounter with God. For this reason, the worship leader must be covered in prayer. The church must pray fervently for those who lead in worship.

The following is a prayer guide that you can use to pray for your worship leader. It is based on the Word of God. You can plead these truths with confidence and expectation. You can use these or develop your own from them. The key issue is to plead the truth of the Word in behalf of your worship leaders.

Father, I ask in the name of Jesus that _____ would have an intimate, growing relationship with You. Cause _____ to hunger for You and Your Word (**Psalm 42:1-2**).

Father, I ask that _____ would love Your Word. I plead that _____ will hear and obey Your Word. Grant _____ an intimate knowledge of Your Word (**Psalm 119:97**).

Father, I pray in Jesus' name that _____ would walk in the Spirit. I ask that the Spirit would control his/her lifestyle. I plead that _____ would depend on the Holy Spirit for his/her life and ministry (**Ephesians 5:18**).

Father, I plead in the name of Jesus that You would deepen and increase _____'s faith. Grant _____ the faith that can trust You and receive from You (**Matthew 21:22**).

Father, I ask that You would grant emotional healing in _____'s life. Heal him/her of the past wounds that would hinder his/her ministry (**Psalms 147:3**).

Father, I pray in Jesus' name that _____ would daily confess and repent of sin. I plead that _____ would hate sin and would not compromise with it (**1 John 1:9**).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that _____ would have a servant's heart (**Matthew 20:28**).

Father, I plead that _____ would be a faithful, powerful witness of Jesus Christ. Grant _____ boldness in his/her personal witness (**Acts 1:7**).

Father, I pray in Jesus' name that You would strengthen and bless _____'s family. Let Your peace and protection rest on this family each day (**Philippians 4:7**).

Father, I ask that _____ would have a healthy, productive relationship with the pastor and other leadership in the church. Enable them to work well together (**Psalms 133:1**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would protect _____ from all the schemes of the enemy. I pray that every weapon of the evil one formed against _____ will fail. Deliver _____ from all the traps and attacks of the enemy (**2 Corinthians 2:11**).

Father, I pray in Jesus' name that _____ would be earnestly devoted to prayer. I ask that _____ would have great power in prayer (**Colossians 4:2**).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that You would grant _____ a hearing ear. Empower _____ to listen to You and to follow Your leadership (**Psalms 46:10**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You would grant _____ wisdom and insight in planning the worship services. Reveal to _____ how You would have him/her to lead this church in worship (**Proverbs 2:6**).

Father, I ask You to give this church a heart for worship. I plead that this body will seek to worship You in spirit and in truth. Give this body a willingness to follow _____'s leadership in worship (**John 4:24**).

Father, I plead that this body will be diligent to worship You. Enable us to sing praise to You. Fill _____ with the power and wisdom to guide us in this (**Psalms 149:1**).

Father, I pray that You would enable _____ to lead this body of believers into the worship that glorifies You and pleases You (**1 Corinthians 10:31**).

Father, I ask in Jesus' name that You would strengthen and bless _____'s voice. Grant his/her voice power and healing that he/she might sing Your praises (**Exodus 15:26**).

Father, I plead in Jesus' name that You might grant a loving and harmonious relationship between the choir(s) and _____. I ask that they would respect and cherish _____. I pray that _____'s ministry in this church would be a delight and a joy (**Hebrews 13:17**).

Father, transform _____ into a leader after Your own heart. Cause him/her to be the leader that people can trust and follow (**Psalms 78:72**).

Father, I plead that the believers of this body will be ready to worship. Each time we gather together, I pray that our hearts and minds would be ready to seek and encounter God. I ask You also to prepare _____'s heart and life for worship. When _____ leads this body in worship, I pray that _____ will be ready and willing to follow the Spirit's leading (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).

Father, I pray that You would provide _____ everything that he/she needs to guide this body in worshipping You. Stir this church to supply whatever is needed to truly honor and magnify Your name in our worship (**Philippians 4:19**).

Fishbowl Praying

Fishbowl praying is a strategy that seeks to involve your church in prayer evangelism. The goal of this strategy is to encourage and train believers to pray for the salvation of the lost. It is based on Jesus' call in **Matthew 4:19**, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." An essential part of "fishing" for people is praying for them.

In order to carry out this strategy, you need to purchase a fishbowl. If your church is large, you may consider having more than one. Then, have 3 X 5 cards available. Ask your congregation to write down the name of a lost person or family on a card. Limit one name or family to each card. ~~After this is done, place the 3 X 5 cards in the fishbowl.~~ When this is done, you can ask believers to come forward and pick a card out of the fishbowl. The believers are then to pray for a month for the lost person on that card. You can establish a longer period of time. But I would encourage you to have them pray for at least a month. Please stress confidentiality. The believers are not to share who is on their card. They are to simply pray for that individual. After a month, they are to place the card back in the fishbowl and then choose another.

You might consider having a special service to start this particular ministry. I have done a "Have You Gone Fishing Lately?" Sunday. The whole service focused on praying for and reaching the lost for Jesus. The music and the sermon were targeted at challenging and encouraging people to pray for the lost. At the end of the service, people made their commitment by "going fishing" – by coming to the fishbowl and choosing a card that they could use to pray for the lost.

You can use a variety of prayer guides for this ministry. I have used the following to

help people begin the incredible ministry of praying for those who need Jesus:

- ✓ *Receptive to the truth (1 Thessalonians 2:13).*
- ✓ *Convicted of his/her sin (John 16:7-8).*
- ✓ *Drawn to Jesus by the Spirit (John 6:44).*
- ✓ *All the hindrances to salvation removed (2 Corinthians 10:4-5).*
- ✓ *Repents of sin and trusts in Jesus alone for salvation (John 3:16).*

Awakening In Mississippi Prayer Initiative

Awakening In Mississippi or A.I.M. is a call to prayer – prayer for God to grant spiritual awakening to the state of Mississippi. This prayer initiative seeks to call all believers in Mississippi and elsewhere together for the purpose of praying for a fresh and powerful work of God in our state. Mississippi needs an ~~unprecedented move of the Holy Spirit to~~ revive our churches and to awaken sinners to their need of the Lord Jesus Christ. This sovereign move of God can be a reality only as God's people join together in united and fervent prayer. The purpose of A.I.M. is to encourage and equip Mississippi believers to plead for this awakening.

This prayer initiative is being sponsored by The Prayer Closet Ministries. We are calling all believers in Mississippi to join together to pray for a fresh work of God in our state. *Our initial goal is to enlist 300,000 intercessors across Mississippi and elsewhere to pray for this desperately needed move of God.* We are also working on the establishment of a Mississippi Day of Prayer.

We have established a web site for this prayer initiative. The URL for the site is **www.awakeninginmiss.com**. On this web site, you can register to be an intercessor. You can find prayer guides and insights to help you pray for Mississippi. You can download prayer meeting guides to use in your small groups or Wednesday night services. You can purchase prayer products for yourself and your church.

The goal of A.I.M. is to create a "prayed for" Mississippi – a state that is saturated with prayer. In conjunction with this, A.I.M. will also sponsor two other ministries:

The Governor's Prayer Team – It is our goal to encourage and equip believers to pray daily and fervently for Gov. Barbour and Lt. Governor Tuck. Believers can join this team and receive devotionals and guides to help them pray fervently for our leaders.

The Mississippi Prayer Leaders Association – It is our goal to establish a network of the prayer leaders and prayer ministries in Mississippi. This network will provide a free flow of ideas, encouragement, and help for prayer ministries. It will be open to prayer leaders, pastors, those who desire to start or maintain a prayer ministry, or anyone who has a heart for prayer. It is our vision to see an intentional prayer ministry in every church in Mississippi.

If you would like to know more about A.I.M., please visit us at our other new web site (www.awakeninginmiss.com). If you do not have web access, please contact us at the following:

**Awakening In Mississippi
The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
P.O. Box 278
Hickory, MS 39332-0278
(601) 646-2295**

New Prayer Product:

Praying For Spiritual Awakening In Mississippi
This brochure will equip you to pray for every county in Mississippi in one month. It will help you saturate Mississippi in prayer.
\$.45, 10 for \$3.00, 100 for \$15.00



**The Prayer Closet Ministries, Inc.
Dr. Kevin Meador
P. O. Box 278
Hickory, MS 39332**

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Hickory, MS
Permit #2

Steve & Ann Mayes
P. O. Box 525
Pelahatchie MS 39145