

**Community of Christ**  
**Fairbanks Branch Happenings**  
**May 4, 2005**

The theme for this Sunday is "Hear Jesus Pray" - Happy Mother Day - May 8<sup>th</sup>

Practice  
Regular dialogue  
And prayer with  
You Lord

"And it came to pass, that, as he was praying in a certain place, when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples."  
Luke 11: 1 (KJV)

**"The Presence Of The Master"**

**Prayer I**

by Wayne D. Clabaugh

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to hear Jesus Pray to the Father? What do you suppose we would hear? Jesus actually tells us what to pray in order for our prayers to be effective in Luke 11:2-4. Listen to these words.

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil."

Two verses packed with more punch than a "one-two" combo from Evander Holyfield. What's more, think of the power of this prayer when "God's Son" would pray it. Before I go any further there let me just remind you of the verses in Romans 8:14-17. Now revisit that statement back at the beginning of this paragraph, and realize the awesome truth that you are God's Son, and you are God's daughter, and you have the same unique position of "Sonship" that you may have placed only with Jesus.

We are going to camp out here for the next few days, but for today I want you to take another look at the tool that you have resting there on the bench, and learn how to use it. That tool is prayer.

I have heard prayer described as a bargaining chip with God, a reason to catch a few winks, a "feel-good" thing, a way of communicating with the Father, and my favorite -- "power in the after-hour".

It's too bad that we often wait until after things have gotten so bad in our lives that prayer becomes the last resort. But there is one thing I have learned about this tool called prayer - it is always effective....and seemingly "right on time". The message here is we need to use it.

The tools of my trade are things like books, and software, and audio devices. I use them all of course - but there are some that I use more frequently because I feel more comfortable with them; more familiar. Are you getting this? Could it be that we don't utilize the tool called prayer more often because it is something that we are "less familiar with", or even worse, less familiar with Him to whom we pray? OUCH!

Now, I know this is not a message for many of you, because you are people of prayer, and you definitely know the Master. I think first of all of my dear wife Osella. This, my friends is a Prayer warrior. I have seen her in the middle of the morning kneeling beside one of our children's beds, hands raised, and calling out to God for their salvation and their safety. Even though the children were fast asleep, they have talked about feeling His presence in the room.

Prayer is often the words you would have said to a friend had you the courage to. It is the power of mind and spirit, bonded together by the mercy seat of forgiveness, and the hope of everlasting life. Prayer is the whisper of a trembling voice that in the faintest cry, commands the tempests of life to cease their raging. What a powerful multi-purpose tool is this thing called prayer.

James Montgomery puts it this way...

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire  
Uttered or unexpressed.  
The motion of a hidden fire  
that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sigh,  
The falling of a tear,  
The upward glancing of an eye  
When none but God is near.

Prayer is the simplest form of speech  
That infant lips can try;  
Prayer is the sublimest strains that reach  
The majesty on high.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice  
Returning from his ways,  
While angels in their songs rejoice  
And cry: Behold, he prays!

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,  
The Christian's native air.  
His watchword at the gates of death;  
He enters Heaven with prayer.  
O thou by whom we come to God,  
The Life, The Truth, The WAY!  
The path of prayer thyself hath trod:  
Lord teach us how to pray.

Thought for the day:

It is in the presence of the Master that we come to the Father. It is in the sweet communion with Jesus our Lord, that we hear from God.

Let's pray.

Father, I come to you in the Name of Jesus your son, and I enter your courts this day with praise and thanksgiving for reminding me of this powerful tool of prayer. As I begin again to seek your power in me, and your will for my life, I ask that you would teach me to pray in such a way that it becomes the first tool that I reach for in all areas of my life. I ask that you would teach me to pray in such a way that I would seek no other remedy until I have first sought you. I ask that you

would teach me to pray in such a way that I would begin to realize that I am a child of the Living God, and that I have authority in Jesus' Name to be delivered from every stronghold that would try and bring me down. I ask that you would teach me to pray in such a way to be sensitive to the Spirit's leading and prompting to pray for those I influence everyday, and may not even know it. I humbly bow at your feet, asking that you would come and dwell with me today, and teach me O Lord, how to pray. In Jesus' Name, Amen

© In The Garden Ministries™ <http://www.christiansunite.com/hit/>  
<http://www.christiansunite.com/hit/>

Sue Turner attended a training class for people that are interested in facilitating Listening Circles. Keep tuned for more information regarding this. You can also visit the world church web page.

Summer is quickly approaching and that means **camps and reunions!!** Check out the mission center web page to get dates and forms for the various camps and reunions planned for this summer.

**May 8<sup>th</sup>** – Mother's Day

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Baby Blessing for Emily Baird

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Potluck after the worship service

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Congregational planning meeting after potluck

**June 2-5<sup>th</sup>** - Community of Christ Special World Conference - Independence, MO

The worship and nursery schedules have been posted in the family center for January through March, 2005. Please check these.

Nursery Schedule:

May 8<sup>th</sup> – Ruth & Gary Chatburn

May 15<sup>th</sup> - Jennifer & Kip Decker

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sue & Alex Turner

May 29<sup>th</sup> – Rena & Jeff Whitehall

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list.

**Calendar & Mission Center News:**

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at [www.coastalbendmc.org](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Baby Blessing for Emily Baird

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** – Potluck

**May 15<sup>th</sup>** - Congregational Planning Meeting after potluck

**June 2-5<sup>th</sup>** - Community of Christ Special World Conference - Independence, MO

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. This is not the “official list” and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

May 8<sup>th</sup> – David Romig

May 15<sup>th</sup> – Sue Turner

May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Carole & Leo Caesar

May 29<sup>th</sup> - David Watson – Testimony Service

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes.

Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

*Martha Romig*