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A Newsletter of WIN - USA Ladies



LADIES LEAD THE WAY IN PRAYER

Tess Cordero

I often asked myself these questions: If God is the sovereign ruler of everything and does whatever He wants, why do we have to pray? Jesus taught us to pray for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done, so why do we have to pray for something if it's going to happen anyway? He also taught us to pray for our daily bread, and yet, doesn't He know our needs even before we ask Him? Then He told us to ask for workers to be sent out to the harvest field, but isn't He the Lord of the Harvest? So why are we supposed to ask God for something He already wants to do?

Although God is sovereign and powerful, He designed this world so that people's choices and decisions impact the course of history. God has chosen to partner with us to accomplish His will on earth. And part of that partnership is prayer.

With this in mind, the ladies of WIN-LA decided to make a difference through prayer. Most of us are not able to preach a sermon, teach a Bible study nor lead praise and worship. But there is one thing we can do: We can pray.

For the past two and a half years, Deborah's Fire, the Ladies Ministry of WIN-LA, has been praying via prayer line every Monday night. Many have a desire to come together for prayer every week, but time and distance make it difficult. Praise God for technology, we are able to pray in one accord via conference call through www.freeconferencecall.com. This is a free and unlimited audio conferencing service. At 9:05 pm, prayer warriors dial a phone number and access code. We sing, exhort, share testimonies, declare and pray the Word of God, and lift up prayers for the church family as well as the world around us as the Holy Spirit leads us.

Aside from the prayer line, the ladies also lead the way in the Sunday morning intercessory prayer. They are also a vital part of the monthly corporate prayer meeting.

These are just some of the testimonies that were shared last week:

- Sis. Nena's son finally reconciled with her and her family after 8 years of no contact. She met her 4-year-old daughter for the first time.
- My father's heart surgery was successful. Although the previous echocardiogram indicated that his valve opening was only 0.8 cm, the angiogram showed the opening is 3.5 cm.! God widened his valve opening and he only needed angioplasty.
- Pastor Al Estanislao of WIN-San Diego was discharged after a successful open-heart surgery (quintuple bypass).
- Sis. Virgie's husband was moved out of the ICU. He also asked her for forgiveness for things he has done in the past.
- Sis. Nellie's breast biopsy results were negative.

Before our Ladies Retreat last May, we had 21 days of prayer, fasting and consecration. We also had eight early morning sessions on the prayer line. God proved Himself faithful. We had the most powerful Ladies Retreat so far. The Holy Spirit showed up in a special way. We experienced several miracle healings. For example,





God Is My Refuge

Nickie Paulate

Etty Hillesum was a young Jewish woman living in Amsterdam in 1942 at the time the Nazis were arresting Jews and taking them to concentration camps. She met Jesus when she started reading the Bible. From then on she placed her life in the hands of God and found rare courage and confidence. She states, "For once you have begun to walk with God, you need only keep on walking with Him, and all of life becomes one long stroll."

Etty was surrounded by fear of death, the stench of death from the gas chambers of the concentration camp, the stern Nazi soldiers and inhumane conditions but she found refuge in the presence of God in her life.

Strolling with God in the midst of troubles. Isn't that a wonderful word picture? Do you see yourself strolling with God in the midst of trials as well as good times? Why do you think Etty felt so secure and courageous? She had discovered that God was her refuge.

Psalm 91:2 ²I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (NIV)

This passage speaks to me about a safe place. When God is by my side, I feel safe and secure no matter what is around me because I have made a choice to put my trust in him.

God is my refuge, an ever-present help in trouble, the psalmist declares in Psalm 46:1.

Most of the passages about refuge in the Bible are full of images of battles and not quiet, hiding places. Instead, we find fortresses, rocks, shields, and strongholds in the midst of battle and physical attack. Clearly it wasn't the quiet escape we imagine it to be.

The oldest and strongest fortresses had been carved out of bedrock or built on stone foundations. Medieval castles and biblical fortresses have something in common; they were places of protection during siege. But, they were also places of ordinary life



Sis. Nickie is the wife of Reverend Babes Paulate, Regional Director - USA, Director, International Benevolence Ministry

where people lived and worked. Refuge wasn't escape *from* life; it occurred *in the midst of it*.

The Book of Psalms often used "rock imagery to symbolize God's strength as a fortress (Psa. 18:2; Psa. 31:2; Psa. 62:6-7); Psa 71:3). When the psalmist fled to his "rock" – his refuge in God – he trusted the solid foundation of God's unchanging character. He sought refuge in God because He was loving (Psa. 36:7). He felt secure because God was strong (Psa. 61:3). He could experience refuge continually because God was always present (Psa. 46:1). He knew he was safe because God was good (Psa. 34:8)." As I thought through these and other passages, I realize that the root of my refuge must be the very person of God.

Do you know God in an intimate way so that He becomes your refuge in times of trouble? David, the author of most of the Psalms did. He constantly wrote about how God had become his refuge and strength. Through the years, David experienced God in such an intimate way that he knew that God would always be there to listen to his anguish or to his songs of praise. In good times and bad, God became David's confidant. It really boils down to do you know God enough to trust him based on His character and to have confidence in all He has promised?

Do you still feel that He is your refuge when there seems to be no solution to your problems?

Troubles may surround us but we have Christ by our side. He is our rock, our stronghold and because of this reality, we can go on with life and take whatever it throws at us. David was so convinced that God was his refuge.

If we don't look to God as our refuge and the source of our strength we will be carrying a burden or burdens we were never meant to bear alone.

For Etty, life became a long stroll with Jesus. She found refuge in His company. David was able to sing songs of praise in good times and bad.

Are you troubled or weary from life? God is there to give you refuge. All you have to do is pour out your heart to Him and you will feel "the peace of God that transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ



The Treasure Within

Cynthia de Castro

2 Corinthians 4:7 - *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*

Seeing Jesus in the Bible may not be difficult for most Christians. Those with good imagination can even picture Jesus healing the sick, preaching to multitudes, raising the dead. It helps that many films about Jesus have been produced, so familiar scenes come to mind as we read the Gospels.

However, not a lot of Christians have developed the ability to see Jesus living inside of them. That ability is the key to becoming overcomers.

It's not easy to live victoriously. To survive the pressure that comes our way, we must be able to see Jesus within us as we see Him in the Bible. We must teach our brain and our hearts - our eyes of faith- to picture the great God of the universe, the Ruler & Commander in Chief of the heavenly armies living inside of us. And He is greater than Satan and anything that he throws our way.

This has been a key lesson for me. There were many times in my life when the problems facing me seemed bigger and stronger than I can ever be. As my whole focus turned to the obstacles and trials, they began to increase in size and intensity. The loving and good God was there all the time but I pictured Him in His throne in heaven. Although I knew in my head that He was more than willing and able to help, I needed a change of mind.

Then, God revealed to me that the very Spirit and power of the Lord Jesus Christ resides in me. I began to imagine the great and powerful King of kings dwelling in the very core of my being. I have this Treasure within me that no amount of problems, no sickness, no pain, no persecution, no temptation, not even death can ever defeat. Once I started seeing Jesus inside me, my faith began to arise and courage welled up in me. I realized that Jesus is greater than any challenge.

That's how David, a young teen-ager, was able to defeat the mighty giant Goliath. He did not look at the situation from the outside. He looked at the Power from within. He knew the God of Israel was with Him, in him and for him, and he had an all-surpassing power, a mighty Force inside him that was greater and bigger than the giant.

As I write this, I am facing yet another challenge in my life. Doctors have confirmed CT Scan and ultrasound reports that cancer has come back to attack my body again. Five years ago, the all-surpassing Power inside of me defeated breast cancer, and so I know that this same Power will defeat the ovarian cancer today. My body, this jar of clay that houses my soul, will overcome the cancer cells because Jesus lives in me. I can see Jesus fighting the battle from within me, and above me, as He intercedes to the Father for me.

If you're also facing a challenge today, know that the Answer lies inside you. The Treasure you have within you is more than enough to give you victory. Everything you'll ever need is in your Spirit. All the strength, all the power, all the wisdom, all the peace, all the health, all the wealth that you need is in you because that's where Jesus is.

Remember, you have a Treasure inside you that is greater than anything in the world!

Sis. Cynthia is the wife of Nitoy. She is an Associate Pastor of WIN-Los Angeles, California in charge of Christian Education. They have a son, two daughters and four grandchildren.



**God invites us through circumstances
to experience who He can be for us.**

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Sis. Lee, who came to the retreat with a walker and unable to raise her arms due to tendonitis, got healed and was able to run around the sanctuary and lift her arms in praise! Hallelujah!

True, there are still a lot of prayer needs we are still contending for. Still, we do not lose heart. We continue to persevere in prayer. We have seen enough answered prayers to know that God can be trusted. We do not judge His faithfulness in the light of unanswered prayers. We know He is faithful even if we do not understand what's going on. There is one thing we do know: His Word is true in our lives and we can trust His Word.

We are claiming His promise in 1 John 5:14, "If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." We pray through until we have the assurance from God that His will has been accomplished. We want to be a company of women whose prayers effect changes in the destinies of others and in the extension of God's kingdom.



Sis. Tess is the wife of Reverend Chito Cordero, International Missions Director and Senior Pastor of WIN-Los Angeles, California. Their daughters are Sandra and Joanna.



The Christmas season is soon approaching! Baked goods are always a welcome gift. They can be added to the holiday dinner table or just personal treats!

The Legend of the Candy Cane

The candy cane begins with a stick of white candy.

The white symbolizes the purity of the Christmas season.

Red stripes are for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we may have eternal life.

The candy cane is formed in a "J" to represent the precious name of **Jesus**.

It can also represent the staff of the Good Shepherd.

Its hard consistency represents the Solid Rock.

The foundation of the church, and the firmness of the promises of **God**.

Suzie Da



Mint Thins

Ingredients:

- 2 pkg. (4 oz. each) BAKER'S Semi-Sweet Chocolate, broken into pieces, melted, slightly cooled
- ¼ tsp. peppermint extract
- 36 RITZ Crackers
- 1 candy cane (6 inch), crushed

- 1. MIX** chocolate and extract.
- 2. DIP** crackers in chocolate mixture, turning to evenly coat both sides of each cracker. Carefully scrape off excess

chocolate. Place crackers in single layer on waxed paper-covered baking sheets; sprinkle with crushed candy.

- 3. REFRIGERATE** 30 min. or until chocolate is firm.

Kitchens Tips

How to Crush Candy Cane
Place candy cane in resealable plastic bag; seal bag. Roll rolling pin over bag to crush the candy.