

# Be A Witness

"I will pray for you."

"You are in my prayers."

"All I can do is pray."

Oh what a GIFT is prayer!

We pray because we are forgiven—Christ conquered death, reconciled us to our Father. God desires our prayers, hears our prayers, answers our prayers. Christ taught us to pray in the Lord's Prayer. Prayer matters.

So often the Holy Spirit prods me to pray. So often in the past I responded with, 'YES!...later today when I am not rushing around and can sit and really focus my thoughts and energy--after all, prayer is serious and I wanted to commit in the same regard. 'Later today' so often came and passed. While my soul has always seemed to praise God in a steady stream of consciousness, I knew there was more. I learned to say an instant prayer when I told someone I would pray for them, and am learning to be bold and pray on the spot with the person to whom I commit to prayer. There are prayer journals. Prayer chains. I adopted a soul sister's idea of making an index card for each person/situation I pray for and make the time to review those cards.

And then there is our church's time of prayer each Thursday. "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20. God's promises are real and are for us. Words cannot express what the time set aside in prayer with my sisters and brothers in Christ has meant for me. To pray the prayer requests placed in the prayer box, to pray specifically for each person listed in the bulletin, to pray what is on my heart and the hearts of those around me, is such a privilege. God answers in His way, His time, according to His will and for our good. How humbling and awe-inspiring are those moments when His answers are clear and present. And when they are not? I am drawn even closer in prayer. Won't you join me?

Love and God Bless

JoAnn Steen

## **Come Pray With Us!**

Every Thursday 11:30-1pm the church is open for prayer time. This is how it works:

Come sit in a pew and open your heart to pray.

Pray silently.

Pray out loud if you choose with those who may be doing so.

Need some prompts? There is a calendar of considerations for prayers.

Want to write down your prayers? We have notepads and pens available.

Come for any amount of time you have--people filter in and out the entire time.

Hope to see you there!