SOUND THE TRUMPET IN PRAYER

**And if you go to war in your land against the enemy that opresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the Lord your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies (Numbers 10:9).**

For the Sake of Our Children

Most people would give their life for their kids. Our children are our heritage. They are the future generation. And they are also under attack. Every day their minds are assaulted with peer pressure, worry, attacks on their self image, temptation, depression, and even possibly thoughts of suicide. Often, they suffer from the effects of broken families; parents that cannot speak peaceably to one another. This too affects their self image. Is it any wonder that without proper training, encouragement, guidance, and most importantly example; we see a generation of young people seeking the crazy ways of this world that lead to destruction---some even cutting themselves---worse yet, killing themselves? This should grieve society as a whole. Whether we have our own children or not; most have a connection with a child as a niece, nephew, or child of a friend. We all have influence in the life of a child. And we can influence the lives of all children through prayer.

It is important that we take the time to pray, and what could be a more import prayer focus than our future generation? Praying for our children is one of the greatest ways to show our love for them. It may not bring immediate results like buying them something they want, but it has eternal results that money cannot buy. Prayer can ease the guilt we might feel about not being there for them the way we wish we would’ve been. Prayer is more than just coping. It is releasing control of a hopeless situation, believing that God really is who He says He is, and can do the things He says He can do. We cannot put a price on this. Money cannot restore a family or a relationship. Money cannot buy peace; money cannot buy a good name, which is like precious ointment. Some things are revealed to us as vain when a certain point is reached in life. They are truly empty vanities, but to know our children are walking in truth---this is something that is more valuable than diamonds or rubies. And even if a child was not trained up in the way they should go, prayer can make it so.

We are living in perilous times. The prophecy given to Timothy by Paul is being fulfilled in our days, which says, **“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,”** (II Timothy 3:2). This is becoming more evident in the generation we see rising up today. Could many of society’s problems be due to a lack of prayer? Have we prayed the way the word of God instructs us to? Or have we been so concerned about finances, and personal problems that we have neglected to utilize the power that God has given us? Hezekiah, King of Judah, was a man who sought after God and His ways. However, it seems that he fell short in exactly that. He failed to pray for his children---the generation that would follow him. He allowed the son of the King of Babylon to see all that was in his house. The precious things, which later were carried away to Babylonia, along with his children, to serve a heathen king. When he was told he would die, he prayed and wept sore, (see Isaiah 38:1-6). God heard his prayer, and added to him fifteen years. After which, he became very careless, opening his house to a heathen king. When Isaiah the prophet came to him; saying that all would be carried away to Babylon, **“And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.** Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, **Good is the word of the LORD which thou hast spoken. He said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days”** (Isaiah 39:7-8). It would seem that Hezekiah didn’t care what happened to his children. He prayed great prayers in the day of battle. He cried out to God when he was sick unto death, but when it came to the future generation, he didn’t even take the time to pray. Could things have been different for those that came after him? We will never know. But we can make a difference today if we take the time to pray for the sake of our children. BMLR

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Inmates, family members, and those who are interested can now access the monthly newsletter. Please visit [**http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/**](http://www.inspirationalwordsforinmatesandtheirfamilies.yolasite.com/)to be added to the monthly email list or to obtain copies.

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**THE ROSE MEMORIAL FUND**

A recipient of the newsletter, who is also an Inmate, requested a memorial for Rose Golden because he was a recipient of her prayers and cards. Most are not able to visit those in prison, but for the cost of a stamp; a difference can be made for someone who doesn’t receive mail. All funds go to mailing the monthly newsletter or sending a card to an Inmate who has lost a loved one. Please make all funds payable to International Christian Fellowship. Thank you.

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WORDS FROM BEHIND THE WALL

Hopeful Struggle

No matter what we try to do for ourselves, we will face many trials. I myself felt broken at the fact I was powerless to stop any suffering. In II Corinthians 4:7-9, I’ve learned that I must not worry because He is in control. God loves me so much He would not allow me to be broken. He allows just enough that we can overcome. Why does God claim to love, but allows this to happen? I received something from a good friend. In Jeremiah 29:11, the Bible tells us He had set plans for us long ago, of which only He knows the details. This verse assures us that for us to gain hope, this is all for a future of peace. We must trust in the Lord, the great teacher. **William Moctezuma**

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THE COURAGE TO FACE THE CURRENT REALITY

I remember one day when my Pastor at home asked us to bring a sack of potatoes to church the next week. He told us for each person we refused to forgive; we had to select a potato. Then write the date of the offence, and besides that, the person’s name and reason why. Then for a month, without fail, we each had to carry the backpack of potatoes with us everywhere we went. You know, after only two days, I started to recognize how much weight I carried around spiritually, and the amount of energy it took to focus on my bag. I had to be careful not to leave it in the wrong place. So eventually, as the potatoes began to rot and stink, I realized that getting rid of them was the only smart thing to do. I understood this more than anyone else. I once walked away from someone I thought I knew. This person lied to me, and played games with my heart. I almost lost focus in my spiritual growth, as well as my courage to keep this fight alive. At first I refused to forgive this person for the games they played. I thought highly of them, but I was crushed and hurting, and I didn’t see. I did some soul seeking, and identified the issues that held me back that must be resolved. I looked deep into that negative experience, and found five positive ones to balance it out. I learned “love is not rude, self-seeking, easily angered, and it keeps no records of wrongs” (I Corinthians 13:4-5 NIV). “You can’t get forgiveness without forgiving others. If you refuse to do your part, you cut yourself off from God’s part” (Matthew 6:14-15 TM). What a price! I learned forgiveness isn’t just a gift you give somebody else, its one you give yourself. Because when I was harboring this bitterness, my happiness went elsewhere! Listen again: “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t, what are you going to do with them” (John 20:23 TM)? It’s simple, but a good question! I asked myself, how would I like God to forgive me the way I forgive others? It doesn’t seem fair, does it? You don’t have to ever deal with them to forgive them. Pray about it, and then let it go. My spiritual happiness meant more to me then not forgiving this person. So if that thought makes you uncomfortable, then take action and do something about it before this month is over.

 **Brandy Holmes**

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CLEANING HOUSE FOR 2012

Last week I threw out worrying; it was getting old and in the way. It kept me from being me; I couldn’t do things God’s way. I threw out a book on my past (didn’t have time to read it anyway) and replaced it with new goals. I started reading it today. I threw out hate and bad memories (remember how I treasured them so)? Got me a new philosophy too; threw out the one from long ago. Brought in some new books called, I can, I will, and I must. I threw out I might, I think, and I ought. Wow! You should have seen the dust. I ran across an old friend, and I really like his style. He helped me do some cleaning, and added some things himself…like prayer, hope, faith, and love. Yes, I placed them right on the shelf. I picked up this special thing, and placed it at the front door. I found it---it’s called peace. Nothing gets me down anymore. Yes, I’ve got my house looking nice. It looks good around the place; for things like worry and trouble---there just isn’t any space. It’s good to do a little housecleaning…to get rid of things on the shelf. It sure makes things brighter; maybe you should try it yourself. THE FRIEND I FOUND IS GOD! **Deatrice Reed**

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WHY ME?

In the beginning when God created the heavens and earth, God said in Genesis 1:26 “Let us make man in our image according to our likeness.” We see that God had a plan for us. In verse 27, He made sure He created man in His image. Even at that time, we were thought of. Women are not left out. The Lord spoke and created our helper, so we are not alone in the great plan God has. This is to be remembered as we continually battle in our lives. We ask that question. Why me? Why my loved ones? For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son. To this point we believe in God’s word, right? As we battle, God continually gives us love. I John 4:19 says, we love him because he first loved us. As we see that even grace has become a free gift to us. God’s plan has a calling on our lives. So when you are going through the death of a loved one, remember the Cross. When you are facing hard times, remember His Glory. And when you just don’t understand at all, remember His Grace. When it comes to mind again, why me? Remember in the beginning. Why not you? **Patrick Douglas**

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THE ADOBE HOUSE

Heading into the Southwest end of Texas, I had the feeling that something was there. The many moons talk about the Adobe House. These homes bring many meanings of childhood days. Life in this wonderful home brings fresh water and air. It is the Western taste, sunrise, sunset, and the Western way. I began to notice the sunrise, and the sunset. I touched them with a smile. The house runs free, free of freedom. I may stay for a while. The Adobe Homes bring feelings of yesterday. The Wild West sure didn’t change much. I saw a family of ten having fun. Yet, it didn’t matter. What is it going to do for me? My lost eyes seem to bring the blindness out. Where the old and new come together for a meeting. The next wave has come and gone. I’ll stay a while, maybe I can get one of these Adobe Homes. My lost eyes began to see. The Adobe House shook hands with me. How I wish I could be with the Western way.

 **Joseph Williams**

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**Inmates, please submit your inspirational thoughts for Words from Behind the Wall to Beth Marie Laccone- Rexford, C/O International Christian Fellowship, 9146 Lincoln Ave, Brookfield IL 60513. Office Phone: 708-387-9009. Thank you.**