

# Ministering Grace

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The Ladies of Grace monthly newsletter  
December 2009-2010

## This month's issue:

- "Prayer" by Mrs. Sherry Spears
- Book Review by Mrs. Tammy Sapp
- "Answered Prayer" by Mrs. Beulah Rao

## Featuring:

- Holiday Eating tips by Mrs. Robin Fraker
- Information about the January activity!



## Where Jesus Walked

1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow in his steps."

## Answered Prayer by Mrs. Beulah Rao

My life began under a difficult health situation for my mother. There were serious medical complications just as she was preparing to give birth to me. However, because of prayer and fasting by several folks in our church, within twenty-four hours a medically challenging situation turned into a simple and normal delivery. This answer to prayer helped my newly-converted dad (from Hinduism) begin a journey of walking with the true God. He realized that Jehovah God was a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering God, unlike the idols that he had worshipped. God gave him many other unbelievable answers to prayer and, to this day, he is a man of much prayer. My fondest memory of my growing up years is the sweet murmur of my parents' prayer that was heard from their bedroom every morning. I especially liked it when I heard my name. Here are a few things I learned about prayer in my parents' home.

I learned to pray specific prayers. I found a prayer journal of mine from 1994. The answers in there greatly strengthened my faith! Try keeping a journal of specific prayers with a date, and then record the answers with the date. This can become a very addictive and exciting habit! I learned this from my parents. There is nothing they won't pray about. Recently, I asked Missionary Mark Bachman's mother what their secret was behind successful child-rearing. Without hesitation, she said she believed that it was one word: prayer!

I learned that prayer openly shows God our dependence on Him. Prayer is a "real" expression of our faith by putting words to our faith. My husband's family prayed for almost forty years before my father-in-law got saved earlier this year! Don't give up! Lk 18:1 says "...men ought always to pray, and not to faint..."

I learned that, like everything else, prayer needs to be scheduled or else it gets neglected. To have a thriving prayer life, one must have a time, a place and a list to pray. I also keep a scrap of paper near me when I pray, in order to write down stray distracting thoughts (eg: thaw chicken for dinner) to focus better on prayer. I learned that prayer brings me into the presence of God...I feel nearest to God when I pray. I believe that Joseph's walk with God kept him from becoming bitter and aware of God's wonderful plans. Ps 16:11 says "...in thy presence is fulness of joy..."

I learned to forgive through prayer. On one occasion, I was badly hurt by someone in church. I was very tempted to be retaliatory and vengeful in my spirit. Only after much prayer and long talks with God did I find the ability to forgive and move on. Thus prayer enables one to partake of the heavenly nature of our merciful God. Lk 6:28 says "Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." Prayer is a proven balm to the soul.

I have learned to have stable emotions through prayer. As ladies, we are easily influenced by circumstances. On some days when I feel restless or discontent in my spirit, I realize that I need a good dose of prayer. I find that prayer, along with the reading of the Bible, brings stability to my emotions even during unsettling times. This stability, brought about by prayer, ushers God's peace into our homes through us!

Mrs. Schaap's famous formula for positive change includes prayer as one main ingredient. Positive Change = Prayer + Praise + Action! Prayer works! Try it.

## Meeting Schedule

"Where Jesus Walked - Lessons from the Holy Land"  
Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. unless specified otherwise.

Next meeting: January 12, 2009 (Mid-winter Activity)

## A Little Humor by Mrs. Linda Fraker

A child was talking in church, and so her mother hushed her and said, "You must be quiet, because this is God's house."

"Where is God?" the little girl asked.

"He's in Heaven."

"Well," the little girl said, "He'd better come home pretty quick, because He's got lots of company."

## Don't Forget!

Contact one of our missionary wives this week to let her know we were thinking about her and praying for her!

Mrs. Virginia Harris - [vharris6@cogeco.ca](mailto:vharris6@cogeco.ca)

Mrs. Lacey MacRae - [jmacsgirl08@gmail.com](mailto:jmacsgirl08@gmail.com)

Mrs. Sherry Lester - [shebearlester@yahoo.com.au](mailto:shebearlester@yahoo.com.au)

Mrs. Megan Burns - [jsbaptisto@yahoo.com](mailto:jsbaptisto@yahoo.com)

Mrs. Holly Williams - [justins.wife@hotmail.com](mailto:justins.wife@hotmail.com)

Mrs. Michelle Shields - [shellyrae2505@aol.com](mailto:shellyrae2505@aol.com)

## Memory Verse

Jeremiah 33:3

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

# Merry Christmas!

## Welcome from Mrs. Bane



Welcome to Christmas at Ladies of Grace! This is Christmas Party Season, and it is my hope, whether this is your first party of the season or your last, that tonight will be meaningful to you. We will have extra time for fellowship as we enjoy a meal together – two activities that all ladies enjoy!!!

Many people have chosen this time of year as their favorite. I am one of those people – I LOVE October, November and December! As Christmas approaches, we look at wish lists and offer many words of blessing to those we love. I hope each person here tonight gets exactly what she is hoping for; but in addition, my wish for you is that you can look back on this past year and confidently say that you know God more than you did before, that you can see God in your life more than you did before, and that you love Him – and I mean really, really LOVE Him – more than you did before! If you cannot say “yes” to these things, please remember that you are dearly and deeply loved by God and He wants you to know Him, see Him, and love Him.

To me, October is a month of great autumn beauty and starting to “snuggle in” with our family, November is a time of deliberately being thankful, and December is a time of thinking about God and His Son, Jesus. I thoroughly enjoy everything pertaining to Christmas -- the gifts, the parties, the decorations, the food, the time with family – but I work hard not to lose sight of Jesus. In fact, I want to make a bigger deal about Jesus every year. I try to wish people “Merry Christmas” and spread Christmas cheer. On a personal level, though, I spend extra time meditating on the Christmas story and extra time reading the Bible and praying. I have found that I need the additional quiet time with the Lord to keep me from getting distracted by all the hubbub of a holiday; rather I can more easily focus on the real meaning of Christmas.

I think it is so amazing how God coordinates things so well. I chose tonight’s theme – answered prayer -- back in June. It seems that God must want us to beef up our prayer lives, since we have been hearing many sermons on prayer and faith in recent weeks. I get very excited about answered prayer, and I am anxious to share my lesson tonight! I make no claim to be a great pray-er, but I do claim a great prayer-answering God! We are going to brag on God a lot tonight! We’re going to have a lot of fun!

Merry Christmas to each of you!

Love,

Mrs. Bane

## Balanced Health

Holiday Eating, by Mrs. Robin Fraker

1. Don't go to a holiday function hungry.
2. Choose small portions and try everything. Moderation is the key.
3. Limit high-fat choices.
4. Use low-fat ingredients in high-fat treats such as egg nog.
5. Drink plenty of water.
6. Stay active. Take brisk walks and have good talks with loved ones.
7. Plan other focal points besides food, such as games, singing, storytelling, etc.
8. This is not the best time to begin a new “healthy eating” plan.
9. Maintain perspective: if you overindulge one day, begin anew the next.
10. Avoid “recreational” eating after the meal is over.

## Activity!

January Ladies of Grace Activity  
Der Dutchman Restaurant in Plain City

Cost: \$16.00 per person. (This includes buffet, beverage, choice of pie, tax, and tip.)

Money will be collected at the church before we leave for the restaurant.

Bus will leave at 6:20 p.m. and return around 9:00 p.m.  
Ladies of Grace meeting will be held on the bus ride to and from the restaurant.

A sign-up sheet will be posted at the Welcome Center.  
The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, January 6.

## Prayer

by Mrs. Sherry Spears

Prayer is what got me through my parents' deaths. Matthew 5:4 says, “Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.”

My mother passed away on Thanksgiving Day of 1992, and my father passed away six months later on Memorial Day of 1993. Those were the longest three years that I have ever gone through; and I began searching, but I did not really know for what I was searching. I had shut God out of my life for so long; however, I finally realized I needed to get back into church and get to know God again. I prayed for God to lead me to a church, and He answered my prayer. Matthew 21:22 says, “And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” We attended a church for six years, but I was really wanting to know and spiritually grow more. I felt the Lord leading me in a different direction. I prayed, “Lord if you are leading me to another church, I will go.” I am so glad that I listened and followed God’s leading, because that is why I am at Grace Baptist Church.

## Book Review

by Mrs. Tammy Sapp

*Southern Grace*, by Mrs. Cindy Schaap

*Southern Grace* was written by Cindy Schaap to both bring honor to her mother as she reached her eightieth birthday and to provide a pattern for success as a godly woman for others to follow. It is filled with examples of how Beverly Hyles used her walk with the Lord to deal with all the aspects of her life. Included are specific ways she handled her family and marital relationship, life in the ministry, and her personal habits.

*Southern Grace* does an excellent job of conveying Mrs. Hyles’s attitudes and actions that make her such an unusual and interesting personality. It speaks of her “grace” and strength in childrearing, homemaking, dealing with trials (including the very public life and death of her husband), and the choices she has made regarding her personal time and priorities. These choices allowed her to develop character traits such as being respectful, appropriate, mannerly, and self-controlled - traits all Christian women would benefit from developing in their own lives.

While this book is easy reading, it still manages to challenge the reader to follow the example of Beverly Hyles in always attempting to be more like Christ. *Southern Grace* would make an excellent, affordable gift for any Christian lady; my own copy was a gift from a friend, and I greatly cherish it.