

January/February, 2008

Prayer Letter

23. **O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!** (Ps 8:1). Ambassador duty today. Pray that the Lord would provide an opportunity to be of help to someone and to talk with someone regarding issues of faith.
24. **I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart: I will tell of all your wonders** (Ps. 9:1). Walter and his wife Lynn have moved into this area and are searching for the opportunity to start a ministry to children and youth. Pray that such an opportunity would present itself and for patience as they wait.
25. **I will be glad and rejoice in You: I will sing praise to your name, O Most High** (Ps. 9:2). For the first time, the Nicaragua Christian Academy, is having a Spiritual Life day today. Daily chapel services for this past week have been building up to today's service, in which students will be encouraged to accept Christ. Among them is Jin Soo, the young man whom missionary Brian Avery shared the gospel with and received a teary-eyed response, but no definite commitment. Pray that many, including Jin, would receive Christ today.
26. **The Lord reigns forever: he has established his throne for judgment** (Ps. 9:7). Continue your prayers for Ann Marie, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. She's just started what the doctors anticipate to be a year-long treatment procedure and a suspicious lump was found on her other breast. Pray that the cancer would not metastasize.
27. **He will judge the world in righteousness: he will govern the peoples with justice** (Ps. 9:8). Downhill Worship service. I'll be preaching on Judas' betrayal of Jesus. Pray for insight and understanding that would make this a meaningful message to those present.
28. **The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in time of trouble** (Ps. 9:9). Day off. Pray for Brian Avery, a missionary to Nicaragua.

This morning he will be talking to a group of people he knows, but whose identity he doesn't yet feel comfortable in revealing. He's been praying for this opportunity for 13 ½ years. He asks for prayer for

“the Lord to do a very special work: To guide me as I speak and to communicate His message, especially of salvation, to this group. Pray for the people to be interested, to understand, for God to do a very special work in each one of them; and for at least some to come to know Christ as their Saviour.”

29. **Those who know your name will trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you** (Ps. 1:10). Alpha program. The topic will be “How Can I Have Faith?” Pray that this message would be clear and compelling to those who attend and that the Spirit's presence would be felt in the discussions following.

30. **The Lord looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand** (Ps. 14:2). Ambassador duty. Pray that I'll be where I need to be in order to be of help to someone today and that the Lord would make me an especially sensitive listener.

31. **Lord, who may dwell in your sanctuary? Who may live on your holy hill?** (Ps. 15:1). Pray for God's comfort and healing for Elaine DeSisto, whose daughter was recently killed in an automobile accident.

February

1. **I said to the Lord, “You are my Lord: apart from you I have no good thing** (Ps. 16:2). Pray for Joyce's mother who is afflicted with emphysema, that she would be spared any more serious episodes resulting in hospitalization.

2. **Lord, you have assigned me my portion and my cup. You have made my lot secure** (Ps. 16:5). Spending the day being trained by the ski school as a temporary instructor for a large group of international students later in the month. Pray that

the training would equip me to be of significant help to the students assigned to me.

3. **I will praise the Lord who counsels me: even at night my heart instructs me** (Ps. 16:7). Downhill Worship service. Pray for great weather, that the Lord would lead to the service those whose hearts are open to Him, and that those present would leave having felt themselves in God's presence.

4. **I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken** (Ps. 16:8). Day off. Pray for Elaine DeSisto, a Christian woman whose husband is verbally abusive, that she would receive God's guidance and wisdom in dealing with this

5. **You have made known to me the path of life: you will fill me with joy in your presence** (Ps. 16:11). Alpha Meeting in the evening. The subject matter is “Why and how do I pray?” Pray that the groups would feel comfortable enough with each other to be honest and open and that in that context, the Lord would bring healing and growth in the lives of those present.

6. **I love you, O Lord, my strength** (Ps. 18:1). Ambassador duty. Pray that I'll be able to be of personal help to a fellow ambassador or other staff member at Loon today.

7. **The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer** (Ps. 18:2). Pray for Alexa, an 11-year old girl who was in a gondola car during an unusual malfunction that left she and her father stranded for an hour-and-a-half. The experience left her afraid of skiing. I was able to talk with her, show her a helpful video and with her father's encouragement, persuade her to ski again, but her enjoyment of skiing is no longer there. Pray that it would return.

8. **I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies** (Ps. 18:3). Pray for Richard* that he would be able to find a satisfying job in the Boston area. He's a cartoonist, the likes of which are not needed much in this computer age.

so the answer to this prayer would be nothing short of a miracle.

9. **To the faithful, you show yourself faithful, to the blameless you show yourself blameless** (Ps. 18:25). Pre-marital counseling appointment. Pray that this time would be of significant help to the couple. We've developed a good rapport and our previous two sessions have been very helpful to them.

10. **As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him** (Ps. 18:30). Downhill Worship. Pray for great weather and that I would share the gospel in such a way as to compel someone present to open their hearts to Christ.

11. **For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the rock except our God?** (Ps. 18:31). Day off. Pray for me (Skip) that I would be able to develop a plan for writing my book. Efforts so far to carve out time from my present schedule have been thwarted by other ministry responsibilities.

12. **It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect** (Ps. 18:32). I'm serving as a temporary ski instructor to help the ski school with an influx of several hundred international students, something I've done in the past. Pray that I'll be assigned to the right group of kids, be able to develop a good rapport with them and be of help to them personally as well as with their skiing. Alpha in the evening. We'll be discussing "Why and how do I read the Bible?" Pray that the video and discussion would encourage those present to set aside time for personal Bible study.

13. **The heavens declare the glory of God: the skies proclaim the work of his hands** (Ps. 19:1). Serving as ski instructor for international students. Pray that I'll be assigned to the right group of kids (assignments could change from day-to-day), be able to develop a good rapport with them and be of help to them personally as well as with their skiing.

14. **The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul** (Ps. 19:7). Serving as ski instructor again for

international students. Pray that I'll be assigned to the right group of kids (assignments could change from day-to-day), be able to develop a good rapport with them and be of help to them personally as well as with their skiing.

15. **The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart** (Ps. 19:8a). Pray that Jody would be motivated to find a church home. She is a believer and has a daily devotional time, but is out of fellowship. She wants her husband to become a Christian, but that's not likely to happen as long as she's separating herself from a church fellowship.

16. **The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes** (Ps. 19:8b). Pre-marital counseling appointment. We'll be talking about their relationship with the Lord. Pray that it would be a productive and helpful conversation and lead them to come into a faithful relationship with Christ.

17. **The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever** (Ps. 19:9a). Downhill Worship service. Pray for great weather, God's anointing on the service, and that his presence would be experienced.

18. **The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous** (Ps. 19:9b). Day off. Pray for God's continuing guidance for Matt and Andrea Gallagher as he seeks God's timing to leave his sales position for a job teaching in a Christian school (no small financial sacrifice).

19. **May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer** (Ps. 19:14). Alpha at night. The topic is "How Does God Guide Us?" Pray that this presentation would be of valuable help and enable our visitors to see God's hand at work in their own life, besides going away with some clear ideas as to how to see His hand at work.

20. **The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it** (Ps. 24:1). Minister's breakfast and study group. Pray that our

discussions would be of practical help to us in our individual ministries and we would sense God's voice speaking to us through this study.

21. **Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place?** (Ps. 24:3). Ambassador duty. Pray that I'd be able to be of personal help to one of our guests today.

22. **Who is he, this King of glory? The Lord Almighty-he is the King of glory** (Ps. 24:10). Pray for Matt and Andrea Gallagher (see the 18th) that they would have the necessary funds to continue to send their three boys to Christian school.

23. **To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul** (Ps. 25:1). Alpha Retreat. This is a day-long retreat in which we go through four sessions in the Alpha program, three of which are dealing with the Holy Spirit. It can be a powerful time of seeing God's hand at work in people's lives. Pray that it would be for us.

24. **No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame** (Ps. 25:3a). Downhill Worship. Pray for great weather, God's anointing on the message and that he would lead to us those whose hearts are open to Him.

25. **Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths** (Ps. 25:4). Day off. Pray for Christine, who was raised in a Christian home, but has given in to sexual temptations and is now pregnant. To his credit, her boyfriend is going to stick by her and is accepting responsibility, but they are just getting to know each other as a couple, so the permanency of their relationship is in doubt. Pray that they would develop a rewarding relationship and both would come to follow Christ.

26. **Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways: according to your love remember me, for you are good, O Lord** (Ps. 25:7). Alpha program. The topic will be "How Can I resist Evil?" Pray that this subject would have a direct application to at least one person's life tonight.

27. **Good and upright is the Lord: therefore he**

instructs sinners in his ways (Ps. 25:8). Ambassador duty. Pray that I would be especially sensitive in the conversations I have with people today and ask the right questions. It's so easy to miss what people are really saying.

28. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way (Ps. 25:9). Pray for a successful pregnancy for Christine (see above). She's due to deliver on March 1.

29. All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant (Ps. 25:10). Wedding rehearsal in the evening. Wedding rehearsals often provide me with helpful information about the couple that I can use in the homily the next day. Pray that such would be the case tonight.

March

1. Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my cry for mercy (Ps. 28:6). Wedding. Pray that my homily would be of encouragement to them spiritually. This is a family I've enjoyed knowing for awhile and the groom has attended our services on occasion.

2. The Lord is my strength and my shield: my heart trusts in him, and I am helped (Ps. 28:7). Downhill worship service. Pray for great weather, for God's wisdom and insight as I prepare the message, and that it would be of significant help to someone present.

3. I will extol the Lord at all times: his praise will always be on my lips (Ps. 34:1). Pray for Lenny, that he would put Christ first in his life. Also pray that he would come to repent of his self-indulgent eating habits.

4. Glorify the Lord with me: let us exalt his name forever (Ps. 34:3). Alpha in the evening. The topic will be "Why and How Should I tell others?" Pray that this presentation would motivate people to share their faith and love of God comfortably.

5. Taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed

is the man who takes refuge in him (Ps. 34:8). Ambassador duty. Pray for God's guidance, that I would "just happen" to be where I needed to be in order to be of help. This has occurred to me in the past and has been very rewarding.

6. Trust in the Lord and do good: dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture (Ps. 37:3). Continue your prayers for Ann Marie, who is undergoing treatment for breast cancer. She's just started what the doctors anticipate to be a year-long treatment procedure and a suspicious lump was found on her other breast. Pray that the cancer would not metastasize

7. Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4). Pray for Darlen's sister Maryann, who recently lost her fiance and is dealing with the grief that comes from losing someone that close as well as financial strains. He didn't have any insurance. She is, however, beginning to turn things over to the Lord and is growing in her faith. Pray that this would continue and that she might receive God's healing.

8. Commit your way to the Lord (Ps. 37:5a). Continue to pray for God's help in establishing time to work on the book I feel He's called me to write. As of this writing, I'm so swamped with other responsibilities that it's all I can do to keep my daily hour-and-a-half for prayer and Bible study and hit the gym three times a week. I've thought about taking an overnight once a week and going to the cabin we have the use of in Conway, but to date, that's not been possible.

9. Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him: do not fret when men succeed in their ways (Ps. 37:7). Downhill Worship service. Pray for good weather, God's anointing on the message and that He would both lead to our service those whose hearts are open and also give us a sense of His presence during this time of worship.

10. The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure forever (Ps. 37:18). Day off. Pray for Ken, that he would

come to faith in Christ and recognize his problem with alcohol. He was raised in a Christian home but has strayed away from the Lord.

11. Like your name, O God, your praise reaches to the ends of the earth (Ps. 48:10a). Alpha in the evening. The topic for tonight is "Does God Heal Today?" Pray that this presentation would open people up to God's healing power and to both praying for those in need of physical healing and seeking it for themselves when it's needed.

12. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Ps. 51:10). Meeting with "Healthy Community" committee—a group of civic leaders whose goal is to provide a more healthy environment for the town's youth. Pray that God will make clear any other ways in which our ministry can contribute to the area's youth. At present we are going to make a significant contribution to the building of a skate board park—something that the youth of the area have desired for years, but an idea that was dead in the water until the last meeting of this group. Ambassador duty—pray that I'd be of special help to someone on Loon's staff today.

13. Restore the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me (Ps. 51:12). Continue your prayers for Yolanda* and Norm*, whose rich neighbor is suing them to stop using their rural land as a firing range. This is a ploy, since he's been trying to get that land for himself before they ever owned it. Pray that his efforts would be futile and justice prevail.

14. O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise (Ps. 51:15). Continue your prayers for little Sugar Hill Community Church, that the Lord would provide them with a pastor who is faithful to the gospel. A retiree would work well

15. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise (Ps. 51:17). Continue to pray for Gene Smith and that the brain tumor he's being treated for would remain stable and even shrink.

16. **Save us and help us with your right hand, that those you love may be delivered** (Ps. 60:5) Palm Sunday Downhill Worship service. . Pray for good weather, God's anointing on the message and that He would both lead to our service those whose hearts are open and also give us a sense of His presence during this time of worship.

17. **Shout with joy to God, all the earth!** (Ps. 66:1). Day off. Continue to pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Iraq and the establishment of a democratic government.

18. **Sing the glory of his name; make his praise glorious!** (Ps. 66:2). Alpha in the evening. This is our wrap up session and it's entitled: "What About the Church?" Pray that this presentation would encourage people to become part of a local church if they don't already belong.

19. **Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! So great is your power that your enemies cringe before you** (Ps. 66:3). Ambassador duty. Pray for an opportunity to get to know some of the new ambassadors who have started this year. There are several whom I have yet to meet as of this writing.

PRAISES

9/13 Jody hasn't yet started attending a local church, but I just happened to run into her at the health club in Conway and recommended a local church where, as it turns out, she knows some of those who attend!

10/16 Bruce Garvin reports that his new granddaughter arrived safe and healthy!

11/15 The mystery has been unraveled. Little McKenna Duffy's has Jacobsen's Syndrome, a rare congenital disorder. She's presently undergoing treatment to head off some of the developmental problems associated with it. According to Wikipedia, "Patients with this disorder can often live relatively normal lives within the limitations of their disability".

11/17 My memory for names didn't fail me today at the ambassador orientation!

11/18 Ann underwent surgery and had her hip replaced. She expects to be able to return to skiing in February!

11/19 Matt Gallagher is still heading toward moving from sales to becoming a Christian school teacher. He hopes to start this year as a substitute teacher.

11/20 Peggy Conroy is doing well following treatment for breast cancer. As of this writing she's looking forward to her last chemo treatment and the prognosis is very good!

11/21 A reconciliation has occurred between the Thompsons and the leadership of their church!

11/24 Homily at the wedding went well. I'm unsure of how much help it was to them spiritually, but sensed they found it encouraging relationally.

11/27 Loni is recovering from the loss of her husband Earland and has a lot of support.

11/28 Marion wasn't able to attend a church service on Christmas, but did attend several on Christmas Sunday and had an especially wonderful time at one of them.

11/29 God has provided both the leadership and the attendees for the Alpha program that our Sunday night Bible study group is sponsoring.

12/1 The funeral service for Earland Welch was, indeed, a time of celebration not only of his life but of the God whom he served so faithfully.

12/2 The Christmas candlelight service at Ellsworth went very well.

12/3 (see 11/18)

12/5 Sean didn't need surgery on the pinched nerve after all. He can't do a lot of skiing or strenuous lifting, but otherwise is okay. If his back starts bothering him, there's a simple surgical procedure available which would alleviate the pain.

12/8 Paul* is making progress in his addiction to pornography. He has joined an online watch program called "Covenant Eyes" which holds him accountable by alerting others if he visits inappropriate web sites.

12/9 The Alpha training program was stimulating and rewarding and led to the invitation of several people to attend the program.

12/10 (see 11/20)

12/13 (see 9/13) 12/16 Praise God that the security situation in Iraq is improving!

12/14 Gene Smith continues to hold his own in his battle against a cancerous brain tumor!

12/20 Jose Pequeno's infections have cleared up!

12/21 Yolanda and Norm* are receiving God's strength in dealing with the lawsuits of a rich neighbor aimed at enabling him to take their land.

12/22 We had both good weather and a good attendance at our first Downhill Worship service!

12/24 We had a record-breaking 300 people at the Christmas Eve service and the help of New Hope Fellowship with the service made it a very rewarding event.

12/27 Mike, a young man who rec'd Christ during our pre-marital counseling sessions is reading the literature I gave him and enjoying it.

12/29 We had over 40 attending our Downhill Worship service, with great weather and God's anointing on the message and an unprecedented (at this service) two people indicate their desire to accept Christ!

1/3 The kick off of our Alpha program saw an attendance of 30, with half being guests!

1/8 Kathy Crews continues to respond to the treatment for her breast cancer and the prognosis remains good for a complete healing!

1/10 We had 30 people at our first Alpha meeting, and 23 of them showed up for the second plus some newcomers!

11/11 Jin Soo gives all the indications of one in whose life the Holy Spirit is doing His work!

were at the first meeting would return to this one, and that the Holy Spirit would move powerfully to make the person of Jesus real.

16. **I cling to Your testimonies, O Lord, do not put me to shame! I will run the course of Your commandments.** (Ps 119:32). On the mountain today, serving as an Ambassador. Pray that God would make me an especially sensitive listener today, and that I'd hear the "message behind the word." Pray too for my friend Dan, who has prostate cancer and is having it removed today, that the surgery would go smoothly and without any complications.

17. **You do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is a vapor that appears for a time and then vanishes away** (James 4:14). Pray for Robin and her husband, who have recently taken in their 14 year old nephew and have been given legal guardianship of him. Pray for God's wisdom as they seek to be of help to him at a very difficult time in his life, and that God would provide the resources to make this new arrangement work.

18. **Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth: meditate on it day and night** (Josh. 1:8). Also pray for Robin, that she would be able to find the right job in terms of hours, working environment and compensation. She's presently working through a temp agency and has had a difficult time finding a permanent position. She's actively applying and will be interviewing for a couple of positions.

19. **Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked** (Ps 1:1a). Pray for God's help in enabling me (Skip) to set aside time on a daily basis to work on the book he's called me to write. It's a matter of priorities, so I ask your prayers that it would move up on the scale of priorities in my life—thanks!

20. **For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous** (Ps 1:6). Downhill Worship service today. Pray for good weather, that the Lord would lead to us those whose hearts are open, and that there would be the sense of God's presence during the service.

21. **I will proclaim the decree of the Lord** (Ps 1:7a). Pray for my friend Walter, who just recently lost his father, with whom he was very close, that he would be able to work through his grief in the midst of a very demanding job (his father was a Christian).

22. **Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling** (Ps 1:11). We'll be having our third Alpha

meeting tonight. Pray for good weather, so that it wouldn't affect attendance, that the subject for the night, "why did Jesus die?" would answer people's questions, but more than anything else, that those present would sense the depth of God's love for them.

BRIDGE EDITION

15. **Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your law** (Ps. 119:18). We'll be hosting our second Alpha meeting tonight. Pray that all those who