

Homelessness and Poverty

In a world ravaged by sin, the bitter fruits of greed, war, and ignorance are multiplying. Even in so called "affluent societies" the homelessness and the poor are growing populations. More [and more] people starve to death every day. Two billion more are malnourished, and thousands more go blind annually because of dietary deficiency. Approximately two-thirds of the world's population remains caught in a cycle of hunger-sickness-death.

Social scientists tell us that a number of ills find fertile ground in the conditions of poverty. Feelings of hopelessness, alienation, envy and resentment often lead to antisocial attitudes and behavior. Then society is left to pay for the after-effects of such ills through its courts, prisons, and welfare systems. Poverty and misfortune as such do not cause crime and provide no excuse for it. But when the claims of compassion are denied, discouragement, and even resentment are likely to follow.

But just as physical bread nourishes our physical bodies, "it is the 'Living Bread' that people most desperately need." In meeting the temporal needs of the people, we must acknowledge the underlying soul hunger that only Christ, the True Bread, can satisfy. This bread is no ordinary food. It performs a complete work and can best be described by the timeless hymn written by the late Pastor Richard Blanchard. "Bread of Heaven, feed me till I want no more, fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole."

Prayer focus: For effective ministry to those hungering for not only temporal bread but also for the Word of God.

Adapted from a statement by: Late G.C. President, Neal C. Wilson, July 5, 1990, at the General Conference session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

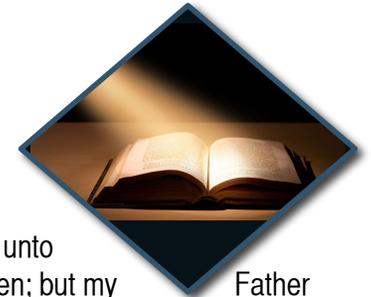
Fresh Bread

John 6: 32-34

Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

Jesus used bread as a figure to illustrate the vitalizing power of his Spirit. The one sustains physical life, while the other satisfies the heart, and strengthens the moral powers. Said he, "I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not." Those who experience the spiritual union with Christ never hunger for higher enjoyment. All uncertainty is gone; the weary soul finds continual refreshment in the Saviour. Ellen G. White, *Redemption*, p. 89

The success of the gospel message does not depend upon learned speeches, eloquent testimonies, or deep arguments. It depends upon the simplicity of the message and its adaptation to the souls that are hungering for the bread of life. Ellen G. White, *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 231



Called By God's Name

God has a name. In fact, He has many names.

When God showed Moses how to turn the bitter waters sweet, He made a promise to Israel, saying, "I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am [*Jehova-ropheka*, 'Jehovah who heals you']" (Exodus 15:26).

When He established the Sabbath as a covenant between Israel and Himself, God told Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am [*Jehovah-meqaddeshkem*, 'Jehovah who sanctifieth you']" (Exodus 31:13).

David knew Him as *Jehovah-roi*, "Jehovah, my Shepherd." Abraham, as he spotted a ram entangled in a nearby thicket, called that place *Jehovah-Jireh*, "Jehovah will provide" (Genesis 22:14).

Jehovah-Nissi, "Jehovah is my banner," was the name given by Moses to the altar he built to commemorate Israel's victory over the Amelekites in Exodus 17:15.

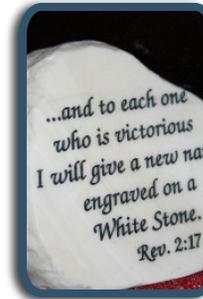
These names of God describe who He is - His character and His attributes. And it is by His name, with all its meanings, that He calls you and me.

Prayer focus:

Let us pray back the names of God in our every situation.

Adapted from: Randy Maxwell, *If My People Pray*, p. 60,61

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Called By God's Name

Exodus 3:13, 14

And Moses said unto God, "Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, the God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?"

Let them praise the name of the LORD: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven. Psalms 148:13

The Names of God:

El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty)

El Elyon (The Most High God)

Adonai (Lord, Master)

Yahweh (Lord, Jehovah)

Jehovah Nissi (The Lord My Banner)

Jehovah-Raah or Roi (The Lord My Shepherd)

Jehovah Rapha (The Lord That Heals)

Jehovah Shammah (The Lord Is There)

Jehovah Tsidkenu (The Lord Our Righteousness)

Jehovah Mekoddishkem or meqaddeshkem (The Lord Who Sanctifies You)

El Olam (The Everlasting God)

Elohim (God)

Qanna (Jealous)

Jehovah Jireh (The Lord Will Provide)

Jehovah Shalom (The Lord Is Peace)

Jehovah Sabaoth (The Lord of Hosts)

Destroying an Inheritance of Family Bondage

We all know we can inherit our mother's eyes, our father's nose, or the colour of our grandmother's hair. But did you know that we can also pick up character qualities from our parents, such as a bad temper, a propensity for lying, depression, self-pity, envy, unforgiveness, perfectionism, and pride?

These and other characteristics that have a spiritual root can be passed along from our parents to us, and from us to our children. In a particular family, there may be a tendency toward such things as divorce, infidelity, alcoholism, addiction, suicide or depression.

The Bible talks about the influence our parents can have on us. It says God will visit "the iniquities of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me" (Exodus 20:5). This Scripture is referring to people who don't walk in a loving relationship with God. However, a parent who is a believer and loves God can still choose to sin. And his sin will profoundly affect his children.

No wonder Manoah's prayer concerning her unborn child was, " O my Lord, let the man of God which thou didst send come again unto us, and teach us what we shall do unto the child that shall be born" (Judges 13:8).

Prayer focus:

Pray for God's revelation of inherited traits and tendencies that seek to undermine healthy family relationships.

Adapted from: Stormie Omartian, *The Power of a Praying Parent*, p. 151

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Pray Believing

Luke 1:13

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.



Moderators Bro Ken & Erica Jones and family

The birth of a son to Zacharias, like the birth of the child of Abraham, and that of Mary, was to teach a great spiritual truth, a truth that we are slow to learn and ready to forget. In ourselves we are incapable of doing any good thing; but that which we cannot do will be wrought by the power of God in every submissive and believing soul. It was through faith that the child of promise was given. It is through faith that spiritual life is begotten, and we are enabled to do the works of righteousness. Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 98.3

As you ask the Lord to help you, honor your Saviour by believing that you do receive His blessing. All power, all wisdom, are at our command. We have only to ask. Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 514.

The Importance of Prenatal Influences - The effect of prenatal influences is by many parents looked upon as a matter of little moment; but heaven does not so regard it. The message sent by an angel of God, and twice given in the most solemn manner, shows it to be deserving of our most careful thought. Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 372.

Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name and I will do it" (John 14: 12-14).

Many Christians have seized these words and taken them to mean that God is locked in by His own words to supply them "whatever" they ask, simply by adding the phrase "in Jesus name" to the end of their prayers. Their attempts have often resulted in disappointment because of a misunderstanding of what Jesus said. To pray in Jesus' name is to ask for things consistent with who He is and what He's about.

The Lord gave the wonderful promise of the free use of His Name with the Father in conjunction with *doing His works*. The disciple who lives only for Jesus' work and Kingdom, for His will and honour, will be given the *power* to appropriate the promise. Anyone grasping the promise only when he wants something very special for himself will be disappointed, because he is making Jesus the servant of his own comfort.*

Requests that will result in provision, protection, healing, sanctification, peace, and salvation are consistent with the character and name of Christ. We are "called" to represent that name before heaven and earth in our lives and on our knees.

Prayer focus:

For understanding what is the will of God concerning those around us.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Praying in My Name

John 14:13, 14

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

If we live according to His word, every precious promise He has given will be fulfilled to us. We are undeserving of His mercy, but as we give ourselves to Him, He receives us, He will work for and through those who follow Him.

Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 226

The path of sincerity and integrity is not free from obstruction, but in every difficulty we are to see a call to prayer. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in My name," said Jesus, "that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it." Ellen G. White, *From Heaven With Love*, p. 299

The arm of Omnipotence is outstretched to lead us onward and still onward. Go forward, the Lord says; I will send you help. It is for My name's glory that you ask; and you shall receive. Those who are watching for your failure shall yet see My word triumph gloriously. "All things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive" (Matthew 21:22). Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 264

