

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the
School of Prayer at the NEC Office**

10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

December 5, 2015

49th Sabbath

The Enemy's Perfect Plan - Author Unknown

Satan called a worldwide convention. In his opening address to his evil angels, he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church. We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. . . . But we can do something else. We can keep them from forming an intimate, abiding relationship experience in Christ.

"How shall we do this?" shouted his angels.

"Keep them busy in the nonessentials of life and invent unnumbered schemes to occupy their minds" he answered. "Tempt them to spend, spend, spend then borrow, borrow, borrow. Keep them from spending time with their children.

"Overstimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still small voice. Entice them to play the radio, to keep the TV, VCR, CD's and their PC's going constantly in their homes. Pound their minds with news 24 hours a day. Invade their driving moments with billboards. Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, sweepstakes, mail order catalogues, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering, free products, services and false hopes."

"Let them be involved in soul-winning. But crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Christ.

Has the devil been successful at his schemes? You be the judge.

Prayer focus:

For strength and discernment against the schemes of the enemy.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

2 Timothy 2: 3, 4

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.



Moderator Sis Rachel Ingram

Soldier of the Cross

He who serves under the bloodstained banner of Immanuel will have that to do which will call for heroic effort and patient endurance. But the soldier of the cross stands unshrinkingly in the forefront of the battle. As the enemy presses the attack against him, he turns to the stronghold for aid, and as he brings to the Lord the promises of the word, he is strengthened for the duties of the hour. He realizes his need of strength from above. The victories that he gains do not lead to self exaltation, but cause him to lean more and more heavily on the Mighty One. Ellen G. white, The Acts of the Apostles, p. 362

Our General, who has never lost a battle, expects willing, faithful service from every one who has enlisted under His banner. In the closing controversy now waging between the forces for good and the hosts of evil, He expects all, laymen as well as ministers, to take part. All who have enlisted as His soldiers are to render faithful service as minutemen, with a keen sense of the responsibility resting upon them individually.

Ellen G. White, Gospel Workers, p. 351

**Join us the 3rd Sunday of every month in the
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10 am - 1pm

Prayer Leader's Section:

December 12, 2015

50th Sabbath

The World's Need of Praying Men

Praying men are a necessity in carrying out the divine plan for the men. God has made it so. He it is who established prayer as a divine ordinance, and this implies men are to do the praying. So that praying men are a necessity in the world. The fact that so often God has employed men of prayer to accomplish His ends clearly proves that proposition, It is altogether unnecessary to name all the instances where God used the prayers of righteous men to carry out His gracious designs. . . . Persevering prayer always wins; God yields to importunity and fidelity. he has no heart to say NO to such praying as Moses did.

As an intercessor, Moses used importunity with God and prevailed. he proves that the man who truly lives near to God, and with whom God speaks face to face, becomes partaker of that same power of intercession which there was in Him who is at God's right hand and ever lives to pray.

The marks of the true intercessor are: a sense human need; a Christlike love in the heart; a consciousness of personal impotence; faith in the power of prayer; courage to persevere in spite of refusal; and the assurance of an abundant reward. These characteristics constitute a Christian intercessor, and release the power of prevailing prayer. They constitute the beauty and health of Christian life, fitting a man for being a blessing in the world, and making him a true Christian worker, who gets from God the bread of heaven to dispense to the hungry. These dispositions elicit the highest - the heroic - virtues of the life of faith.

Prayer focus:

Prayer for the men of the church: fathers, guardians, and mentors.

E.M. Bounds, *The Weapon of Prayer*, p. 17
Andrew Murray, *The Ministry of Intercession*, p. 46-47

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Praying Dads

Numbers 21:7

Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

The path of men who are placed as leaders is not an easy one. But they are to see in every difficulty a call to prayer. Never are they to fail of consulting the great Source of all wisdom. Strengthened and enlightened by the Master Worker, they will be enabled to stand firm against unholy influences and to discern right from wrong, good from evil. They will approve that which God approves, and will strive earnestly against the introduction of wrong principles into His cause. Ellen G. White, *Christian Leadership*, p. 4.

The husband and father is the head of the household. The wife looks to him for love and sympathy and for aid in the training of the children; and this is right. The children are his as well as hers, and he is equally interested in their welfare. The children look to the father for support and guidance. Fathers have an important part to act. The husband is the house-band of the home treasures, binding by his strong, earnest, devoted affection the members of the household, mother and children, together in the strongest bonds of union. Ellen G. White, *The Adventist Home*, p. 211



Eld. Joseph Victorin
Moderator and Father

**Join us tomorrow in the School of Prayer
at the NEC Office 10 am - 1pm**

Prayer Leader's Section:

December 19, 2015

51st Sabbath

Ere the Gates Close

AT SUNSET the gates of the city would close. Anxiously, the hurrying traveler noted the lowering sun. The distance he had to travel was greater than he had realized, and he had been delayed longer than he had planned for. But he had to get to the city before the gates were barred. To remain outside the walls during the night was unthinkable. Vicious animals roamed in the darkness. And even more vicious men-robbers and murderers. Besides, the traveler was carrying with him all the money he owned, the savings of a lifetime. He had to get to the city before the gates closed. He dared not stop. There was too much at stake.

The gates we are talking about here are the gates of salvation and eternity. And, as Seventh-day Adventists, we know that soon, with a terrible finality, they will close silently, unrecognized, upon the world and the church.

Perhaps we are inclined to apply these words to the worldling, or to professed Christians in other churches where religion is but a formality. But they could be applied just as truly to some Seventh-day Adventists. Business and pleasure and the routine of life may sadly absorb some of us--many of us--so that we too may be caught outside the gates when it is too late.

Prayer focus:

Pray for faithfulness, courage and zeal in the work of the Lord.

Thomas A. Davis, How to Be a Victorious Christian, p.152-153
Picture opposite: portion of Nehemiah's wall dated 445 BC

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

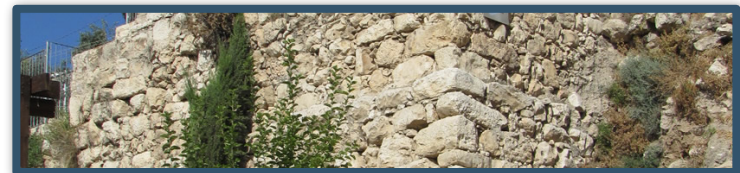
Nehemiah 1: 6

Let thine ear now be attentive, and thine eyes open, that thou mayest hear the prayer of thy servant, which I pray before thee now, day and night, for the children of Israel thy servants, and confess the sins of the children of Israel, which we have sinned against thee: both I and my father's house have sinned.

Consecrated Workers

We need Nehemiahs in this age of the world, who shall arouse the people to see how far from God they are because of the transgression of His law. Nehemiah was a reformer, a great man raised up for an important time. As he came in contact with evil and every kind of opposition, fresh courage and zeal were aroused. His energy and determination inspired the people of Jerusalem; and strength and courage took the place of feebleness and discouragement. His holy purpose, his high hope, his cheerful consecration to the work, were contagious. The people caught the enthusiasm of their leader, and in his sphere each man became a Nehemiah, and helped to make stronger the hand and heart of his neighbor. Ellen G. White, The Southern Work, June 28, 1904

The experience of Nehemiah is repeated in the history of God's people in this time. . . We shall meet with opposition of every description, as did the builders of the walls of Jerusalem; but if we watch and pray, and work as they did, God will fight our battles for us, and give us precious victories. Ellen G. White, The Review and Herald, July 6, 1886.



I am Thine, O Lord, I have heard Thy Voice,
And it told Thy love to me;
But I long to rise in the arms of faith
And be closer drawn to Thee.

She was physically blinded at a young age, but Fanny Crosby developed a spiritual vision like few others. Over the past century, untold numbers have sung her heartfelt hymns of praise to God, and her words still bless believers today. Fanny Crosby never complained about the hardships of life; she simply looked to Jesus. Her attitude is best summed up by a conversation she had with a minister. "Do you know," she said, "that if at birth I had been able to make one petition, it would have been that I should be born blind?"

"Why?" asked the pastor in surprise. "Because when I get to heaven," she responded, "the first face that shall ever gladden my sight will be that of my Savior!"

The life of Fanny Crosby was a life lived by faith in the guiding hand of Jesus. In reflecting on her life, she would write that "I seem to have been led little by little toward my work; and I believe that the same fact will appear in the life of anyone who will cultivate such powers as God has given him, and then go on, bravely, quietly, but persistently, doing such work as comes to his hands."

Prayer focus:

Pray for faith to serve God through our trials.

Sabbath Prayer Focus:

Isaiah 30:18, 19

And therefore will the Lord wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the Lord is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him. For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

Faith that Moves Mountains

I saw that the servants of God and the Church were too easily discouraged. When they asked their Father in heaven for things which they thought they needed, and these did not immediately come, their faith wavered, their courage fled, and a murmuring feeling took possession of them. This, I saw, displeased God. . . . I saw that if we do not feel immediate answers to our prayers, we should hold fast our faith, not allowing distrust to come in, for that will separate us from God. If our faith wavers, we shall receive nothing from Him. Our confidence in God should be strong; and when we need it most, the blessing will fall upon us like a shower of rain. Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 1, p. 120, 121

I asked the angel why there was no more faith and power in Israel. He said, "Ye let go of the arm of the Lord too soon. Press your petitions to the throne, and hold on by strong faith. The promises are sure. Believe ye receive the things ye ask for, and ye shall have them." Ellen G. White, Prayer, p. 72

