



## Maywood Prayer Letter

# PRAY FIRST

August 2008



Maywood's prayer letter was created to better communicate prayer concerns to our church family. In addition to directing the focus of prayer to specific ministries, programs and activities, the letter also serves to offer words of encouragement as well as suggestions as to how to better live the Christian life. For the month of August 2008, we submit the following:

According to an Arabian proverb, *"A friend is one to whom one may pour out all the contents of one's heart, chaff and grain together, knowing that the gentlest of hands will take and sift it, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kindness, blow the rest away."*

It's important to have friends. The world would be a pretty lonely place without those with whom we can talk or laugh or share good times. But it's even more important to choose the right kind of friends. Why? Because as Christians we want to live lives that reflect our faith, lives that honor and please our Heavenly Father. And to do that, we need to surround ourselves with quality people that we can depend on, friends who will be honest with us in those moments when we aren't honest with ourselves.

Billy Graham recognized the importance of having the right kind of friends. In 1948, while holding city-wide evangelistic meetings in Modesto, California, he met with three co-workers and friends—George Beverly Shea, Grady Wilson, and Cliff Barrows—to determine what they could do to assure the ministry would be God-honoring and above approach. The result of that meeting was a pledge to hold one another accountable to principles of integrity. Those principles have not only guided their organization but their personal lives as well, and their friendship and commitment to encourage one another is what ultimately resulted in a worldwide evangelistic outreach to millions.

We need friends with whom we can share the good and the bad, confident that our friends won't judge us as a result of our mistakes, but instead celebrate our successes and encourage us during disappointments. And we need friends who will hold us accountable so that we can be men and women of integrity, as well as productive members of our church. Will you pray for the right kind of friends? Will you pray for relationships that are characterized by honesty, commitment and a willingness to give and receive wise counsel? Pray for friends who will have your best interests at heart, consider God's will and build you up in your walk with Him.

Please set aside a specific time, a specific place, each day to place yourself quietly and trustfully before God and to become awake to His presence. Please pray especially for:



### Father-Child Canoe Trip

There's no question that fathers are an integral part of children's lives. They are important role models for their sons and demonstrate a loving, trusting relationship with a man for their daughters. One of the best ways a father can influence his children is to develop common interests and spend unstructured time with them. On August 1 - 3 Men's Ministries is sponsoring a Father-Child canoe/kayak trip. Getting away from everyday responsibilities and breaking up the routine gives fathers and children an opportunity to really connect as well as create long-lasting memories. The trip is also a time for fathers to come together to share experiences and offer each other support. Please pray that this weekend away will be a special time of fellowship that will serve to strengthen bonds and open lines of communi-

cation. Pray for every father to be a positive role model as well as a source of unconditional love and encouragement for his child.

### Audio/Visual Team

One of the main functions of the Audio/Visual Team is to maintain and operate the sound system in order to insure that the worship service is heard throughout the sanctuary and other areas of the church building. Team members also record the worship service so that it can be duplicated on tape, CD and DVD and distributed to our shut-ins and others who request it. Give thanks for those who give so readily of their time and talents to perform this service every week as well as at special services and programs. Give thanks that each member is committed to presenting the Word of God, both live and recorded, with the highest

quality of audio enhancement. Please pray for them to be blessed by their service in this very vital ministry.

## Missions

Maywood supports 46 foreign missions/missionaries and 39 home missions/missionaries. As Doug Sutton, the Chairman of our Missions Committee, states, we here at Maywood have been granted the privilege of being used by Him "to touch the world and share His gospel with the nations." Please pray for the Lord to strengthen and sustain our missionaries in their work. Pray for freshness in prayer and in Bible teaching. Pray for the Lord's guidance in how they present the gospel message. During the third quarter, the Missions Committee has focused on Southeast Asia and, in particular, Indonesia, the largest Muslim nation in the world. This month two of our members will be going to South Sumatra to put on a retreat for church planters. Please pray for the Lord to place His hedge of protection around them as they seek to offer much needed encouragement and support in a country where the Church experiences wide-spread persecution. Pray for wisdom and discernment for members of the Missions Committee as they seek ways to come alongside our Indonesian brothers and assist them in their work.

## Urban Camp Ministries...

...is designed specifically for urban churches and ministries to provide children in grades 4 - 8 a week-long camping experience at Timber-lee Christian Center. The Camp offers these children a safe, nurturing environment as well as an opportunity to participate in spiritual challenges, skill-learning games and recreational events. Give thanks for the success of the annual Invitational Golf Outing, the major fund-raising event for this ministry. Give thanks for the many who responded to God's call to make a difference in the lives of children through generous donations. As the Camp takes place from August 10 - 15, pray for the counselors to be positive role models who demonstrate their love of Christ and their willingness to follow Him. Pray for the children participating to enjoy their time at Timber-lee, develop new friendships and have open hearts and minds while learning about God and His Word.

## By God's Appointment

*"But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I will come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).*

Our faith is in God to accomplish what He promises in His Word. But what happens when He appears not to respond to our trust? What happens when that job falls through or that relationship disintegrates? What happens when a cherished friend or loved one doesn't get better? The essence of faith is to continue trusting in the Lord's wisdom and faithfulness even when our prayers seem to go unanswered. Rather than doubting His love for us, we must remember that, whatever our situation, it is by God's will that we are in that place. And it is by His will, and in His timing, that we will be brought out again. Please pray for the Lord to

keep you in His love and give you grace to behave as His child. Pray for Him to make each trial a blessing that will teach you the lessons He wants you to learn. Pray to submit to His control and by faith commit yourself to living in accordance with His will.

## Prayer Services

*"...as they raised their voices together in prayer...the place where they were meeting was shaken."*

Jesus affirmed the primary call for the in-house attitude of the church when He proclaimed, "My house shall be called a house of prayer..." When we participate in the practice of public prayer, it not only reminds us of the surpassing importance of prayer to our individual lives but also to that of our church body. Please pray that during our weekly prayer services, our church will become a place of dynamic faith where hearts move together in humility. Pray for our need for God to be magnified and for our ministries to be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

## Hilltoppers

The Apostle Paul was very specific in his admonition to Titus to encourage older Christians to live out their faith and be inspiring role models. Senior adults are meant to be an important asset to any church, but to do that, they must stay connected and feel a part of the church ministry. Our Hilltoppers provides the seniors in our church family the opportunity to stay active and involved as well as participate in fun activities, trips and service. On Tuesday, August 26, members will be traveling to Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin, to attend a Christian concert at the FireSide. Please pray for this to be a wonderful time of fellowship. Pray for them to continue to care for, help and pray for one another, giving glory to God and to His Son, Jesus Christ.



## Youth Ministries

*"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word" (Psalm 119:9).*

Pastor Rick writes that he is "continually convinced of the necessity and relevance of God's Word in the lives of all people, especially students. ...Without strong biblical teaching, without a foundation in Jesus, no one will be able to stand." This summer our senior high and junior high students have traveled to fun places and participated in games and other enjoyable activities, but they've also had the opportunity to learn more about Jesus and grow in their walk with Him. Please pray for our students to respond to the message that their faith offers an alternative to the world. Pray for them to stand firm in their faith and endure the attacks of the devil on their hearts and minds. Pray that they will seek the Lord's guidance and direction in all they do and make choices that are pleasing in His sight and glorify His name. Pray also for Pastor Rick and the other youth leaders as they continue to be used by God to minister to our students.