

Standing in the Gap



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a ministry of North Richland Hills Baptist Church

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The Praying Couch

By Tamara Roberts - May 2018

“Look at these,” I held up a booklet “This is where Grandmother Mary hosted WMU missions prayer meetings.” I was amazed at all we found surrounding her couch and lamp table.

After her promotion to heaven, we helped clean Grandmother Mary’s house. A precious prayer warrior, she was my husband’s grandmother. We sat on her mint green, Queen Ann sofa with crocheted doilies on the arms. In the table beside the couch were prayer guides from WMU prayer

meetings. In my mind’s eye, I saw the couch and chairs filled with prayer warriors holding tea cups, their Bibles and booklets balanced on their laps. They called out names of missionaries before the Lord, asking for special blessings, resources, and favor.

The praying table also held her ragged Bible—with underlines and notes on almost every page, a devotional book, and a Sunday School quarterly. I imagined Grandmother Mary reposition her wire rimmed spectacles, pick up her Bible, and begin her morning with God. I knew she prayed for our little family and so many others during her moments with the Master.

No one else in the family had use for the old praying couch and table, but we couldn’t let it go. We loaded it into our truck and took it home. Though the table sits beside our couch now, we could find no place for Grandmother Mary’s praying couch. It sat in our garage for a couple of years. Finally, we had a garage sale and pulled it out with other treasures we could no longer use.

A lady in blue jeans and a white t-shirt looked at it and snubbed her nose. “It’ll have to be re-covered.” She ran her finger along the dented cushion right where Grandmother Mary spent so much time in prayer. “How much do you want for it?”

My husband cleared his throat and said, “A thousand dollars.”

Her eyebrows raised, and her baby blues bugged out. Any other couch like it may have sold for \$100.00 at a garage sale. She turned on her heel and stomped away.

A giggle escaped my lips. “Not ready to sell it, huh?”

He wiped a tear from his eye. “At least not to her.” Then we both laughed one of those bitter-sweet choking laughs. I took a tissue and handed him one.

continued

Just like Grandmother Mary, I have a spot on a couch beside her praying table. It's my war room spot. Battles are still fought beside that prayer table.

Whether we pray for family or friends, missionaries or ministers, teachers or students, we make a difference when we call their names before the Lord. So, how do we best pray?

Two acrostics help me remember everything. **ACTS** and **BLESS**.

ACTS: Adoration—Confession—Thanksgiving—Supplication.

These acrostics are meant to help, Let's be careful not to make them legalistic, nor to judge others who jump in with a request first thing. They may have been adoring God since they awakened.

Adoration is not following a rule or recipe, or buttering God up before asking for something. That's not the purpose of adoration.

God deserves to be praised. We can't adore Him enough. If we start in the morning, we begin praising without ceasing, Adoration runs through our minds all day. A memory, a beautiful flower, or a bird singing may cause a "Wow, God! You amaze me! You made that!" These running conversations filter every perception.

When we've focused on the greatness of God, the natural result is absolute confidence and faith in Him. Next to His greatness, we recognize our own inadequacies and naturally move to confession. Knowing God forgives us, thanks to Jesus, we naturally move to thanksgiving. As we thank God for all He's done from creation through salvation, our faith peaks. We can supplicate with absolute faith and confidence in our almighty, faithful, and true King of the universe.

As we intercede for someone God brings to mind, those on a list, or those we know well and love, there may be very specific requests. There may also be needs we don't know about. That's why I recommend the BLESS acrostic. It covers supplication for most every area of our lives.

BLESS: Body—Labor—Emotions—Social—Spiritual.

BODY includes health and wellness.

- Specific health concerns
- Protection from illness or injury
- Strength and stamina

LABOR includes jobs, income, and money management.

- For students—education, For Parents—Family Management, Jobs and Finance
- Wisdom in decisions
- Favor with everyone in every situation so they can be of greater influence for Christ.
- Fulfilling purposes including transformation into a person more and more like Christ.

EMOTIONS includes peace, love, and joy in every situation.

- Love, Joy, and Peace
- Graciousness and Gentleness
- Kindness and Forgiveness.

SOCIAL includes all relationships.

- Loving, healthy relationships to flourish while unhealthy relationships to heal or cease
- Friends who will pull them closer to Christ
- Self-Control

SPIRITUAL starts with salvation.

- If they don't know Christ, pray they would do surrender to Him and bring others.
- If they already have a relationship with Christ, pray they'll be drawn closer to Him.
- Faith, Grace, Goodness, and increasing Christ likeness

How about you? Do you have a war room spot? I know if Grandmother Mary were here today, she would recommend a comfy seat next to a sturdy prayer table.

Prayer: Father we adore You even in our imperfection. We thank you even for the privilege to come to You in prayer. B-L-E-S-S us all as we supplicate for those on our hearts today and B-L-E-S-S the objects of our prayers. May we bring You honor and glory forever.

*For reprint permission email tamara@tamroberts.com with reprint in the subject line.

Pray for our Church Family

NRHBC Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of April 25, 2018: Adalynn Helms (Jared & Samantha's infant daughter), James Pruett (Lewis & Jean Doyle's nephew), Scott Donaldson, Vickey Rice, Yoan Masuaku (Marc & Meta's infant son), Edith Smith, Cody Cowan, Donna Vaughn (Nancy's daughter), Erin Teal (Sammy & Donna's Daughter-in-law), Jean Preslar, Joy Fowler, John Holland, Matt Wallace (Joe & Betty's son), Kathy Engling (Ben White's daughter), Mike Cobb, Donny Huggins, Lupe Garcia, Chanan Thompson (Linda Burt's infant granddaughter), Phyllis Dashefsky (Cindi Millsaps friend), Don Draper, Steve Sheedy, Linda (Betty Keding's daughter), & Linda Wilson.

Pray for these with continuing needs: Alice Abbott, Linda Andruss, Scott Annable, Darlene Blackburn, Judy Blevins, Claudia Bone, Charlie Brown, Maxine Calvert, Al/Jonathan Cardenas, Margo Carstarphen, Keith Chapman, Judy Cherne, Sherry Christensen, Karen Coker, Anne Coleman, Rick Collins, Janie Corbett, Betty Crumpler, Bob Englemann, Jan Farr, Clint Frisby, Judy Gangwere, Barbara Gant, Larry & Anita Griffey, Ray Hamelwright, Shelly Hardy, Tom & Hue Leita Harvey, John Heath, Virginia Hitchcock, Marie Holt, Vaughn Kankey, Mary Frances Kelley, Ed & Minerva Kimbell, Helen Kingston, Becky Langston, Ruth Leeth, Ezio Leite, Roy Lucas, Doris Pait Mayfield, Vickie McCammon, Charlene McGee, Charles McManus, Janell Miller, Bob Miner, Ralph & Imogene Mochizuki, Jenny Moore, Charlie Nelson, Bill Norman, Ruth Osborne, Eva Pannell, Becky Pipkin, Jean Pulliam, Dell Richardson, Ron & Nelda Roik, Jody Rushing, George Sellers, Linda Shepherd, Becky Shroyer, Brenda & Steve Slaughter, Bea Smith, Gerald Smith, Rosa Lee Smith, Charlsie Smith, David Spradley, Joyce Stafford, Matha Sterling, Crystal Stewart, Ladena Sullivan, Karolyn Taylor, Leland Thomas, Mike Thomas, Phlo Tidmore, Jim Todd, John Tucker, Evelyn Vaughn, Linda Wade, Homer Wallace, Eddie White, Kelly White, Lorene Williams, Helen Wilson, Calvin Winters, Mandi Womack, and Glenn Wright.

Pray for Ministries of NRHBC & Cross Church

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Friends, family & co-workers who are lost. Pray for people by name.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Speedy cooperation from City of Ft. Worth on Cross Church construction permits.

☞ Our staff as they plan, prepare, and promote great upcoming summer opportunities.

Jeremy Winters, Cross Church Campus Pastor requests prayer for:

✚ Generous giving toward "Grow Together" building fund.

✚ Our members to remain faithful while continuing to set-up and tear-down each week until we have a building.

✚ Our search for a Cross Church Worship Pastor.

✚ Effective strategy/leaders for community engagement.

Danny Koonce Worship Pastor & Jay Krivsky Worship Ministry Associate request prayer for:

🎧 Music & Ensemble Summer activities.

Dave Bryant, MS, & HS Ministries requests prayer for:

🎓 Graduating seniors to be sent out on mission as they go into the next phase of life.

🎓 Those leaving the NRH area to get plugged in to a gospel-centered church, get involved in campus ministry, and be a bold witness in their faith.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Preschool Ministry & Sandra Zwerg-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🚲 VBS workers to sign up and for children to commit to coming.

🚲 Our new "Camp Connect", our full time day care for older children which starts June 4, 2018. Please pray as we plan for Camp.

Daniel Stafford, GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

😊 God's direction in the GPS (Singles) Ministry.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

☞ Women to form lasting relationships with the common bond of Jesus as our Savior.

Stuart Pendell, Couples Ministry requests prayer for:

👰 Stronger, healthier, and happier marriages.

👰 Those marriages that are just barely hanging on - That God would use "RE-Engage" class to bring those couples closer to Him and to each other.

T. J. Daugherty, Director of Global Missions requests prayer for:

🌐 God's direction in missions and helping those in need.

Jody Hayes, Wellness & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

👦 Participants for the summer sports camps, VBS and Day Camp! These are prime opportunities for children to hear the Truth of God's Word.

👦 God to provide leadership for Day Camp, VBS and Kids Camp.

👦 God to provide opportunities for the wellness staff and volunteers to share Christ with those utilizing the wellness center.

Joshua Jones, Director of Communications requests prayer for:

👦 More volunteers for Media Ministry.

Bus Ministry requests prayer for:

🚌 Adult riders (18 yrs +) to assist each Sunday or every other Sunday.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:

International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
<http://www.imb.org>
North American Mission News
<http://www.namb.net>
General Prayer Requests
diane@nrhbc.org

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Let us pray for the special activities of our church

May 3—National Day of Prayer, 12 Noon at NRH City Hall, 4301 City Point Dr.!
May 5—Women’s Ministry to Canton, 7:30 a.m. and Men’s Breakfast, 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall with Texas journalist Tim Madigan (friend of Fred Rogers).
May 6—Vision Sunday, Sr Recognition, 11 a.m. with Breakfast before and lunch afterward, Missions Recap Service and fellowship at 6 p.m. in Worship Ctr.
May 7—All Staff worship
May 9—Widows of Worth Meet at Logan’s for Mothers Day Lunch at 11 a.m., and VBS Meeting, 5:30 p.m. in KIDZone.
May 11—Kids Night Out
May 12—GPS (Singles) Picnic at Linda Spurlock Park, & Riverbend Road Rally.
May 13—Mothers Day, Family Dedications & Discover NRHBC New Members Class, 9:30 in the Parlor.
May 14—Mom to Mom
May 16—California Baptist University Singers, 6:30 p.m.
May 20—Preschool & Children’s Western Day.
May 27—Baptism Sunday
May 28—Memorial Day.
Tues Morn Sr Bible Study & Tues Ministry Choir singing at various facilities
Hispanic Ministry Homebound Ministry KID Worship
Kids Beach Clubs Ladies Prayer Group Library Ministry
Media Ministry Men’s Bible Study Men’s Ministry
Music Ministry Pastor’s Prayer Team Preschool Ministry
Senior Adult Ministry Upward Basketball Wednesday WILD
Wellness Center Ministry Women’s Ministry Young Singles 20s Ministry
Youth Ministry Young Singles Thursday Night Bible Study

Academy Home School Choir
Adopt-A-School Mentoring
Angel Land Preschool
Apartment Ministry
BSF Groups
Bus Ministry
Child Care Ministry
Children’s Choir
Children’s Ministry
Connect Classes
Couples Ministry
Cross Church Campus
Divorce Care
Divorce Care for Kids
ESL Program
Financial Peace University
Fine Arts Academy
Food Pantry
G.A.L.s Drama Group
Global Focus Ministry
Good News Club
GPS (Singles) Ministry
GPS (Singles) Prayer&Praise
GriefShare Ministry