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From: Jonna

Sent: Thursday, September 06, 2007 8:41 PM

Subject: love and prayers

Dear Sisters,

I know we aren't meeting on Monday, but I thought it would be good for some of us to fast and pray for our husbands, the church, the upcoming meetings and changes that lay ahead. I know there is much prayer going on already; I just wanted to share my heart, prayers and burden with you, hopefully be an encouragement, and ask you to join with me as the Lord leads. He is at work in our midst and we have the privilege to join in that work as we pray. With all the stuff of the last five months, I am burdened that we remain connected in loving prayerful community in a way that honors and pleases God. And, though changes can be painful, we know as well that our enemy and our sinful nature do not rest, that we are indeed in a war. May God strengthen us to fight and persevere to stand and to walk in the light and the victory that is ours in Christ Jesus. May we love one another well, as Jesus has loved us. May we be found faithful soldiers, servants, children, whom our Father may delight in! May we be faithful in our prayers to see God's plan and work be righteously and powerfully carried out in our church. And, may Christ's love and humility be made manifest greatly in us. Thank you for sharing this burden and for your precious prayers. May the Lord have His way with each one of us and with our church for His glory! Love to you all, ~jonna

(Below are some verses I have been meditating on and my prayer from this morning for our husbands and our church. It's a little long. Don't feel obligated to read it :)

2 Corinthians 2:8-12 "So I beg you to reaffirm your love for him. For this is why I wrote, that I might test you and know whether you are obedient in everything. Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. Indeed, what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ, **so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.**"

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 "3For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. 4For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ, 6 being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete."

Ephesians 4

Unity in the Body of Christ

1I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, 2with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, 3eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8Therefore it says,

"When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men."

9(In saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? 10He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) 11And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, 14so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. 15Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 6:13-18 "13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. 14Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, 18praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"

Philippians 2:1-7 Christ's Example of Humility

1So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Colossians 3:12-17 "12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. 14And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

James 3:13-18 Wisdom from Above

13Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. 14But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. 15This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. 16For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. 17But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. 18And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

Holy God, Heavenly Father, Creator, Redeemer, Lord,

We worship You. We are amazed by Your love and grace so abundantly supplied to us. Thank You for all that you have done to save us. We marvel that you would use us for your glory and purpose. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for opening the way for us to call upon the Father and for teaching us how to pray and to persistently pray, to ask, to trust, to have faith that You hear and answer. With all that you have done to grow this church we stand in awe and are amazed and so grateful to be a part of Your work.

As we look at where we are now with all the changes and toward the future we cry out for your help, power, wisdom, discernment and grace. Where there has been pain or brokenness, fear, bitterness, cynicism, feelings of betrayal or mistrust we ask for Your Healing. Pour out Your love and grace on every relationship. With great concern and holy fear we cry out for Your will to be done. We pray for our beloved husbands, those You have called and appointed to lead Your church, that You would fill them with Your wisdom, strength, guidance, and counsel for the future direction of this church; that this church would grow and thrive long into the future for generations to come for the advancement of your Kingdom.

Be pleased to continue Your good work through us for the spreading of the gospel. You have been so kind, gracious, and generous towards us. No doubt, we have taken many of your blessings for granted and not always acted in the ways we should. Our emotions, thoughts, words and desires have run rampant at times. Forgive us our sins, even those unknown to us. Show us our sin, folly, blindness, weakness and mistakes that we might not sin against You, offend You or be outwitted by our enemy or destroyed by our sin, or hinder the work of the gospel. Open our eyes to more clearly see You and ourselves that we might follow you in humble, repentant, obedient and faithful devotion.

Break any and every power of the evil one in our midst. Break any demonic strongholds or influence. Silence every evil thought and word and make vividly apparent Your Truth, Your Plans, Your Counsel, Your Guidance. Help us to walk in great humility, wisdom and peace and may the love of Christ clothe each of us.

Thy will be done, O Lord, for the glory of Your Name and Your Church. Guide us by Your wisdom. Help us accomplish big things as You lead us. Thwart every plan that is not from You. Open and close doors of opportunity as You determine is right and best. Have Your way in Your Church with all of us, O Lord. Be glorified. Exalt Your Name in this city, O God. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Fill us with an abundance of Your Spirit, power and wisdom. Make us thoughtful, bold and courageous to speak the truth in love and may this speaking bear much good fruit. Grant patience and hearing hearts to all of us that we would hear You and follow You and love one another well, from the heart not in words only but in deeds and in truth.

Prepare each one of us for the days ahead and especially our husbands as they prepare to meet and make decisions for the future of this church. Prepare our hearts and minds to serve you well and faithfully that we may bring honor and glory to You. Thank You that You have deemed wisdom in the counsel of many. May Your wisdom and truth reign in every decision. Expose and defeat every evil that would attempt to have sway or power in our midst. Fill us with love for one another. Strengthen our bonds to walk together in love, trust, mutual respect and accountability vs. fear, mistrust and pride.

O, God, how can we know or even attempt to pray adequately for this time? Please bless our humble weak prayers to move mountains for Your Kingdom! You are so worthy! How can we bring anything to You? We cannot. We bow at Your feet in dust and ashes, in repentance and worship, in deep gratitude, with cries of petition for Your mercy and grace to help us be wise, faithful, obedient, humble creatures, whom you may take delight in - that Your glorious work, the spreading of the gospel, may be done on the earth, even through us!

May Your Name, Your Character, be exalted. May the glorious good news of the gospel spread to every heart! May it please You, Lord, to use Mars Hill Church in a big way to further Your Kingdom in the earth. May your mercy, grace and favor be upon us. O, God, how we love and worship You! Make us humble, obedient and useful servants for Your work. Make us faithful! How desperately we need You! We rejoice to be called, gifted, and chosen by You! To You be glory, honor, and praise forever! We ask these things in Jesus name. Amen!