

PRAYER SISTERS

Volume 2, Issue 1

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Note from founder... Kathy Groom

I have a new hero. His name is hard to pronounce and few people know of him, even though he is mentioned in the Bible. His accomplishment? This man was a prayer wrestler.

One day while reading the scriptures, I stumbled across a flattering description of a man I'd never heard of before. In a letter, Paul includes greetings from his friend Epaphras and tells his readers, "He is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured." Wow. Now, that's a really good friend. Imagine the battles that

(p.s. You can read about my Bible hero in Colossians 4:12-13.)

occurred as this faithful friend bowed his head and fought for the spiritual welfare of his comrades. And then I realized something. That's exactly what my Prayer Sisters are—prayer wrestlers!

I have watched dignified women get slobbery noses and swollen eyes while wrestling in prayer for one another. We cry over troubled marriages, deceived teenagers, disillusioned college kids, broken hearted grandkids. Only God truly knows how much we have grown in our own spiritual maturity as we plead

in prayer together. And...only God knows the battles that have been won on our loved ones' behalf as we have wrestled.

As we enter into the New Year, I pray that Prayer Sisters everywhere will be empowered and strengthened to pray diligently. That we may all "stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured."

Wrestling in prayer for you in 2007,

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."
—Ephesians 6:18
(The Living Bible)

"Women really need deep connections with other women - and prayer!!!"
—Glynnis Whitwer, Editor, P31 Woman, Proverbs 31 Ministries
www.proverbs31.org

"I am so grateful for friends I know will PRAY!"
—Elizabeth

New Year's Ideas... For Ministry Leaders—

- Consider forming a leadership team to help you start and manage a Prayer Sisters ministry within your own church or organization. And while you're at it—you might want to form your own Prayer Sisters group. Leaders need prayer support and friendship, too (especially!)
- Begin recruiting possible facilitators to lead individual Prayer Sisters groups. It is helpful to have groups ready and willing to accept new members when women inquire about Prayer Sisters/small groups at your church.
- Let us know how Prayer Sisters Int'l can help you and the women in your church make the connection as Prayer Sisters—through resource materials, a one-day kick-

Here are some tips for your Prayer Sisters to try this year!

off event, a weekend retreat, or simply by answering your questions.

Contact us at info@prayersisters.org for more information.

For Groups—

- Commit to reviewing the Sisterly Advice, available on the Web site and in the Prayer Sisters Handbook: **Starting the Connection**. These tips offer valuable reminders to help us in our relationships and in prayer.
- Review calendars and schedules as a group. Assess whether the current plan of times, dates, etc. is working and make necessary changes. Remember that praying together is worth fighting for!

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www.PrayerSisters.org

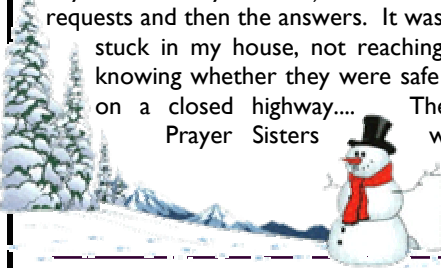
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Sister Stories...

While this winter has blessed some parts of the country with a welcome heat wave, Colorado and surrounding states have been clobbered with record-breaking cold and snow. We've heard from some Prayer Sisters who are especially thankful for their prayer partners... and for e-mail!

One Prayer Sister wrote:

"Since we were all snowed in, our Prayer Sisters were e-mailing each other prayer needs with our families (traveling, cancelled flights, stuck in other states, highways closed due to snow, college kids out of contact two states away with snowy roads...) We would e-mail each other our prayer requests and then the answers. It was such a sense of peace knowing that stuck in my house, not reaching my daughter in Missouri, and not knowing whether they were safe somewhere or deep in a snowdrift on a closed highway... There was peace knowing that my Prayer Sisters were praying for her safety and that God had his eyes on her."



Sisterly Advice...

On Friendship

As true friends, we have to sometimes ask one another "tough" questions as we walk through the difficult times in life. Good friends won't shy away from sincere concern.

On Prayer

Times of silence don't need to be awkward as you pray together. Try not to feel rushed or pressured to say something. Simply keep your mind focused in prayer and listen for the Holy Spirit's direction. He will direct you! (See Romans 8:26-27)

On Spiritual Growth

Read Colossians 3:12-14 for ideas on how to be a great Prayer Sister!

"It is a great feeling to know we can have friendships that will grow together with God." —Patty

Prayer Sisters Resources...

Prayer Sisters is pleased to offer two valuable books for each Prayer Sister! Whether you have been a Prayer Sister for a while or are just considering becoming one for the first time, these resources will help you.

The Prayer Sisters Handbook, **Starting the Connection**, is the perfect tool for each Prayer Sister. We highly recommend each member of your group get one!

This small book gives valuable information on what it means to be a Prayer Sister, suggestions on how to successfully manage your get-togethers, helpful forms, tons of Sisterly Advice and more.

(only \$6.00 each plus shipping and handling)

The guidebook, **Connecting: Seven Lessons to Connecting in Friendship and Prayer**, is designed to help you start down the path together as Prayer Sisters. Picture it as experienced Prayer Sisters joining you for your first few sessions together, sharing experiences and offering valuable suggestions. It is comprised of brief stories, personal challenges and group checkup questions as well as a place to journal prayer requests and answers. Each Prayer Sister will be sure to want her own!

(only \$7.00 each plus shipping and handling)

Watch our website www.prayersisters.org for the Prayer Sisters Online Store coming soon.

In the meantime, contact us at admin@prayersisters.org.

We'll let you know how you can order your own Prayer Sisters Resources right away.

Remember our group of young moms from last issue? They had something so fantastic happen that we wanted to share it with you all. It is such a great example of the support and effectiveness of a praying group of friends! Here's what they had to say right after we printed their story:

"...We told you last week that we were meeting at one of our sister's homes to pray over it because they had had it on the market for 10 months with little

to no activity. Their new home was complete and ready to move into. Lots of emotions, as you can imagine, for the 10 + months of waiting.

We met on Thursday at her home at 11AM. When we arrived she said, "We have to be out of

here by noon. My realtor called and we have a showing." We prayed. We prayed. We prayed. We got down and dirty (God knows what's really in our hearts anyway!) and got specific in our requests. We used scripture and we just asked plainly...for a contract on that day.

AND....we got a contract! (Well, they got a contract on their home)....but God did it! Not that we are surprised that he could, but maybe it was surprising that finally, now, he would. It was time now. So, we are meeting tomorrow, our regular prayer day, and what a celebration it will be. Just wanted to let you know how that turned out!"

"I can't tell you how many prayers have been answered since our Prayer Sisters started praying!"
—Susan

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