

# The Prayer Letter

## **New Horizon United Methodist Church**

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Volume 16, No.4 — April 2009

Dear Prayer Warriors of New Horizon,

Last month I wrote to you about the importance of an attitude of helplessness for effective prayer. It is the first attitude of the heart that God recognizes as prayer. In his classic writing entitled "Prayer" O. Hallesby states that "Prayer and helplessness are inseparable. Only those who are helpless can truly pray." Our helplessness is like an infant's communication to her parent. It is a continuous appeal to God's parental heart.

But there needs to be a second aspect in our attitude for effective prayer to happen that is Faith. Hebrews 11:6 states *"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."*

This can be intimidating because of the reality of who we are. Think of different Bible passages that talk about the importance of praying in faith (Matthew 8:13; 21:21-22; John 11:40; James 1:6-8). When we are honest with ourselves, it is hard to pray with no doubt. With this in mind, praying effective prayers may seem totally out of reach for most of us. But I remember the story of the man who brought his son to Jesus to be healed in Mark 9:14-30. He is not fully sure that Jesus can truly help. Jesus' response to him and to us is seen in the 23<sup>rd</sup> verse "What do you mean, 'If I can'?...Anything is possible if a person believes."

The father then cried out, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!" That needs to be our earnest cry in prayer as well. When we get to that point our faith is really showing! The prayer that condemned itself as unbelief was actually revealing the faith that was there and Jesus could act on that faith by healing the man's son.

It is through our helplessness, our weak faith and our doubts that a door is opened to Jesus. All we need to do is to admit to Jesus how weak our faith is. Faith is strengthened by God when we are truly honest with Him. Being honest is what He is looking for in our prayer life anyway. It is letting Jesus into your heart is such a way that He can truly fulfill your hearts desire.

During this Lent and Easter time of year, I am praying that your time with God will be deeper and richer than ever before.



*"God does nothing but in answer to prayer; and even they who have been converted to God without praying for it themselves, (which is exceeding rare,) were not without the prayers of others. Every new victory which a soul gains is the effect of a new prayer."*

John Wesley in Vol. XI, p. 437 (5).

Seven Days of Prayer  
New Horizon Prayer Team  
April 2009

*Please feel free to pray for a different area each day of the week.  
Thank you for your prayer.*

**1) Pray that we can all approach God with the correct attitude of faith and helplessness which will reveal a deepening reserve of faith and a greater effectiveness in prayer.**

**2) Pray for God to work through all the extra services and events during Holy Week and on into Easter.** Pray that God will use these extra events to bring many people closer to Him.

**3) Pray for passionate worship and prayer and compassionate small groups and outreach—Pray** that we will take Jesus' Great Commandment seriously and allow it to lead us through life (Mark 12:30). Pray that we will understand that our call is to live in the intersection of the cross of passion for God and compassion for people.

**4) Pray for continued growth of New Horizon—Pray** "impossible" prayers for the life, witness and ministry of the New Horizon people (Mark 9:23). Pray for the Holy Spirit to stir us to reach out to include a wide range of racial diversity into our family of faith. Pray for the financial provision of the New Horizon ministries for 2009. Pray for financial security for the families of the New Horizon community.

**5) Pray for effective use of the building—Pray** that God will continue to use the new addition as a tool to bring many new people of all ages to Him through the ministries of New Horizon. Praise God for the generous hearts that have given \$1,583,463.03 to the **Multiply Your Love** campaign as of March 22, 2009. Pray that the new building will enhance the effective programs of the student and children ministries.

**6) Praise God for our Staff Team** of Kristie, Barry, Bob, Jennifer, Deb, Jackson, Mike, Dave, Bryan, Sean, and Roger.

**7) Pray to be a part of what God is blessing.** Ask God to allow us to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we move forward to make an impact for Him in this region and the world.