



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

February 3, 2019

### Mighty to Save

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.* —Matthew 5:4

*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.* —John 12:24

The ugly realities of life hit Peggy Covell in the face, when she learned of her parents' death. A missionary kid from the Philippines, Peggy was sent home to Colorado as World War 2 loomed in the South Pacific. For four years she waited in vain for news of their welfare, until she finally learned their fate. Her parents, Jim and Charma, had established a ministry in a remote valley in the Northern Philippines. Japanese invaders discovered their missionary compound, found their small radio, and executed them as spies.

Mourning mixed with rage, when Peggy learned of their brutal death, but then she learned that her parents had asked for 30 minutes to read the Bible and pray before they died. Knowing her dad and mom, their love for the lost and for the Japanese people, she realized that they spent the last 30 minutes of their lives asking God to forgive their executioners.

So how could Peggy do anything less? Soon, Japanese prisoners in a Colorado POW internment camp were receiving conscientious care from her hand. "Why are you doing this for us?" they would ask, only to be shocked by her reply. "Because the Japanese army killed my parents. But the Holy Spirit has washed away my hatred and has replaced it with love."

Peggy's story had repercussions she could never have anticipated, and thousands of former enemies came to Christ as a result of what God did in her heart.

Commander Mitsuo Fuchida was a warrior, inflamed with pride in his native Japan. The defeat and destruction of his homeland brought him shame and smoldering anger. Required to testify at the war crimes trials after the war, Fuchida was convinced that America was just as guilty of war crimes as Japan. So he began researching how America had treated their prisoners. In the process, he encountered Kazuo Kanegasaki, a former comrade in arms who had been imprisoned in Colorado.

Kanegasaki told Fuchida of an eighteen-year-old American named Peggy, who had cared for him during his imprisonment. He reported her loving care for the needs of Japanese prisoners of war. When Kanegasaki asked why she treated the prisoners so kindly, her answer—which we already know—stunned him.

Justice these warriors could understand, but Peggy's forgiveness was beyond their comprehension. Honor and family loyalty—values they held dear—would produce vengeance, not compassion. Fuchida had encountered something completely unexpected.

In October 1948, while boarding a train, he was handed a tract that told of Jacob DeShazer, an American prisoner in Japan. The bitter hatred he harbored toward his captors turned to compassion, after he read a copy of the Bible in prison. Fuchida began to read the Bible as well.

Its miracle accounts put him off, but he was drawn to its moral message. Then Mitsuo read Luke's account of the crucifixion. Christ's words on the cross, *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do* (Luke 23:34), led him to new birth. At length, Mitsuo Fuchida became an evangelist. He even traveled and preached with his former enemy, Jake DeShazer, to thousands in Japan.

The love of God that motivated Jim and Charma Covell comforted the heart of their daughter Peggy, and their death bore much fruit in the ministry of Mitsuo Fuchida, who, by the way, was the pilot who had led the attack on Pearl Harbor. Our God is Mighty to Save!

*To praise of His glory.*

## Prayer for The Kingdom

Who has God placed in your life who needs Christ? Ask God to lead you to someone He wants you to tell about Christ. Pray for opportunities to tell them of the love that led Jesus to earth and to the cross to die for their sins. Pray for God's leading and the right words to share.

Pray for faith in God's power to save and to work through you.

## Prayer for Northpoint

Continue to pray for Northpoint and it's leaders. Ask for wisdom to chart the course ahead, as we form a pastoral search committee. Ask God to guide the search process and lead us to a man skilled in teaching God's Word and leading a congregation to follow Christ. Pray that he will be a man of prayer who leads us to rely on God through prayer. Ask God to prepare his heart for coming to Northpoint, so his move to our church will clearly be of God.

Also, ask God to prepare us as a church for what He desires to do in and through us. Pray for increased prayer at Northpoint, so our ministry will be directed and empowered by God. Ask God to produce spiritual growth in us as individuals and as a body.

Pray for God's ministry in the lives of our leaders to receive God's strength and protection in all they do.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Scott Williams, Tony Chute, Terilyn Brown, Geoff Grant, Taylor Mendoza, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Mike Russell, and Vinoj Zechariah.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Andria Brucks, Jacob Williams, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, and Teri Vaughn.

## Praise Record

Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. –2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:20-21*

Most of the time, we need to keep our appetites under control. Our wants take over so easily. But the infinite God in our lives allows us—even encourages us—to ask Him for more. God has so many riches to bestow on His children!

Prayer cultivates the art of divinely directed asking and receiving. It's not about getting what we want from God. It's about receiving all He has for us. Prayer is heaven working on earth for eternal purposes, blessing us on earth by connecting us to heaven, where real riches await.

Like every good thing, prayer is a discipline that takes practice. But it leads us before the throne of the God who made us and loves us. Prayer is so worth the effort!

Dave Dussault  
*Northpoint Prayer Ministries*

What God the Father is doing ...

What the Holy Spirit does

?Son / Word? ?Expresses and effects the Father's will?

Our role in the process

Creation and the events of life