

Women's Day of Prayer

**Jesus,
The Lighthouse
of Our
Salvation**

by Charlotte L.V. Thoms



Women's
MINISTRIES
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION
of INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Thank you

To all the women and men who submitted prayers, ideas, articles, songs, poems, and sermons for this manuscript. We regret that we could not use each and every submission. Please be assured that your efforts are greatly appreciated.

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Andrews University
Cover layout

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Alicia Marquez
Coordinated Spanish translation

Mireille St. Pierre
Coordinated French translation



Lighthouse References

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Atlantic Union Conference
Women's Ministries Department
Charlotte L. V. Thoms, Director
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One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Pharos (lighthouse) of Alexandria, Egypt, was the world's first important lighthouse. Guided ships for 1,500 years. Over 400 feet high. Topped by an earthquake. Reportedly, fire could be seen for 35 miles.

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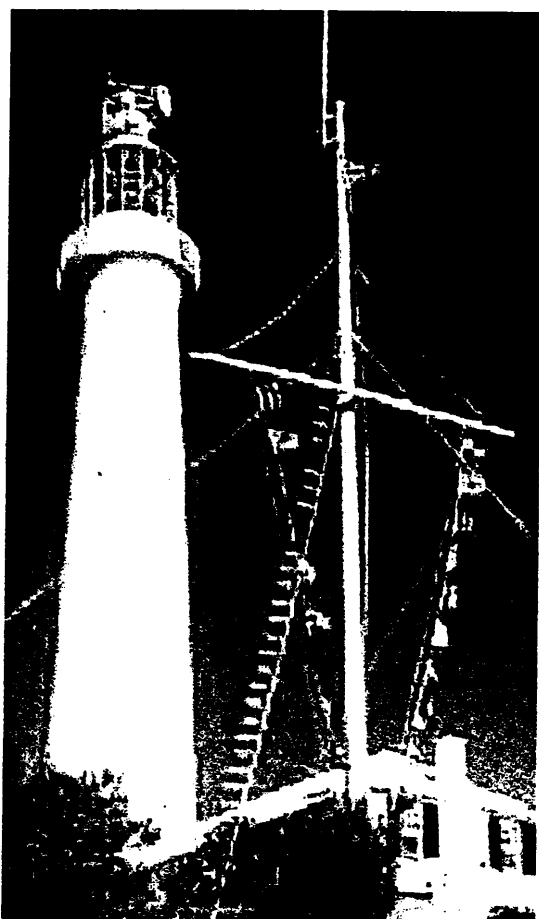
North American Division

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Gibbs Hill Lighthouse on the beautiful island of Bermuda. Oldest cast iron lighthouse in the world. Construction began in 1844. Stands on a hill 245 feet above sea level. Lightbeam can be seen up to 25 miles. Guides ships through the island's dangerous reef.

Bermuda Conference

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INTRODUCTION TO THE WOMEN'S DAY OF PRAYER

When the Women's Ministries Department of the North American Division asked me to coordinate the *Women's Day of Prayer* materials, I felt humbled that God would entrust me with this task. So before I proceed with an official welcome to each Union and Conference director and church leader, I want to give praise and honor to Jesus for allowing us to serve Him in this capacity. On behalf of each contributor, we are deeply honored and feel privileged to serve our Savior and you.

The *Women's Day of Prayer* materials are designed to provide four spiritual programs within a 24-hour period. Each program will allow the Christian woman to draw closer to *Jesus, the Lighthouse of Our Salvation*. As she yields to the power of the Holy Spirit, each woman can then help her sisters in and out of the church to find safety and confidence while trusting in God's willingness and ability to save us.

We want each woman who attends our church to know that she is a child of God worthy of salvation. Therefore, we want to invite every woman to participate as we use the lighthouse as a symbol of salvation. Prayer is the lifeline of the Christian. The Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Serenity are the symbolic ships that will protect us as we sail through the turbulent seas of life. As prayer has but one face, we want this day of prayer to be inclusive. We want to include women from diverse cultures, women with disabilities, and women who simply need prayer. It is in keeping with the philosophy of inclusion that the *Lighthouse* materials are available in English, Spanish, French, and large print.

I personally want to welcome you to the *Lighthouse Program* and encourage you to claim the promise of Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye *pray, believe* that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." God bless you as you allow the Spirit of God to enrich your life through prayer. Prayer truly is the key that opens the door to heaven's storehouse.

Lastly, be sure to include your pastor in your plans and then just let your committee work towards meeting the needs of your women. I have every confidence that you will be successful.

Welcome to the *1999 Women's Day of Prayer*.

*Charlotte L. V. Thoms, Director
Women's and Disabilities Ministries
Atlantic Union Conference*

LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM MATERIALS

The *Lighthouse Program* is a guide developed to allow you, the Women's Ministries leader, flexibility in addressing the spiritual and social needs of the women in your church and community as you lift up Jesus and serve humanity.

Your Women's Ministries Department may choose to do the complete *Lighthouse Program*. You may decide to mix and match by combining activities and eliminating others. The *Lighthouse Program* is a 24-hour, day of prayer and follows the seventh-day Sabbath as taught in Genesis (sundown Friday to sundown Saturday).

As the Women's Ministries leader in your church, flexibility, creativity, and adaptability in light of your church's needs will be key to a successful experience. For example, Program One is designed for Friday evening to begin or open the Sabbath; or your Women's Ministries Department may opt to use Program One as an early-morning prayer breakfast on Saturday. Please feel comfortable in making this change. Prayer will guide you in making the best choices for your women.

Lighthouse Package Contents

- One Welcome
- Theme Song
- Four Sample Program Outlines
- Three Prayers
- One Season of Prayer Guide
- One Sermon
- Lord, Teach Us To Pray
- Two Wave-Breaking Activities
The Lord's Prayer
- Two Life-Line Activities
- Three Follow-up Activities
- Summary

Suggestions to Enhance Your Outreach Efforts

- Invitations
- Gift Ideas for Guests
- Registration Cards
- Hymns or songs
- Send out one month before the program
- Duplicate Lord's Prayer, the Theme Song, Prayer of Serenity on decorative paper
- Index cards -- this is critical for follow-up and future contacts
- Reproduced and placed in the program

WELCOME TO THE LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM Jesus, The Lighthouse of Our Salvation

*[Background: When you are ready to start your program, formally welcome each woman to the **Lighthouse Program**. The following welcome can be used in part or in its entirety.]*

Welcome!

The Women's Ministries Department of the ____ church wishes to welcome each of you here today to share with us the joys and discovery of prayer. Every year our department has a **Women's Day of Prayer**. The women in this church join with our friends in the community in a day of prayer. We also join the larger family of women across the North American Division, who, like us, are looking to this year's theme **Jesus, The Lighthouse of Our Salvation**, to draw us closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Why is our focus on Jesus as the lighthouse of our salvation? As you know, a lighthouse is a tower equipped with high-powered lamps, erected at a point of danger to guide sea travelers through dangerous reef. We believe we are living in some dangerous times. Wouldn't you agree? We need to be safely on the ship of prayer. Today, we are using the Lord's Prayer and the Prayer of Serenity as our symbolic ships.

Our lifeline is prayer.

We are looking to the bright beams of God's mercy shining from the lighthouse as our source of safety. We have planned a wonderful time for you. From our theme song to our wave-breaking activities, Jesus will be seen as the Lighthouse of Our Salvation.

Has everyone completed the registration form? Are you getting acquainted with each other? Wonderful! If there is anything that we can do to make your time with us more spiritual and more comfortable, please let us know.

Again, we are so glad you are here. God bless you as we spend time in prayer. **Welcome to the 1999 Women's Day of Prayer—Jesus is the Lighthouse of Our Salvation.**

THEME SONG

[Background: Our theme song is the same tune as Just as I am Without One Plea except for measures three, four, and nine. The first verse has been provided. This is a wonderful opportunity for expression. Let the women add the next verses (if you desire) as long as you can make them fit the melody. Remember, there is no right or wrong lyric. Just have fun.]

JESUS IS THE LIGHTHOUSE OF OUR SALVATION

Charlotte Elliott, 1836 (1789-1871) WOODWORTH L.M.
William B. Bradbury, 1849 (1816-1868)

1. Je-sus is the light house of our our sal-va-tion, Thru sin-tossed days, He guides my way.
He dis-pels the darkness with beams of bright-ness, Oh, light house safe is my soul, my soul.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Jesus is the Lighthouse of our Salvation'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system covers the first two lines of the first verse, and the second system covers the next two lines.

Words and Musical adaption: Charlotte L. V. Thoms

Verse 1

Jesus is the Lighthouse of our, our salvation.
Thru sin-tossed days, He guides my way.
He dispels the darkness with beams of brightness.
Oh, Lighthouse, safe is my soul, my soul.

PROGRAM OUTLINES

*[Background: Remember, this is only a guide. The key to a successful program is adaptability to the needs of your women. Through prayer, the **Lighthouse Program** will be a blessing to those who participate. We are praying for you.]*

Program 1

Friday Evening

Registration
Wave-Breaking Activity
Welcome
Prayer of Serenity
Theme Song
Season of Prayer
Life-line Activity
Closing Prayer

Program 2

Sabbath School

Registration
Welcome
The Lord's Prayer
Lord, Teach Us To Pray
Life-line Activity (from Friday)
Sabbath School Lesson
Theme Song
Closing Prayer

Program 3

Divine Worship

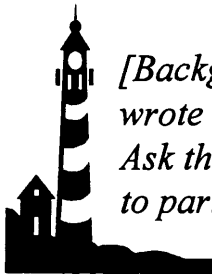
Registration
Welcome
Prayer
Theme Song
Scripture
Offering
Sermon
Special Music
Follow-up Activity
Benediction

Program 4

Sabbath Evening

Registration
Wave-Breaking Activity
Welcome
Prayer
Testimonies
Season of Prayer
Lighthouse Parable
Theme Song
Follow-up Activity
Closing Prayer

THE SHORELINE PRAYER



*[Background: June Strong, beloved author, had been ill before she wrote this prayer. Her testimony is a powerful lead in to the prayer. Ask the women (and men) to turn to Ezekiel 33: 31, 32 and be ready to participate in this sobering text. The brief statement after her prayer leads to the significance of the **Lighthouse Program**.]*

June's testimony

I have just emerged from a long, black tunnel of sickness; and one of the special treats of returning health is sitting once again in my own pew in our small country church. How I enjoy the time of praise and prayer requests, the singing, the preaching, the hour of Bible study. After weeks away, the whole process of worship fills me with joy.

I love to watch the children, their beautiful little faces bobbing about in the pews like flowers in a summer breeze. Some are my grandchildren, and I realize how blessed I am to share these holy moments with them.

I look at my brothers and sisters in Christ. Because I am one of the matriarchs in the church, I can recall how each one of these individuals came to be there. The miracles the Holy Spirit has worked in so many lives, breaking down barriers and turning hearts God-ward, each worshiper a wonderful story to be told and retold throughout eternity.

Yes, I love my church, the saints and all the emotions I experience there; but today I read a text that startled me into some soul-searching. In Ezekiel 33:31, 32 God is speaking to His prophet in an intimate way, sharing His ability to look beneath the surface as He views His professed followers.

[Instructions to the congregation] Read with me carefully and prayerfully:

"My people come to you, as they usually do, and sit before you and listen to your words, but they do not put them into practice. With their mouths they express devotion, but their hearts are greedy for unjust gain. Indeed, to them you are nothing more than one who sings love songs with a

beautiful voice and plays an instrument well, for they hear your words but do not put them into practice."

So now I must ask myself some hard questions. Is church a place to which I go for spiritual entertainment, for emotional fulfillment, for a pleasant religious routine? Does the service have a certain aesthetic appeal for me? Is it simply part of my familiar weekly agenda?

Have I heard Your words, but (O, God forbid) not put them into practice? God knows the answer to that question, just as He knew in Ezekiel's day. Serious illness forces one to take stock; and so I, too, must know the answer. What part does religion really play in my life?

[Ask the congregation to assume a posture of prayer.]

June's prayer is surely one that leads the sea-tossed traveler to the peaceful shore.

"Father, I know there is a place I have not been, a depth of knowing You I have not experienced, not even remotely. In the midst of my pain and despair I saw clearly that I was, even as God's chosen in Ezekiel's day, only skimming the surface of true intimacy with You, that I had wasted years 'playing religion' but never totally making You king of my life. Now that I am approaching wellness, the world closes in with all its familiar attractions; and I am afraid of falling into old patterns. Let me be focused on You, on knowing You at some deeper, life-changing level. I pray this not just for myself but for all Your children because I feel something new happening. I hear Your voice filled with urgency saying 'There is a commitment far beyond what you have yet been willing to make and it's not an option. You are entangled in a fierce web of Satan's weaving---a web of comforts, ease, entertainment, frivolous living. Let Me lift you from the web and take you to a place beyond anything you have ever dreamed where life is not easy, but you walk with your Maker and at long last know Eden's peace. The hour is late and My heart trembles for you'."

That's what I hear my Lord saying to me---to all of us. Will we hear? Will we respond? Will we remain safely on the ship of prayer looking to the Lighthouse to guide us to the peaceful shore? I pray we will.

A SEAWORTHY PRAYER

[Background: Evie VandeVere currently directs the North American Division Women's Ministries.]



Eternal Father,

It is so good to be here in Your house today. We praise You for Your wisdom in creating the Sabbath, a safe haven of rest. You knew how much Your children would need this time away from our daily busyness and the storms of life. We are needy this morning. We confess our sins, and ask Your forgiveness, knowing that only as we forgive others, can You forgive us.

Thank you for the young people surrounding us today. Their presence brings us hope for the future, and we are happy in their love of You. For them and for every other person here, we pray Your richest blessings. We ask for courage to follow the Lighthouse beacon. Your word, Father, is that beacon, and our prayers with obedience to Your word will guide us to Jesus.

Thank you for being with us this past week. Some of the days were good days with calm seas; some were filled with worry and frustration as the winds tossed us in dangerous waters. You supplied us with strength for our journeys and brought us again to Your house of worship. We come in gratitude and praise and in supplication for Your presence to give us direction and wisdom to deal with problems. Help us to remember the joy of walking in the sunshine and laughing in the rain.

Help us to have vigorous, daring thoughts for Your cause on this earth. Give us such trust in Your goodness that we will willingly walk wherever You lead; may we have active compassion for all who enter our personal world in need of tender, loving care. May we have a clear vision of Your plan for each of us and wisdom in achieving that plan.

And, Father, may our faith be such a happy and joyous one that others will be able to see and accept Your deep love for them. May they know that there is safety in Your son, Jesus, The Lighthouse of Our Salvation. We ask this prayer in His worthy name. Amen

CLOSING PRAYER

Our God and our Father,

We are eternally grateful to You for Jesus. And we thank You for the blood that was shed on Calvary for the remission of our sins.

We ask that You would forgive us for our sins and shortcomings. Help us to lift up Jesus as we serve humanity.


Thank you for Your goodness and mercy, for Your watch care over us. You are more faithful in watching over us during our trials than the lighthouse keeper as he watches over the safety of ships during a storm. Please help us to keep our eyes fixed on the Light which is Jesus as He guides us through this sinful world.

Thank you for Your love and patience. Please give us that same kind of love for our sisters and for everyone. We know that all are precious in Your sight. Also, we ask that You remember those who have disabilities and special needs.

In closing, Father, we praise You for the blessings we have received during this Women's Day of Prayer. As Your mighty hand puts the sun to bed, as Your whisper calms the sea, and as we say farewell to another Sabbath day, we thank You for giving us receptive hearts to Your words.

In Jesus' name and for His sake, let all the people who believe and trust in the assurance of Jesus as The Lighthouse for Our Salvation, say Amen.

SEASON OF PRAYER GUIDE

 [Background: **The short prayer below can be used before the Season of Prayer section of your program. A Season of Prayer is one that invites every woman who wishes an opportunity to pray to God the Father in the name of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

The prayers can be in the form of a sentence; or centered upon a single theme; or perhaps a specific number of women could be asked to pray {As an example: would three women please pray as impressed by God, and I (facilitator) will close the season of prayer}.

The Season of Prayer can also be used to focus on the church/community. There can be as many as eight groups praying at the same time. One group praying for the church in the four categories listed below, and one group praying for the community in the four categories listed below.

Winter prayer – prayers for the mature Christian

Spring prayer – prayers for the newly-baptized Christian

Summer prayer – prayers for the youth

Fall prayer – prayers for the family and community

This is the perfect time to ask for special prayer requests. You may also invite each woman to become a prayer partner by contacting Charlotte L. V. Thoms at CThoms513@aol.com. There are over 200 prayer partners sending praises, requests, and thanks to God.

As in keeping with the model prayer, let us be encouraged that we do not need to repeat God's name over and over to be heard.]

PRAYER

The hour is late and our hearts tremble as we face the storms of this life. The waves of tribulation sometimes seem to overwhelm us, but Jesus is the lighthouse of our salvation. On this Women's Day of Prayer, let us focus on Him, and remember that each of us wants to be saved. We also want each of our sisters saved. Before the day is ended, we want our theme, **Jesus, The Lighthouse of Our Salvation, to become a real response to each of our needs as sisters in Christ. Amen*

LIGHTHOUSE SERMON

UNITY IN THE SISTERHOOD (And Brotherhood)



[Background: Esther Jones is the chairperson of the Advisory Committee and wife of the President of the Atlantic Union Conference. She also serves in the Treasury Department of the Conference. Her sensitive, sober, and Christ-centered counsel is a stabilizing force in Women's Ministry.]

Boston, Massachusetts (Little Brewster). First lighthouse in North America.

As we read scripture, especially that which relates the words and activities of Jesus at the close of His earthly ministry, we are impressed that He was very concerned (as all parents are concerned) that His children get along; that we learn to love each other and that we learn to work together to finish His work.

Psalms 133:1 tells us, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." And it is, isn't it? You can remember many good times spent with family and/or friends and how pleasant the time spent with them was and how good you felt for a considerable time after that when you remembered the occasion. Evidently, the Lord wishes us to have many of those good and pleasant times. He wants us to enjoy each other's company, to have a working atmosphere, which is congenial.

And so at the end of His ministry, as He prayed for His followers, Jesus said, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word, that they all may be one as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You have sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (John 17:20-23)

Here is Jesus praying to His Father asking that we would be one with the Father and with Him so that we would be able to work together and that we would not be distracted from our work by conflict among ourselves. The end result is that the world will believe! Wonderful, don't you think?

But if we are candid with ourselves, we must admit that all is not always well in the circle of Christian believers. While we may think that we have made good arrangements to avoid conflict and to move along, we must be sure that we have chosen to solve our people problems according to the instructions given to us by our Creator. When we choose to do things in His way we can be assured that the results will be lasting ones.

We need to be watchful, as the Lord has admonished us, on our guard against the wiles of the devil. One of the greatest tools is distraction. If we are not careful, we can become involved in long, drawn out conflicts which have no significance, when we consider eternity, except to divide us and to cause pain. To avoid these situations, we must sort prayerfully through the issues which we face each day; and we need to be a little slower to speak, to act. We must ask the Lord for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for discretion to discern His will. Then, taking the time to listen for His answer, we can have the wisdom to deal with any situation we meet. We cannot find any better help than that. He who does not lie has promised to be our Wonderful Counselor.

However, the major problem here is to learn, by His grace, to love each other in the way that the Lord loves us. He said, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34, 35) These words have always been important words but for us who face the end of time, they are more critical than ever before. We must truly learn to love each other with a genuine love. This is the love that only comes from our Father, God. It is when we learn to love that we can work together, pray together, and refuse to have a part in divisive movements, whatever they are.

The Lord, being the Wonderful Counselor that He is, has not left us without complete instructions as to how to accomplish His goals for us. "All His biddings are enablings." So, when we come to these bad places in the road of life, we must use our heads, we must stop and think, "How can I resolve this problem, a small thing, before it becomes a mountain, distracting not only those immediately involved in the situation, but many others, spectators who have stopped their own work to gape, to gawk, to jump into the fray feet first, or to take sides, etc.

Here is what the Lord has said, “Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.” Matthew 18:15 We have had that counsel as long as we have had the Bible. I wonder how many times we think to obey the Master Teacher and to do what He has said when we seek to solve our people problems.

In his devotional book, *Joy in the Morning*, Raymond Woolsey says this, “Someone has observed that it seems easier to obey Jesus’ command to love our enemies than it is to get along with the saints! When someone outside our church mistreats us, we may tend to be a bit condescending—after all, ‘they don’t know the truth, we reassure ourselves; they haven’t had the light we have received.’ But when a fellow church member doesn’t toe the line we have drawn, we feel threatened.” Woolsey then tells the story of a man whose friend tried to teach him to drive. He did fine as he practiced his various maneuvers. But when he drove onto the highway, he found himself in trouble. At the first side street, he pulled off the highway, and stopped the car. His conclusion was “it would be easy if it weren’t for the other people.” Woolsey concludes, “There is more to Christianity, of course, than the other people and getting along with them. But learning that Christ loves the other people as much as He loves us, ugly as they may seem, is part of the process of Christian growth.”

And yet the Lord expects us to learn this hardest of all lessons, to get along with each other. And He means everybody! The Bible gives us a picture of the Lord’s view of the human race: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:28

Beethoven’s “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” contains a phrase which should be part of every prayer we pray, “Teach us how to love each other.” We then begin to recognize that any situation or feeling that does not teach us to love each other is like a fearfully strong gale threatening our safety and our joy. As we look to the high beams from the Jesus, The Lighthouse of Our Salvation, the billowing waves are not a distraction because we have confidence that we will arrive safely to shore. When that happens, I believe the rest of the work will fall into place, the Lord will be able to trust us to help to finish the work, and we can go home!

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY

[Background: Daphne Thomas is a co-director in the Southern New England Conference. Her contribution gives the seafaring sailor a song on the lips for the prayer that is in the heart. You will recite the Lord's Prayer and sing a melody to add to the joy of knowing that we can become like our Lord Jesus who sang songs for strength. We can be lighthouses to our sisters as they witness the joy we have even in trials.]

[Please do not be anchored to these songs alone. Please select your favorites.]

Reader: And when you pray, say Our Father...
Music: Father, Lead Me Day by Day, Hymn 482

Reader: which art in heaven...
Music: Holy, Holy, Holy, Hymn 73

Reader: Hallowed be thy name...
Music: All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name, Hymn 229

Reader: Thy kingdom come ...
Music: In a Little While We're Going Home, Hymn 626

Reader: Thy will be done ...
Music: All to Jesus I Surrender, Hymn 309

Reader: on earth as it is in heaven.
Music: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, Hymn 12

Reader: Give us this day our daily bread...
Music: Seek Ye First the Kingdom, Hymn 224

Reader: And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ...
Music: The Old Rugged Cross, Hymn 159

Reader: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil...
Music: Power in the Blood, Hymn 294

Reader: for Thine is the kindgom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Music: How Great Thou Art, Hymn 86

Wave-breaking Activity

Activity #1

[Copy the section below and hand out to the women as they enter the room. A hostess to welcome each woman will foster a feeling of comfort.]

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SEARCH

FIRST: Ask God to show you another woman to help find the words.

SECOND: Don't be afraid. We are eager to share this activity with you.

THIRD: You do not need to know the books of the Bible to complete the activity.

One preacher found 15 words in 20 minutes, but it took him 3 weeks to find the 16th one. You have ___ minutes. Have fun!! No Bibles. 😊

I once made a remark about the sixteen hidden books of the BIBLE. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. We want it to be fun, a most, fascinating few moments for you.

Finding them was a lulu, kept some people looking so hard for facts, it was a real job. Some were in a jam, especially since the names were not capitalized. For others finding them was a revelation. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers.

Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, when it is found, there will be loud lamentations. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete, relax now for there are really sixteen names of books of the BIBLE in these paragraphs.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____

Wave-breaking Activity

ANSWERS TO BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SEARCH

[Background: If you have access to an overhead projector, please make a transparency of the answers.]

- *You can show the transparency and let the women check their own papers.*
- *You can ask someone who thinks she has all 16 to give the answers.*
- *You can divide the task by asking one person from each table to give one or two answers.*

A gift can be given to all those who find all 16 within the time frame or to the two women who finish first and to the two women who tried hard and finished last.]

[Copy the section below on a transparency or paper. Remember flexibility and creativity.]

ANSWERS TO ACTIVITY #1

Mark (*remark*)
Esther (*Yes, [next line] there*)
Amos (*a [next line] most*)
Luke (*lulu, kept*)
Kings (*looking so*)
Acts (*facts*)
Job (*a real job*)
James (*jam, especially*)
Revelation (*revelation*)
Ruth (*truth*)
Numbers (*numbers*)
Judges (*judges*)
Titus (*admit it usually*)
Lamentations (*lamentations*)
Hebrews (*she brews*)
Peter (*compete relax*)

Wave-breaking Activity

Activity #2

[Background: When used daily and understood, the Lord's Prayer is much like a diaphone (foghorn). This activity is to help each woman to make the Lord's Prayer a personal experience and a loud cry in time of danger. The prayer can be duplicated on decorated paper and given as a gift and reminder of the Women's Day of Prayer.]

[Copy the section below and hand out to the women as they enter the room.]

AFTER YOU PRAY, SELECT A SISTER TO HELP YOU WITH THIS ACTIVITY. Together rewrite the Lord's Prayer. You want to write a personal application of the prayer Jesus gave to His disciples. Be ready to share your prayer with the group. You may want to think about how this prayer can help you to be a lighthouse for others. If you have never prayed, then you are going to have a wonderful experience.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom,

And the power,

And the glory, for ever. Amen

KJV Matthew 6:9-12

The Lord's Prayer

Prayerfully rewrite the Lord's Prayer.

Your name _____ *Your sister's name* _____

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The Come Let Us Celebrate Together Seminar: Prayer, Thoms, C., 1997.

Prayer of Serenity



God grant me the serenity
To accept the things that I cannot change;
Courage to change the things that I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardship as the pathway to peace.
Taking as He did this sinful world as it is,
Not as I would have it.

Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His will.
That I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy in the next.

Amen

[Background: Lillian Grant currently supports and actively creates special spirit-filled programs for Women's Ministries on the beautiful island of Bermuda.

*Lillian cleverly uses II Corinthians 12:7-10 and the Prayer of Serenity to help answer the question, "Why **doesn't** God hear me when I pray?"*]

To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

II Corinthians 12:7 – 10 New International Version

God knows how naturally subject to pride I am, so to keep me humble and dependent on Him, He has allowed me to continue to have poor eyesight and other bodily weaknesses. These infirmities are like a thorn in the flesh which Satan uses to beat my spirit to the ground, yet this is what keeps me from being too independent, which I tend to be. Three times I've pleaded with the Lord about this and asked Him to heal me and return my full eyesight. I told Him I needed it to get around and could function better for Him. Each time He has said, "My grace is all you need. My power is seen best through people who have limitations. Your *handicap will make you depend on Me, and that's when you'll be the strongest." So now, I am thankful for physical limitations, because when I realize how weak I really am, that's when I must fully depend on Christ. As strange as it sounds, I'm thankful for the insults, hardships, sufferings, persecutions and all the pain and difficulties I've had for Christ's sake. If people can see the power of Christ helping me through all these difficulties instead of seeing me, then I praise the Lord for all these trials. When I realize my own weakness, then I'm the strongest in Christ.

II Corinthians 12:7 – 10 Clear Word Bible

*Although used here, handicap is a negative term; substitute the word disability during the open discussion.

*[Background: Two RETURN activities that are to be given at the end of your program {using your imagination, you can think of other ways to use this prayer to encourage women to trust in God}. The women are to bring the responses back for the next session—follow up is the lifeline of the **Lighthouse Program**. Please give them a copy of the prayer and text.]*

Using the Prayer of Serenity and II Corinthians 12:7 – 10, ask as many as time will allow to share what appeared to be a “no” response to a prayer request:

- The initial prayer request.
- God’s response.
- How God’s response enriched the life although the answer appeared to be “no.”



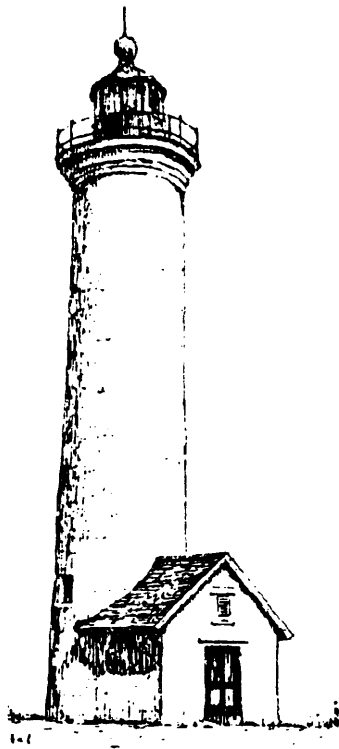
This is also a wonderful opportunity to use other scriptures like Ephesians 6:10, 11 and Philippians 4:13 to steer the women to trust in God’s response to our prayers. Emphasize how God will direct our course if we allow Him. Remember Job!

Divide the Prayer of Serenity into three sections:

- Accepting things I cannot change.
- Courage to change the things that I only can change.
- How to look to the Jesus, The Lighthouse of Our Salvation, to know the difference.

LIGHTHOUSE PARABLE

[Background: Use the true story of Cheri Schroeder, Women's Ministries Director for the Northern New England Conference, to encourage your women to share experiences (their own Lighthouse parables or symbols) of God's blessings. You may desire to have the women not only talk of answered prayers but also of prayers that seemed to have gone unanswered. It is important to have a skilled person (skilled in prayer) to lead this discussion so that each experience told can be a lighthouse to safety. Refer to the Prayer of Serenity for guidance.]



Tibbetts Point Lighthouse
Cape Vincent, New York.

[The facilitator relates Cheri's story.]

When my son was only three weeks old, my sister flew down to Florida to visit. It was the first time she had actually held a newborn baby. I did not know it at the time, but she had been struggling with her relationship with Jesus. Praying four hours a day - from 3 a.m. to 7 a.m. - had not fulfilled her need. She felt her prayers were forced and believed that God could not hear her. She even thought that it was her fault for not being able to speak properly to a heavenly being.

As my sister looked down on that little baby, he looked right back at her and gurgled. That's all...just gurgled! But the expression on her face was aglow. "He's talking to me! He knows I am here! He knows I love him!" Then her face changed, her thought deepened, her expression became even more beatific as she quietly said, "That's the way it is with our Father in heaven. It makes no difference how well I speak, or if I say all the right things. When I turn to Him and gurgle, He's as thrilled as I am (more!) that I know He's there, and He loves me."

C TO C
SEA TO SHORE ACTIVITIES
 (A Little Play on Words)

*[Background: These are some ideas from Charlotte and Cheri for a deeper time with the Lord as the year passes. We want this **Women's Day of Prayer** to be the **Catalyst** for a year filled with open **Communication** with the **Captain** of our ship, Jesus. As you give these ideas today, set a future time when you can meet again to follow up with those who have attended.]*

Copy these activities and pass them out as you invite the women to the next function.]

PRAYER WALK

It may seem a long time, but you'll be surprised how quickly the time passes with Jesus. The walk will be especially rewarding if you take along a sister.

- Take a walk each day, fifteen minutes if that's all you have, but take the walk.
- Split your time into three parts:
 - Five minutes in confession
 - Five minutes in requests
 - Five minutes in praise and thanks

PRAYING THROUGH SCRIPTURE

- Choose a book from the Bible that you have never become acquainted.
- Read a passage
- Pray that the Lord will reveal
 - what that person went through in this situation
 - how does this apply to my life
 - what this shows of God's character

C T O C SEA TO SHORE ACTIVITIES

CHART YOUR COURSE ONE-YEAR BIBLE READING



[Background: This is a fun activity. You and a partner will read the Bible through in one year: the New Testament two times and the Old Testament once. It is never a good idea to read from Genesis to Revelation. It would take the reader too long to get to the wonderful life of Christ.]

- Select a prayer and spiritual-growth partner for the upcoming year.
- Follow the schedule.
- Use a Bible journal to chart your course.
- Use a Bible journal to log in your daily discoveries.

Schedule for Bible reading using two months for each cluster.

Cluster	Months	Scriptures
One	March and April	Genesis through Deuteronomy
Two	May and June	All the New Testament
Three	July and August	Joshua through Esther
Four	September and October	Job through Song of Solomon
Five	November and December	Reread all New Testament
Six	January and February	Isaiah and Malachi

SUMMARY



Did you have an exciting, enriching, empowering, spirit-filled day of prayer? To God be the glory great things He has done! Let's sum up things as did the preacher of Ecclesiastes 12:13, "Here is the conclusion of the whole matter. Fear God, and keep His commandments: for such is the whole duty of man (woman)." It is our privilege to respect God; and with prayer, we can stay on the ship, be steadfast in prayer, and be confident that He will save us.

We trust and pray that the *Lighthouse Program* has been a blessing to all those who participated. I know as you began to read and digest the materials, God revealed all kinds of innovative approaches. As I read through the materials the last time, I thought of how the life-saving devices on a ship could have been included, the significance of the anchor, the lighthouse keeper's role, the sandy shore, the unseen dangers in and out the water, and much, much more. I can imagine you had the same experience.

Were our prayers answered? We wanted the *Program*

- to draw us closer to Jesus;
- to allow our Women's Ministries Department to serve other woman as we all seek an intimate, deeper communication with God through prayer;
- to foster an opportunity for us to meet other women with different experiences;
- to promote an on-going outreach program.

Please share the blessings from your program with us. And if you have any suggestions for the next Women's Day of Prayer materials, please contact us at CThoms513 @ aol.com. Let's keep the lines of communication open. Remember to become a prayer partner, use the same email address given above. Nothing is better than prayer.

God bless you in your spiritual journey. Jesus is the Lighthouse of Our Salvation. If we don't meet here in the rough waters of life, then let us stay on the ship until we can meet safely on the peaceful shores of heaven.

Charlotte L. V. Thoms