



# The Armor of God

Part Six of a Series: Pray Always  
by Emi Negron

**A**nd 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. Eph 6:18

## PRAY ALWAYS

Col 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...

1Sa 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way: Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great [things] he hath done for

you.

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

## SPEAK BOLDLY

And pray on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in

proclaiming it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians 6:19-20

2Cr 5:20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

2Cr 3:12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

### Easter Celebrations

**Palm Sunday**  
 March 28  
 Choir Musical 10:15 AM  
 Cal Baptist Choir 6:00 PM

**Good Friday**  
 April 2  
 Communion 6:30 PM

**Easter Sunday**  
 April 4  
 Sunday School 9:00 AM  
 Sunday Service 10:15 AM

### Inside this issue:

Pew Duty	2
TLC Moms & Dads	3
Please Pray	4
Contribute to the Newsletter	4

### Join Us Sunday Mornings:

- Family Bible School 9 AM
- Worship Service 10:15 AM

# Pew Duty

In Loving Memory of Leonard Wiebe.

Written Friday, November 20, 2009

I checked my email early this morning. A good friend wrote, "Write to me some of the things God is teaching you..."

"Not today, I can only write if God gives me something to write and that will not be today," I respond. I have to clean the toilets today, no time for deep spiritual musing. I HATE to clean the toilets and I am in a bad mood. Actually, I hate all cleaning which is a real problem for an obsessive person who likes everything spotless.

I pull into my driveway after dropping the kids at school. My elderly neighbor Arlena is out front sweeping the walk. I have to clean the toilets, I do not have time to talk and I am grumpy. "Lord, help me talk to her." We talk about the flu, politics, and electric bills. I tell her I have to go clean the house. She starts to sweep my driveway. I remember that she sweeps it every day.

*The greatest among you must be the servant of all.*

I go inside and start to clean. "Lord, help me find you in cleaning these toilets. I know there is something to learn here." An excellent leader once told me, "Never get too important to clean the toilet." I start to pray. I pray for Mr. Wiebe, a 90-year-old friend undergoing cancer treatment.

What most people don't know about Mr. Wiebe is that he cleans the sanctuary every week. Mr. Wiebe has twisted hands and missing fingers due to a childhood accident and he walks with a cane

or walker. Yet, every week for at least two years he has faithfully cleaned and restocked the church pews. I call it "pew duty". The last couple of weeks, he has been unable to come due to his cancer treatments.

Yesterday, three good friends came and did his job for him. It took three grown women two hours to do his work. How does he do it? Their first reaction was repulsion, "This is disgusting. We need gloves." Then, frustration, "Why do people leave it so dirty? What can be done to keep it cleaner?" Lastly, service – cleaning it to perfection, beyond perfection. I am grateful for them and their willingness to serve me and our church in this way.

While they worked, Mr. Wiebe called. He inquired about several people for whom he prays. He was pleased to hear about some answered prayers. Then he said, "Tell Pastor I am praying for him."

*The greatest among you must be the servant of all.*

As I clean the toilets, I recognize myself in my friends' reaction to the pews. My thoughts when cleaning go like this, "This is disgusting! How did this get like this in just a week." Then, frustration, "My family should pick up after themselves. This is so gross. Why do I have to do this? They should clean it themselves." I am angry that dirt and germs are part of my perfect world. Finally, service – the rhythm of doing the work and the contentment when it is done. Does Mr. Wiebe think these

things? I do not know. But, for me, they are part of the service – doing something I do not necessarily want to do.

I also see Him in my work. He must look at my sin and be grossed out, disappointed, and even frustrated or angry. The dirt in His perfect world must hurt Him. He did not feel like going to the cross (He wept in the garden), dying for my sin, cleaning me up. He could have spent the day musing over spiritual things with his disciples...or ruling over the world.

*Yet, He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond servant, and being made in the likeness of men. He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. He stooped down, got dirty, and cleaned the unclean.*

*The greatest among you must be the servant of all.*

Thank you Lord for meeting me in the pews and at the toilet. Thank you for the large examples to me of You in Mr. Wiebe and Arlena.

Cleaning the toilet may be the task in which I become most like Him.



# TLC Teen Moms & Dads



**"He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6**

February 4, 2010

We thank the Lord for you. Your prayers are very important to us. In this newsletter I wish to share with you a follow up on our February 2009 prayer requests to you. May you be encouraged.

A year ago I wrote: **Please pray for our Teen Moms:**

*Please pray for their safety and for their physical, educational, spiritual, and emotional needs. The Lord has placed us and our volunteers in their lives. Pray that we would seek Him and His direction for this time that we have with them. Pray that our lives and testimonies would help direct the teens to Jesus.*

*Please pray also for those that are abused. Pray that the Lord would deliver them from bad situations. Pray that He would give them wisdom and courage to protect themselves and their children.*

*Our "TLC" moms have been invited to join the women of Los Altos Grace Brethren Church on their retreat. This has been a blessing to our moms who have attended in past years. Let me tell you about Rosario.*

*Rosario came to our Support Group about 5 years ago. She seemed like a pretty rough-tough person on the outside, there was no doubt*

*she could take care of herself and that you shouldn't mess with her. She was pregnant, but I soon figured out from "marks" that she was being regularly abused by her boyfriend.*

*As time passed she trusted me as a friend. She started coming to our Bible Study, making friends with the other moms in the Bible Study. Then an opportunity came to invite her to the Women's Retreat. Rosario had never been to a retreat. She didn't even know what a retreat was, but she accepted the invitation. She learned a lot about a lot of things, and she had a great time.*

God hears your prayers, one year later we see His answers have been very specific! He has given Rosario lots of friends at church, she is loved by many. These friends have come along side of her, helping her and praying her out of an abusive relationship. At the present time she and her 3 children are living in a protective shelter. Please continue to pray for their safety.

Rosario hates missing church or Bible study. I've never seen anyone so determined to overcome obstacles in order to attend. Broken cars, fussy children, heavy traffic, bad weather, hardly anything can keep her away.

The shelter will provide much needed help and protection, but she was very disappointed to learn that she would not be able to attend Wednesday night Bible study because of their curfew.

Not to be stopped, since she couldn't make it to Bible study, she decided to start one in the shelter! She's never lead a Bible study, and is still learning her way around the Bible, but this is what she decided to do.

One of her church friends gave her some workbooks and Bible's to use,

and the Lord gave her the courage. When she announced her Bible study to the ladies in the shelter, one of the ladies was very much opposed. She made it known that she is a Muslim. Rosario felt that this lady did not like her at all.

On another day, at a group meeting, this Muslim lady was sharing about her life, she was crying. Even though it was scary for Rosario, she went up to the lady after the meeting and hugged her and told her that she loves her and that God loves her. She later gave her one of the books that had been given for the Bible study. The lady's heart was obviously touched by Rosario's love for her. She treasures the book, and the special note that was written in it by Rosario to encourage her.

The Muslim lady has an 11 year old daughter, G'my-yah, with her in the shelter. Last week Rosario asked the little girl if she would like to come to church with her. The little girl said that her mother probably would not allow her come because she is Muslim. Rosario decided to ask the mother anyway. Here is a picture of Rosario last Sunday at church with not only G'my-yah (on the right), but also Zohnyia, another little girl from the shelter! They both attended the youth group!!

Rosario's life was greatly impacted by the friendships that developed and the love she received in the past at the women's retreats. She is now passing on what she received. It is amazing to see how God uses our love for others as the main way of building His church.

You are loved, God bless you,

Pat & Vi Griffith

**Update: Rosario recently completed the program at the shelter & is living with her grandmother. We are so proud of her and very excited to see what God has planned next.**

*Touching Lives  
Changing The World*

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## Please Pray

**Emily Todd** - Healing of broken vertebrae and ankle, brain hemorrhage, and lung trauma. She is still on a ventilator with a tracheotomy tube to breathe through due to fluid in poor swallowing reflexes- pray for pain relief, breathing function, peace, patience, strength, and rest.

**Kogi Kinjo** - (Yuki's father) - Still suffering from pleurisy. Pray for complete healing and strength.

**Dan Woolley** - (6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher's son) - Healing of leg and lung injuries and trauma he suffered in the Haiti earthquake; also wisdom of doctors for treatment of infections that continue to attack his body.

**Gina Walker** - Pray for healing for her mother, diagnosed with lung cancer.

**Joan McNeely** - Healing, strength, and clear thinking; doctor's wisdom for treatment; caregivers be sensitive to her needs; peace of mind for Joan and family.

**Dom and Donna Colamonico** - May they know God's sustaining, tangible presence in the midst of their physical challenges.

**Tyler Stewart** - Safety in his submarine unit; God provide spiritual support and encouragement as he finishes up his six years; peace for his family and his wife.

**Parker Family** -**A note from Joan:** Thank you to everyone who sent cards to us during this time of mourning for my mother. We are doing well because she IS with Jesus! Thanks for lifting my whole family up during the last two weeks. Gratefully, Joan Parker.



### Contribute to the Monthly Newsletter

**I**s the Lord teaching you something that you would like to share with others? If you would like to contribute something of devotional nature to the monthly newsletter, please email it to the church office by the 10th of each month: [office@lagbc.org](mailto:office@lagbc.org).

*"Praise be to the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion & the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. " 2Cor. 1:3 - 4*