



Lighthouse Beacon

New Mexico Lighthouses of Prayer - August 2002

The Joy And Privilege of Prayer

Do you sense the joy and privilege of prayer? Can you imagine what the heavenly host must think when we approach God's throne? Do you know that God welcomes you and wants to hear from you? The following is derived from a message about Hebrews 4:16 by Dr. Alvin VanderGriend, National Facilitator of Lighthouse Ministries of the Mission America Coalition . May it encourage your Lighthouse! —KC

Welcome To God's Throne!

"Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." Hebrews 4:16

Access to the throne of God is the foundation of all prayer. All pray-ers must approach the throne. Every true believer is welcome there.

Access to God's throne is an amazing privilege. The One we approach is the sov-erign, all-powerful, Holy Ruler of the universe. What a privi-lege to be welcomed into His presence!

God's throne, we are reminded, is a throne of grace, not a throne of judgment. This means that if we have come into His presence through the blood of Christ, we are acceptable to Him. God doesn't scruti-nize us to screen out unworthiness. He extends a hand of welcome.

We are invited to approach with com-plete confidence. We won't run into a closed door. We won't have to beg or grovel to get in. God is expecting us. He



is glad we have come.

The next time you pray imagine your-self right there in the throne room of heaven. In your mind's eye see the One upon the throne high and lifted up. His glory fills the room. See the angels all around. It's enough to overpower us with dread, except for one thing: God recog-nizes us. He knows our name. He looks at us, smiles and ex-tends a hand of welcome. "Tell me why you have come," He says.

We can come to the throne with our own concerns. But Light-houses should also come as in-tercessors, with the needs of fam-ily, friends and neighbors on our hearts. Many Lighthouses report how God has touched those they have been praying for – people have come to know Christ, jobs have been found, sick have been healed, relationships have been re-stored, and neighborhoods have improved since Lighthouses began praying.

That's something of what God has in mind by extending His welcome to us. He wants to change us and He wants to change our world. Do you want to par-

...you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light —Eph. 5:8

INCREASE YOUR PRAYER IMPACT

Reflect

- Why is it possible for believers to ap-proach the throne of God with confi-dence?
- How much confidence do you have when you pray?
- What are some ways in which you could increase your confidence?

Helps For Praying Hebrews 4:16

- Praise God for making His grace and mercy available for the asking.
- Ask God for the mercy and grace He generously offers to you.
- Ask God for the confidence you need so that you can pray effectively for yourself and others.

- Thank God for His welcome.
- Pray, as guided by the Spirit, for those who live or work near you.

Ask God to guide your prayers for others:

- What strongholds may be holding them in bondage to the evil one?
- What false concepts of God may be keeping them from turning to Him?
- What sins are they unwilling to relin-quish?
- What misunderstandings are causing them to hold back?
- Let your prayers be directed by what you sense and by the promptings of the Holy Spirit.
- Prayerwalk your neighborhood so that you can pray "onsite with insight."

THE LIGHTHOUSE MOVEMENT IS ON THE AIR!

Hundreds of Christian radio stations air Lighthouse-related programming every day! May the programs bless you as you reach out to those around you by praying, caring and sharing.

The Lighthouse Report encourages you to shine the Light of Christ brightly. Daily Lighthouse testimonies and information on Lighthouse resources will support you in your commitment to reach your neighbors and friends with the Gospel. Listen online at www.lighthousereport.com.

Outreach Alert encourages and equips Lighthouses by offering great ideas on reaching beyond our comfort zone to people who need Christ. Listen online at www.outreachalert.org. Ask your favorite Christian radio station about air times for these Lighthouse tools.

CHURCHES ARE PLANNING 911 REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

These services will remember those who perished, honor the firefighters, police and military personnel who protect our nation and proclaim the Gospel to all who attend!

A FREE Resource Kit is available online at www.911Remembrance.com with help-ful materials to assist in preparation for a powerful, Christ-centered remembrance ser-vice on Wednesday evening, September 11 or Sunday, September 8, 2002. Click on "HOST A 911 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE," then "Resource Kit." The kit is avail-able in both ENGLISH and SPANISH. *(Be sure to have your church register on the "Host" signup page so that people can know that your church is participating.)*

September 11th Remembrance Church Services Goals:

- Christians invite friends and neighbors to a local church service on 9/11/2002.
- Churches will remember those who died and offer hope to those who live.
- Churches will have the opportunity to demonstrate the relevance of the Gospel.
- Those who attend will be given a clear invitation to worship and Sunday School at the church on the Sunday following September 11th and into the fall church year.

"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven." Matt 5:16