



The Barker Bulletin

Intercessory Missionaries at the International House of Prayer

Committed to minister and serve in the House of Prayer for all nations, contending for revival, reformation and justice (Is. 56:7; Lk. 18:1-7; Rev. 7:15).



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We raise our own finances in order to be full-time at IHOP. We have a real workweek as we labor to build the house of prayer. Please consider partnering with us financially in monthly support or a special gift.

Tax-deductible donations: Make check out to 'IHOP-KC' without our names.

Non tax-deductible: Make check out to Ian & Jocelyn Barker or use PayPal at our website.

May 2008

A New Car!

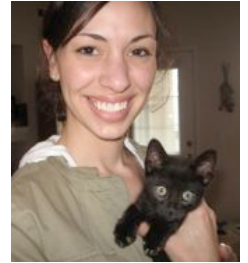
In a letter at the end of last year, we mentioned that we were praying for a new car. We are happy to say that the Lord hears prayer! We were given a '95 Nissan Altima in March. It is a 4-door automatic that is in good shape because the people who gave it to us graciously fixed it up for us. This gift could not have come at a better time as sharing one car between us was getting to be nearly impossible.



This is yet another testimony of God's goodness and faithfulness towards us. Whenever we have a need that seems too large, God always fills it in surprising ways. His provision causes wonder and worship, and confirms that we are doing His will. Thank you for your prayers!

Mr. Darcy

We have a new family member and his name is Mr. Darcy. That's right, we got a kitten for Jocelyn's birthday (which was April 2nd). He's 9 weeks old and is so cute and good! He has already found a way into our hearts. He loves to play and constantly wants our attention. We are surprised to say that we feel like new parents. We cannot imagine what it will be like when we have children! Until then, Mr. Darcy will have to do.



3 Reasons for Prayer

I'm on a journey to understand why God calls us to pray. I've been reading through the Bible focussing on the lifestyle and instruction of prayer. I haven't travelled very far, but I've found a few things. These reasons alone do not give proper weight to the importance and value of prayer for every believer, but they are a starting point.

#1. Prayer is the Way of Fellowship

One of the defining characteristics that differentiates the God of Israel from all other gods is His relational manner. Human history began with a man and a woman walking with God in a garden. He is a God who desires fellowship, communion, family, intimacy, and friendship. He wants to love people and be loved by them.

Prayer is the way that we remain in fellowship with God and receive love from Him. It is the highest of honors to be invited to God's feet to hear His loving and kind words. It is an even higher honor to be asked to speak and actually be enjoyed for our weak utterances of request and worship.

#2. It is the Way We Rule and Reign

Jesus said that we are to pray, "Your kingdom come, you will be done, on earth as it is heaven" (Matt. 5:10). By asking for His Kingdom to come on earth, we are actually reigning on the earth in this age. We are bringing the coming age of righteousness and justice into the present age.

Jesus promised that God would release justice, both judgment and salvation, on the earth, if the saints would cry out day and night (Lk. 18). There is an element of justice and power that God holds back until His people ask Him to release it. It is through the simple practice of asking that we rule in the present age.

#3. It is the way of weakness

While we are to celebrate our loving God and the dignity of ruling and reigning with Him, we must never forget that we are but dust. Prayer is this invitation to remember our weakness and be strengthened to finish the task at hand. Prayer is the way of survival and salvation. It is the recognition that we are powerless and in need.

Sin lurks at our doorstep, the enemy seeks to destroy us, and our faith in the unseen wanes with the disappointments of life. We must continually come to the "author and perfecter of faith" (Heb. 12:2) because we are in need. He sits on a throne of grace that gives us power to overcome and be strengthened to do the task He has given us.

Thank you for your continued friendship and support. Feel free to drop us an email to update us on how you are doing. Be sure to check our website for a great article on IHOP and some new developments. May the Light of His face shine down upon you!