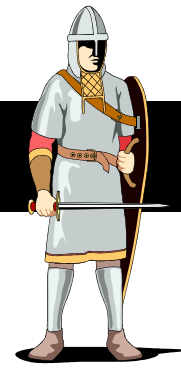


Wall of Prayer



July 19, 2009

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

The text found in the Wall of Prayer 2009 Aug.-Oct. Prayer Guide first appeared in the 2001 Aug.-Oct. Prayer Guide. After sending out the prayer materials for that 2001 school year, I received a phone call from a mom who coordinated the Wall of Prayer ministry in a large Christian high school in a metropolitan area. The Headmaster of the school was asking her to alter the text of the Prayer Guide saying that theirs was a Christian school and employed no teachers/coaches who would prey upon students; that the Prayer Guide would be alarming and offensive to the parents who prayed in the ministry. My focus when writing the text had been on building up teachers, coaches, and youth ministers through prayer. I was excited to report of the godly choir director who had seen much fruit from the work of the Holy Spirit in her ministry as a teacher. The paragraph about protecting the youth from “shepherds who would rob them of their innocence” was almost an after thought; one for completion of the theme of the text.

I began to second-guess myself asking, “Why did I write that? What was I thinking? Yet, within a few months I was grieved time and again as one evil “shepherd” after another was exposed. As we prayed that God would expose the deeds of darkness, He did just that. Within the year, a band director, a pastor, and a coach were one by one tried and convicted of improper sexual conduct with a student; the pastor had violated multiple youth members. All were dismissed from their positions. All were sent to prison. A Christian school administrator stepped down from his position after having an affair with a student’s mother. As we prayed that students would see the light in Christian authority figures and that these leaders would have an opportunity to tell students the truths of God, students were also being protected from those who were leaving gaping wounds of mistrust and betrayal over an entire county.

As I prepared to write these materials this week, I searched the internet to refresh my memory of the details of these events. I was horrified as I read of the hundreds of similar incidents that have taken place in schools, rec centers and churches across our country over the past 10 years. We must never give up in this battle for the innocent souls of our youth. Revive us, O Lord, in our prayer closets. May the righteous anger that comes from seeing lives destroyed burn in our hearts and drive us to our knees daily. May we be encouraged to press on as we hear of the “shepherds” who continue to be used of God to bring light and life to students. I recently heard of a high school teacher, when upon hearing that a student’s purpose in life was to “know God and make Him known,” ask the student to stand before the class and fulfill his purpose that day. The student proceeded to present the gospel to the class using the bridge illustration. God continues to use the Choir teacher I mentioned in 2001 to minister to students. Not only are the students brought in closer communion with our Lord through her influence, but their music has brought Him Glory and blessed audiences from Texas to New York.

I thank God for the many of you who have been faithful to pray for our youth over the years. May His Holy Spirit rekindle the flame of our desire to “devote ourselves to prayer on their behalf” and never retreat from this sacred calling.

In Him,

Susan Admire