

Wall of Prayer



April 28, 2010

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

This year our youngest son, Chris, spent his Spring Break as part of a mission team in Ireland. In preparation for this trip, parents were asked to follow Paul's exhortation in Colossians 4:2-6:

- Devote (*to endure, to remain, to cleave faithfully, to insist on something*) yourselves to prayer
- Be diligent (*to rouse, to refrain from sleep with constant earnestness*) in it
- Be thankful
- Pray that God would open a door for the Word, to speak the mystery of Christ
- ...that each missionary would be wise towards those around them
- ...that they would make the most of their time
- ...that their speech would always be with grace (*joy, favor, its only motive being the free heartedness of the giver*) seasoned with salt; so that they will know how they ought to answer

Italics – Greek root definitions

It's been twelve years since we began to build the Wall of Prayer, first around students in Denton and very soon around students throughout Texas and across the country. The milestones of sending our oldest son to seventh grade and our youngest to first grade sent me to my knees with a lump in my throat and an ache in my heart. The evils of the world around us and the responsibility of "training up our children in the way they should go..." gave inspiration to asking others to join me in building the Wall of Prayer around the students in our country. This is the year of "graduations" in the Admire family. Our two middle guys have completed college and Chris graduates high school in May. The "seventh grader" from '98 will finish medical school next summer. Once again I feel hints of panic as we send our last off to college in the fall and the others to make their way in the world. Whether our kids are six or twenty-six, my mother's heart continues to respond as it did in 1998 with the urgency that I am powerless to influence our sons and the world around them in and of myself.

Though I am weak and have faltered so often, God is ever faithful. He is true to His promises as He continues to renew us with His word and His Spirit. I could write a book telling of the many ways God has worked in the lives of our sons—I'll spare you that! As we look with excitement to the next twelve years, even the next twelve months, or the next twelve days, we will cling to prayer, refusing to fall asleep as we pray that God will open a door for our Christian students to speak the truth to those around them; and, that a door would be opened for someone to speak the truth to those students who remain in darkness. That God's spirit of grace would surround each of them as they begin to walk in wisdom, making the most of their time.

As I drank in the words in our Colossians passage, knowing that God would use the spark of parents' prayers to ignite His Spirit's work in Ireland, I thought of the many Prayer Warriors who continue to cling, to endure, to tarry - never falling asleep as they pray for the students in our nation. I am strengthened and encouraged when I see your names time and again as we prepare labels for the prayer guides sent your way. I want to thank you from the depths of my heart for your faithfulness in praying for our family and for the students you have adopted in this ministry. Let's renew our commitment to building the Wall of Prayer, using Colossian's 4:2-6 as a start. We look forward to someday reading the books in Heaven telling of the many ways God has worked in the lives of our "adopted" students. Never give up!

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Susan".

Susan Admire