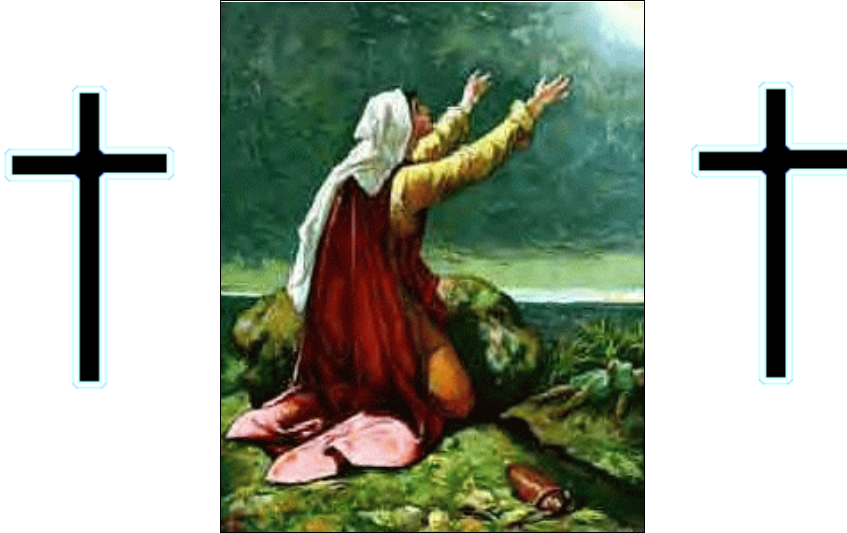


# A Prayer Initiative

Prelude to  
**The Second Women and Girls' Conference**  
Convening in Dallas, Texas - April 29 - 30, 2005



## Seven Weeks of Unifying Prayer

Week of March 13 Thru Week of April 24, 2005, Culminating at the Conference

### FOCUSING SCRIPTURES

“Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you”  
John 15:16 (KJV)

### OBJECTIVE

To challenge us to remember, and unite around,  
the purpose for which we were chosen: to bear fruit.

### METHOD

## Drive-By Prayer

Sponsored by

**Joint Women's Steering Committee**

**Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas**

Marsha Smith, Team Leader

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“Begin and end the day with Him  
Who is the alpha and Omega;  
And if you really experience what it is  
to love God, you will redeem  
all the time you can  
for His more immediate service.”

--Susanna Wesley  
*Bible Promises to Treasure For Mom*

# Introduction

*“Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.  
From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee,  
when my heart is overwhelmed:  
lead me to the rock that is higher than I.”  
Psalms 61:1-2*

In order to provide statewide opportunity for Christian women to pray in agreement, the Joint Women’s Steering Committee of the Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas is sponsoring Seven Weeks of Unifying Prayer. This initiative is a prelude to our Second Women and Girls’ Conference, which will convene in Dallas Texas. This prayer experience will lead up to and include our convention’s traditional Week of Prayer.

Prayer is *a conduit of personal communication with God*, a privilege available only to those who have accepted salvation through the finished work of Christ. No wonder Joseph Shreven wrote “What a Friend we Have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear! What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer.” While the prayer of any believer is powerful, that power is multiplied when we learn how to touch and agree. Yes, even in prayer, there is strength in unity.

Regrettably, not all who call Jesus Lord appreciate this privilege. Now and then one cannot help but marvel at the callous manner in which many professed Christians respond to the wonderful gift of prayer. It seems they disregard the price paid, and take for granted the invitation, “Ask anything in my name. . .” We need to understand that the failure of prayer in a Christian’s life is probably the one failure that leads to all other failures. If a Christian is weak in his or her prayer life, he or she is weak period. As has been said many times: “Much prayer, much power; Little Prayer, little power; No prayer, no power.”

We invite you to join us this year for our first organized Drive-By Prayer. We will drive through designated areas in our community and pray in the Spirit for God’s healing of the land. DO NOT underestimate the power of prayer, especially when we pray in agreement.

As in past years, further details and guidelines are available in this journal. Please read it prayerfully, and let God direct you through these seven weeks of unifying prayer.

# Seven Weeks of Unifying Prayer



## Prayer Calendar



March 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13 Wk 1	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Wk 2	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Wk 3	28	29	30	31		

April 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Wk 4	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Wk 5	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Wk 6	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Wk 7	25	26	27	28	29 Confer.	30 Confer.

**NOTE:** Remember to drive by once during weeks 1 thru 6. Drive by every day during the 7<sup>th</sup> week, concluding at the conference in Dallas.

## The Right Mind-Set for Effective Prayer

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:”  
--Philippians 2:5 (KJV)*

Throughout this prayer initiative, let us submit to the leadership of the Holy Spirit as He teaches us to embrace the mind of Christ, whose greatest desire was to do the will of the Father. May we follow His example by seeking to fulfill His will for our lives, through lowliness, meekness and love. Of such is the making of great Christian leaders and effective prayer warriors, i.e. SERVANTS. When we truly understand the lofty purpose of such disciplines, we will be more persuasive witnesses and more productive fruit-bearers.

And so, as we bring together the women and girls of our convention, we must be careful to offer meaningful conferences, that lead to spiritual growth and effective service. It is critical that we take seriously the instructions found in the exploration of our Convention’s Theme: **“Earnestly Contending for the True Faith.”**

Let us pray that we become united around purpose, instead of personality; a purpose that is bigger and more important than every member, individually and/or collectively, and which supersedes any petty difference or personal agenda. That purpose must permeate our thinking, trigger our passion, and drive our action. It will be easy to unite as one when our activities are Bible-Tested, Prayer-Bathed, Spirit-Led, and Purpose-Driven.

We should challenge one another to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,” by abandoning any thought or practice that tends to contribute to the comfort level of any of us who may have become accustomed to a state of Spiritual infancy, i.e. my, me, mine. **We MUST** foster Spiritual excellence.

Jesus, The Crucified One, has called on us to deny ourselves (Luke 9:23), and forsake all (Luke 14:33). As we learn to practice these elementary principles of Christian living, we will become victorious over shallow issues and selfish stubbornness. Because, when we are unified by purpose - HIS PURPOSE - come what may, we will be able to joyfully and vigorously work together to “bear fruit.”



## Drive-By Prayer (The Concept)

*“Pray without ceasing.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:17*



Drive-By Prayer is defined by one writer as “Praying on-site with insight.” He goes on to say: “On-site praying is simply praying in the very places where you expect your prayers to be answered.”

It is up to you whether you pray silently like Hannah, or aloud like Mary. After all, prayer is an activity of the heart.

**REMEMBER, YOUR PRAYERS MATTER!**

Although plans are necessary, it is prayer that brings the power of God into the process, transforming lives and bringing lasting change in the home, church and community. When prayer touches the fuse of God’s power, amazing things can happen.

### **GUIDELINES**

Weeks 1 through 6, drive by the area/s you targeted for prayer once.

Week 7, drive by every day, culminating in Dallas at the Women and Girls’ Conference in a Joshua Motorcade.

### **Living the Conference Focus**

*“Establishing A Legacy of Righteousness”*

**History + Heritage + Health + Holiness = Holistic Living**

Deuteronomy 6

Our conference focus challenges us to go “back to the future.” As we revisit the 6th chapter of Deuteronomy, we have to acknowledge that while it is true that much of the history of the African American people has not been taught in the public schools, we must accept some of the responsibility for not teaching it in the home. This writer is convinced that a lack of history and a loss of heritage can strip one of ones dignity.

*“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you? Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh’s bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand.” Deu. 6:6-7, 20-21*

When we remember our history, we find at the center of everything were our faith, our church and our God. We want to encourage each of us to once again take the holistic approach to life, teaching history, embracing heritage, respecting health, and pursuing holiness.

As we pray for ourselves, and for the places and people God leads us to include on our Drive-By Prayer route, let us always pray for the whole person.

*“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.” Luke 2:52*

**NOTE:** *Never let these plans or any plans interfere with your heartfelt conversation with God. These are only inspired ideas. Always let God have His way .*

### **Why Organize? Why Can't We Just Pray?**

When we pray alone, there is no need for organization, but if we are to pray together effectively, “the right hand must know what the left hand is doing.” It is how we pray in agreement. *Matthew 18:19 : “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”*

Our Drive-By Prayer Initiative will take three forms:

1. Deliberate and Planned Times of Focused Prayer.
2. Random Acts of Prayer.
3. HP Teams (Home Pray-ers)

### **Deliberate and Planned Times of Focused Prayer**

**WEEKS 1 THROUGH 6**, drive by your targeted areas one time. You decide, with God's guidance, the locations and number of places or areas to target for prayer. **WEEK 7, OUR TRADITIONAL WEEK OF PRAYER**, drive by your targeted area/s every day. The concluding three Days of Drive-By Prayer will take place at the Conference in Dallas.

- Pray for God's guidance and power in all you do.
- Driving will enable you to cover a large section of your community as you target specific areas and facilities for prayer. It is safer to drive by than to walk by some locations. Also, some people can ride in a vehicle who may not be able to walk far.

- Identify Your Targets. Decide in advance when and where you will drive. Invite God to show you the people, places and things for which He wants you to pray.
- Identify who will participate, at least two or three people, but as many as you want or can recruit. You can disperse throughout the community.
- With your Pastor's approval, we are requesting that you work through your combined mission groups, to promote unity.
- No matter how you form the group, be sure to recruit people of all ages, from youth to seniors. "Where there is unity, there is strength." Let us use this opportunity to **knock down all walls that divide, and build bridges that unite.**
- Be prayerful, and try to help every participant understand that our objective is to do everything with the intent of pleasing God and fulfilling His will for our lives, so that He will heal the land.
- Following are examples of some places that need prayer:
 

- Site of Our Conference	-Shopping Centers	-Safe Houses
-Individual homes	-Parks & Rec Centers	-Jail Houses
-Schools	-Government Buildings	-Apartment Complexes
-Churches	-Funeral Homes	-Restaurants
-Hospitals	-Homeless Shelters	-Wherever people are
- Schedule and coordinate the day and time for each Drive-By with the Home Prayers, so they can pray in agreement.
- Arm Yourself with Prayer before you go. Be sure you are prayed up before you begin your route.
- For safety reasons, **one person should focus primarily on driving.** Other person/s should be the primary prayer/s. But everybody should maintain an attitude of prayer.
- Do you stop? That is up to you. Some places may not allow for stopping, so you just drive by while praying for them. If stopping or parking is allowed, you may want to stop momentarily for a longer on-site prayer. **Let the Spirit direct you.**
- Make this a meaningful Drive-By Prayer experience, by **only** talking about the things of God. Do not use this time for idle chatter.
- Plan the route you will drive each trip. You may want to pray for the same places each time, or you may have different places targeted for each trip. Let the spirit lead you.

- REMEMBER, ARM YOURSELF with prayer before you get into the car, so God can empower you for effective ministry. He will press on your mind when to stop, when to just drive by, and the things for which you should pray.
- Keep a record of where and for what you prayed, and expect God to answer. (See Prayer Logs on pages 13-15.)

### **Random Acts of Prayer**

- As you drive to work, church, school, shopping, visiting, or elsewhere, there are many opportunities for random acts of prayer.
- ARM YOURSELF with prayer before you get into the car, every time.
- Following are some examples of times and places for Random Acts of Prayer: God will reveal others to you, if you listen for His voice.

You are in a traffic jam.  
 The red light holds too long.  
 Someone is driving recklessly.  
 The train just blocked your way and is moving slowly.  
 You hear an emergency siren.  
 You see a car stalled.  
 You see an accident.  
 You see someone being pulled over by a peace officer.  
 You see a family riding together.  
 A car full of young people speed by.  
 A group of youth are hanging on the corner.

### **HP Teams (Home Pray-ers)**

We need home pray-ers. For various reasons, some people may not be able to drive by and pray. Be sure such persons have the itinerary, so they will know when and where you will be driving. This will enable them to pray in agreement.

The HP Teams will also pray for God to bestow upon the Drive-By Pray-ers His power and protection.

## Twenty-Six Armed Guards

A missionary on furlough told this true story while visiting his home church in Michigan.....

While serving at a small field hospital in Africa, every two weeks I traveled by bicycle through the jungle to a nearby city for supplies. This was a journey of two days and required camping overnight at the halfway point. On one of these journeys, I arrived in the city where I planned to collect money from a bank, purchase medicine and supplies, and then begin my two-day journey back to the field hospital. Upon arrival in the city, I observed two men fighting, one of whom had been seriously injured. I treated him for his injuries and at the same time talked to him about the Lord Jesus Christ.

I then traveled two days, camping overnight, and arrived home without incident. Two weeks later I repeated my journey. Upon arriving in the city, I was approached by the young man I had treated, and he told me that he had known I carried money and medicines. He said, "Some friends and I followed you into the jungle, knowing you would camp overnight. We planned to kill you and take your money and drugs. But just as we were about to move into your camp, we saw that you were surrounded by 26 armed guards."

At this I laughed and said that I was certainly all alone in that jungle campsite. The young man pressed the point, however, and said, "No sir, I was not the only person to see the guards. My five friends also saw them, and we all counted them. It was because of those guards that we were afraid and left you alone."

At this point in the sermon, one of the men in the congregation jumped to his feet and interrupted the missionary and asked if he could tell him the exact day this happened. The missionary told the congregation the date, and the man who interrupted told him this story: "On the night of your incident in Africa, it was morning here and I was preparing to go play golf. I was about to putt when I felt the urge to pray for you. In fact, the urging of the Lord was so strong, I called men in this church to meet with me here in the sanctuary to pray for you. Would all of those men who met with me on that day stand up?"

The men who had met together to pray that day stood up. The missionary wasn't concerned with who they were, he was too busy counting how many men he saw. There were 26. This story is an incredible example of how the Spirit of the Lord moves in mysterious ways. If you ever hear such prodding to pray, go along with it. Nothing is ever hurt by prayer except the gates of hell.

## **DADDY' S EMPTY CHAIR**

Author Unknown

A man' s daughter had asked the local minister to come and pray with her father. When the minister arrived, he found the man lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me, he said. "No, who are you?" said the father.

The minister told him his name and then remarked, "I saw the empty chair and I figured you knew I was going to show up." "Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man.. "Would you mind closing the door?" Puzzled, the minister shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head." I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day four years ago, my best friend said to me, "Johnny, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus. Here is what I suggest."

"Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It' s not spooky, because He promised to be with you always. Then just speak to Him in the same way you' re doing, with me right now." "So, I tried it and I have liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I am careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair, she would either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

The minister was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old man to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with him, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the minister that her daddy had died that afternoon. "Did he die in peace?" he asked. Yes, when I left the house about two o' clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later, I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

The minister wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we could all go like that."

AMEN!

## **FORGIVE ANYWAY**

*Attributed to Mother Teresa*

People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;  
**FORGIVE THEM ANYWAY.**

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
**BE KIND ANYWAY.**

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies;  
**SUCCEED ANYWAY.**

If you are honest and frank, they may cheat you;  
**BE FORTHRIGHT ANYWAY.**

What you spent years building, they may destroy overnight;  
**BUILD ANYWAY.**

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous and scorn;  
**BE JOYOUS ANYWAY.**

The good you do today, they often will forget tomorrow;  
**DO GOOD ANYWAY.**

Give the world the best you have, and it will never be enough;  
**GIVE THE WORLD THE BEST YOU HAVE ANYWAY.**

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;  
**IT WAS NEVER BETWEEN YOU AND THEM ANYWAY.**



*“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” --Matthew 5:16*







