

# Wall of Prayer



January 26, 2014

Dear Faithful Prayer Warrior,

*I came across the following letter written 12 years ago. The youth pastor I mention has moved on and the "youth" he mentioned are all grown up. New exciting chapters have been written in the lives of the youth who are now young adults. One young woman has been on the mission field a number of times and is now in her second year of medical school, preparing for medical missions. I pray that you will be encouraged as I am when I think of God using our prayers to write the life story of the students for whom we pray.*

Last month I had the privilege of worshiping in my parents' church. With the pastor out of town for the holidays, we were delighted to hear God's message given through the youth pastor, Francis O'Donnell. As we read in John 3 of Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night, Mr. O'Donnell paralleled our physical birth story to our spiritual birth story. While some labors are relatively short, with minimal "effort," others can be very long and painful; so it is with spiritual birth. Some hear the word and quickly believe the truth of their sin and need for a Savior and embrace Christ as Lord, yet others may have years of heartache before coming to the place of rebirth. With his "sincere faith that was first in his grandmother and his mother," Timothy would have a very different birth story from that of Paul who called himself the "chief of sinners" after to his Damascus road conversion. While some "testimonies" may be intense and others are relatively "mild" or "standard," we can all say, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope..." 1 Peter 1:3.

"It's a Wonderful Life" is one of my favorite Christmas movies. There we vividly see how different the life stories of those in Bedford Falls would have been had the "good guy" George Bailey never been born. I hate to think of how different my life story would have been had my parents, my husband, my friends and my pastor never been reborn; if the people who prayed for them had not been faithful in prayer.

As we heard some of the spiritual "birth stories" of the youth in that church, I thought of the many characters God used in those stories: that very youth minister, parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches, and those seen only by God as they come to Him each day on behalf of those teens. What a vital role we as prayer warriors play in the writing of a life story.

In closing, I'll share a real life story. One of our Wall of Prayer warriors has had a ministry to incarcerated mothers for some time. She often meets with them for Bible study and prayer. In this dark chapter of their lives, God has brought a ray of light to this prison to show these women His love and to teach them how to pray for their children. It so happens that in the town where their children go to school, there is a Wall of Prayer being built as believers adopt teens and pray for them every day. Believers are calling on the Author and Perfecter of faith to rewrite the story of these teens' lives. You may be one of the prayer warriors praying for these teens. While we need not know any of the specifics, how gracious of God to allow us a glimpse of His working through our prayers. There is a library of stories being written across our nation. We have each been chosen to be a lead character in many of the volumes. When we are tempted to dismiss our prayer time, think of Bedford Falls without George Bailey. The spiritual birth and health of the student for whom you are praying will affect the lives of those around him or her for generations to come.

In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan".

Susan Admire

*"Lord, there is no one besides Thee to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O Lord our God, for we trust in Thee, and in Thy name have come against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee." 2 Chr. 14:11*