

## **PRAYER THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND DIVINE PRESERVATION**

--Irma B. Williams

Frances Hildreth Brannen was taught to pray by her godly parents. They dedicated her to the Lord's work when she was a child, after God had answered prayer and healed her body.

Now, the effectiveness of prayer is being passed on to Frances' granddaughter Chloe. In March of 2006, Chloe, about one year old, had been running high fevers caused by bouts of ear and respiratory infections. This was a difficult time for the family watching Chloe suffer, as she would lay her little head over on the one holding her.

Eventually, Chloe was admitted to the hospital for a treatment. The attending physician decided to schedule Chloe for surgery. The plan was to put tubes that would allow fluids from her inner ear to drain to the throat. While this surgery is a common procedure, the family felt anxious about Chloe having to be put to sleep for the surgery.

When Frances went to bed Monday evening, she was praying for Chloe; also, Frances herself felt nauseated. Later, she told what happened, "I fell asleep praying for Chloe. Then, in the early hours, I awakened myself speaking in tongues. I was clearly interceding in the Holy Spirit for Chloe. That is the first time that had happened to me. It was wonderful!"

After this experience, Frances felt refreshed and well in her body, and Chloe came through her surgery just fine. The physician told Chloe's mother that she would be fussy for about 45 minutes. As it turned out, Chloe experienced very little post-operative discomfort and recovered quickly from the surgery. Of course, the family offered thanks and praises to the Lord for guiding the surgeon's hands and for everything going well with no complications.

When Frances told her daughter, Ruthie, about her wonderful experience, that she had awakened speaking in tongues, interceding for Chloe, she said, "Mama, no wonder Chloe is so blessed."

At that time Frances' husband, Fred Brannen, was serving as Field Director for the Church of God in 32 countries in west, central, and east Africa. For 48 years the Brannens were teachers, pastors, and missionaries, mentoring Christian workers and teaching the importance of the power of the Holy Spirit in prayer. God preserves His people, and almost always this is in answer to prayer.