



December 2019

ListenLovePray

Newsletter vol. 3, issue 9

LLP Takes Time to Reflect and Celebrate

In the last 8 years, I think I have prayed for over a thousand people. For some, there were miraculous healings, for others, there was improvement, and for a few, there was no apparent change in their condition. I am very thankful that my job as a prayer minister at LLP is to listen to the prayer recipient and to Holy Spirit, to love people with the love of Jesus, and to pray as we are led. Jesus is responsible for what happens after that.

The LLP Board of Directors had an appreciation lunch for LLP volunteers in November. As I looked around the room, I saw people who have been transformed by experiences with God and who now walk in Holy Spirit power. What a joy it is to be part of such a loving and powerful group of people. In Luke chapter 25, we read about the parable of the talents. Jesus tells us this story so that we will use and invest everything that He gives us instead of hiding it away. At LLP, we lift high the healing light of Jesus for the increasing number of people who come to seek healing and restoration. And we stand as witnesses to countless miracles and changed lives as we work on the front lines of what God is doing in our time.

Ken Nelson, President, LLP



LLP Board of Directors. From left: Ted Winfield, Kristin Nelson, Ken Nelson, Lucinda Nelson, Maureen Armacost, Carol Pennington, and Dennis Yocum, and Brennan Nelson (bottom) at the LLP luncheon. See back page for more pictures from the luncheon.

A Message from the Executive Director



Lucinda Nelson, LLP Executive Director (left), and Ken Nelson, LLP President

I recently heard that Christmas was the suffering person's holiday. I had to take a few moments to mull that over. After all, most people (and the entire commercial world) are broadcasting Joy, Peace, and Merry times! The words, sorrow and brokenness, are not usually linked with the birth of Christ. Yet, logically, if Jesus was born to save the world, there was, and is, a major problem that we can't fix without Him.

I suspect there is a degree of dysfunction in everyone's life, whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. Jesus reached out in biblical times and restored hope. Jesus brought peace that passes understanding. Jesus drove back darkness with His beautiful light. Jesus healed and delivered the hurting. Jesus pointed the way to

the Father and eternal life. And His heart's desire is to do the same for you, today.

We celebrate sweet baby Jesus who came to save our world and to offer more than we could ever imagine. We have seen the lives of suffering people transformed over the last year and believe God will be working in our 2020 programs, including a new women's Celebrate Recovery step study, special healing services for families, and extended times of focused attention on topics such as how to hear God's voice.

I extend peace and joy to you, and pray for healing, hope, and restoration, in the name of Jesus, born on Christmas Day.

Lucinda Nelson, Executive Director, LLP

Testimony



Lucinda and Ken with Sierra's kids at November's Special Healing Prayer Service

Come and See

I want to encourage families of all sizes and ages to come and experience Listen Love Pray's Communion and Healing Prayer service. I was so excited to bring my children with me to experience and witness their father and I participating in communion and show them the importance of honoring Jesus and his teaching as he has instructed us to do. And I was also happy though to have the option to send them with the provided childcare during the unique soaking prayer time.

I didn't go with the intention of receiving healing prayer myself, but He knows the Peace I needed in order to stop and just be with Him; putting everything else in my world in its proper position - below Him. After the message, I came to the cross, took communion, proceeded to the anointing station and sat down. His presence was so calming, the music performed was like an angelic lullaby that calmed my over-active, anxious mind. In the silence of soaking in his presence, Peace happened. I was not expecting that! Of course, Jesus knows what we truly need.

We like to go because it helps us to move into the presence of the Holy Spirit. Where His presence is - there IS healing. What I love too is how much this service is for all people, all ages, all situations. You don't have to have a "need for healing" to attend. We get so much out of just being in God's presence together, just imperfect beloved children of our King who shows up and shows off for us. This is an amazing experience and I cannot wait for the next one on January 14th. I hope to see you there.

— Leah

And Then, Jesus!

With all vulnerability, with all dependency, with all humility, the Lord chose to come to us as a baby in a manger. The circumstances and events leading up to His entry into our reality were hard, real, and raw. Everything was broken; and then Jesus came.

He came, maybe not despite the brokenness, but through the brokenness. In these cracks, in these broken pieces of life, Jesus shines though. Jesus comes. Jesus, the light of the world. Just when the world seems so far from how it should be, then Jesus comes.

Let us ask Him to come and shine through in our cracks, shine in our brokenness. Let us be like Jesus, let us seek Him in all vulnerability, all dependency, and with all humility. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to show us a crack and then allow Jesus to shine through.

*As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When can I go and meet with God?
—Psalm 42*

We think of our deep need for Jesus, the personal connection God graciously gives to us this season. We know the story of His birth, we read it, we act it out, we celebrate it! But, what about *our* birth? What about *Our* birth into *His* kingdom? How

long has Jesus been observing advent, waiting for you? Maybe 30 years, maybe 40, maybe 50 maybe more? When do we choose to be born anew in Jesus?

As we struggle in this hard, real, and raw world. And then, Jesus! He breaks the darkness in our lives as a star lights the way for the wisemen. And then, Jesus! The veil between heaven and earth is parted, so the lowly, the lonely, the separated, the shepherds, they see the heavenly host and are the first to share the good news. And then, Jesus! He alone makes our lives meaningful and complete.

And then, Jesus! Good News! Come and see! Like the wise men, like the shepherds, come and see. Come in all vulnerability, all dependency and all humility, just as He came to us. Let Jesus heal your hurts from this hard, real, and raw world. Then, be born anew into *His* heavenly kingdom this season.

Listen Love Pray offers many ways to help you authentically seek Jesus. You are invited to every Healing Prayer service. You are invited to schedule individual healing Prayer appointments. You are invited to our many meetings and studies. The events around Jesus birth are meaningful and complete. He struggled His way to us. Can we struggle our way to Him?

Kelley Banfield



Selected pictures from the November Special Healing Prayer Service with communion and oil anointing

Testimony

Grace

The Special Healing Prayer Service in November was particularly healing for me. Many people attended, and all seemed in unity for real connection with God. This unity created a wonderful atmosphere during worship, communion, anointing, and prayer, holding open a heavenly space and time for deep healing in me.

I struggle with judgement. Unfortunately, this problem also comes with other problems such as comparison, competition, condemnation and feelings of less than, envy, and resentment. To me, these are the *opposites* of love, grace and mercy! Judgement and its friends lead to separations, distrust, gossip, argument and more divisiveness.

I just can't picture Jesus, who truly is the judge, walking around judging others. I believe He walked around with His eyes full of love, grace, and mercy. Love for all the beautiful people He beheld. He saw where people came from, how they are trying their best, and where the Holy Spirit will lead them. They were not done! He told people the truth, warned, and exhorted, but no condemnation, no judgement, no separation. I think of Peter, or any of the disciples, they all failed Him, personally, big time! All creation was formed through Him, and all of us, and all creation, will be redeemed through Him – Grace!

All of this was swimming around in my head

after communion and oil anointing. As God ministered to my problems, revealing a deep need for validation, for who I am in Him, for my connection to Him, and my inherent worth as a child of His, a prayer minister came to pray over me. She just touched my shoulders and said nothing for a long time. To me, perfect ministering from His Holy Spirit through her, because God was already saying a lot to me! I didn't need any more words! Then after a long while, she just said "You are a good daughter." That was all I needed to hear! Thank you, God! So affirming! From another person, through His Spirit, God encourages me. She had no idea of my thoughts, she just obediently spoke what she heard, and the blessing was complete. After that, the Spirit just fell on me and my head got super heavy and it drooped down. I was content to surrender to the Lord and let Him do His good work. I soaked for quite a while.

Finally, I became more aware of my surroundings and started to stretch out all the tension and confusion that was in my shoulders and neck. Thank you, God, for all your healing; body, mind and spirit! Ken saw me and came to ask if he could pray for anything for me, and I knew exactly what I needed. I said "yes, please pray for me to have His Glasses of Grace." Ken said a short prayer and tears rolled down my cheeks, and I knew Jesus gave me what I needed. My vision of people has changed since then,

I am more patient and less frustrated. I care less about what people choose and acknowledge we are all on our journeys, doing the best we can, and none of us are done. Praise God, who is, was, and will always be, full of grace!

p.s. After writing *And Then, Jesus!* for this newsletter, I realized; every Healing Prayer Service *truly is* time set apart, and it is *different*. His Spirit sincerely longs to connect to ours. When we gather together in unity of purpose, the Holy Spirit thins the veil; we feel, we see, we learn, we connect, we heal, and then, Jesus! Each service is meaningful and complete, bringing us ever closer to Jesus, shortening His advent season in our lives. Are you worth waiting for? Jesus says, Yes! His soul longs for you. He will wait a whole lifetime, just for you.

– Kelley



Frederick Rescue Mission

LLP had the pleasure to visit with 26 men at Beacon House on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Ted led the discussion and encouraged the group to write down what they were grateful for (one of the greatest ways to prevent relapse is to maintain an "attitude of gratitude"). Our gratitude tree was quickly filled!



We then spent time praying with each of the men. At the end of the prayer time a question was asked, "*can you be thankful for the not so good things too?*" Their responses deeply touched our hearts as they shared with a whole new level of honesty, humility and vulnerability. These men are indeed living a new life, because the message of Jesus' redemption richly dwells within them. Thank you, Jesus!

Judy Winfield



Healing Prayer Services

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

First Tuesday
Calvary UMC
Mt. Airy, MD

No childcare available

Second Tuesday
New Beginning NC
Mt. Airy, MD

Childcare available upon request

Third Tuesday
New Beginning NC
Mt. Airy, MD

Childcare available upon request

ListenLovePray Events

December

- Dec 2 Continuing Education – Praying for Healing for Anxiety/Depression**
New Beginning • 7:00–8:00 pm
- Dec 3 Healing Prayer Service**
Calvary UMC • 7:00 pm
- Dec 6 & 7 Intensive Prayer Ministry**
New Beginning • (full)
- Dec 10 Healing Prayer Service**
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- Dec 12 Surviving the Holiday GriefShare Event**
New Beginning • 6:00–8:00 pm
- Dec 14 Prayer Sessions at Beacon House**
8:00–9:00 am
- Dec 17 Assemble gift bags for residents in recovery centers**
New Beginning • 6:00–6:45 pm
- Dec 17 Healing Prayer Service**
New Beginning • 7:00 pm
- Dec 22 Beacon House Ministry**
Lesson and prayers at 6:00 pm

Pictures from LLP Luncheon



January 2020

- Jan 8 Women's Celebrate Recovery Step Study**
New Beginning • Wednesdays 9:30–11:00 am
This 4-month study is where people see real, lasting changes start to happen. Everyone receives a workbook with structured questions that help to unravel the sources of hurts, habits and hang-ups. Numerous scriptures in each lesson provide the foundation for transformation of heart, mind and soul. The group will meet at New Beginning Nazarene Church, Mt. Airy, MD. Contact lucinda@listenlovepray.org to register.

LLP Meeting Locations

New Beginning Church
12350 Jesse Smith Rd
Mount Airy, MD 21771
www.newbeginningnazarenechurch.org

**Beacon House
Frederick Rescue Mission**
419 W. South Street
Frederick, MD 21701
www.therescuemission.org

Calvary United Methodist Church
403 South Main Street
Mount Airy, MD 21771
www.calvary-mtairy.org

ListenLovePray Foundation

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LLP Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit entity.

Your generous donations of time, effort, and money empower the healing transformations that Jesus does here through LLP. To donate, visit our website. All donations are tax-exempt.

Lord, continue to bless the spirits, minds and hands of our loving donors. Keep LLP ever faithful to your call and your word. May each soul touched by LLP feel the healing love of Jesus. Amen.



LLP works in recovery centers, churches, and the community. Jesus still heals and delivers people today!