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TEACHING THE
NEXT GENERATION
TO PRAY

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Prayer Partner Tips
by Dr. Steven D. Bagley

Over the years I have prayed for many young people. As important as my commitment to prayer may be, engaging them in the process of my prayers might be equally as important. So I am going to share with you a few tips I have learned in establishing a triangle of communication, inviting the participation of those I pray for to guide me in my prayer life.

I have used this approach over the years but will use the example of my seven grandchildren who are all very different. As of today each one of them is participating with me, a pretty remarkable thing in they range in age from a 21 year old down to 9 years of age.

First, I made a commitment to God to pray regularly for each of them.

If you are just getting started I suggest spending a month praying for each young person you have chosen to honor with your spiritual time and attention. One thing to pray about is for the Spirit to soften their heart toward you and toward God's blessings. Once you feel you have a routine of prayer going on you are ready to have a conversation with the one you are praying for.

Second, I talk to each one face to face about my decision.

This is what I said to each of my grandchildren, starting with the oldest, I asked him this question; "Tim, do you know I pray for you?" I paused to give him plenty of time to process and answer. Tim responded, "No, I didn't know that."

“I made a decision to pray for you regularly and you can’t do a thing about it, (pause) it was my decision. (Pause) You are important to me and praying for you is one of the ways I chose to prove that is true in my life.”

“All though I will be praying for you rain or shine, I really would like your help in guiding me in what I pray about. I don’t want to only pray for things I come up with but want your input about what is important to you. So can you think of two or three things I can focus on for you?”

Everyone of the seven have told me three things to pray about. Five of them have phones that text so now I can contact them, by text, to see if their list has changed about every six months or so. Texting also gives me the ability to ask if there is any progress on a particular item.

The benefits have amazed me. All my grandchildren are telling me about the important things in their lives. We have a tendency to pray about what is important to us. The surprise is there is also more joking around and laughter because the serious things have been covered and cared for.

Third, stay organized and in contact with those you are praying for.

Because I have seven grandchildren I assigned one of the days of the week to focus on each one of them. They all have been told about their day of the week and seemed to like the idea that I give them special attention on their day.

To help me manage my seven prayer lists I have inputted everything in the Reminders on my phone so on a daily bases the information pops up making my phone become a tool creating a spiritual and relational benefit.

If you try any of these ideas please let me know how things are progressing for you. You can email me at steve@drbagley.com.

“God can move mountains and pray moves the heart of God.”

- Danielle Benson