

The Pastors Connection

July 2011

Strengthening Prayer Ministry

If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved (SOZO). Rom. 10:9

"If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed (SOZO). Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart daughter," he said, "your faith has healed (SOZO) you." Mt. 9:21

Those who had seen it told the people how the demon possessed man had been cured (SOZO.) Lk. 8:36

During our annual Oversight Team review this past March our Pastoral Team discerned priorities for this next year. One we sensed God confirming was to strengthen our prayer ministry. Our actions to fulfill this goal have included:

- Protecting space in our Pastoral Team meetings to pray for our members, our life together, and our mission and ministry needs
- Beginning an 8:30-9 weekly Sunday morning "Prayer Connection" held in the room between our sanctuary and fellowship hall. You are welcome to join us!
- Adding a "HiStory Prayer" so I can give voice as your Pastor to appropriate praise and prayer items in our worship
- Identifying a Pastoral Team couple offering prayer and/or anointing following worship. We have been blessed with consistent response.

The above items have been fruitful! We also sense a need for deeper effectiveness. In January we discovered that Janet Richards has trained others in SOZO prayer tools. SOZO is the Greek word translated "saved" "healed" and "delivered" in our English versions of the NT; as noted above.

Over my life time there has been numerous times where I recognized something was hindering connection with God and growth in ministry. I praise God He has given me the courage to take advantage of the tools God has been gifting to the Body of Christ to experience breakthroughs into deeper maturity.

Other than scripture, no tool is fully inspired. Any tool has potential to be misused. But the tools God gives each generation also have great potential to strengthen mission and ministry.

I encourage each of you to prayerfully consider this training workshop scheduled Friday evening and Saturday July 29-30. Required registration forms are on our lobby shelf.

Several local churches have also been invited. My personal goal is to have twenty four persons participate. Might you be one of the twenty-four? If registration cost is a factor please speak with any member of our Pastoral Team so we can provide assistance. We want all persons whom God confirms to be able to participate!

Living His story with you, Pastor Bob Petersheim