



The Power of Prayer

by M.I. Torres

UBA has a new Prayer Ministry Coordinator whose vision for prayer in Houston goes beyond church walls. Margie Randall's personal call to missions has led her to Thailand under appointment with the International Mission Board. There she was involved in a prayer ministry and prayer walking, allowing for various opportunities to witness and learn what people seek in prayer.

Utilizing prayer as a ministry weighs heavily on Randall's heart. When asked how prayer can be used as a ministry, she says, "I think the greatest adventure in life is to be in tune with the Lord and listen to Him. The Christian life is not dull at all. Other religions have idols that have no ears and cannot possibly respond to their followers – we serve a living God who hears the prayers of ordinary people and wants to answer." Randall cites the prayer ministry of Jesus as our greatest model. Randall explains that He was in constant communication with the Father and thus was aware of the woman who touched his hem and of Zacchaeus in the tree. Randall believes that when today's Christians also get involved in prayer ministries and walks, being where the people are and speaking to the Father, then we are better able to be in touch with the needs of those around us and agents of His work.

Randall practices prayer walking herself and encourages others to do so as well. She believes that praying for your neighbors at home differs greatly from praying while walking in the neighborhood, meeting your neighbors and offering prayer for any need they have. Her experiences have led her to see that being in the midst of people in need and offering prayer takes many forms and there are many ways to offer to pray with them. Says Randall, "A man in Georgia was called to pray in Atlanta. Every day, he'd stay outside the capitol and wait for senators and representatives to get out of session and ask if they needed prayer. There are all kinds of opportunities to put your prayer into practice. If you're stuck in an airport, talk to people. Say, 'I believe in the power of prayer, can I pray for you?' That's the beauty of prayer – anywhere you are, you can pray."

Randall's vision for Houston and her new role with the UBA is to teach and assist people in their own prayer ministries with an overall hope to get Houston's Christians praying for their neighbors and communities. "Ministry is being aware of a need and offering to pray with the person about the situation," says Randall. She continues by stating that she focuses on praying for schools, hoping that Christian teachers can walk their schools in the mornings praying for students in bad home situations. When asked about her vision for prayer in Houston, Randall says, "My vision for the future is prayer walks ongoing in Houston and networking churches of all denominations to pray, and teaching on prayer as God gives opportunity."

As obvious or common as prayer may seem in the everyday life of a Christian, Randall says that she is shocked when she hears someone say that prayer is not something they feel led to do. Randall encourages people to pray as a way to get to know God personally. Randall reminds them that Christians believe in a living God and a Messiah who died so that we may pray anytime and anywhere without the need of a temple or shrine.

"Prayer is work and it is ongoing," says Randall. She refers to the story of the first Christian church in the book of Acts stating that the first ministers of the Gospel all continued in

prayer in one accord. She says that today's Christians need to continue in this ministry of prayer and petition, using the New Testament as a guide on how to pray. Providing examples and scripture, Randall explains, "1 Timothy 2:1 exhorts us to pray. Ephesians 6:18 exhorts us to pray always with all prayer and supplication. Philippians 4:6 says to be careful for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests (prayer) be made known to God. In Colossians 1:3, Paul, a missionary, states that he prays always for the saints."

Margie Randall will be offering Prayer Walk trainings and experiences through her Prayer Ministry Coordinator position with the UBA. To be added to her monthly prayer e-mail distribution list, please contact her at Margie.randall@gmail.com.