



Canaan Prayer Points

March—May 2024

Dear friends,

Extending someone grace where they have hurt us is frequently an unanticipated gift that may ease their emotional burdens. It is a byproduct of the amazing grace that God has bestowed upon us.

As we walk closer to Easter, let us ask ourselves, is there someone we don't really love? Are we perhaps content with just tolerating this person? That's not love. Sometimes in self-pity we say to ourselves, "so-and-so is difficult and causes me a lot of trouble." But have we ever tried showing him genuine love? Or perhaps we pride ourselves on loving someone in spite of the way he treats us, not realising we are only deceiving ourselves.

The love God shows to sinful human beings is what we long to see in our own lives and yet so often lack. If we had this love, we would neither bear grudges against those who harm us, nor be so easily hurt.

The Lord Jesus draws our attention to the twofold commandment to love God with all our hearts and our neighbour as ourselves, calling it the greatest commandment (Mark 12:30-31). We need to plead for this love. If we want to be true disciples of Jesus, who is eternal Love, we will earnestly seek this love towards Him and our neighbour. Otherwise we are not treading in His footsteps.

We may think we have nothing against someone else in our hearts, and then at the slightest provocation our indignation boils over. It usually begins in our thought world: "The way so-and-so behaves!" - "Just think of what he has done!" - "How difficult he makes life for me!" But such reactions are contrary to love and often lead to unkind words and actions on our part.

In the life to come we will not be able to make up for the past.

If we want to be with Jesus one day, we need to have learnt to walk in love. He is nothing but love and throughout His earthly life He demonstrated this, even when He was nailed to the cross.

His only response was love. On the cross He atoned for all the evil He encountered, thus redeeming us to be loving souls. So let us rededicate ourselves to God with the prayer that our lives may increasingly bear the hallmark of love, whatever the price. Such a commitment needs to be worked out in the practical aspects of daily life.

Only love has the power to bring help and release. Only love has the authority and strength to break down walls and change hearts. Our authority depends on how much love we have. We need more love, for we should reflect Jesus in our lives.

The divine love Jesus obtained for us on the cross should well up from within, overflowing to our words and actions. It should extend not only to those who cause us difficulties but also to those who harm, oppose and wrong us. Jesus even says, "Love your enemies" (Matthew 4:44). Just think of it! We should love our enemies.

ADAPTED FROM THE SECRET OF LOVING WHEN YOU CAN'T BY M. BASILEA SCHLINK

*Thank you for your prayers, friendship and support.
May God bless each one of you abundantly!*

The Evangelical Sisters of Many

This Easter Season:

Trace the footsteps of Jesus from Gethsemane to His Resurrection



The Passion Way

Nothing will bring us closer to Jesus than reflecting on the Passion, for His suffering reveals His heart. Only love could have made Him endure such pain. If we want to know our Saviour more deeply, let us take time during Lent or, better still, all year round, to meditate on His amazing love. For a life-changing experience, we have included video meditation readings taken from *"Behold His Love"* by Mother Basilea Schlink that depicts Jesus' Passion Way (<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLCYAx6TequwyKr-jjfWCoLWP3thOWM-C4>).

As the Passion Story unfolds, repentance and love will be stirred in us. Seeing what Jesus suffered, we will want to show our love and gratitude by responding to His call, *"Come, take up your cross and follow Me."* This is true now as then, for Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Unseen, Jesus walks this earth, seeking true disciples. The Man of Sorrows wants to burn His image into our hearts - judged, flogged, mocked, and laden with a cross. What the world needs to see is Jesus shining out of believers - Jesus, who triumphed in suffering as the Lamb of God.

The eyes of the Lord are searching every country for those who will walk in His ways and reflect His nature. With them He can build the Kingdom of God. His kingdom does not come through service alone, however necessary that may be. He Himself established it through suffering.

These readings in the above video links are for all those who would like to catch something of the heart of Jesus by meditating prayerfully on the Passion of Christ. Seeing what Jesus suffered makes us grieve for failing Him. Joy at His forgiveness inspires love and gratitude, drawing us into a closer walk with our Saviour and into fellowship with those that love Him.

Let us not be spectators standing at the edge of the crowd, uninvolved and uncommitted. Let us be real disciples, not someone who follows Him only for a season. Let us keep walking in His steps, so that others can see we belong to Him. May the sacrificial Lamb of God come anew in our hearts as we meditate on His Passion Way. Help us to show Him our love and gratitude for the torment He bore to set us free.

The Evangelical Sisters of Mary

PRAYER REQUESTS

Easter Retreat Days—(nonresidential)

- The Easter season is a key time of year for outreach and ministry. Please pray that the Lord would give us the ideas and inspiration for our Canaan outreach through the different services we will be holding, through our E-mailings, and on our Website.

We are planning to hold our full Easter retreat days since Covid-19 began! We are really looking forward to this opportunity.

Visitors

- Please pray for those that come to visit the prayer garden—that they will experience a personal encounter with Jesus.

Outreach

- Please pray with us for the various meetings and conferences we are attending or holding. That there would be new opportunities to reach out to people and share our ministry's literature.

Daily Expenses for Canaan

- From all the Sisters we would like to thank everyone for their generosity and faithfulness in supporting the Canaan ministry. We recognise that your giving is an act of worship, and we remain diligent stewards of all that has been entrusted to us, towards our continued commission to reach people and make disciples together.

As we place every bill we receive into the Lord's hands, please continue to pray with us that each expense will continue to be met.

MINISTRY SNIPPETS







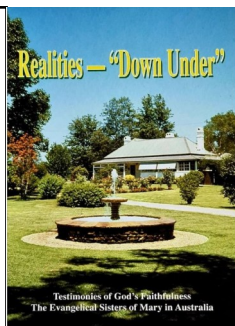
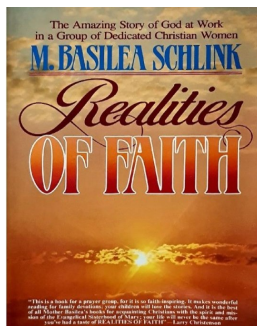
Faith into Practice

- Please pray that when we start up the 'Faith into Practice' programme, the Lord will call those He wants to participate in the volunteer programme at Canaan.
- Please pray for volunteers from a variety of countries, so that there is a good multicultural balance in the group.
- We are happy that many young people from overseas have previously taken part in our "Faith into Practice" volunteer programme. Please pray for the former participants, that the Lord would continue to bless them in their spiritual walk and make them a blessing for many others.
- For those former helpers who are praying about their future pathways, please pray that they will discern God's guidance.

Outreach

- Please pray that the Lord continues to provide innovative ideas for outreach in the wider community during these Covid-19 times.
- Please pray that the Lord would continue to show us new ideas for outreach through our website and other social media avenues.
- We would be grateful if you would support us in prayer for our ongoing ministry of love and reconciliation—especially to the Jewish community, Aboriginals, and the various ethnic communities in the Sydney area.
- Please pray for the e-mailings, literature and DVDs being sent out from Canaan, that God will use them to bring much blessing to people.

- Pray that people will ask for the Canaan publications at their local Christian bookshops, as this helps to make the literature more widely known. Some of the things that Mother Basilea wrote prophetically more than 50 years ago have been dramatically fulfilled in the meantime, and friends are often “re-discovering” the books and finding them so relevant for today. Pray that God will continue to use Canaan’s legacy to change lives, and to help prepare the Bride of Christ.
- Please remember our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted in many of the countries we serve. We thank the Lord that our internet ministry enables us to have contact with many of them. They are so grateful for the contact, prayer support and literature when it can be sent safely or read online.
- Pray for all of us here at Canaan as we seek to put the Lord first and to be obedient to His leadings. Since our time and strength are limited, pray that we will always know what God wants us to take on and what He would have us say no to, especially moving forward when restrictions lift.
- Pray for continuing protection, strength, wisdom, and unity for everyone at Canaan, and also for the wider fellowship groups of Canaan.
- Please continue to pray for Sister Theophania, who is living in residential care off Canaan.
- Most of all, we pray that as Sisters and Friends of Canaan we will all love our Lord Jesus more day by day, helping to extend His kingdom and prepare His Bride.



GOD HEARS BELIEVING PRAYER

God seeks those who will pray.

In our times God, as a true Father, will show us His help and His wonders as never before—if we call out to Him in deepest need, trust Him, and in prayer *actually reckon upon His help*. For He stands ready to help those who believe in His love, who truly reckon upon His Almighty power, who truly reckon that He still works miracles today.

A whole complex of buildings on the grounds of the Canaan stands today as a testimony to how real God's help was in our business affairs, how literally He answered prayer. These buildings cost great sums of money. We had no savings, nor did we receive any subsidy from official sources. They were built and paid for only through prayer and belief in God's help.



JESUS,
FORSAKEN TODAY
DESPISED AS NEVER BEFORE.
O LAMB OF GOD

SO BITTERLY BEATEN,
MERCIFULLY LOOK UPON US.
STRENGTHEN THOSE
WHO STILL LOVE YOU.
LET THEM REMAIN FAITHFUL
AND BE PREPARED
TO SUFFER FOR YOU
STANDING AT YOUR SIDE.

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