

How our LUV Prayer Circle came into being

About a year ago, the members of my church, myself included, followed with interest and prayer the 'Missionary Journey' that Liz was undertaking. She had already visited Asia, South America and Africa in the call on her life to minister to women and now it was Asia that the Lord was taking her to again. During her visits home to her, she always spoke in our church and updated us about her vision. These were always very moving occasions. We were asked to take details of individual co-ordinators who had been chosen to teach their sisters in Asia, so that we could pray specifically for them by name. This we did and it blessed us to bring these ladies individually before the Lord, knowing just a few small facts about them.

In October 2008, Liz again went to Asia and we followed her itinerary closely with prayer. When she returned she asked me to consider becoming the Prayer Coordinator here, and forming a LUV Circle at our church. I felt rather overwhelmed and promised to seek the Lord, but soon felt an assurance that I should step out in faith and courage, and He would provide all I needed to do this.

Early in January 2009, I held a meeting in my home with a faithful group of ladies from my church, and probably to their surprise, suggested that we could form a LUV Prayer Circle to pray together rather than individually for this ministry that I felt was close to all our hearts. The response was rather muted, as I was asking them to fill yet another evening once a month in their already busy lives. However, at our first Prayer Circle meeting in February, we had about 8 ladies and this has continued to be the average every month out of a core number of about 10.

Our meetings take place around the table in the church kitchen, so it feels cosy and intimate and I find each month that I am really blessed by this time we spend. We aim to meet for one hour to pray and then we have a drink of tea afterwards for those who can stay. The 'family' feeling is strong at these meetings and we pray through the issues, large and small, that have come to our notice through Liz and Lisa. There is a warmth and closeness with each other and increasingly with the ladies who we pray specifically for. We sing and pray as the Holy Spirit leads us. From a lukewarm response to the idea at the start of this year, there is a close bond developing in the group, who have truly caught the vision. We know that the coordinators pray individually for us too, which is humbling. I know that God took the tiny seed of willingness I gave Him and has continued to grow and nourish this intercessory group for His glory, and I am so dependent on Him and grateful to Him.

Another unplanned but very positive result of this, is that a few of us meet every Wednesday morning for an hour, to pray in exactly the same way. I get regular updates about personal and ministry needs from Liz, so we can pray into the current situations. Another great and unexpected blessing for us.

I was privileged to join Liz in Asia in May, together with Margaret, her Mum. During this time we made warm relationships with the ladies we had been praying for. During

this trip I read of Pandita Ramabai, who was a convert to Christianity in the early 20th century. She set up missions to rescue young girls from terrible fates that otherwise awaited them. Her work continues today. I was impressed that for many years she prayed for large numbers of people, by name, each day. This eventually resulted in revival after many years of faithfulness to God's urging. She too established Prayer Circles of women doing just as we are doing. What more confirmation can we need? We are so blessed to be used in this way for the building of His Kingdom.

Barbara August 2009.
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