

of the ladies have accompanied the mommy-to-be to her doctor appointment, where they saw the precious life they have been praying for through an ultrasound and heard the heartbeat. It was from this group of ladies that a regular Wednesday noon-time prayer time has evolved. There are currently 6 ladies that are gathering together weekly, to pray. One of the growth



groups is going to gather this coming week to circle the middle school and high school to intercede for the young people in our community. One thing is certain, spending time

with God in His Word changes circumstances, changes relationships and changes hearts. God honors bold prayers and bold prayers honor God. The question was asked, "How do we keep the fire burning?" The answer, "When one experiences the presence and the power of the Almighty, there is no turning back."

— Rev. Kevin Roberts
Bethany EC, Tamaqua, PA



The Glory of Christmas

"... and He shall be called Immanuel meaning God is with us."

(Matthew 1:23b)

May you have a blessed Christmas!



Celebrating the Good News of God's Son

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for All the people." (Luke 2:10 NIV)

I bring you—it is **P**ersonal
Good news of great joy—it is **P**ositive
for All the people—it is **U**niversal.

God loves you! He is with you! God is for you!

A glorious Christmas to you and yours!
Members of the Prayer Mobilization Team



PRAYER MOBILIZATION TEAM
of the Evangelical Congregational Church

HEARTCRY

FALL, 2013

Hope for the Hopeless



Rev. Robert Shuey, Pastor
Cottage Grove E.C. Church, Akron, OH

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

In the Word of God we read, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end leads to death." (Proverbs 16:25) As a pastor I have discovered that there is an influx of people coming to me that are down and out, hanging on by a thread, hoping that life will get better. Their best thinking has gotten them to a point of no return. Often they don't know where to turn and many have turned to drugs and alcohol. Too often we become the last stop of hope for those without hope. Our world is filled with people that have given up, and society seems to give up on them as well. I am convinced that if we see people as Jesus sees them, our hearts can change and our efforts to care for the down and out will increase. I have had some tell me that it won't do any good, why waste your time, they refuse to receive help, and besides there are too many

broken people for us to help.

I remember a story from years ago about The Boy and the Starfish. A man was walking along a deserted beach at sunset. As we walked he



could see a young boy in the distance. As he drew nearer he noticed that the boy kept bending down, picking something up and throwing it

into the water. Time and time again he kept hurling things into the ocean. As the man approached even closer, he was able to see that the boy was picking up starfish that had been washed up on the beach, and one at a time he was throwing them back into the water. The man asked the boy what he was doing and the boy replied, "I am throwing these washed up starfish back into the ocean, or else they will die from lack of oxygen." "But," said the man, "you can't possibly save them all, there are thousands on this beach, and this must be happening on hundreds of beaches along the coast. You can't possibly make a difference." The boy looked down, frowning for a moment; then bent down to pick up another starfish, smiling as he threw it back into the sea. He replied, "I made a huge difference to that one!" I am thankful that God has not abandoned us in our time of

need. If we can make a difference for just one life, it becomes one more life that finds hope as God's people



give them Jesus. We can invite those without hope to receive the One who gives new life and new hope. Remember to take time to hold a hand, to care for the unloved and unwanted and bring them to Jesus who give rest for the weary, hope for the hopeless especially during this Thanksgiving and Christmas season.



The Prayer Mobilization Team is
Announcing to Pastors the
2014 National Prayer Summits

The DELAWARE REGION

March 14 & 15 at Twin Pines Camp

The SUSQUEHANNA REGION

March 28 & 29 at Camp Swatara

The GREAT LAKES REGION

The date and location of this region will be
given when the information is received.

Watch for more details of the National
Prayer Summits in January 2014

PRAYER WORKS IN TAMAQUA

For the past four weeks, our sermons, adult Sunday school class, and two of our growth groups have been focused on The Circle Maker small group curriculum. We've studied the fall of Jericho, God's provision for the Israelites in the wilderness, the Parable of the Persistent Widow, and Daniel. At the onset of the series, we gave our people a 28 day challenge to pray bold prayers, dream big, pray hard, and think long. Throughout the weeks, over and over again, people shared what was happening in their lives because they were devoted to spending time in the Word and in prayer. During the 28 day period, God brought about many exciting changes. God revealed exciting ways to serve him and reach further into our community. A Tuesday morning prayer time was reestablished at our church with as many as 15 people in attendance. When a woman from our church was informed that

she was pregnant and was a high risk for a miscarriage,



a group of our ladies went to her house, circled her, prayed together, and of course wept together. God answered their prayers. Several