

PrayKids!

ADVENTURES WITH JESUS IN PRAYER

The Word On...

Praying for the Lost

When people say they are **praying for the "lost,"** it means that they are praying for people who don't know Jesus yet.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 says, "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone. . . . This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth."

Did you know that when you **pray for the lost,** you become a prayer "evangelist"? "Evangel" means good news, and an evangelist is someone who proclaims good news. So pray for those people who haven't found out the good news about Jesus yet! This pleases God and it's "good news" for lots of people! ★

Work Road Ahead!

By Terry Gooding

Does your heart hurt when you think of people who don't know and love Jesus yet? We all know somebody who hasn't received Jesus' gift of salvation. Maybe it's a friend at school. Or maybe it's your cousin or a next door neighbor.

For every one or two unbelievers that you know personally, there are millions of people around the world who do not know Jesus. God sent His Son to die for them, but millions still have not heard the good news. Others have heard, but have not accepted this free gift from God.

Praying for the lost is the best thing we can do for them. But if you've been praying for a friend, neighbor, or family member to

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What's the Problem?

As we **pray for the lost**, it helps to know what keeps people away from Jesus. That way, we can pray away what's *in* the way! Here is what the Bible says about some of the things that keep people from Jesus:

- Satan blinds their minds so that they do not know they need a Savior (2 Corinthians 4:4).
- Their hearts are hard like unplowed ground (Hosea 10:12).
- They do not know they need to repent and accept the truth (2 Timothy 2:25).
- They don't know that Jesus is the only way (Acts 4:12).
- There are not enough people to tell them the good news (Matthew 9:37,38). ★

(continued from page 1)

come to Jesus, you may already know that sometimes it seems that you have to pray for a really long time. It can get discouraging if you don't see an answer right away.

I was feeling that way one time. I had been praying for a lost family member. It didn't seem like anything was happening. I was getting tired and discouraged. So I asked Jesus to help me. And He did! He gave me a picture in my mind of a road made out of gold bricks. Jesus showed me that every time I prayed for my lost family member, it was like I was placing a gold brick in that road. Each prayer was used to pave a golden road from my family member to Jesus in the throne room of heaven. The more I pray, the closer that person comes to trusting in Jesus.

Thinking about all this road work helps me keep on praying. If every prayer is like another brick in the road, I will keep on praying until the bricks end up right at Jesus' feet!

Will you be a bricklayer for Jesus? Think of all the golden bricks you can place in the road for everyone you know who doesn't know Jesus.

Then think of all the bricks that are needed to pave the roads to Jesus for people around the world. That's a lot of road work! So let's get busy and **pray for the lost!** ★

Terry Gooding is the author of *Paths of Gold*, a booklet that helps people pray for their unsaved friends and family. *Paths of Gold* can be ordered at www.praymag.com or by calling (800)366-7788.

The Big Freebie

What about you? Do you know Jesus as *your* Savior?

Before you can **pray for the lost**, you need to be sure that Jesus is living in *your* heart. The Bible says, "When people sin, they earn what sin pays—death. But God gives us a free gift—life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23, New Century Version).

If you've never accepted God's free gift, you can do it right now. Do you need help or have questions? Log on to www.praykids.com and click on "Want to Know JESUS?" for simple steps from the Bible. ★

PrayKids!

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Mission Statement

The mission of **PrayKids!** is to teach, encourage, and equip children (ages 8 to 12) as they develop a deepening relationship with Christ through prayer, so that they might become more effective prayer warriors.

Encourage Your Kids

If your child has a story of an answered prayer, how his/her life was impacted by prayer, or how his/her class prayed and something special happened, please send it to:

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We cannot publish everything that is sent in, but we may put some additional stories on our website. www.praykids.com

My First Book

Who would have thought that a young girl like me could write a book and get it published? God has a way of surprising us sometimes.

While I was putting together a beaded salvation bracelet for a friend, a story came to my mind. I now know that the Lord gave it to me. When I told the story to my dad, he was blown away. He showed the idea to a publishing company editor who liked it and said that we should submit it. My family began praying that if it was God's will, the book would be published, and that He would help us while writing it. Dad and I worked on the book for several weeks, trying to make it as good as possible. My mom read through it and did some editing. Then we took it to the publisher.

Every day we prayed that God's will would be done. I started asking my friends to pray about it. I asked Heather and Alyssa and Tricia and my cousin, Michaela, and they all began to pray. Several times I went off by myself during the children's worship time at



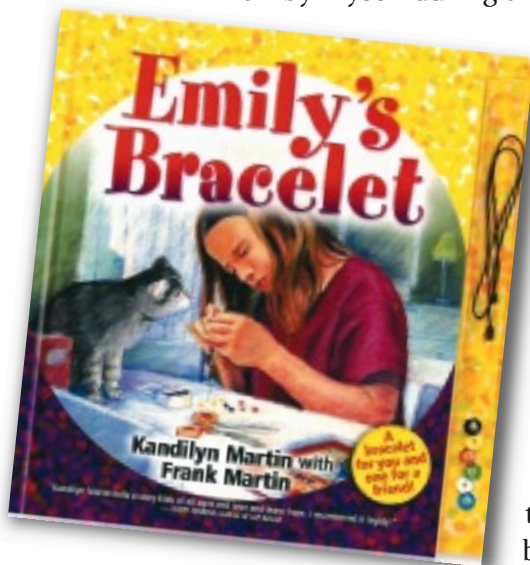
Kandilyn, age 12, with her dog, D.C. (short for Dog.Com™)

church to pray that my book would get published. It was hard waiting, but we just had to leave it in God's hands.

Then one day we got a call from the publisher saying that they had decided to publish my book and include two salvation bracelets with each copy. What an answer to prayer!

Now we're all praying that many kids and adults will come to know Jesus through this book.

It's true! God really does answer prayers! ★



When Kandilyn Martin published *Emily's Bracelet* at age 11, she was FaithKidz' (a division of David C. Cook Publishing) youngest author ever!

Kandilyn Martin would love for you to visit her website (www.kandilyn.com) where you can ask her a question, tell your own story, or share whatever else is on your heart.

Peeper Poppers

When you pray God's Word, God keeps His eye on it. He never lets that prayer out of His sight! In Jeremiah 1:12 the LORD says, "I am watching to make sure my words come true" (New Century Version).

Here are some **prayers for the lost** that you can be sure God will keep His eye on. Put the name of someone who does not know Jesus in the blank.

Open _____'s eyes and help him/her turn away from darkness to light and away from Satan to You (Acts 26:18).

LORD, give a new heart to _____ so he/she may know You as LORD and Savior (Jeremiah 24:7).

Holy Spirit, help _____ to understand that he/she can be forgiven through the blood of Jesus (Ephesians 1:7).

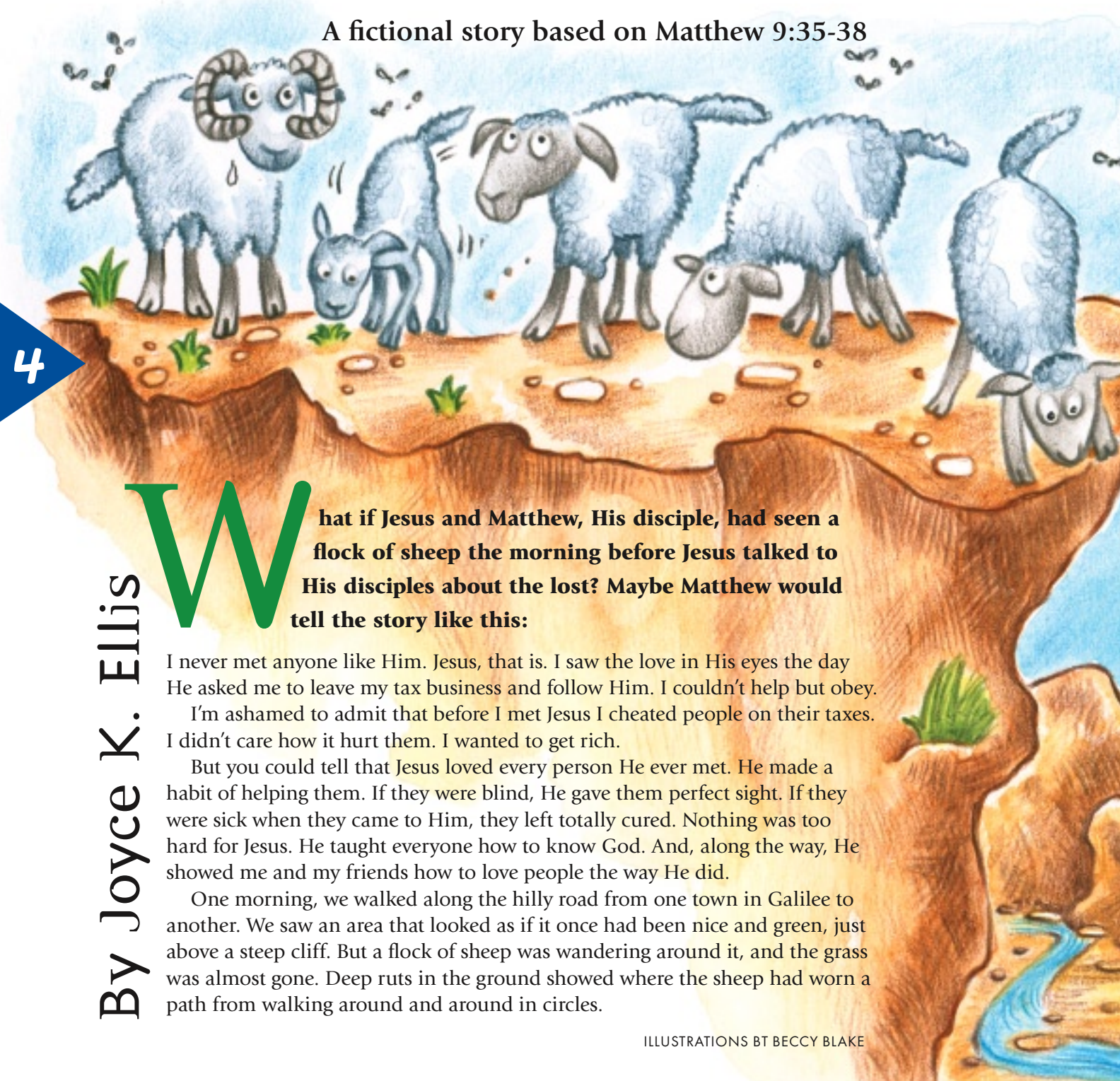
Lord Jesus, give _____ understanding to know that if he/she calls on Your name, he/she will be saved (Romans 10:13).

Here are some other verses you can turn into prayers for the lost: Ephesians 1:18; Psalm 95:7-8; 2 Peter 3:9; Romans 10:9.

Don't forget to keep your eyes open when you read God's Word for other "eye opening" prayers! ★

The Missing Sheep and the Floundering Flock

A fictional story based on Matthew 9:35-38



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By Joyce K. Ellis

What if Jesus and Matthew, His disciple, had seen a flock of sheep the morning before Jesus talked to His disciples about the lost? Maybe Matthew would tell the story like this:

I never met anyone like Him. Jesus, that is. I saw the love in His eyes the day He asked me to leave my tax business and follow Him. I couldn't help but obey.

I'm ashamed to admit that before I met Jesus I cheated people on their taxes. I didn't care how it hurt them. I wanted to get rich.

But you could tell that Jesus loved every person He ever met. He made a habit of helping them. If they were blind, He gave them perfect sight. If they were sick when they came to Him, they left totally cured. Nothing was too hard for Jesus. He taught everyone how to know God. And, along the way, He showed me and my friends how to love people the way He did.

One morning, we walked along the hilly road from one town in Galilee to another. We saw an area that looked as if it once had been nice and green, just above a steep cliff. But a flock of sheep was wandering around it, and the grass was almost gone. Deep ruts in the ground showed where the sheep had worn a path from walking around and around in circles.

ephered

k We didn't see a shepherd with the sheep, and they seemed lost. They bleated loudly. They sounded scared. Open sores covered their dirty, woolly bodies. Swarms of flies buzzed around them. A few ewes grazed near the edge of the cliff. Their lambs, playing close by, could have fallen off at any minute. These sheep needed a shepherd to protect them and lead them to fresh feeding grounds. *Where was the shepherd?* I wondered.

Later that day, we entered another town. Just as He had in all the other towns and villages, Jesus taught the people and healed all kinds of sickness. The crowds surrounded Jesus, shouting and begging for help. They rushed feverish children and people who couldn't walk and people who were desperate to Him.

We helped the best we could, but there were so many people! It was hard to know who to help first. Jesus focused on each one with such compassion. You could see the hurt in His eyes as He saw each problem or need. At one point, He looked up at us and said slowly. "Remember this morning, when we saw those sheep without a shepherd?"

We all nodded.

"That's what's happening here," Jesus said. "These people have so many problems and they are scared and running around trying to find someone to help. They need their Shepherd. They need God's kingdom to come in their lives. But there are so few workers to show them how. Pray to the Father—He's in charge—and ask Him to send more helpers."

Something clicked inside me. Right then, I prayed, "Father in heaven, show me how to care like You do for people who are hurting. And bring us more helpers soon. Amen."

You see, I knew the Good Shepherd, and His compassion for the people was beginning to grip my heart, too. ★

Author and speaker Joyce K. Ellis created the book, *One-Minute Bible Devotions for Kids* (Broadman & Holman), an enjoyable way for children to listen to and respond to God's Word each day of the year. To see more of her stories, just go to her website (www.joycekellis.com) and click on Kids' Corner.



One Precious Sheep



When Jesus saw sheep, they often reminded Him of lost people who didn't know Him. Here's another of His stories:

There were 100 sheep in a flock. One precious lamb wandered away and got lost. The master, who loved the lamb, left the 99 others and hunted all over. When he finally found the little sheep, the master excitedly lifted it onto his shoulders and carried it home. Then he called together all his friends and neighbors for a big party. "Rejoice with me," he cried. "I've found my lost sheep!" (Matthew 18:12-14).

Jesus, the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), said there will be rejoicing in heaven over every one He saves. He wants us to love and to pray for those who are lost because they don't know Him (Matthew 9:36). ★



Let's Pray for Pastors

Almost every church in the world has a pastor. From Albania to the Netherlands to Zambia, there is someone in each church who teaches the Bible. Pastors, or ministers, teach the church to pray for others and serve the poor. They help people work through problems God's way. They help those who need to know about Jesus' love.

If you visit churches in other nations, you will see pastors who dress differently than the pastor of your church does. Some wear a white shirt and a tie. Others wear long robes with colorful symbols or the traditional clothing of their culture.

Pastors may preach in hand-made brick huts, in church buildings from the 17th century, in movie theatres, or in the living room of a Christian family.

Even with all these differences, every pastor has at least one important need that is the same as other pastors. Every pastor needs prayer!

Whether the pastor is in a large or small



An African pastor may dress differently than your pastor does.



An Asian pastor might baptize new believers in a lake or stream.

congregation, in the big city or a tiny village, or married or single, every man or woman God has called to be a pastor must have prayer support from other Christians.

Pastors are fighting against the kingdom of darkness. The enemy does not want people to hear the good

news about Jesus. In some countries, it is dangerous to preach about Jesus. Many churches meet in secret. They baptize new believers during the dark hours of the night. Pastors work long hours. Sometimes they don't have much family time. Satan uses that to try to pull their families apart.

When you pray for pastors, it is like giving out shields to people who are in a battle. The shields protect them from the attacks of the enemy so pastors can finish the work God has given them to do.

Every pastor is blessed by the prayers of others. Your prayers can make pastors strong and give them the courage to listen to God as they lead the church. ★

By Phil Miglioratti, coordinator of the National Pastor's Prayer Network (www.prayingpastor.com).

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COVER THE GLOBE Prayers for Pastors

1. Lord, protect the mind of my pastor from any of Satan's tricks and evil ways. May he guard and protect the truth he was given with Your help (2 Timothy 1:14).

2. Help my pastor keep his eyes and hands and heart pure so that he can show the people at my church how to do the same (Psalm 101:3; James 4:8).

3. Oh God, make my pastor a faithful and wise shepherd who will watch over the people in my church with a happy, servant's heart (1 Peter 5:2).

4. God of hope, fill my pastor with joy and peace so that he overflows in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

5. Thank You, Father, for sending angels to protect and serve my pastor and his family. Assign them to see to it that Your will is done in my pastor's life (Hebrews 1:14).

—Portions of Cover the Globe were taken from *Praying for My Pastor*, a Scripture-based prayer guide produced for children by *Pray!* magazine (www.praykids.com). Used by permission.

Cover the World from the Produce Aisle



Here's a great way to pray for people around the world who don't know Jesus. Go shopping! Yep, that's right. Next time you help mom or dad with a grocery run, check out the labels on the fruits and veggies. If you see a mango from Brazil, for example, ask God to bring people from that country into His Kingdom. You'll be surprised at how many countries you can pray for in just one shopping trip! Don't forget to do this at home, too. If your banana comes from Hawaii, **pray for the lost** people there as you eat it!

You can pray around the world from your clothes closet too. Every time you put something on, check the "Made in . . ." label. **Pray for the lost** in that country as you get dressed. Ask your parents if you can check their closet, too.

Find a world map and put pins or markers on the countries you've prayed for. If you come across a country you know nothing about, look it up in an almanac or in *Windows on the World*. It's fun to keep a record of—and learn about—who you are praying for! ★

By Bianca Elliott, Linwood, Kansas

Hugs from Jesus

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Do you want to give the whole world a hug from Jesus? Make this fun "Give-the-World-a-Hug Pillow," and you can wrap your arms around it as you **pray for the lost** around the world. You can even use it to target nations. Put your hand on Africa, for instance, as you pray for tribal people. Try touching China when you pray for the many unreligious people who live there.

You will need:

- Two pieces of blue and two pieces of brown or green felt (approx. 12" x 12")
- Dinner plate
- World map
- Pen, scissors, fabric glue
- Needle and embroidery floss or cord
- Fiberfill stuffing

Use the plate to trace two circles from the blue felt. Next, using the world map as a guide, trace or draw the outline of the continents on the brown or green felt (it doesn't need to be exact). Cut out all your pieces. Use a dot or two of fabric glue to place your continents on the blue circle backgrounds. Stitch around the continents to hold them in place. Put the two blue circles together (right sides out) and stitch around the edge, leaving a two-inch opening. Stuff the pillow with the fiberfill, and stitch the opening closed.

You did it! Now give the world a hug from Jesus as you **pray for the lost**. ★



Nurturing Children's Compassion for the Lost

By Carol Mayberry

Amber prayed, "Dear God, please help Maddie learn how to share, so I can go first."

Amber's prayer reveals where many children start in prayer: with themselves, even if they're praying for others! As parents and teachers, we do want our children to pray for their own concerns. But we want them also to learn to pray effectively for family, friends, and the world—especially those who don't know Jesus. Why? Because those people are on God's heart and we want them to be on our children's hearts as well.

Out of His compassion for the lost, Jesus said, "Ask the Lord of the harvest . . . to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:38). How can we help our children develop that same compassion that will compel them to **pray for the lost**?

First, *we* need to pray! It is easy to assume that our children will naturally fall in line with what God values. Indeed, most of our children probably will go along with the idea of **praying for the lost**. But this is not a project—it's a matter of the heart. So it's important to *invite* children into God's work. If they are not interested, do not insist. Keep praying and watch for opportunities to re-invite them.

Write It Down

Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:8). One way we can help our children see God convicting the world is through

prayer journaling. Prayer journaling helps focus them on what God is doing in their own hearts and in the hearts of their lost friends. Much like looking at our faces in a mirror, the act of turning our thoughts into written words reflects back the contents of our hearts. If Maddie had the opportunity to read or hear her prayer for Amber, for instance, she might have seen its self-centeredness.

Make It Personal

Prayer journals can follow any process. Some children prefer to talk while you write it down. Others might like to keep their journals personal and only share at specified times. Many children enjoy the social interaction of writing in their journals together. Whatever the process, the goal of the journal is to help them pay attention to God. The journal should be an appealing and enjoyable tool that helps them do that.

Prayer journals include simple elements like the date, who your child is praying for, what she sees God doing in the situation, and any response God may be seeking from her.

Conversations of Record

One prayer-journaling boy stepped out in obedience to God and created flyers inviting his fellow classmates to read the Bible with him. He left for school with a heart filled with hope and a folder full of flyers. He came home with a folder still full and a deflated heart. The teacher had told him that he was not allowed

to distribute "religious material" at school. The boy took the circumstance back to God in his prayer journal. And God gave him an idea.

The next day, he took his Bible to read during silent reading time. A friend asked him about it, which led to other conversations. Eventually, the friend joined him in a Bible study—also because the boy had prayed, acted, and responded to the fruit of that action. He recorded the whole series of conversations with the Lord in his journal about his lost friends.

In a world that lives as though God is irrelevant, it's important for our children to develop spiritual eyes and ears and a passion for the lost. As they grow mighty in spirit, they will begin to live every moment aware of the awesome work of God—and aware that they can be a part of it! ★

Carol Mayberry is an elementary school teacher in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She and her husband Peter have raised three kingdom-minded children.

MEMORY VERSE

"I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you," Ephesians 1:18.

Free

LEADER'S GUIDE for Teachers and Parents

Did you know we have a **free** leader's guide with extra activities, questions, and prayer points to go along with each article in *PrayKids!*? Go to www.praykids.com and select "Parents and Teachers." Then select which issue you want and click on the article title. Download what you need so you can use *PrayKids!* with a group of kids.

Back issues of *PrayKids!* are available in packs of 10 for \$6.99. Twenty-one different topics/themes (with new ones released bimonthly) can be selected to teach groups of kids about prayer. To order, **go to www.praykids.com or call (800) 366-7788 or (719) 548-9222** and mention offer #6258.