

Pataskala Church of the Nazarene  
 September 17, 2006  
 (Adapted from **A Time to Pray God's Way**, by Evelyn Christenson)

### **Mobilizing the Pataskala Church of the Nazarene to Pray**

Matthew 18:20 *"For where two or three come together in My name, there am I with them."*

#### **The need for Pre-Evangelism Praying**

**"Why is it so important to involve God in the life of the person we are trying to reach for Jesus before we try to share the Gospel? Satan will do everything in his power to keep in his kingdom those who already belong to him. Pre-Evangelism praying is the only thing that will bring the omnipotent God of heaven into the struggle of rescuing souls from Satan's kingdom and transforming them into Jesus' kingdom." - Evelyn Christenson, from her book, **A Time to Pray God's Way****

*13 For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves,* Colossians 1:13

**Winning the lost for Christ is a battle for lost souls.**

It's Spiritual Warfare that is being waged that involves two supernatural, but not equal, powers. (God and the devil)

Luke 8:4-12

*4 "While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, He told this parable: 5 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown. When He said this, He called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

*9 His disciples asked Him what this parable meant. 10 He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,*

*" 'though seeing, they may not see;*

*though hearing, they may not understand.*

*11 "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. 12 Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.*

#### **1) Seed Stealing**

**The Seed** is the Word of God. (The Gospel of Jesus)

**The devil** is the one who comes like a bird and snatches up the seed from the unprepared heart

**The lesson** is that we must seriously pray before we can see the Word of God and our Witness to people be effective.

## 2) **Blinded Eyes**

Blinding the minds of the unbelievers.

II Corinthians 4:3-4

***3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age (the devil) has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.***

Rescue the Perishing:

Rescue the Perishing; Care for the dying;  
Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave.  
Weep over the erring one; Lift up the fallen;  
Tell them of Jesus, the Mighty to Save.

Though they are slighting Him, Still He is waiting,  
Waiting for the penitent child to receive.  
Plead with them earnestly, Plead with the gently;  
He will forgive if they only believe.

Down in the human heart, Crushed by the tempter  
Feelings lie buried that grace can restore.  
Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by kindness,  
Chords that are broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it,  
Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide.  
Back to the narrow way Patiently win them;  
Tell the poor wanderer a Savior has died.

Rescue the perishing; Care the dying.  
Jesus is merciful; Jesus will save.

### **PRAYER! PRE-EVANGELISM PRAYER!**

Before we try to share the Gospel of Christ to these people, **we must pray to an omnipotent God who will reach down and remove the veil Satan has firmly planted there.**

**Prevenient Grace.** This is the Grace of God through the Holy Spirit that goes before to a person and the Holy Spirit prepares that person to consider Christ as their Savior and Lord.

### **“Triplet Praying.”**

Jesus had His inner circle of three – Peter, James and John.  
Ecclesiastes 4:12 ***“A cord of three strands is not quickly torn apart.”***  
Jesus promises His presence when two or three are gathered in His name.  
The Mt. of Transfiguration gives the example of Jesus taking three with Him.  
Just before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus took three with Him into the inner Garden of Gethsemane.

## What is Triplet Praying?

This is encouraging three Believers getting together, forming a prayer group, and each one of them praying for three unsaved people (making a total of nine), and this prayer group getting together once a week for a minimum of 15 minutes to pray exclusively for those nine people's salvation.

### The Uniqueness of Triplet Praying

**1) Where to Pray:** The three Believers praying for their unsaved nine should already be spending time together in a church, office, school, community, or neighborhood.

The suggestion is that you pray where you already are.

**2) No Great Expense:** money is not a factor!

**3) Time needed:** Any group already established can spend 15 minutes a week praying for the unsaved.

**4) Accountability:** When a person is committed to a small group, they are much less likely to skip meetings or stop going altogether.

**5) Encouragement:** Sharing answers to prayers and especially seeing one of your nine come to Christ is a great sense of encouragement and gives a new resolve and zeal to the whole group.

**Relationship of pray – ers:** Close spiritual relationships between the three or more praying is one of the positive dimensions of Triplet Praying. There is a tendency to share most deeply our walk with the Lord with those whom we pray with. You can be honest and transparent in a group like this, sharing burdens and other personal feelings.

**6)“Jesus in Our Midst”:** When Jesus said in Matthew 18:20 *“Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there I am in the midst of them,”* He was promising a very unique experience.

### Where to Find the Other Two Prayer Partners

Each person should first of all pray who God wants in your Triplet group.

Be sure they either share your concern for the lost needing Jesus, or they will catch the burden from you and or God.

For a successful Triplet Prayer Group, the three believers should already be in close proximity to each other some time during the week.

They should live, work, or worship close enough to enable them to get together weekly without undue effort.

Also in choosing your two prayer partners, make sure they truly know Jesus as Savior and Lord. John 14:6, *“No man comes to the Father, but through Me.”*

### Where to Organize Triplet Prayer Groups

**In our Church:** This is most ready made place for getting your group together.

However, if you live a considerable distance from your local church, you could actually have two believers who live closer to you.

**Here is a testimony:** “Some churches have been revolutionized by adopting Triplet Prayer Groups as a congregation, with attendance at regular church meetings tripling. Other churches saw a harvest reaped through church-related missions (evangelistic events), and all indications are that the people who had been prayed for were the ones who received Christ during such missions.”

“One person had already come to Christ and others were being exposed to the Gospel who never had been before.

Other positive effects such as deepened prayer among the congregation, the unity of the church body, and the passing on of Triplet Group

### **How does this effect our Youth?**

Brian St. Clair of **Reach out Ministries** of Norcross, Georgia tells of phenomenal results to Triplet Group Praying among teens. Prayer meetings are being held in schools and they have seen God’s power sweep across schools and multitudes of students coming to know Christ.

A youth pastor in Hawaii had 200 of his kids in prayer Triplets – and 80 for whom they were praying for accepted Christ.

Wherever Triplet Prayer Groups are involved, there are incredible changes on those campuses themselves.

### **What not to do in a Triplet Prayer Group**

Don’t spend time in chatting or having food or beverages during your prayer time.

The time you have together is dedicated entirely to praying for those who need Jesus.

The time should be devoted to praying for the nine people who need Jesus.

### **Why pray once a week?**

Jesus gives us this example in Luke 11 when He told about the person asking his neighbor for bread at midnight.

***“And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given to you; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it shall be opened.”***

These verbs in the original Greek ask, seek and find are in the tense that says it like this:

***“Keep on asking***

***“Keep on Seeking***

***“Keep on knocking”***

**So it really means for us to keep on persisting in prayer.**

### **Mobilizing ourselves to begin praying as a Triplet Prayer Group**

Starting a new ministry in our church is not always easy to do.

While prayer is something that is not new, Triplet Praying is new.

Some of you have small groups already, but you would need to break your group into three’s and then intentionally list your nine unsaved people whom you will pray for and then pray for them at least 15 minutes a week.

