

# GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Our Prayer in 2006

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**W**hen we pray we are manifesting faith in God, believing that He hears and is able to fulfill our supplications. In prayer we also focus our attention on matters of importance. The New Testament offers us examples of specific requests by godly people. These prayerful desires are as important today as they were in the first century.

Jesus exhorted his disciples to “*pray therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he send forth laborers into his harvest*” (Matthew 9:38). The seed of Old Testament prophecies pointing to the Messiah had been planted in the hearts of generations of Jews. The time had come for these prophecies to be fulfilled in Christ. People would be ready. The harvest was before the disciples’ eyes. What was needed now was for the Lord to send his laborers to bring in the harvest.

We need to plant the seed of the Gospel in the hearts of people today. While this work continues, we need to remember that some seed has already been sown. The harvest is before us. We need to pray throughout this year

that laborers will be sent to bring the harvest of souls to Christ. Being focused on this need in our prayers, we will be more inclined to be numbered among the laborers the Lord of harvest will send.

Paul’s prayer for Christians was for a growing, knowledgeable and discerning love. “*I pray, that your love many abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment...*” (Philippians 1:9). Our love should grow in depth and towards every new person we meet. This love while extended to all, does not approve of all. Differences characterized as good and evil exist in this world. A knowledgeable love distinguishes between these things, approving the good while reproofing the evil (Hebrews 5:14, Ephesians 5:11). Keep this kind of love in the forefront of your prayerful requests “*...so that ye may approve the things that are excellent*” (Philippians 1:10).

Epaphras prayed that spiritual stability would be granted to his fellow brethren. Paul reminds his readers that Epaphras is “*always striving for you in his prayers, that ye may stand perfect and fully assured in all the will of*

*God*” (Colossians 4:12). In our day people might describe one as arrogant who thinks he could be fully assured of any thing. But with God’s help Epaphras believed one could develop a level of spiritual maturity having full assurance of the will of God. By praying for this result this year, we will probably draw closer to this comforting and stabilizing blessing.

John prayed for brethren’s health and prosperity. “*I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in good health, even as thy soul prospereth*” (3 John 2). This last year, many were hit hard financially by fires and hurricanes. We have helped our fellow saints by giving over \$24,000 to their need this year. May we continue to pray for our brethren’s prosperity and good health, while remaining ready to actively help when the need arises (1 John 3:18).

Plenty of laborers bringing in souls, a growing and discerning love, a fully assured mature mind, and good health will produce a great year. Pray for it!