

CORE MESSAGE
S E R I E S

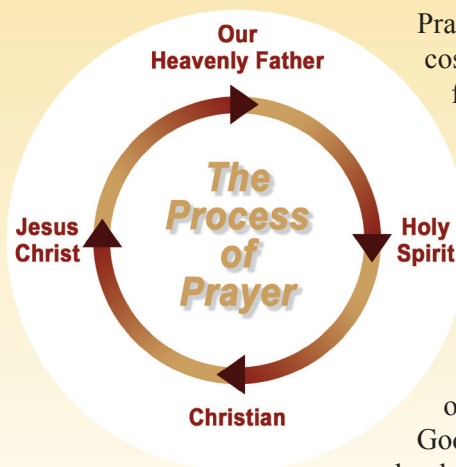
FIRESEEDS

God's **Wonderful** Plan for Prayer

Adapted from *The Arena of Prayer*, Dr. Ben Jennings, ©1999, New Life Publishers

Prayer leaps beyond our finite world. Shaped by God's very nature, it deals with the Creator, and launches people into the vast arena of God Himself. Romans 8:26, 27 describes the action:

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray (for) as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which are not spoken. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to (the will of) God. (NKJV, adjusted to reflect original Greek)



Prayer can be pictured as a cosmic circle engaging four major participants. At the zenith is God the Father to whom prayer is rightly directed. Three intercessors engage in the action.

The first intercessor, at a "three o'clock position," is God, the Holy Spirit, who does not articulate His passionate longings, but uses human intercessors to do it. (See verse 27.)

The second one, at a lowly "six o'clock position," is the praying Christian who needs to improve in prayer.

The third intercessor, at "nine o'clock," is Christ Jesus, identified in Revelation 2:18, 23 as the Person in the Godhead who searches human minds and hearts. He prays for prayers He receives from His people.

A dramatic scenario unfolds here: God the Holy Spirit continually receives the Father's purposes and craves their fulfillment. He expresses these groanings within praying Christians as cares, burdens, and even anxieties.

God, the heart-searching Son, receives those yearnings through His praying disciples. He perfects and empowers them; presents them back to the Father; gets them answered (John 14:13); and thus completes the circuit of God's action in the world!

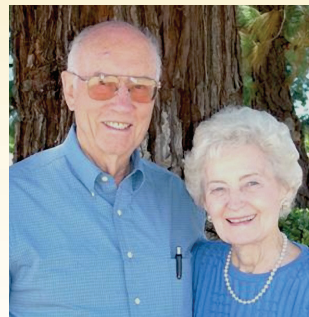
Four conclusions stand out in this panorama:

When you pray, you step into the arena of God's plan for mankind.

Your praying connects the passion of the Spirit with the power of Jesus.

Praying does not change God's will; it effects His will. (Matthew 6:10)

Praying is God at work through you!



Ben & Mary Jean Jennings

For many years and in many places, the rich baritone voice of Ben A. Jennings, Th.B., D.D., has been encouraging followers of Christ to revel in God's Wonderful Plan for Prayer.

Each issue of *FIRESEEDS* presents a biblical core message relevant to developing a culture of prayer that God uses to ignite spiritual movements.



igniting movements

FIRESEEDS is published by Global Prayer, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, International.

Global Prayer, 100 Lake Hart Drive 2100, Orlando, FL 32832, USA

Email: global.prayer@ccci.org | www.GlobalPrayerMovement.org | (407) 826-2006

© 2014 Campus Crusade for Christ International