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Prayers at Work, December 17-21, 2007

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Gates Elizabeth

From: prayersatwork@googlegroups.com on behalf of Prayers At Work
[prayers@prayersatwork.com]
Sent: Friday, December 14, 2007 2:20 PM
To: prayersatwork@googlegroups.com
Subject: [PRAYERS AT WORK] Dec 17-21, 2007

Monday, December 17, 2007 -- (Meditation: Matthew 1:22-23) God, You are Immanuel -- "God with us." In this holy season, help me humbly to seek Jesus in the cradle of Bethlehem, not proudly in the Inn of Status. Help me humbly to seek Him in swaddling clothes, not proudly in the finery of social distinctions. Help me humbly to worship Him just as I am, not proudly in the habit of religious sophistication. May I conform to Him where He is, not wanting Him to conform to me where I am. At this Christmas season, help me to practice the presence of God . . . Immanuel . . . God with us. Amen.

Tuesday, December 18, 2007 -- (Meditation: Matthew 5:43-44) God, the history of war has gone from foot-soldier to cavalry, from cavalry to artillery, from artillery to technology, and from technology to terrorism. Today, battlefields can be anywhere, and innocent civilians can be targets. It is easy to become negative, to live in suspicion, and to live in fear. God, bless our nation with forgiveness, and compassion, and love. In You we place our trust, for only in You is there true peace. Only in You is there life eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Wednesday, December 19, 2007 -- (Meditation: Luke 1:29-33) God, You chose a lowly handmaiden to be the Mother of Jesus. How confused she must have felt, wondering what others might think, and wondering what kind of special Child was growing in her womb. What were her thoughts as she rode on the donkey toward Bethlehem? What anxieties did she endure when she learned there was no room in the inn? What was in her heart as she wrapped her newborn Babe in swaddling clothes? God, thank you for the blessings of motherhood . . . for mothers who go through so much physical trauma to give birth . . . for mothers who lovingly feed and clothe and raise their children . . . for mothers who show love, and teach their children to love You. Thank You for giving the gift of life and love through mothers. And thank You especially for Mary, who bore our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thursday, December 20, 2007 -- (Meditation: Psalm 27:1) God, sometimes, even during the Christmas season, I live on the defensive. I am on the lookout for those who can hurt me, those who are suspicious of me, those who can upset my plans. I question, "Are they for me, or against me?" But God, living life in a defensive crouch, holding up my gloves to deflect blows, always on the lookout for jabs and hooks, constantly on guard -- these do nothing but shrink my heart. The fear I feel comes from within. It doesn't come from reality. God, fill my heart with trust and forgiveness. Help me to open wide my heart to serve others, and not to suspect them. Through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Friday, December 21, 2007 -- (Meditation: Luke 2:8-12) God, in this Christmas season, we praise You for the announcement of the angel that appeared to startled shepherds, "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." God, may we, too, feel that same wonder today, and always. Amen.

How to use Prayers At Work:

Read through the prayer for the day.

Let your spirit quietly enter into the prayer and make it your own.

Pray your prayer to God.

Sit in quiet meditation and wait for God's leading.

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