



Ladies Prayer
INTERNATIONAL



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Our Prodigals Are Coming Home!

By Larissa Havens



In a well-known story in Luke 15, the prodigal son took his inheritance and spent it on temporary pleasures. When he realized all his money was gone, he found a job feeding pigs. The pleasures and friends were gone. He was SO hungry, the pig's food began to look good. Then the Bible reveals a key moment in Luke 15:17: *"But when he came to himself . . ."* All these events led him to this awakening moment. This is the kind of moment we ask God to give every prodigal.

We read about a severe famine in the book of Ruth. When these hardships tested their faith, a Jewish family decided to move from the promise land to Moab. The husband died leaving his wife, Naomi, and their two sons in Moab. The sons married Moabite women and also died. Naomi was distraught. THEN, Naomi had an awakening moment and decided it was time to return to the promise land. Ruth 1:6 says, *" . . . for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had visited His people by giving them bread."*

In both stories, there was an awakening moment when they realized life away from God was not as good as life with Him, and they knew where they needed to go. God had not left them; they left God. The father hoped his son would come home. He did not pressure him to return but continued watching for him. When the father saw his son walking home, he ran to meet him with open arms of love and forgiveness. This is our example of how to respond when we see prodigals coming home.

Naomi told her daughters-in-law about her plans to return home and told them to stay in Moab, because she didn't have anything left to give them. Orpah left, but Ruth said, *"Wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God"* (Ruth 1:16-17). Ruth began serving God, remarried, and became the great grandmother of King David. Later Jesus came through her lineage. This testimony came from Naomi's decision to return home.

Our prodigals ARE coming home! We speak life and hope over them. Their ears are listening like Naomi; and when they hear the sound of rejoicing, they will return home. They will awaken like the prodigal son and find only Jesus can fill the emptiness. May God give

you hope for the prodigals in your life. May He give you love and forgiveness for them when they return, and wisdom in how to help them. They are coming home!

Note: Larissa Havens and her husband have been serving in Latvia for thirteen years. She has a beautiful little girl who brings so much sunshine to her life. As a family, they love serving beside all the believers in the EURO Region to see the greatest harvest yet.

Lost Sheep Are Coming Home

By Breana Henry



A flock of sheep stood grazing in a green pasture as a gentle brook burred nearby. One hundred sheep to be exact. As the Good Shepherd inspected His herd, He noticed one was missing. He called its name time and again, but no sheep. He looked this way and that, but still no sheep. That sheep was precious to Him. It was worth the price of His own life. He left the ninety and nine in search of the lost sheep.

Up mountains, through valleys, there was nowhere He would not go to return the lost sheep to the fold. The sheep had been drawn away by the *“lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eye, and the pride of life”* (I John 2:16). It had been deceived and enticed. It had possibly been hurt by another sheep in the fold. Whatever the reason for its wandering, the Good Shepherd wanted His sheep returned. He called the sheep by name and did all He could to draw it back. He did not care what condition the sheep was now in after its wandering. If the sheep was found, He would rejoice, He and all His friends. He would pick it up, put it on His back, and carry it home.

When we pray for a lost sheep to return to the flock, to find a place of repentance, to find a place of forgiveness for those who have hurt them, to come to themselves, we can pray with confidence. We can be sure when we intercede for a sheep that has gone astray that we are praying the will of God. Our Good Shepherd loves His sheep and is *“not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (II Peter 3:9).

In I Samuel 17:34-35, David tells King Saul, *“Your servant used to keep His father’s sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth . . .”* The sheep was in the mouth of the lion, but it was not devoured. The Good Shepherd chased after the beast, smote him, and rescued the lamb from the clutches of its jaws.

A lamb from the flock may be in the mouth of the lion, but while there is still breath in its lungs, the Good Shepherd will be fighting to retrieve it. The thief comes to *“steal, kill, and destroy, but the Good Shepherd has come that we might have life . . .”* (John 10:10). Don’t lose hope. The Good Shepherd wants the sheep to be found and is in pursuit. The lamb may be in the lion’s mouth, but it is not devoured. Keep praying. Lost sheep are coming home.

Note: Breana Henry holds a master’s degree in Guidance and Counseling and a bachelor’s degree in English. She served numerous years as a professional school counselor and a middle school teacher. She currently travels and ministers with her husband and children as full-time evangelists with the United Pentecostal Church International.

Our Prodigals are Returning

By Dy Anne Long



“Good understanding giveth favour: But the way of transgressors is hard.” (Proverbs 13:15, KJV)

This verse had a strong impact on me all my life, being raised in church. I did not ever want to find myself away from God as an unfaithful one: a transgressor.

Twenty-three years ago, our son, a licensed minister, decided he was done with how he was raised. Our world and family were suddenly and drastically changed, but not for better. God’s mighty hand is always at work. We see it today though we could not see it then. God Himself faithfully ministered to us the next twelve years. All things were working for good.

When God’s covenant children walk away from Him, He doesn’t walk away from them. The way of the transgressor is hard and yet we have the sure promises of God that He will never leave nor forsake them (Deuteronomy 3:18, Hebrews 13:5).

We were challenged at times to believe that God was with our son in his rebellion; however, God’s Word cannot lie. (Read Numbers 23:19, I Samuel 15:29, Hebrews 6:18.) We chose to trust and believe in God’s faithfulness that wherever he was, God was with him, loving him. After his return, our son shared how God’s presence was always with him; and though he wasn’t being faithful, God was. God’s love endures (Psalm 136).

Jeremiah 31:17 became our hopeful prayer. *“And there is hope in thine end, saith the LORD, that thy children shall come again to their own border.”*

We believed, *“All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us”* (II Corinthians 1:20). Therefore, it was time to, “Live out what we say we believe,” and we did. (Quote by Vesta Mangun.)

Diving deep into the Word with prayer and fasting, we found anointed, scriptural counsel. (Read John 14:26-27.) Our lives miraculously changed as we intentionally and fully placed our trust in God as He worked in ways we never could have prayed. Our son returned in December of 2012, a broken man. Today, he is a healed and restored intercessor with his father. He ministers daily to prodigals or to parents of prodigals.

Our prodigals are returning for we stand on the promises of God. They will not be the same as when they left for many are broken. However, we can trust God, our Father, our Healer to heal and restore (Jeremiah 30:17, KJV).

In the end, the latter will be greater; lives healed, hearts mended, and families reunited. God’s Word is sure.

Note: Dy Anne Long and husband Don are members of The Pentecostals of Alexandria, Louisiana, and founders of HOPE (Helping Overwhelmed Parents Endure and Helping Our Prodigals Eternally) Prodigal Ministry; for prodigals and those who love them. They have been in ministry together 52 years including 10 years with HOPE Ministry.

The Longs, who have been married 52 years, are the parents of one child, Dustin (wife Leigh Ann) and have four amazing grands, Maddie, Campbell, Michael, Kai, and one blessing grand, Eva Grace. Don, a prodigal for ten years, returned to God in March 1971. Their only son, Dustin, was a prodigal for twelve years.

From the Editor
Debbie Akers Robbins



God is doing mighty things!

God is opening many doors and this newsletter is now available in:
English, Arabic, Chinese simplified, Chinese traditional, Czech, Dutch, Fijian, Filipino, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Pijin, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, Sri Lankan, Swahili, Swedish, and Thai.

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Who we are . . . Since 1999: Ladies Prayer Intl. is made up of women worldwide, who meet on one day in the first week of each month to unite in focused prayer for our children and the children of the local church and community. Pick a day that work for your group.

Our Mission . . . We are committed to the spiritual preservation of this generation and beyond and the spiritual restoration of previous generations.

Our Need . . . Committed women who will join together on the first Monday of each month and pray focused prayer for their children.

Three Priorities of Prayer...

- The salvation of our children (Isaiah 49:25; Psalm 144:12; Isaiah 43:5-6).
- That they take ownership of the faith at an accountable age (I John 2:25-28; James 1:25).
- That they enter into the ministry of the Lord's harvest (Matthew 9:38).