

ROOM TO PRAY – LOVE DAY 2017

As part of its bi-annual theme *Come Thirsty | Drink Deeply* Baptist Women has focused on prayer and different approaches to prayer throughout 2017.

You'll find articles in *live* magazine, blogs and resources at www.baptistwomen.com on the Room To Pray page, the classic *Prayer* by Ole Hallesby on the theme resources reading list; lots of photos on Baptist Women's Pinterest account (Baptist Women) and numerous links and ideas posted to Facebook.

Why?

Because Baptist Women believes that mission flows out

of an authentic transformative experience of God and that experience is rooted in prayer.

We want to culminate our focus on prayer for 2017 by having Baptist women host interactive prayer rooms in their churches for LOVE DAY – Saturday, November 4.

To offer readers some ideas on how to set up their prayer room for LOVE DAY, Monique Tatsu from First Baptist Church, Chatham, and Renée James, got together to pray and imagine what a LOVE DAY interactive prayer room would look like. In the following pages, they share their process and the prayer stations they created.

To create the prayer stations, Monique and Renée followed the process taught by Hannah Agalawatte, prayer leader with the Greater Ontario House of Prayer. Hannah set up the prayer rooms used at the last two April Baptist Women's conferences. She has also trained several Baptist women to set up prayer rooms.

Visit www.baptistwomen.com and the Room To Pray page for:

- more LOVE DAY prayer station ideas from Monique and Renée
- a podcast featuring Hannah Agalawatte
- more How-To tips on setting up a prayer room



"Prayer stations are powerful because you remember them. It's an experience, an all-body experience."

"When we talked that first meeting, that was the foundation. It was 90 minutes. The time went so quickly and it built. We were energized; it was not just us—it was the Holy Spirit. We were so in sync."

"The stations were still very personal as we were building them, even though we were building them for others."

"It was fun!"

Monique Tatsu on her experience building these LOVE DAY prayer stations.

ROOM TO PRAY – The Process

1 Reading and praying through Scripture

Monique and Renée agreed that they would read aloud the LOVE DAY verse and the entire passage of Scripture in which that verse is found (Jeremiah 29:2-14).

They also agreed that as they read aloud, they would listen for how God would speak to them about the room: If words or phrases from the passage resonated with them, they would write them down.

For at least 35 minutes, they read the passage four times, pausing between each reading. They decided to take turns reading aloud so the other could just listen.

2 Discerning themes for prayer stations

After their prayer time, Monique and Renée shared their respective lists. They BOTH had the following words on their lists: *build, seek, pray*. Other words and phrases resonated separately. After comparing lists, they prayed again, asking God to confirm which words and phrases from their lists would be the ones on which the prayer room would be built.

3 Brainstorming ideas for prayer stations

After praying and listening, the ladies whittled down the list of words and phrases to six key phrases. They then brainstormed ideas for prayer stations based on those phrases.

4 Building the stations

They gathered materials, wrote out instruction sheets and pulled together the stations you see on the following pages.

Some helpful hints on setting up the room

- Create a space for each station. The station will dictate what sort of space is required, but normally a table on which visitors will find the instructions and materials will be sufficient.
- Spread the stations out around your room so that participants will be able to move freely between them.
- Include space around your room for participants to simply sit and worship.
- Spend some time designing your stations with material, candles and other elements that seem appropriate.
- Print the instructions for each station and place them where they can be seen easily.
- Place the materials on each station.
- Have seating at each station (chairs, cushions or prayer mats).
- Consider creating one station where lemon or orange essential oils are diffused.
- Play some soft music while people are engaged with the stations to cut down on distractions and help keep people focused. Or have music at one prayer station.
- Provide hand sanitizer or wipes if the stations involve touching things or getting hands dirty.
- Prior to the room opening, create a list and ask people to sign up to pray for one hour in the prayer room. Try to fill as many slots during the time that the prayer room is open.
- Decide whether you will offer prayer to people who visit the prayer room. Get teams organized to offer this ministry if needed. (These could be the same people as the one-hour pray-ers.)

I AM THE POTTER, YOU ARE THE CLAY ("build")

You'll need

- several pieces of clay (playdough can be used)
- wipes and hand sanitizer
- container in which to throw used wipes



Instructions for visitors

"Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand." Isaiah 64:8 (NIV)

In Isaiah 64:8, the prophet calls God the potter and us—clay, the work of God's hands.

God has made us AND He's also equipped us.

In our LOVE DAY theme passage of Jeremiah 29:4-14, we read that God has chosen us to accomplish His plans. He asks us to pray, settle down and build. He calls us to be His hands.

This station reminds us of these words.

Take a piece of clay (or playdough) and knead it in your fingers. As you do:

- Thank God for moulding you.
- Ask God to show you what He wants you to build or build upon in your own life.
- Ask God to show you where He wants to use you in your home, work and community.
- Thank God for giving us the tools we need to be His hands in our communities.



FINGER WALK YOUR CITY ("seek")

Instructions for visitors

"And seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, for if it prospers, you will prosper." Jeremiah 29:7 (NLT)

Why do we LOVE our communities on LOVE DAY?
Because God wants us to.

Jeremiah 29:7 tells us that we love our cities and towns when we pray for their peace, prosperity and welfare.

Take your finger, choose a street on the map and trace (walk) the street. As you do:

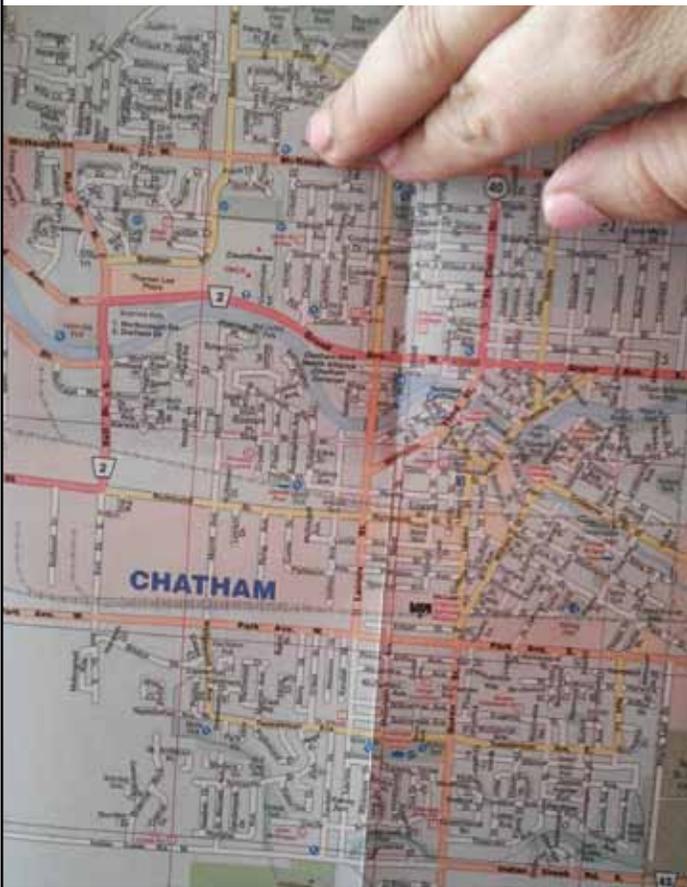
- Praise the Lord that He is a God who knows the name of the street you're tracing.
- As you trace, be reminded that the earth is the Lord's and everything on it.
- Pray for peace and prosperity and wholeness for every person who lives or works on that street.
- Ask the Lord to show you how He wants you to seek the peace and prosperity of your city/town.

(You may want to trace the route you take to work or to church. You may want to trace the streets in your neighbourhood or streets you wouldn't walk alone at night.)



You'll need

- a large map of your town/city taped/glued to a sturdy piece of cardboard



RIBBON TYING ("I will listen")



You'll need

- netting or material through which visitors can tie pieces of ribbon
- 5 jars with different coloured ribbons in each jar and labelled as follows:

green = thanksgiving

blue = prayers for the world

pink = adoration and praise

red = prayers for others (family, friends—for health, their salvation, etc.)

yellow = confession and forgiveness

Instructions for visitors

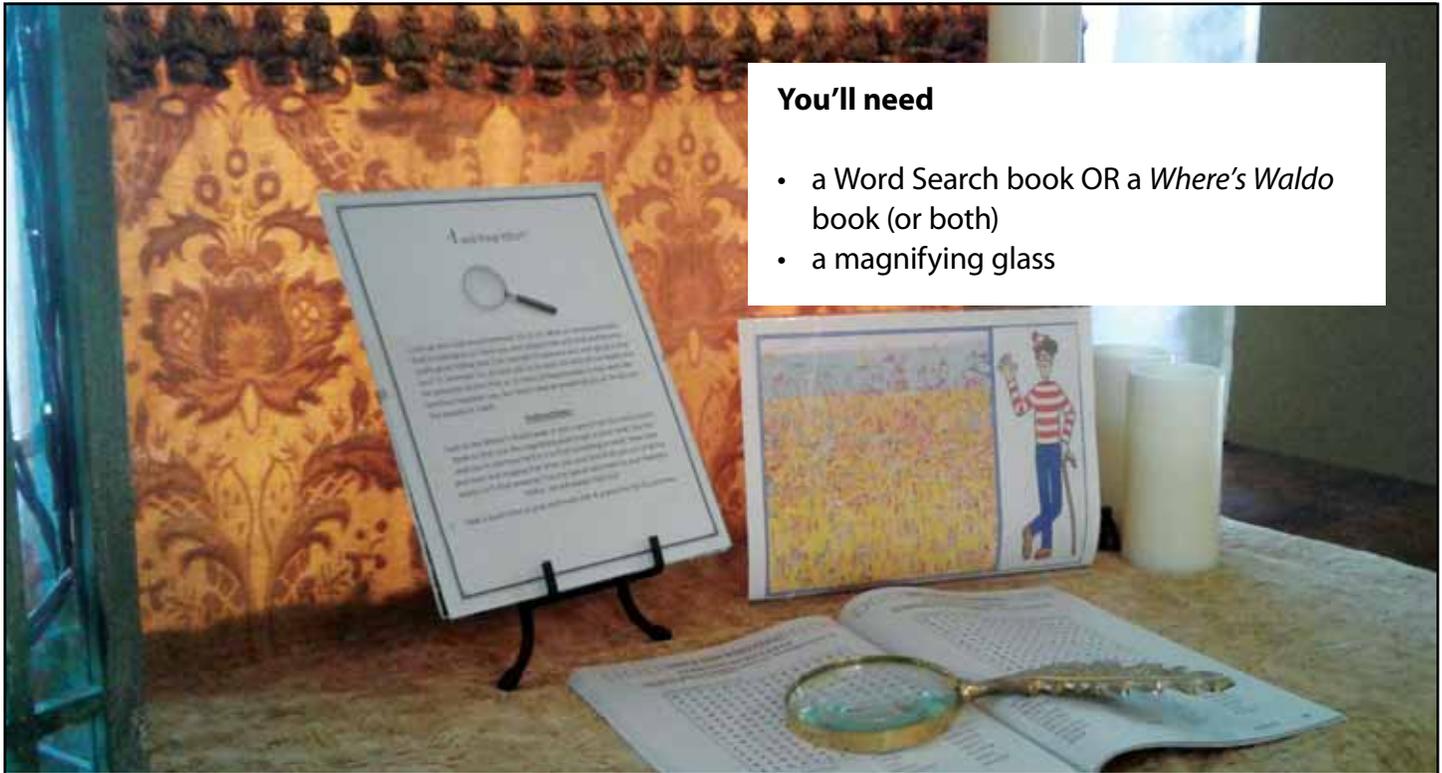
God declares through Jeremiah that He's a God who listens. (Jeremiah 29:12)

Take a ribbon from any of the labelled jars below and tie the ribbon to the wire. As you tie the ribbon, pray according to the colour you've picked:

- **green** = thanksgiving
- **blue** = prayers for the world
- **pink** = adoration and praise
- **red** = prayers for others (family, friends—for health, their salvation, etc.)
- **yellow** = confession and forgiveness

Once you've tied your ribbon(s), take a moment to pray over the ribbons already attached.

I SPY! ("I will be found by You")



You'll need

- a Word Search book OR a *Where's Waldo* book (or both)
- a magnifying glass

Instructions for visitors

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I WILL BE FOUND BY YOU," declared the LORD." Jeremiah 29: 13-14
(emphasis ours)

What an amazing promise God makes to us!

In this passage, God declares that **He will be found by you** when you seek Him. In times of deep trouble, it may seem like He has forgotten you, but God may be preparing you just as He did the exiled Jewish elders and priests in Babylon. You find God. And God finds you.

Try to find Waldo on any page of the *Where's Waldo* book or find a word from any Word Search puzzle. Use the magnifying glass to get a closer look.

Now close your eyes and imagine that when you pray, God finds you . . . out of all the people in the world. Isn't that amazing? You are special and loved by your Heavenly Father. He will always be found by you!

Take some quiet time and thank God for His promise.

HEALING AND PROMISE ("I will bring you back")

You'll need

- a cross
- Band-Aids (in a pile on the table)
- markers and/or Sharpies
- candles or some soft lighting



Instructions for visitors

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future . . . I will be found by you,’ declares the LORD, ‘and will bring you back from captivity.’” Jeremiah 29:11,14 (NIV)

God knows the future and His plans for us are good and full of promise.

We can have boundless hope because God’s the master builder and planner who builds us and uses us for His service and mission.

Yes, we will know pain, suffering, hardships and death. But God holds our hands and sees us through to a glorious ending.

Take a Band-Aid from the pile and write a word, phrase or name on it. Then stick the Band-Aid on the cross.

- Pray for that person or situation.
- Pray that God will heal, reveal His promises and bring deliverance.

“Lord, enlighten what’s dark.

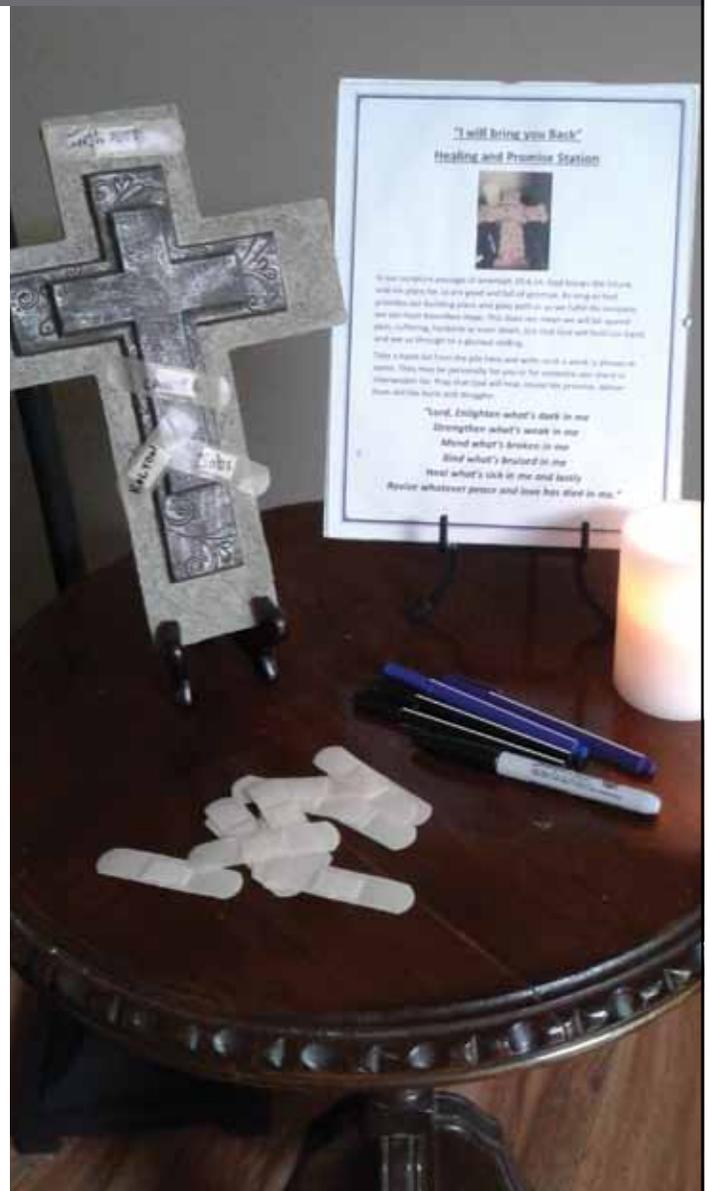
Strengthen what’s weak.

Mend what’s broken.

Bind what’s bruised.

Heal what’s sick and

Revive the peace and love that have died.”



PROMISE JAR ("... declares the LORD")

You'll need

- a container or mason jar with a wide neck (easy for hands to reach into)
- strips of paper on which declarations or promises from God the Father and God the Son are printed

If you'd like some declarations, visit the Room To Pray page at www.baptistwomen.com. Monique and Renée have created a list to get you started.



GOD
NEVER
BREAKS
HIS
PROMISES

Instructions for visitors

In Jeremiah's letter to the remaining elders and priests in exile he writes: "declares the LORD" no less than seven times. (Jeremiah 29:2-23)

We understand Jeremiah's need to get the message across! However, we often forget that God **does** declare words of promise and words of caution to us.

He uses Scripture. He uses our pastors, Sunday school teachers, family, friends, bosses and mentors. And sometimes, He just speaks directly to us.

Take a strip of paper from the promise jar and read it. Then:

- Praise the LORD that He is a God who declares good things over you.
- Be reminded of the LORD's presence with you every minute of every day.
- Pray God's declaration over yourself (make it personal).
- Pray God's declaration over your community.
- Pray that people in your community will experience the reality and sweetness of the LORD's declaration—His promise—for them.
- Thank the LORD for this specific declaration.

You may keep the declaration or return it to the jar.

