

# RAISE THE MARK

DECEMBER 2006

## REFLECTION & PRAISE

*... for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

**PHILIPPIANS 1:19-21**

*O God, You have taught me from my youth, and I still declare your wondrous deeds. And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare your strength to this generation, your power to all who are to come. For your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens, you who have done great things; O God, who is like you?*

**PSALM 71: 17-19**

*Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me; for I am afflicted and needy. Preserve my soul, for I am a godly man; O You my God, save your servant who trusts in you. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you I cry all day long. Make glad the soul of your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

*For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in loving kindness to all who call upon you. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and give heed to the voice of my supplications! In the day of my trouble I shall call upon you, for you will answer me.*

*There is no one like you among the gods, O Lord, nor are there any works like yours. All nations whom you have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and they shall glorify your name. For you are great and do wondrous deeds; you alone are God.*

*Teach me your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth; Unite my heart to fear your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and will glorify your name forever. For your loving kindness toward me is great, and you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.*

*O God, arrogant men have risen up against me, and a band of violent men have sought my life, And they have not set you before them. But You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in loving kindness and truth. Turn to me, and be gracious to me; Oh grant your strength to your servant, And save the son of your handmaid. Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, Because You, O Lord, have helped me and comforted me.*

**PSALM 86**

- Praise God for unique ways He created and gifted you.
- Praise God for ways He uses us in drawing others to Himself.
- Praise God for His sovereignty and how His ways are not our ways.
- Thank God for specific issues in your life that you don't understand and ways He will use those for His purposes.
- Praise God for ways He has provided for us as a church.
- Pray that we would be diligent to pray and process how God wants us to respond in faithfully stewarding resources He has entrusted to each of us.
- Pray that God would stir hearts to provide resources for Phase III.

## CONFESSION

*This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.*

**1 JOHN 1:5-10**

*But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

**1 TIMOTHY 6: 6-10**

- Examine and confess ways you have strayed from walking with Christ.
- Examine ways you have become "caught up" in desires of the world versus contentment.
- Acknowledge and confess ways you are "caught up" in the busyness of life.
- Ask God to show you any other steps of obedience you need to take in resolving conflict with others.

## COMMUNION

*Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; Come before Him with joyful singing. Know that the Lord Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise Give thanks to Him, bless His name. For the Lord is good; His loving kindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.*

**PSALM 100**

- Reflect and meditate on God's sacrifice and love for you.

## PRAYING FOR OTHERS

*So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

**COLOSSIANS 3:12-17**

## FOOTNOTES

*But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.*

**1 JOHN 3: 17-18**

- Pray for those far from Christ in your family, neighborhood, school, or workplace.
- Pray for diligence as we “give an answer for the hope that is within us” during the Christmas season.
- Pray for the men and women serving in the military; sacrificing on our behalf all over the world.
- Pray for marriages and relationships in our body.
- Pray for believers all over the world experiencing persecution and hardship.

## FAMILY TIME

*Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.*

**EPHESIANS 5:11-13**

- This is our time for you to share specific ways you are personally struggling or experiencing victory.
- We invite you to openly confess and “expose to the light” any area in which you are entangled in sin and bondage, and for the body to pray for you.