

The Story of the Prayer Post

Jesus has really changed our lives at the Bernardy residence since April 2014. It began when I received a vision during Pastor Gary's Palm Sunday message. Gary was preaching about how Jesus was coming down the Appian Way and the people were praising Him as the king. When He came to the city gates, the priest would not recognize Him as the king. In Matthew 21:12, Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. *"It is written," He said to them, "my house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a den of robbers."*(Matt. 21:13)

This is when I received the vision from Jesus. I started to think about how I could make my house a "house of prayer." The Prayer Post came into my mind. I began to ask, "What is this for?" God showed me that He wanted me to love my neighbor. To show them that I love them, I could let them know I was willing to pray for their needs. The post could be a place where my neighbors could drop off their prayer requests. I went home that day and began to draw the vision in my mind onto paper and share with my family what God had shown me. A fear began to rise in me. "What would my neighbors think?" God showed me that He *wanted* my neighbors to think about it. I told God, "I will make my stand with you, Lord, and trust you in this no matter what."

Over the next few months, I researched what materials to use in building the post and the full design began to develop. I knew it was to be lit at night because we have people walking in our neighborhood at all hours of the day and night. The post would be open 24/7. I had the city come out and mark the lines for any underground utilities. We run gas at our house so this was important.

The prayer post was put in the ground on July 5th, 2014. We had our first note the next day, July 6th. It simply said, "God bless you!!!" What a way to start out. Oh by the way, it came in overnight. About thirty percent of the requests and notes of encouragement are put in during the night. What we discovered from the beginning was that God takes each and every one of these very serious, no matter how little they may seem. So, please take them seriously if you decide to put a post in your yard.

Be ready for whatever God brings your way or asks you to do. You will find yourself awake at 3:00 am in the morning. That just means it's time to get up and pray. Trust God. He will be there with you. You will find that God will give you an enormous love for your neighbors. They will come to you. In fact they will go out of their way to come to the post. The secured mailbox is to let them know that you are protecting some of their deepest pains, hurts, and concerns. The "cries of their hearts" is what I have come to call them. You will find yourself crying right along with them; that's a good thing. That is the love God is giving you for them. He is giving your neighbors to you.

In closing, Jesus wants you to love your neighbors as much as you love yourself. Through this, I have learned that He even commands it in a gentle, loving way. You will meet neighbors from far and wide. They will also go out of their way to tell you how much they appreciate what you are doing. Your cup will overflow with joy and you will sense He is near and you are in His will. He wants a deeper relation with you. Be ready!

God Bless,

Bill Bernardy