

# Prayer



## *Can You Hear Me Now?*

*by Pauline Gordon*

I used to think I knew how to pray. I even secretly felt a little smug about my prayer life. My prayers were never formal, more like informal little chats. I would tell God how much I loved Him and praise Him, and then I would make my requests and thank Him. All very good things, wouldn't you agree? I might have gone through the rest of my life with the same format, and I would never have known how much I was missing.

My children and grandchildren have all asked me at some time "How do you talk to God?" My answer has always been, "We talk to Him in prayer, and He talks to us through his Word." Of

course, this is true, but I have recently discovered that our Father wants more than that. He wants to talk directly to us. But, for Him to do that, we must stop talking and listen.

I learned how to do this when I volunteered to serve in the Watchman Prayer Ministry of Calvary Baptist Church. The object of this beautiful ministry is to have a 24-hour chain of prayer for the church and its ministries. It consists of six "walls": North, South, East, West, Southeast, and Southwest.

Each prayer warrior signs up to pray for one hour a week. The warrior you

relieve calls you at the beginning of your hour, and you call the next warrior at the end of your hour.

I discovered there are many empty blocks in the walls, so I chose the one most empty and called the ministry office and told them the day and time most convenient for me. With that call, I was officially on the wall.

When I signed up, I wondered how on earth I could talk to God for an hour without giving Him an earache and becoming boring. But everything is supplied, including a beautiful program, which contains the ministry to be prayed for that week. There

is time for personal requests, praise, and a time for listening for the Lord's guidance.

I have learned that this listening is done not with the ears but with the spirit. After coming from a time of prayer and praise, it is easy for the spirit to hear. One time the Lord brought a flashback of a conversation I had with someone and unintentionally said something to hurt the other person's feelings. I needed to ask forgiveness. Another time the Lord gave me a burden to call someone to give encouragement. But, mostly the Lord says, "You are my child, and I love you." Then I can feel His

love and know the real meaning of Joy.

Being a member of the Watchman Prayer Ministry has brought multiple blessings. I have a closer and fuller relationship with my Lord; I know our church is enriched because of our prayers; and, my family and friends seem to notice something different about me and ask me questions. Suddenly, doors are open for me to talk about how Jesus has changed my life and what He means to me.

From now on I am going to stop talking and make sure I end my prayers with a quiet time with the Lord so that my heart can sing and say,

"Yes Lord, I can hear you now."

© 2003 **Pauline Gordon** is a member of Calvary Baptist Church. In addition to serving through the Watchman Prayer Ministry, she also serves as a Spanish translator and helps lead a Spanish-speaking Bible study.