

Sarasota Prayer Breakfast, Inc.

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Celebrating Christ Among Us Through Our Sarasota Prayer Breakfast Since 1973



Sarasota Prayer Breakfast
P.O. Box 19026
Sarasota, FL 34276



Sarasota Prayer Breakfast Newsletter

January 2021

The Sarasota Prayer Breakfast is going Virtual

For the past 48 years we have enjoyed the fellowship of gathering together over a meal to pray for our leaders and community. We were blessed last year having held our prayer breakfast in March shortly before the national lock down caused by the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

This year, in an abundance of caution, we have decided to hold our prayer breakfast online.

It is our intention to gather together in unity – all at the same time online - to continue to pray. Although we will each be at our own separate locations, we will all be together in spirit.

This gives us new meaning to the scripture:

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

We invite you to join us on any smart device: Cell Phone, Tablet, TV or Computer.

Visit our website and watch the video:

www.SarasotaPrayerBreakfast.com

Thursday April 8, 2021 at 12:00 Noon



If you miss the initial viewing or wish to view it again you can watch it on the website anytime afterwards. See inside for more details. . .

A Message from the President of the Board

On behalf of the Board of the Sarasota Prayer Breakfast, THANK YOU so very much for your continued support!

The Sarasota Prayer Breakfast is totally based upon PRAYER!

My admonishment to you today would be to pray with EXPECTANCY that God will answer YOUR prayers!

We all remember the prayer that we said at bedtime coaxed by our Mom: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take..." Do you remember that? I was four or five years old. Now that I analyze that, "YIKES!" At four years old, I absolutely knew nothing about death, yet I was praying about that! I know we prayed with a pure heart, but did we really know what we were praying? Or was it a "sing-song" prayer?

Then, whether we were Christian or not, we prayed the Lord's prayer. "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. On earth as it is in heaven..." In Scripture, the Lord commanded us to pray this prayer. But I ask of you today, to "personalize" that prayer. Like this: "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, in SARASOTA as it is in Heaven!" Or even more personal: "Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done. In me (YOUR name) as it is in Heaven!"

God says in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing." Many theologians try to dissect every word and analyze it. But it is extremely hard to change the commands of our God: PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

My wish for you is that you might pray with expectancy for your answer! Someone once said, "If God does not answer your prayer, why pray?"

A famous evangelist once had as his slogan: "Expect a Miracle!"

My Friend, EXPECT an answer to your prayer! For Sarasota! For YOUR needs!

Prayer also requires a little of YOUR faith. Hebrews 11:6 reads: "Without faith it is impossible to please God."


PSALMS 62:5 says: "My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him..."

When you pray with expectation (of answers to your prayers), please pray for our community! Please pray with expectation for the pandemic, that 2021 will be much better than 2020!

May your needs be met through your prayers of expectation!

Thank you, again, for your support of the Sarasota Prayer Breakfast!

In expectant prayer,
Bob Armstrong



Join Us for Our 49th Annual Sarasota Prayer Breakfast [at Noon]

This is a FREE virtual online event.

You are invited to join us: Thursday April 8, 2021 at 12:00 noon. Or . . . watch a replay of the event any time after that.

Go to our website:

www.SarasotaPrayerBreakfast.com

The Sarasota Prayer Breakfast is a way for us to come together in unity and fellowship to pray for our leaders. We will give thanks for God's many gifts to us; namely Jesus, our families, our friends and this marvelous community in which we live.

The Line UP

Each of the presenters will record their message on video. The segments will then be pieced together into a seamless viewing experience.

It's the next best thing to being there to participate in the event.

Please share this information with anyone who might be interested. There is room for all.



A Call for Prayer

Today we are facing many difficult challenges with friends out of work, turmoil in our cities, and a pandemic taking its toll.

Please be encouraged to pray.

Pray for peace. Pray for our loved ones. Pray for our enemies. Pray for our leaders locally and nationally. Pray for God's will to be done. Pray for our president – that he may receive Divine guidance. Pray for God's blessing on this land.

"Relying on God has to begin all over again every day as if nothing had yet been done." ~ C.S. Lewis

"Prayers truly from the heart open all the doors in Heaven." ~ Nachman of Bratslav

"The verb 'to pray' in Hebrew is reflexive. Prayer is about exposing and facing up to depths of self, asking difficult questions and trying to answer them, pondering the meaning of God's teachings for one's life." ~ Arnold Eisen

Prayer doesn't have to be a matter of a month-long retreat or even an hour of meditation. Prayer is a conversation with God while driving to work or awaiting an appointment or before interacting with a client. Don't think for a minute that he is glaring at you from a distance with crossed arms and a scowl, waiting for you to get your prayer life together. It's just the opposite. God is ready and waiting for us. ~ Anonymous

National Prayer Breakfast News

Dear Friends,
Greetings from Washington D.C., we hope this finds you healthy and safe! The 2021 National Prayer Breakfast is available for anyone to view via the website:

www.2021nationalprayerbreakfast.org

The website is available to you to view at the time of your choosing for the whole month of February.

The website also contains the history and vision of the breakfast, photos of past NPBs, and excerpts from previous President's remarks. It is a good way to introduce those friends to the NPB who have never been able to attend in person and to learn more about it and why it's held each year in our nation's capital.

Let us Praise God for our Blessings

Even though we are in difficult times, be encouraged to praise God for our blessings.

Every morning is a gift from the almighty God. Before you think about anything else remember that life comes from the one above and thank him for all that He blesses us with.

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Lamentations 3:22-23 ^{NIV}



Do you have any information on the early Sarasota Prayer Breakfasts? We are compiling a historical record of our early prayer breakfasts. If you, or someone you know, have any recollection or can provide any information about any of the early prayer breakfasts please contact me. Scott Biehler 941-350-6075.

I would like to support the events and activities of the Sarasota Prayer Breakfast with my donation of:

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 \$ _____

Name _____

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City, ST, Zip _____

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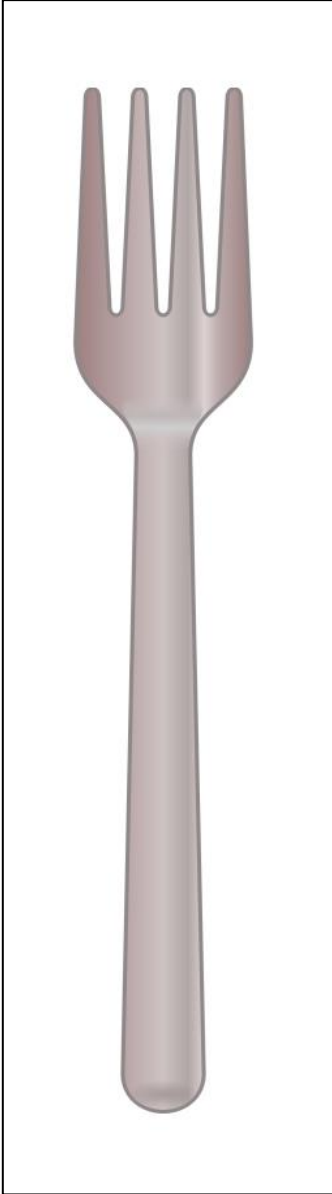
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You may donate on-line at:
SarasotaPrayerBreakfast.com

Or mail a check to:
Sarasota Prayer Breakfast
PO Box 19026
Sarasota, FL 34276

Man and a Fork



There was a young man who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. So as he was getting his things 'in order,' he contacted his Priest and had him come to his house to discuss certain aspects of his final wishes.

He told him which songs he wanted sung at the service, what scriptures he would like read, and what outfit he wanted to be buried in. Everything was in order and the Priest was preparing to leave when the young man suddenly remembered something very important to him.

'There's one more thing,' he said excitedly.

'What's that?' came the Priest's reply.

'This is very important,' the young man continued.

'I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand.'

The Priest stood looking at the young man, not knowing quite what to say.

'That surprises you, doesn't it?' the young man asked.

'Well, to be honest, I'm puzzled by the request,' said the Priest.

The young man explained.

'My grandmother once told me this story, and from that time on I have always tried to pass along its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending socials and dinners, I always remember that when the dishes of the main course were being cleared, someone would inevitably lean over and say,

'Keep your fork.' It was my favorite part because I knew that something better was coming like velvety chocolate cake or deep-dish apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance. So, I just want people to see me there in that casket with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder, 'What's with the fork?'

Then I want you to tell them:

'Keep your fork ... the best is yet to come.'

The Priest's eyes welled up with tears of joy as he hugged the young man good-bye. He knew this would be one of the last times he would see him before his death. But he also knew that the young man had a better grasp of heaven than he did. He had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than many people twice his age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. He KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people were walking by the young man's casket and they saw the suit he was wearing and the fork placed in his right hand. Over and over, the Priest heard the question,

'What's with the fork?'

And over and over he smiled. During his message, the Priest told the people of the conversation he had with the young man shortly before he died. He also told them about the fork and about what it symbolized to him.

He told the people how he could not stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably would not be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right.

So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.