



“Before they call I will answer.” Isaiah 65:24

Dear Praying and Supporting Friends:

Thank you so much for your prayers and support. Your prayers have kept us safe in our many travels in Mississippi, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and Alabama. We have been privileged to meet many new prayer warriors in these States as we have shared both of our testimonies and the challenge for His laborers in the World.

Today we wish to chat with you about everyday answers to prayer. Is God concerned about what might be called the little things in our lives?

How many of you pray when you have misplaced items, and you ask God to help you find the misplaced item? Does God answer those prayers? Yes, He certainly does. Why is that important to find those items? One reason is that we don't want to waste money in having to replace lost items. Mahlon was just mowing the lawn and had come inside missing one hearing aid. The hearing aid was not visible on the lawn mower so all the debris buried inside of wheel cover was poked out and swept off the mower—still not visible-- but when emptied out of dust pan on the ground, there it was on top. The hearing aid had flipped out of Mahlon's ear sometime BUT God had kept it safe.

Most of our lives have been spent finding bargain prices for items we need. Why? Because we take it seriously that we are to be good stewards of the money He has given us through you our supporters. Does prayer help? Yes, it does. We feel blessed that God stretches our beloved widow's oil as we often call our resources.

In our Christmas letter, we told you we were to fly out to Oregon for Mrs. Horton's only sister's funeral. How were we to get a bargain ticket right before Christmas? The ticket lady gave Audrey a compassionate ticket and Mahlon a companion ticket and booked the last two seats available from Montgomery, AL for the needed day. A Godly couple, whom we did not know, invited us to park our car at their house and they were our transportation to and from the airport. They were Unbelievable in their extra protective care of us.

We arrived back home in time to spend Christmas Eve with two of our sons and their wives and two granddaughters. Then two more sons and their wives were added for Christmas Day and later—a very unusual Christmas for us. God knew—we had not asked—but He knew we needed that uplift after the big hole left in our lives from the promotion to heaven- of our two beloved ones.

Mrs. Horton and her only sister Kathleen were best friends in spite of the fact they really did not grow up together in a family home. Their upbringing was that of the former traditional missionary family where God was first and family last as to priorities. They spent maybe 5 fragmented years collectively together. When in boarding school, due to their age differences, they were in different buildings and only saw each other at their weekly visitation time. Mrs. Horton's siblings: Kathleen and Stanley were left at the boarding school in 1935 in Chefoo, China, when Kathleen was 5 and Stanley was 7 years. Kathleen, without her parents, spent her first two years in the hospital due to a congenital heart condition. Mrs. Horton joined them in 1940 when she was 6 years old. The two older ones were at the boarding school for 10 years without ever going home and Mrs. Horton was there for 5 years without going home. The family was separated for 7 years. Kathleen's poor health kept her from the foreign mission field, but she was a steadfast home missionary—visiting neighbors with baked goods; picking up their children for Sunday School, teaching Sunday School at church; teaching Bible clubs in her home; always kind, practicing Jesus-Others-You---JOY.

Some of you already know that Mrs. Horton's sister's house burned to the ground in November. They lost everything plus four vehicles and damage to an R.V. The six occupants were able to escape the fiery furnace in the 5-6 minutes allotted. The traumatized family has not been able yet to get the limited fire insurance due them. They need it desperately as they had to pay for two non-pre-paid funerals. Thank you for your prayers for them to get the insurance money due them immediately, so they can pay for all their legal and funeral fees.

During our family's short Christmas visit our son and wife from Idaho had thieves break into their house who stole all her jewelry, his tools, and other work items. It was good to see their calmness in the midst of hearing the news from their neighbor about the huge loss of their earthly possessions. Thank you for prayers on their behalf.

Our great-grandson, Matthew, age 2, is still critical--tracheotomy—oxygen—stomach tube. He is thriving emotionally at being at home. Grandmother, nurses and therapists help in his care and physical training.

Committed to His Service,

*Mahlon and Audrey Horton*

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