

# Mom's Day of Prayer

By Stan Sharp Times Record

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Moms are often more concerned about their children, but also tend to expect more from them than from other people's children. This is exemplified by Hannah's prayer for her son Samuel: "I prayed for this child and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life, he will be given over to the Lord." - I Samuel 1:27-28. Local moms, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and others will participate in A Community Wide Mom's Day of Prayer from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 10 at Eastside Baptist Chapel, 2710 Massard Road .

There will be a different prayer time beginning at each hour. For each hour, there will be two prayer leaders. Prayer leaders will be selected from various denominations. Except for the closing and opening prayers, any woman who wishes will be able to pray aloud. And, of course, silent prayers are also encouraged.

About 12 churches are already involved. This will be the first time for this event in the Fort Smith area, but Kathy Coleman, who assisted with the event's organization, said this will be an annual event, and will be held at a different church every year. She said one purpose of the event is to break denominational barriers.

She and other women met weekly during December to discuss the event. She said the response has been awesome, especially from Mayor Ray Baker, Johnny Clayton with Concerts of Prayer, and other leaders.

"It's great to have a leader like Ray Baker," Coleman said. "We just want to get this started and have it be like the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. We'll have it at a different church next year. We have radio announcements on (KZKZ-Spirit) 106.3, (KOLX) 94.5 and (KEZA) 107.9." An idea came, when Coleman read an article titled "Moms Pray for our Children" in "Bind Us Together," a local Christian news publication. In the article, a woman from Brazil, Anna Maria Pereira, was disturbed because 40 million to 50 million Brazillian youth are involved in immorality, alcoholism and drugs. The Brazillian woman's concern was how the Day of Prayer came about in Brazil. Pereira was concerned that Satan was destroying the lives of Brazillian youth. She said that in 1995, God gave her a burden to seek His will for a way to do something about it.

Her husband had come back from a religious meeting in Seoul, South Korea, with a tribute written by a group of students dedicating themselves publicly for missions. Their statement also said, "Thanks to our moms for praying for us."

"The article said that the husband thought to himself that Brazillian women could do this. When he told his wife, she knew this was an answer to her prayers. Then, the couple with one friend, began to pray, then talked to city leaders and finally started inviting women to a meeting, at which 600 women came together---and the Wake UP Deborah movement was born. The name "Deborah" came from the Biblical Deborah, a mother " who stood in the gap." (Judges Chapter 4)Today, more than 15,000 women in Brazil are praying daily for at least 15 minutes for their children, the article said. "As God returns their children, as Hannah, the women learn to give their children to God.

"Pereira was quoted as saying that nobody prays for a son like a mom.

"Lives are changed as we learn to walk on our knees," she said. Coleman said she's greatly impressed with the efforts of the Brazillian women involved with this project for their country.

"It's a big God that can inspire women in Fort Smith all the way from Brazil," Coleman said, adding that it's not just for a day that Brazillian women dedicate their prayers."It's a daily thing like I know it is for many moms in Fort Smith. Please talk this up with anyone you come in contact with in the community!

There's no better way to kick off the new year in 1998 than by praying for our children. There will not be a sign-up. Just pick an hour and come and pray.

"She said the Community-Wide Mom's Day of Prayer will bring Fort Smith women of all denominations together to focus on area and surrounding area children and youth.

"The wonder-working power of prayer can do more for our children, more for our own lives and more for the world than any other power in the universe," she said. "This is not a denomination thing," Coleman said. "This is a prayer thing."