

March 2, 2018

Dear Harris Ohana,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to lead and coordinate the early prayer ministry at Harris starting on Monday, March 12. It is from Monday to Saturday at 6:00 am in the sanctuary. Early prayer has been a passion of mine since childhood. It became “real” to me when in 1978 I was asked by a neighbor to accompany her to 6:00am mass every day. At night time as I thought about it, I said: God, if you want me to go, you will have to wake me up early. The following morning, the sharp ringing sound of 2 desperate little bells on each ear, made me jump from bed and I was ready to go in less than 10 minutes and into my neighbor’s car going to “seek after God’s love and wisdom early” as Gladys used to say.

Over the years, I have seen the power of prayer; strengthening, sustaining the hope of the weary, and bringing healing to soul and body as we engage or connect with our Maker. Reading a bible scripture and meditating on it before presenting our petitions to the Lord is empowering and reassuring. His word is truth, loving and guiding us to a God that sees and hears our plea for help as He wants us to “call upon Him in our day of trouble.” He has promised to be with us always, so the more we seek Him, the more we find of His power to sustain us and give us His peace.

There are so many devotionals and programs we can follow to structure our morning prayer. All are good and purposeful but nothing will create sustainability and a good foundation like

seeking to “love one another”, intentional listening, respecting our differences, and embracing our faith as God’s gift.

I am thankful for the privilege of being of service at such as opening the House of God for early prayer. Jesus prayed and called us to pray for one another, invited us to welcome the will of God. Hannah prayed and received the desire of her heart, the people prayed united and the walls in Jericho came down.

Let us do likewise, pray with the sense of mission and fervor as the Son of God did and does in intercession for us, let’s pray persistently and urgently like Hannah, and pray in unison of hearts for the goals of our communities. Pray against violence by inviting peace, pray against hunger as we share our bread, offer prayers of thanksgiving for his love and protection and so on...

So I am inviting you to join me and invite others from the community in this early Morning Prayer.

In prayerful journey with you,
Rosa Blackman