

To: Friends of Heaven Together Outreach Discipling
From: Dru Scott Decker
Re: PRAYER SHEPHERD FAQ'S

You're invited to be a Prayer Shepherd

**When People You Love Don't Love Jesus
Heaven Together Event – October 18, 2008**

~~~ Why bother reading about Prayer Shepherds?

Being a Prayer Shepherd helps you:

- Make a difference
- Help the people you love
- Have more fun connecting with outreach friends

~~~ What's the purpose of the Heaven Together Event?

Practical Tips for Helping Family and Friends

Trust the Good Shepherd and also reach out to others.

Please see: www.HeavenTogether.org

~~~ Why the passion behind this ministry?

My husband Bert Decker and I are products of the process of Outreach Discipling.

When Bert was a seeker, his late wife trusted Christ, but he thought her talk about Jesus was irrelevant. So she kept praying. Her Bible Study Fellowship Group kept praying. And Bert kept seeing a difference in his late wife. Then God in His mercy enabled a man who was a friend and an executive at Bechtel to directly challenge Bert's beliefs, answer his questions, and help him trust Jesus.

When I was an adult and before I met Bert, I stopped listening to my mother talk about church. But she kept praying. And praying. And praying. Then God in His mercy brought an unusual woman into my life. She had a bookcase behind her executive desk with a black leather-bound book. As we became friends, she didn't do what I expected. She didn't judge. She didn't give advice. She didn't even tell me she was praying for me. But she did invite me to breakfast occasionally. She did listen. And she did care. And when I had business questions, she showed me answers in a book I had not read, the Bible.

Finally, when accomplishing my dream of a best-selling book left me empty, I turned to her. She had two answers: Pray and read the Bible daily. Seek to know the character of God. Those two habits were the final steps to my belief in Jesus as *my* Forgiver and *my* Lord.

~~~ OK. So that's about the ministry. Why Prayer Shepherds?

We found that participants in Heaven Together Training who have people praying for them do three things:

- ...Learn the skills more easily;
- ...Use the skills more frequently; and
- ...Experience the joys more fully of Outreach Discipling.

~~~ Where did you get the idea for Prayer Shepherds?

As a number of us have been praying for Heaven Together training, we have been asking God to help us use an effective strategy. Then two examples of one strategy emerged.

EXAMPLE #1: In the book of Nehemiah, we see the godly plan for re-building the wall to protect the city of Jerusalem. People did not run around putting one brick here and another brick there. People did work together to re-build one section of the wall close to them. We do care about what is close to us. And we certainly care about the people close to us.

EXAMPLE #2: Before speaking at an outreach rally in Florida, I asked the ministry director how they invited the almost 2,000 people sitting in the auditorium. She explained their strategy. They encouraged church members to pick a pew. Then take responsibility for praying and inviting neighbors and friends to fill that pew. Then at the event, the church member inviter sits with the people in that pew. One person described the fun of being together at the event as a "Pew Party."

~~~ Why become a Prayer Shepherd for a pew of people on October 18?

...To further participate in God's priority that "none should perish."

...To feel the joy that comes from knowing you are making a difference. When you help others learn and use the skills for Outreach Discipling, you multiply the value of your own time ten fold.

...As a Prayer Shepherd, you will receive six free tickets to the conference. (Each ticket has a face value of \$39.)

~~~ What if you don't feel qualified?

The only requirement is the classic F.A.T. -- Faithful. Available. Teachable.

~~~ How much will it cost me to be a Prayer Shepherd?

No money. The six tickets will be given you.

~~~ What do I do? Three things.

1. PRAY

Pray for Followers of Christ who are not reaching out to their family and friends who don't know Jesus.

2. INVITE

Introduce October 18, as a fun, interactive, practical event. And invite them to be your guest and receive a complimentary ticket from you.

You can give them a flyer from: <http://www.heaventogether.org>

When a friend accepts your invitation, mention that a place is now reserved.

Then when you receive your tickets, present one to him or her.

3. EMAIL

Email Dru.Scott@decker.com with the name of each of your confirmed participants.

Then Prayer Support Team Members will start praying for each of your participants by name.

Also, after you email us, please continue your prayers for God's blessing on each person you are inviting.

~~~ Who will support the Prayer Shepherds?

You will be prayed for many times by Heaven Together Prayer Support Team Members. In fact, several will be praying daily. We will regularly send them and the Shepherds an updated prayer list showing all Shepherds and Confirmed Participants so they can be praying for you and others by name.

We are indebted to Prayer Support Team Members like Judy Hester. Although she is in 19th Avenue HealthCare with Multiple Sclerosis, she spends hours each day in prayer.

~~~ Do I have to go to meetings before October 18.

None mandatory. Some optional. Short gatherings to celebrate, pray, and plan.

~~~ Do I have to pray out loud in front of the whole group at the seminar?

No. At the seminar, we will have short times of praying in teams of two or three, but you won't be praying in front of the entire group. The most important praying you will do is by yourself before the conference.

~~~ Can I invite a friend to be a Prayer Shepherd?

Yes. Please pray, invite, and let us know.

And please forward this email to your outreach-minded friends.

~~~ August 30 Encouragement— Free Book or DVDs

Because we want to encourage you to start praying and inviting now, the first five people who pray and sign up to be a Prayer Shepherd before August 30 get to pick from a collection of complimentary appreciation prizes:

...*The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* by Timothy Keller (A powerful new hardcover book)

...*Answers to Tough Questions: What Skeptics are Asking About the Christian Faith* by Josh McDowell

...*The Lost Art of Disciple Making* by Leroy Eims

...DVD Combo: *The Jesus Film* (Pacific Version with 5 Pacific Rim languages) AND *The Jesus Film for Children*

...*Finding More Time in Your Life: With Wisdom from the Bible and Tools That Fit Your Personality* by

Dru Scott Decker (Designed to be given by Followers of Christ to their Seeker friends.) You won't hurt my feelings if you pick a resource by another author.

This is a new approach to encouraging people in the joy of Outreach Discipling, and I look forward to hearing from you about being a Prayer Shepherd.

TO GOD BE ALL GLORY

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