

Praying For Your Bean Patch by Quin Sherrer
co-author with Ruthanne Garlock of *A Woman's Guide to Spiritual Warfare* from which part of this is excerpted.

You have a bean patch—a sphere of influence that no one else has. You can stand and defend it through prayer.

I use the term “bean patch” from the persistence and bravery of one of David’s three mighty men, Shammah, whose name means “God is there”. He defended his ground, his field, and the Lord brought the victory!

“The Philistines were gathered into a troop where there was a plot of ground full of lentils (beans) and the people (Israelites) fled from the Philistines. But he (Shammah) took his stand in the midst of the plot, defended it and struck the Philistines; and the LORD brought about a great victory.” (2 Samuel 23:11)

When you identify your prayer “bean patch” it might resemble mine: family and close friends; your neighborhood; your city; your own nation and other countries God puts on your heart; other people or concerns. In essence, your own God-appointed assignments.

For several decades now my Prayer Board has helped me remember all those for whom I have committed to pray for on a regular basis. On a simple corkboard I have tacked photos of family and friends. Among them are pastors, businessmen and women, homemakers, moms, singles, students, retirees and widows. Some photos include entire families.

First, I pray for them to experience God’s:

- **Presence** (Psalm 16: 11; 31:20; 41:12; 51:10-12)
- **Protection** (Psalm 5:11; 72:12-14; 91:14-16; Psalm 121:7-8)
- **Provision** (Joshua 2:8-9; Psalm 106:4-5; 128:1-2; Philippians 4:19)
- **Peace** (Psalm 4:8; 29:11; 122:7-9; 147:14)
- **Precious promises to be fulfilled** (2 Corinthians. 1:20; 2 Corinthians 2:14 2 Peter. 1:4)

Next, I pray specifically for situations I may know about which may include asking God for them to:

- Have discernment and wisdom and not be deceived in decisions facing them.
- Make wise choices financially and morally.
- Have favor in the marketplace, job, business, etc.
- Cast their cares, worries, anxieties on the Lord, trusting Him.
- Have the right people come into their life at the right time.
- Have a positive influence as they use their talents and skills.
- Experience God’s healing/comforting touch (for those who need it).
- Grow in their Christian faith and outreach.

Weapons we use in praying:

1. The word of God is living and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12)
2. The name of Jesus—our authority. (Mark 16:17; Luke 10: 18-19)
- 2 The blood of Jesus.(I John 1:7-9; John 129)
- 3 Praise. To glorify God, terrify the enemy.(2 Chronicles 20:22-31)

- 4 Clap and shout. (Psalm 47:1; Psalm 95:1-2; Psalm 100:1; (Psalm 144:1)
- 5 Joy and laughter. (Psalm 126:1-2; Genesis 21:6)
- 6 Pray as led by the Holy Spirit. If you have a prayer language, use it.. (Romans 8: 28; Ephesians 6:18; Jude verse 20)
- 7 Fasting. (Isaiah 58:6; Nehemiah 1:4,7; Matthew 4:2; Matthew 6:16-18)

Sometimes you may need to add **warfare** to your prayer efforts—to stand against the enemy’s tactics, by quoting the Scriptures as Jesus did when the enemy came to tempt Him in the wilderness. He said, “Be gone, Satan, for it is written...” You can quote Scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to align your prayers with God’s will. Remember, the enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy. But Jesus came to give life more abundantly.

I also keep both a world map and a map of my country on the wall beside my prayer board so I can pray specifically for certain countries or situations. Do I pray for people who are not in my personal prayer assignment.? Yes, but unless the Lord directs, they are not added to my specific “patch” to pray for regularly. And yes, I pray for my nation and our leaders consistently!

Some people for whom I intercede also pray for me. Emails, texts and phone calls are fast ways for us to relay requests. Notes from friends pictured on my board have assured me that our prayer efforts are worthwhile.

You may want to create your own unique way to pray for those in your bean patch. And enjoy a blessed experience too as you talk to the Lord about the special people He puts in your life.

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