

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OVERVIEW OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

STORY

In an article on missionaries (*Good News from the Field*, January, 2005), the author writes about Lutheran evangelists who wanted to reach the Muslim people in Kyuire, Ethiopia. They looked for a meeting place for Bible study and worship. While Christianity has been a part of this north African country since Bible times, the strong Muslim influence in the area meant that no one would rent them a room.

After five months of prayer and fruitless searching, they were about to give up. Then they found an elderly woman, Basha, who was praising God. When the evangelists told her who they were and what they wanted, she said, "God has put me here for you."

Basha gave them a room in her home for Bible study and prayer. Later she showed them a large piece of property in town with a large round house on it.

"God would have me to give my property to you," she said. She soon legally transferred the property and building to the Lutheran Church. "Everything is for God," she said. "How could this wonderful thing happen?" a missionary asked. Segai, a local evangelist, replied, "Jesus Himself is working. We just go and He is with us."

Local Pastor Messele added, "Prayer is our first strategy!"

Discuss one-on-one or in small groups the following questions.

1. Explain what Luther meant when he wrote, "Whenever I happen to be prevented by the press of duties from observing my hour of prayer, the entire day is bad for me." *These words remind us of the need for God's people to communicate with Him regularly and often.*
2. Why is it good to use prayer as your first strategy before tackling a problem? *God desires us to seek God's will, not ours, and to seek His power to prepare the way.*
3. For years God's people have spoken these words in the liturgy, "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who created heaven and earth." Elaborate on the privilege of prayer in light of these words. *The ruler of the universe invites us to come to Him in prayer as our dear Father and promises to hear us in the name of Jesus, our Savior.*