

*Dedication of Bibles*

**Litany**

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God. . . .  
In him was life,  
and the life was the light of humanity.

**The Word shines with the constancy of a star,  
leading the slave to freedom.  
It elucidates with its beam  
the corridors of ignorance and fear.  
It dances with delicate feet  
across the sluices of sorrow.  
It warms even the grave  
with its eternal flame of truth.**

All those who love the Word,  
be as fearless daredevils who swallow the flame  
so that it may dwell within them!

*Recipients: We come as searchers of truth  
who desire for God's Word  
to blaze in our hearts.*

**Come, fellow pilgrims, join us  
as we carry our lanterns  
into the bowels of leviathan  
or as we bask on the sunlit hills of Galilee.**

Let the scriptures take you on a journey of faith  
that leads inward and outward.

*Recipients: The light of God's word  
will be a lamp to our feet.*

**Beloved of God, cherish the Word.  
It will sustain you when all else fails.  
May the Word illumine the pathways we walk  
and bring us home in the evening.**

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**Blessing of Children**

Loving Shepherd,

You gather the lambs in your arms  
and call them each by name.

Move the hearts of your children  
to know your love.

Light a spark in their hearts  
that they may be like sunshine.

May they grow strong and gentle,  
bold and wise.

And when they go wrong,  
may they know your forgiveness.

This we ask for your love's sake. Amen.

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## **A Blessing for the Installation of a Pastor**

*The one giving the blessing uses two hands, held a few inches from the person's heart, eyes, feet and extended hands. The congregation is invited (especially the children) to also touch heart, eyes, feet and hands, and to keep eyes open during the blessing prayer.*

God, bless \_\_\_\_\_ heart.

Give him/her your Spirit to live in his/her heart  
calling him/her to love you  
and to live anchored  
to Christ.

God, bless \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.

Give him/her your vision, your wisdom,  
teaching him/her to perceive your desires  
and to see what you see  
with compassion.

God, bless \_\_\_\_\_ feet.

Give him/her the Gospel of Peace,  
guiding him/her to walk where you walk  
and to lead the congregation  
beyond its bounds.

God, bless \_\_\_\_\_ hands.

Give him/her your faith and trust,  
binding him/her hand to hand  
to this team of pastors (elders)  
to this body  
and to all those he/she will serve  
in faith, love, healing and hope.

God, bless this congregation.

\_\_\_\_\_ is now both a part and a pastor  
Receive the blessing of Teresa of Avila:  
Christ has no body now but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth, but yours.  
Yours are the eyes with which  
he looks compassion on the world.  
Yours are the feet with which  
he walks to do good.  
Yours are the hands with which  
he blesses all the world.

God, bless us all.

Keep changing us as you love us  
so that we might  
feel and see and walk and touch  
like Jesus.

*(During the last part of this prayer the one giving the blessing touches her heart, eyes, gestures to her feet, extends hands in blessing, inviting the congregation to do the same gestures.)*

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## **Prayer of the one being installed** *Based on Psalm 61*

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.  
From the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint.  
Lead me to the rock that is higher than I;  
for you are my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.  
Let me abide in your tent forever, find refuge under the shelter of your wings.  
For you, O God, have heard my vows;  
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.  
Prolong the life of the king; may his years endure to all generations!  
May he be enthroned forever before God;  
appoint steadfast love and faithfulness to watch over him!  
So I will always sing praises to your name, as I keep my vows day after day.

Joel Short, copyright 2000

## **Litany of Blessing**

Quietly now, don't say a word. Find rest in God, listen to God.  
**Help me, God, to wait for You.**  
Be a nice person, live as Christ would. Pray to the father, read the word.  
**Help me, God, to behave as Jesus would.**  
Raise your hands high, clap for joy. Let the Spirit move you, just praise the Lord.  
**Help me, God, to let your Spirit move in me.**  
Feed the hungry, help the poor. Show Christ's love through all you do.  
**Help me, God, to see those in need.**  
Share your faith with others, let them see what Christ's love has done for you.  
**Help me, God, to find opportunities to share my faith.**  
Don't stop worshipping through your day. Let every moment be God-filled and richly blessed.  
Give glory to our God.  
**Help me, God, to give you glory throughout the day.**

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## **Benediction**

Now may the God of creation,  
who has all the hairs on your head numbered  
and who knows all the fish of the seas,  
May God fill you with all wisdom and insight to determine what is best,  
so that you may be pure and blameless to the day of Christ,  
when at such time all of creation will be reconciled to  
God through the son, Jesus Christ.  
To him be all glory, honor, majesty and praise, both now and forevermore.  
AMEN

Joel Short, copyright 2000

## **Blessing**

The Lord has told you what is required.  
Do not back away from the challenge placed before you today,  
but go from this place with joy,  
doing justice  
loving mercy  
and walking humbly.  
And the God of grace will go with you.  
Amen.

Dan Miller, copyright 2001

## **Blessing**

\_\_\_\_(name)\_\_\_\_, you are a unique creation of God,  
made in God's image.  
We affirm that you have been called by God.  
May you be strong like a tree planted by the stream of living water that is Christ.  
May you remember that you are a clay jar holding the precious gift  
of the resurrection hope.  
Bless you \_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_.

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