

## Bringing the Children Home

Do you believe – really believe – in prayer? For Christians, that is a rhetorical question, for we do experience loving responses to our praise and petitions presented to the Father.



The late Ruth Bell Graham, wife of Evangelist Billy Graham, told about the fruit of prayer in her book *It's My Turn*.

One night, while Chinaman Kao Er was attending a prayer meeting, his 8-year-old son and baby daughter were kidnapped. The kidnappers demanded 1,000 yuan (the basic unit of currency in China) in ransom.

Mr. Er painted a large sign and posted it in front of his place of employment. It read, "I am not a wealthy man. I cannot pay 1,000 yuan ransom. I cannot pay 500 yuan. I cannot even pay 50 yuan. But I believe God. He is able to bring my children back without ransom."

The sign brought a great deal of ridicule from those who saw it. "No sane man could expect a kidnapped child to be returned alive without ransom!" people said. Weeks passed.

Finally, soldiers clashed with bandits in the China countryside and the bandits were routed. In hot pursuit of the bandits, some soldiers heard a sound coming from a ditch beside the road. They found a skeleton-like child lying there, abandoned by the bandits. It was Mr. Er's son!

After a second battle between the bandits and soldiers, the wife of the bandit chief was captured. She was nursing two babies – one of whom was Mr. Er's daughter. Both children were returned home safely.

God had done the *impossible* – returned kidnapped children without ransom.

God's answers to prayer are not dependent upon our ability to pray, but on His ability to answer.

*The Lord has given me my petition which I asked of Him (1 Samuel 1:27).*

– Beecher Hunter