God Sent a Hot~Water Bottle

Does God answer prayer? Ask any true believer in Jesus Christ and you can get a positive answer, and most are willing to cite examples.

Consider this story told by Dr. Helen Roseveare, an English Christian missionary, doctor and author. She worked with Worldwide Evangelization Crusade in the Congo from 1953 to 1973, including part of the period of political instability in the early 1960s. She died this past December at age 91 in Northern Ireland.

Here is her powerful testimony about prayer.

"A mother at our mission station (in Zaire) died after giving birth to a premature baby," she said. "We tried to improvise an incubator to keep the infant alive, but the only hot-water bottle we had was beyond repair. So we asked the children to pray for the baby and for her sister."

One of the girls, Dr. Roseveare said, offered this prayer: "Dear God, please send a hot-water bottle today. Tomorrow will be too late because by then the baby will be dead."

Not forgetting the baby's sister, the girl added: "And dear Lord, send a doll for the sister so she won't feel so lonely."

That afternoon, a large package arrived from England. The children watched eagerly as it was opened.

Much to their surprise, under some clothing was a hot-water bottle.

Immediately, the girl who had prayed so earnestly started to dig deeper, exclaiming, "If God sent that, I'm sure He also sent a doll!"

And she was right.

"The heavenly Father knew in advance of that child's sincere requests," Dr. Roseveare said. "And five months earlier, He had led a ladies' group to include both of those specific articles."

Notice the term Dr. Roseveare used to describe God: the heavenly Father.

He is our Father, and like earthly parents, He wants to respond to the needs of His children. And that includes you!

He encourages you to take your petitions and your praise to Him.

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change (James 1:17 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter