

**2010 KIWANIS
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

**THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010
7:30 A.M.**



**FEATURING
CHRIS & ROBIN ARCHER**

**“SAVE BY GRACE . . . SUSTAINED BY
PRAYER”**

CUMBERLAND INN

Chris Archer Testimonial

Chris Archer makes no secret that he is a former drug addict. He used to drink, take drugs, ride motorcycles and lived pretty much however he wanted.

He credits prayers by many and a desire to keep the woman he loved in his life as the reasons for turning his life around.

"My husband is a living example of how prayer works. He is the product of many answered prayers by many people," Robin Archer noted.

"We do not always get our prayers answered the way we want them answered. We don't always get our prayers answered in our time, but we do get our prayers answered in God's time."

Chris and Robin Archer were the keynote speakers Thursday morning during the Williamsburg Kiwanis Club's National Day of Prayer Breakfast.

In 1952, Congress established the first Thursday in May as the National Day of Prayer.

The couple gave a testimony Thursday titled, "Saved by Grace ... Sustained by Prayer," to the 20 people gathered at the Cumberland Inn.

Chris Archer said that he could remember seeing Robin for the first time when he was 18 years old.

"I remember thinking when I first saw her that this was the most beautiful woman I have

ever seen in my life. I remember saying that there wasn't anything I wouldn't do to have a woman like that in my life," he said. "I learned later that we lived two totally different lifestyles."

In the years after they first met, Chris learned that Robin had lived a fairly domesticated life with a marriage and a couple of kids.

"My lifestyle was totally different than that. It was one of drugs and alcohol. It was motorcycles and sports cars at the time," he said.

"I pretty much lived my life as I wanted to with little or no regard for my life or any others. When I look back, I see that God had a hand on me."

At the time, Chris said that he had no idea that his parents and others were praying for him along the way hoping that he would open his eyes and see life for how it was.

"I remember my dad saying that I was spinning my wheels. I wasn't getting anywhere," Chris said. "They prayed that I would quit associating with the people I was hanging out with."

During a few times in his life, Chris had run-ins with police over things like possession of drugs or cultivating marijuana.

At those times, he would call out to God promising to straighten up if God would get him through it. Of course, after he got through it, the promises to God changed and he decided that he wasn't ready to change.

When he was about 30, a friend introduced him to crystal meth, which is something that would be in his life for the next decade.

"Statistics show that 94 percent of the time, those people that never do it more than three times is all there ever get completely away from it," Chris noted.

After watching his father slowly die from cancer for three years, Chris saw him pass away the day after his 40th birthday.

During those three years, he had started to pray for his father. It was later Chris learned that his father's biggest concern hadn't been his own health, but the way Chris was leading his life.

"His dieing prayer was that I would change my life that I would get away from the drugs, and questionable character people I was running with, and find a good wife," Chris said.

Soon after his father's death, Chris met Robin again, the woman 22 years earlier that he said he would do anything to have in his life.

Initially, Robin didn't know about Chris' lifestyle. Once during the relationship, she had the opportunity to walk away, but Chris asked her for another chance. She told him the only way for them to stay together was if Chris turned his life around and gave it to God. This was seven years ago.

"It took that long for God's plan to come into will. God changed our lives. He really spun our lives around, my life more so than hers," Chris said.

"My life is so different now. Instead of being centered around drugs and alcohol as it once was. Our life is now a Christ in prayer centered life."

For people that wonder what they can be done about things like natural disasters and terrorism, Chris recommends prayer.

"Pray is what we should be doing about it. Prayer should be the first thing we offer up before we start worrying about things going on," Chris noted.

"I challenge each and every one of you, if you don't already, to pray for our country, to pray for our leaders, to pray for family, friends and co-workers. What kind of difference can your prayer make in someone's life?"

"I'm a product of other people's prayer and what it has done in my life. Robin and I are saved by grace and truly are sustained by prayer."