

Ground Blessing Prayer

Ed-Glen Habitat for Humanity House

310 M Street (behind Rusty's)

September 6, 2008

Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Ritter

Directing Pastor, New Bethel United Methodist Church of Glen Carbon

God of Hearth and Home, you are our dwelling place throughout all generations. You have taught us in your Word that shelter is a blessing that comes from you. You promised Sarah and Abraham a land where they could establish a home and enjoy peace and prosperity through the work of their hands. "Home" is a concept written deeply on our hearts. The wise Solomon sang that, unless the Lord builds a house, they who build it labor in vain. We gather, therefore, to beseech your blessing upon this ground where a home will rise.

We gather acknowledging that every good and perfect gift is from you. It is right that we give thanks for all that has made this day possible.

We thank you for the ministry of Habitat for Humanity, its godly motivation, and its noble mission. We thank you for Millard and Linda Fuller who established this ecumenical Christian organization over thirty years ago to eliminate poverty housing and end homelessness. We thank you for the quarter of a million houses that have been built in over 3,000 communities around the world.

We praise you for the vision and courage of the local citizens who dreamed of an Ed-Glen Chapter of Habitat and worked to make the dream a reality. We thank you for the officers of our local chapter and their dedication and example. It is a joy to stand where this chapter's first house will arise.

We thank you for the generosity of the family that donated this land. We thank you for the countless hours of service already given by dedicated volunteers who have raised the needed funds to embark upon this project.

We rejoice for the family that will make this land their address, and for the work they themselves will invest in their home's completion.

We realize, O Lord, that many more hours of labor will be needed in order to complete this project. We ask you, therefore, to send forth laborers, supplies, and funds to accomplish what has been begun. Further inspire the heart of this community to join in this great task.

We ask your protection upon each worker here on this site. We know that construction can be dangerous work. We ask that you would encamp your angels around this property to encircle all who come here.

We ask that you would bless all who give sacrificially of their energies and resources in this task. Return to them not only the blessings of a better community but the spiritual blessings that come only through service.

Lord, you have begun here a good work and we pray in confidence that you will complete it. May all of our lives be built on the solid foundation of a trusting faith in You.

We ask all of this in the name of The Carpenter, Jesus. May we be the tools of his hands.

Amen.