

Praying Mothers Illustration

This **third A** about our being ambassadors of God's reconciliation reminds me of a story I read in a Christian publication when I lived in the U.S. in the 1980s.

A pornography shop was opened in a U.S. Midwest city very close to a High School, like Rosslyn Academy. Because the Christian mothers who had kids in the high school saw this as a real threat and danger to their adolescent children, they went as a delegation to see the High School leadership to request them to get the Mayor of the city to get the pornography shop moved elsewhere. The school leadership tried and failed. This was because the businessman who owned the shop was a very politically connected person whose financial contributions funded the election efforts of the politicians in the city, including the Mayor.

Seeing this, the mothers decided that because they had the ear of God, who is the Mayor of all mayors, they would appeal to Him in prayer. So, once a week, they met in the school compound to pray about this issue. A few months later, the mayor lost the next elections, and was replaced by a Christian mayor, who was eventually successful in getting the pornography shop moved far away from the school.

These praying mothers, perhaps without even realizing it, were expressing the gospel of the Kingdom as *ambassadors* of God's reconciliation. Christ, the *agent* of our reconciliation with God, shaped their Christian values. In doing what they did, as the salt and light of Christ's righteousness, they made their community, minus the pornography, of course, a less rotten and dark place. They let their light shine before others so that they may see their good Christian deeds, and glorify our Father in heaven, just as Christ, in our **Matthew 5** passage, tells us to do.