

'The Prayer 20/20 Impact' - Knowing Jesus More! September 20th, 2020

Dear Praying Friends, and Partners In Prayer Team, and whole Church Family,

"Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful!"
Colossians 4:2 (NIV)

"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."
James 5:16 (NKJV)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." **Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)**

Did you notice the date this week? It is September 20, 2020. Lots of "twenties" huh!? Are we committed to impacting prayer? What inspires us to pray? I received two prayer letters sent from two of my pastoral friends this week. One of my friends asked me an interesting question. "Are there men and women who seem to have the ear of God when they pray?"



I didn't have to think long and hard about the answer. The Scripture is filled with illustrations of men and women who, when they prayed, God answered their prayers.

Hannah prayed.

David prayed.

Daniel prayed.

Elijah prayed.

Jabez prayed.

Paul prayed.

Down through the centuries, there have been men and women that God has raised up to stand in the gap to pray. George Mueller and E. M. Bounds, who wrote the classic book on prayer, are just two of the many praying saints.

We need to recommit to prayer. If you haven't already joined us on Sunday mornings, our prayer meetings for our church are now at 9:30am instead of Sunday School. Each week we've been seeing new people attend. We are using the acrostic of our church: "We are P.C.B.C. and we are 'Praising God', 'Confessing' our sins and that of our nation, praying for the 'Big picture', and keeping up with 'Current events.'" Here is a surprising current event that just came through from my friend Kurt Wagner with the Pennsylvania Family

Organization. This last Tuesday he wrote:

“There are times when our government overreaches against the Church and its ministries. For example, we were just in court helping a local church that was being forced by county officials to unfairly pay taxes on its building and property (P.S. We won this case). Or take our recently filed friend-of-the-court brief involving a case in Philadelphia where city officials are preventing Catholic Social Services’ foster-care ministry because of its views on marriage — despite the pressing need for foster families. Pastors and church leaders are critical — especially in crisis situations — in providing care for the physical, emotional and spiritual health of many in their community. Pastors must make hard decisions about how and when to safely meet for the good of their congregations. But those decisions should be made by your pastors and those in your church family, not by government officials in Harrisburg.

A proposed law (House Bill 2530) introduced by State Representative Clint Owlett (R-Tioga) would make clear that you and your church can exercise your faith and meet without infringement from the government. It’s the duty of our government officials to protect the First Amendment rights of their citizens — which includes the ability to gather for worship. COVID-19 did not erase this right.

It’s a simple two-page bill that you can read here. Churches ‘must know – and have clarity – that they are able to worship as they see fit in the Commonwealth as guaranteed by our state and federal constitutions, especially in an emergency declaration,’ stated Rep. Owlett.

We have an action alert set up to easily email your State Representative and State Senator with this important and timely message. Please take a minute to use and share it by clicking here or going to pafamily.org/freetoworship.”

Who would have thought that we were having such an important moment in our Pennsylvania government? So that is why we must pray.

I have two challenges that I want to bring to us and illustrate them by the prayer letters from two of my friends in ministry; the first from Bill Welte the president of Keswick in Whiting NJ, and the second lesson from Duane Moyer who is a mission’s coordinator for the Bible Fellowship Denomination here in PA.

Here is the first of two lessons for us:

1. We need to be changing our church culture through our own prayers- it is our responsibility not others. Bill Welte, director and friend of Keswick, shared this week about two great prayer warriors he knew in his life:

“There are many people in my lifetime that I would say when they prayed, they seemed to have the ear of God. Growing up in our church in Philadelphia, there was a woman who was small in stature but mighty in Spirit. Emily Geissler was a simple lady who was not afraid to call out to God in prayer. She reminded me of the African American lady in

the movie, War Room.

Every day, Mrs. Geissler, known to our family as Grandmom Geissler, was on her knees in her bedroom for five or six hours praying. She prayed for her family, her friends, her church, and she spent several hours with a world map before her, praying for missionaries and the salvation of the lost. I cannot tell you how many prayers she logged in her journal and how many the Lord answered, but it was astounding.

The other prayer warrior that comes to my mind was Pastor Newton Conant. He was a very gentle man on the outside, but he was BOLD and COURAGEOUS when he prayed. As a Pastor, he would walk the church prior to every service and pray by name for the members of his church right where they would be seated. One day I called him to ask him to pray about a matter on my heart, and all of a sudden there was silence. I thought he hung up the phone and wasn't sure what to do. So I waited before hanging up. Fifteen minutes went by and he came back on the line, and I told him that I wasn't sure what happened to him. He replied, 'You asked me to pray, so I did. Now here is what the Lord told me to tell you to do!' In his late 80's he was asked to make a short-term missions trip to the former Soviet Union. He was told that he needed to raise personal support for the trip. He told his friends he would not do that but would pray about the matter. 'If God wants me to go, he will provide the need.' And God did just that. He received a letter in the mail from the IRS stating that he had overpaid his taxes several years prior, and enclosed was a refund. The amount? Just what was needed for his support."

Here is the second lesson from my friend Duane Moyer:

2. Experience life change by claiming the answers to our prayers and sharing the credit for what God is doing. Here is a segment from Duane Moyer's prayer letter that came this week about God giving amazing answers to prayer:

"The headline caught my eye. 'Albany Man Rescued From Lake George By Priests On A Floating Tiki Bar.' Admit it: that stirs quite a picture in your mind, doesn't it?

A fellow named Jimmy MacDonald was kayaking on Lake George when his boat capsized. He says people -- other kayakers and canoeists -- were passing by in the distance, but his pride wouldn't let him scream for help. So for several minutes he kept trying to climb back aboard.

'That's when I said, "Alright, I think I might die today. I think this might be it." I prayed to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for help.' And lo-and-behold a floating Tiki Bar (I didn't even know such a thing existed...) piloted by Greg Barrett of Tiki Tours happened by with a boatload of priests on a scenic tour of the lake. 'Would you like help?' they asked. 'Yes, please,' he answered. No screaming necessary.

But there's more: Jimmy, who works now as an addiction counselor, is himself a recovered alcoholic who has been "dry" for seven years. So he cries out to Jesus for

help and the Lord sends him a floating tiki bar full of priests. Don't tell me God doesn't have a sense of humor! Was that really God's doing? Well as Greg, the captain of the tiki bar said, 'A whole lot of things came together that day.'

I really don't know what to make of it all, but how about this? The day before yesterday a man jumped from the roof of the parking garage where my daughter Amanda works. Yesterday when she got on the elevator there was a woman crying. It turns out she was the sister of the man who jumped, and that's how my daughter learned what had happened. 'Can I pray with you?' she asked. 'Yes, please do.' And so Amanda prayed for her right there. Will anything more come of it? I don't know. But I think that too often we remain silent in situations like that because we don't know how to bring a conversation to a conclusion. We always wish it would end with the person "receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior." But that conclusion is in God's hands. Maybe our role is just to show that the Lord has people in this world who see, who hear and who care like He does and who are willing to overcome our natural tendency to avert our eyes in the name of 'respecting other people's privacy.' We need to realize, as Greg the captain of the floating tiki bar said, that whenever a situation arises where we get a glimpse of another person's heart and need, that 'a whole lot of things are coming together.' Who knows if God hasn't arranged for us to be in just that spot at just that moment to throw out a lifeline to someone he has been pursuing for a long time."

The good news is that God hears OUR prayers and wants to show us HIS power and glory. Too often, we either don't think to pray, or we don't really believe God can and will answer prayer. I remembered this week the words of an old chorus song by John Peterson:

*"There's a new song in my heart since the Savior set me free;
There's a new song in my heart 'tis a heav'nly harmony;
All my sins are washed away in the blood of Calvary;
O what peace and joy nothing can destroy there's a new song in my heart."*

So let's start praying!

I'll start now,

"Precious Father, what amazing grace and power You keep revealing to us! Give us thankful hearts and help us sing our praise to You. Jesus, thank You that You came to deliver us from our sinful self-centeredness. Even though You are the Lord of glory, eternally deserving of praise, You never glorified Yourself. Instead You laid aside Your glory and became a humble servant, defeating the forces of Satan through Your own death, and winning victory in our place! Hallelujah, we praise and glorify You! Holy Spirit, teach us not to trust ourselves, but make us a Spirit-filled church with attitudes of thanksgiving, and enable us to rest from all our attempts to win the credit or please men. Help us trust completely in Jesus and actively glorify His Name! Make us what You want us to be as Your church: rich in Your Word, governed by perfect peace, singing and making melody in our hearts to the Lord, and glorifying His Name. Remind us that we are now clothed in Christ's perfect righteousness,

and there can be no condemnation left for us. Oh God, melt our hearts! Use us! We delight to glorify and obey You with hearts overflowing with thanksgiving and unshakable joy. Make us Your kind of church. In Jesus, the Glorious One's Name we pray, amen."

Praying 24/7/2020...

Pastor Corvin <><

Quote: "There is something that strikes me about the Lord's Prayer in Mathew 6:9-10. While we ordinarily first bring our own needs to God in prayer- and then we think of what belongs to God and His interest- Jesus our Master reverses the order. First, we are to pray Thy name, Thy kingdom, and Thy will. Then, and only then, are we to ask the Lord to give, to forgive, to lead, and to deliver. This lesson is of more importance that we think. In true worship, the Father must be first, must be all. The sooner I learn to forget myself in the desire that He may be glorified, the richer will be the blessing that prayer will bring." ... Andrew Murray (*Lord, Teach us to Pray*, pg. 69-70).

The baptisms in this place must be wild

