

SPECIAL ALL CHURCH EDITION: 'The Prayer 20/20 Impact' April 19, 2020

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



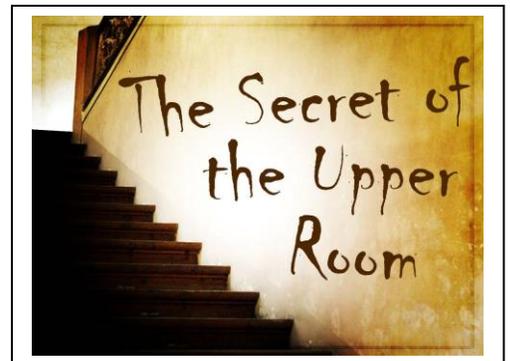
“When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying [the upper-room]... they all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.” Acts 1:13-14

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place [the upper-room]. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.” Acts 2:1-2

*“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting [the upper-room] was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly”
Acts 4:31*

Want to change the world? Pray! We are already doing it! In these days of Covid-19 we feel so distant, alone, and worrisome, but we are not helpless. At our very lips and hands are the most powerful resources that moves the hand of our Omnipotent Sovereign God, and that is our prayers! Doesn't that give us strength and encouragement?

I want to start by saying that I had an exceptional and wonderful Easter this year. I hope it was the same for you. It was “one-of-a-kind” personal and intimate with my family. As I was reading through the Gospel accounts of Christ's resurrection, I kept noticing the references to the “upper-room,” and remembered that Palisades Community Bible Church is an “upper-room” church! Why are we an upper-room church? During these next two weeks, I want to take Dr. Luke's Gospel account and his account of the Book of Acts and share with you why we are an “upper-room” church.



We are an upper-room church at Palisades because...

1. We are a few fearful, stubborn, and often lacking-in-faith believers, who after Easter Resurrection, are unlocking our doors in prayer to be ready to change the world! (Luke 24:30-53)

References are repeated that the “eleven were assembled together.” Where? In the “upper-room” where the last supper took place and where Thomas finally believed from last week's message (John 20). I want to remind us that we all

start out in the Christian life with doubts, fears, and failing faith. As we “walk” by faith, we grow in Jesus. Mark’s resurrection account says this about those early Easter Christians in the upper-room: *“When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with Him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen Him, they did not believe it. Afterward Jesus appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking in the country. These returned and reported it to the rest; but they did not believe them either. Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; He rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him after He had risen”* (Mark 16:9-14). Did you see the repeating of the words “They did not believe?” They were struggling to believe! And verse 14 emphasizes: *“Jesus rebuked them for their **lack of faith** and their **stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.**”* I believe we are all like those disciples, working on getting out from behind our “locked-doors” and working slowly on growing because we all lack faith and are stubborn. I believe that Christ has called all of us from this kind of position, and in saving us, is making us an upper-room church!

What are the proofs of our growing faith? As I was praying for Ben Cooper to have a God provision for his new “wheelchair”, God answered that prayer. Here is their update:

“Please pass along a big THANK YOU to the congregation for praying for this special family need (Ben's wheelchair). Today was our appointment, for Ben to be fitted for his new chair up at the Wheelchair Clinic at Good Shepherd Rehab Hospital in Allentown. It was indeed a great day. We met a new vendor that we liked very much, and it made all the difference. It was a very smooth start to a long process. One that we are very familiar with, since we have been through it several times over the years. It does not usually start off this smoothly. But, at least at this point, we are very encouraged. Thanks again to all that have prayed for us today. We really felt God's presence with us today. Love, Bob, Jeannette and Ben Cooper”

The Bible is what the Holy Spirit uses to grow our faith. Those upper-room disciples asked each other, *“Were not our hearts burning within us while Jesus talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us”* (Luke 24:32)? Take time this week and pray and open the Bible and let it speak to you. Are you doing that? Does your heart burn as the Spirit works in your heart? Pray for it if you don’t feel that.

Jesus also did that in the upper-room according to Luke 24:46-48: *“Then Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, ‘This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’”* So as we are staying at home, let’s pray and grow in faith and prayer!

We are an upper-room church at Palisades because...

2. We pray knowing all we need is by the Holy Spirit's enabling and power! (Acts 1:1-7) Scripture says in Acts 1: 1-5: *"After Jesus' suffering, He presented Himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command: 'Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"*

When we are saved, we all receive the Holy Spirit as being part of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12). We must pray for the Holy Spirit to increase and fill us during these times of prayer. We saw so much answer to prayer with Josie being protected as she went back down to CHOP Hospital for draining. Remember that her liver number counts were really miraculously back down. I believe we are seeing God's Spirit working greatly! (Picture of Josie two weeks ago being tested for Covid-19)



Let's continue to pray for God's powerful Spirit to shake up our community and world!

I want to also include an email that came back to the church this week from a couple celebrating their anniversary. Notice what they say about our church in their encouragement that is for all of us:

"As I type this I am often reminded how sweet the fellowship is from PCBC. We received your Anniversary card in the mail and are thankful you are mindful of us in so many ways. It was our 15th Anniversary and it was different in many ways. The blessing is having Christ at the center of our marriage!

We are blessed also with all your messages available on YouTube and also on Facebook. It's so great, despite the present stay at home order, that we can have the technology to still have worship, prayer and a divine message to carry us through each week. I watched with great anticipation every day from Palm Sunday to Easter with every message of hope and encouragement you sent out for the church family & other loved ones. Know we are praying for each member to stay encouraged and looking to Christ- our only hope and Savior. That we may shine out in the darkness of this time to be a ray of inspiration to the lost folks around us. May you be encouraged and blessed as you encourage and bless others. May the Lord watch over the whole Seltzer family during this COVID-19 Pandemic and may the Lord be glorified as He works through our lives! Love and Prayers in Christ"

We are an upper-room church at Palisades because...

3. We take the Great Commission and Christ's coming seriously! (Acts 1:6-11) *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My*

witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8). Jesus told those believers as they prayed in the “upper-room” that He is coming back, and we need to pray this time is bringing souls not just to do “good things” but to really accept Christ.



I praise God for the great shaking and moving of our Marks family to get home to Pennsylvania. When I had talked with Steve last week, he reported that it seemed that all flights out of the country were done. They were expecting and saddened. But at the end of last week, we got word suddenly that they were in Bangkok, ready to fly home. The picture is of Joe and Anna waiting through Easter time for the flight out. We received word that they arrived Tuesday in the

States and were driving to the Pocono area for their time of quarantine. They are safe! I believe this was a miracle by God! We are seeing God work. And souls will be saved.

Are we praying for souls? Who are you praying for? When my prayer partner Bryan was praying with me, he shared this text from a Christian friend.



Ethan Bosch
April 3 at 10:31 AM · 🌐

When I was very young in the faith, I was working an Athlete In Action wrestling camp in CA and one of the coaches gave his personal testimony of how he came to faith in Christ. At the end, he said that his prayer for those listening who did not know Christ was that their lives would be miserable, until they finally surrendered their souls to Christ. At the time I was a bit taken aback, but it's better to have eternal comfort and hope rather than whatever temporal and ultimately useless hope and comfort we are offered by the world. Love you, brother!

Hey thinking of old times with you reminds me... [Michael Ellsworth](#) has a birthday today!



Michael Uker
April 3 at 9:58 AM

What blinds us? A disposition that has never been yielded.
-Oswald Chambers, April 3

In all of my (Mike's) limited experience in Christ, with the Holy Spirit, and under the tutelage of Elohim, it is my observation that this, our own personal anti-Christ disposition, can only be defeated, or laid down voluntarily, at last, when our own personal suffering becomes so great that, in our complete and utter brokenness of heart, mind, and the power of our will, we surrender, or yield, finally, our self-life in full exchange for the Life of Christ, or the Christ Life. Yet, until we are utterly broken, we have no interest in laying aside our own goals and pursuits.

So, then. Shall we pray for utter brokenness so that we might come to the end of our strength and yield to the Lord so that we can know the riches of his glorious inheritance?
I think, perhaps...
PTL
Your friend, Mike



We want to pray that through this Covid-19 pandemic, that God is doing more than just making people comfortable; but we need to pray that God is bringing them to really need Christ as Lord and Savior! Keep praying!

We are an upper-room church at Palisades because...

4. We meet for real powerful intercession and prayer knowing it grows us, and prepares us to walk as Jesus did, making a difference! (Acts 1:12-21)

Notice Luke says in Acts 1:2-14: *“When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alpheus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. **They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.**”*

We are praying from our hearts all through this “stay-at-home” and we are seeing God working! I have talked with several pastors this week, and only one reported from Montgomery County area that he has had two elderly in a nursing home that have tested positive for the virus. Please pray for “Dorothy” and “Tim” who may not be strong enough to live through this sickness. They are very critical. So keep praying for those in our 611 corridor that are protected.

The following account is from a dear pastor friend whose congregant is working in a hospital. I thought we should pray for our own nurses and hospital workers such as Sharon Rimmer, Diana Smith, Naomi Benton, Jamie Sisco Hendricks, and JoAnn Williams. Read this friend’s account and let’s fight the good fight!

“Good morning my precious friends,

This Passover and Easter weekend brought a blessed relief to our hospital in New York. Admission numbers are drifting down, although deaths are still abundant. I have been able to talk with various staff members each day. I have gleaned much from these

people. I'm also aware that the hospital staff are tired, wounded, scared, angry, and sick. But they keep coming and coming and coming back.

When staff ask me about why I do this their responses are always incredulous. Most everyone has never thought that real people do this volunteer stuff. It's lovely to see the light bulb go on in their eyes---as if 'why, I never thought ! Maybe I could.....' They are so happy to have us here and then when we tell them we don't get paid and yes we work 10 days in a row without days off, they are wondrous. I have been able to speak the Name of Jesus gently and try to make His presence known by how I act.

These folks were tired and their compassion index was low before this Covid thing began. Now it is critical. Any patient who is not deathly ill is considered to be more of a nuisance than a soul needing care. That is typical of the US ER climate even before Covid. I acknowledge their fatigue and fear and try to point out that these things can make us miss important clues, that we have to fight against the impulse to categorize patients in terms of their humanity.

I see God moving among our entire nation as corporations and individuals come together to fight this thing. Random people bring food to the ER in the evening---they make it at home and feed about 50 people each day. I want to believe that our Churches are instigating much of this change, although as yet, I don't see this information on the news or in articles. If your church is not doing anything at all in this mess please do try to get the word out to people!! **DO NOT HIDE YOUR LIGHT UNDER A BASKET!!** The Church **MUST** lead this thing!! Lord, help us all become more bold !! Off to work now. Thank you again for all your prayers and for all you are doing.



God bless you and keep you and make His face to shine upon you and give you....PEACE.... Love in Christ, A nurse from a friends' church".

So, let's close in prayer and remember we are an "upper-room" praying church! We are changing the world every prayer at a time!

Will you pray with me?

"Father, You who are our King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we worship You! We bow with sacred joy! Come near, our Father, to us Your children. Our longing is to feel Your presence, and it is heavenly that You are there for us! Lord Jesus, take from us everything that might hamper us in prayer, please remove it, Lord. Any memory of sorrow or care that might hinder the fixing of our affection wholly on our God, take it away now! Come Holy Spirit and overshadow us. Come and more fully take possession of us, as we feel we are standing right at the mercy seat. Our very highest prayer is for perfect holiness, complete consecration, and entire cleansing from all evil. Take our hearts, our heads, our hands, our feet, and use all of us for You. May our every breath be for You. May our every minute be spent for You. Help us to truly live while we live. We pray for this poor world in which we live. We are often horrified by it and the sickness, sins, and disasters. What is to be done with the billions across this planet? What can we do? We pray

for Your Spirit to convict and fall upon them and bring them to true repentance and faith. We pray for revival. Turn the hearts of men, women, and children right near us to the Gospel again through this Covid-19 pandemic. Lord, save the unconverted! So we pray all these things at the mercy seat finding grace and help in our time of need, through the Name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our beloved Savior. Amen."

***Praying boldly in the Spirit,
Pastor Corvin <><***

Quote: "Prayer is the act of seeing reality from God's point of view!" ... Philip Yancey

"Most churches think their members are gathered into one simply to take care of and build up each other. They know not that God rules the world by the prayers of His saints; that prayer is the power by which Satan is conquered; that by prayer the Church on earth has supposal of the powers of the heavenly world." Andrew Murray

"No man is greater than his prayer life... The ministry of preaching is open to few; but the ministry of prayer- the highest ministry of all human offices- is open to everyone!" ... Leonard Ravenhill

