

SPECIAL ALL CHURCH EDITION: MOTHER'S DAY! 'The Prayer 20/20 Impact' May 10th, 2020

Happy
Mother's
Day

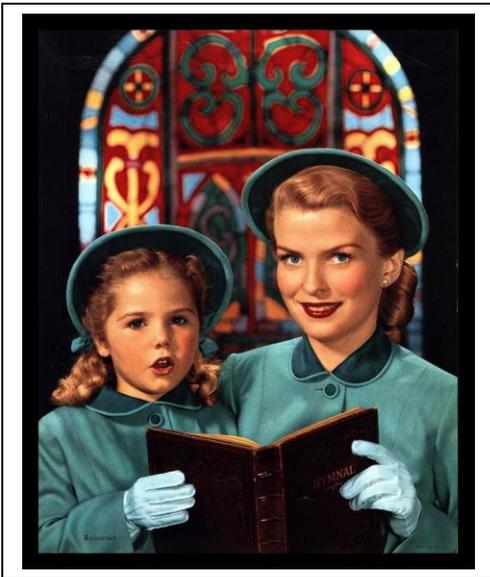


Dear Praying Friends, and Partners In Prayer Team, and whole Church Family,

"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 (ESV)

"Then we can spend our time in prayer, preaching, and teaching." Acts 6:4 (TLBP)

Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful flock, readers, and friends! I love the



story by Sandy Anthony who was celebrating during a recent Sunday worship service before the Covid-19 shut-down, and her congregation was singing the praise chorus, "I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee, I exalt Thee... Oh Lord..." I hope you remember the chorus, because it is playing in my mind as I write this story. As this mother sang she saw her little daughter throw up her arms, and begin singing along with the worship. This was so touching to this mother. She felt such a touch from the Lord, as she was thinking, "Lord, thank you for my little girl who is understanding and expressing praise to my God." And then it took some time for her to notice, that her five-year old daughter with her little arms up in the air, wasn't singing the same words, but was singing, "I'm E-X-H-A-U-S-T-E-

D, Oh Lord..." So, taking a mistaken lesson from the "mouth of babes" how many of us are exhausted with this Covid-19 separation from our church family? I for one am! Extremely exhausted. And I'm raising my hands today, thankful for our mothers and praying that God will end this exhaustion and allow us to come back to celebrate soon! I wish we could be celebrating this wonderful day for our mothers and grandmothers with public expressions of love and joy, but the Lord knows we will have to adjust to this situation.

Do you know the saying, "prayer changes things?" I don't know where that came from, but I found a great reminder from theologian and writer Oswald Chambers: *"It is not so true that 'prayer changes things' as that prayer changes us, and then we change things; consequently we must not ask God to do what He has created us to do"* (Prayer the Real Battle, pg. 65). So as we continue to pray through this time of Covid-19, what has changed? Those who are willing to

adjust their lives to become intercessors are the people God will use to advance the kingdom of Heaven around the world and here along our 611 corridor.

How are we changing? So again I would like to draw our attention to the book of Acts in chapter six and draw some wonderful changes as to how we at Palisades Community Bible Church are continually changing and becoming an “upper-room” church.

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

1. We pray to God for our growing problems and watch God raise up spiritual leaders to help us. (Acts 6:1-7).

Notice that in the days that the disciples were increasing in number, complaints also increased. It says: *“Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists [Greek or gentile saved individuals from the church] arose against the Hebrews [Jewish believers in the church] because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of needs” (Acts 6:1-2 ESV).* So as the church prayed, ministry grew, and problems grew too! Whoever thinks that growing churches don’t have problems really doesn’t understand the way our enemy works. Literally these groups of wonderful Christians were up in arms about who was being treated better and whose needs were being cared for. So the church prayed and selected those who could be used to “serve”. These people’s office were called “deacons” and the woman title is “deaconess” because the word used in the Greek is “deokoni” which means someone who serves or labors humbly in behalf of others. It’s the word used for waiters and waitresses at a table for a meal. These people needed to be Spirit-filled. And that is always what Scripture calls us to do; find people who are willing to do lowly tasks to be leaders within the church. That is how and why we at PCBC hold to having “deacons and deaconess”. We are trying to do ministry with humble yet godly hearts. When we pray as a church, we find people to do those roles; we don’t find people to do jobs in our church or lead us just because of popularity, or money, or how business savvy they seem. We need to be servants like Jesus.



Are you praying through this time for our deacons and deaconess? Who are they? Our deacons are: Jeff Barsum, Brent Briggs, Gary Nelson, Luke Hendricks, Kevin Miltz, Alex Pontikera, and Bob White. And our deaconess are: Bev Kramer, Sharon Rimmer, Robin Yates, Deb Kolota, Gail Gioia, and Audrey Nelson. And they are working through these times behind the scenes. Even though we have seen businesses and churches seemingly stop and shut their doors, our deacons and deaconess have never stopped. They are making calls, going to homes and building and helping in projects, they are sending cards; they are serving graciously many of our folks. In fact, they are working hard at installing new flooring and helping with remodeling of the apartments to getting them ready for the two coming missionary families. Remember when we step up our prayers and intercession, the enemy is also stepping up his

game. And unfortunately, he works to create conflict, complaint, and neglect. So pray fervently for our leaders, elders, and all our folks. And Lori and I also thank you for your continued prayers and acts of love through these Covid-19 days. We appreciate the expressions of love you continue to show.

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

2. We know our purpose and are committed to the priorities of God's Word and prayer (Acts 6:4).

The Bible says of the apostles: *"But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."* They knew it was reasonable that as a church they would spend their time in prayer, preaching, and teaching. So many churches today get caught up in areas that are more about "Don't make anyone feel uneasy", and less about "Are we being true to God's Word?" We certainly will never compromise our two-fold belief. These two commitments are what will keep and make our church strong.



How do we pray meaningfully for people we don't know very well? When we receive a prayer request in church or via email, we may know the need in general but have few if any details. We go to the "Word of God!" We simply pray God's Word. We open passages of Scripture, and pray those verses over those people. A favorite story of a great prayer intercessor is that of Corrie ten Boom. Corrie was a passionate intercessor and her urgency

and excitement was infectious. You couldn't pray with her without being changed by the experience. Many times in the midst of prayer, she would just remind God of His promises. She would have made a terrific lawyer. She would grab her Bible and thumb through the pages rapidly until she found the exact passage to prove her case. Then she would lift her Bible into the air, point to the verse and say triumphantly in her strong Dutch accent, "Here, Lord- read it Yourself! This is what I pray for them!" Oh, if God would make us that kind of intercessor!

Here is the update from Steve and Kelly this week: *"Dear Ministry Partners at Palisades Community Bible Church,*

Thank you so much for your generous monthly gifts to Seeds for the Harvest-God's plan in northern Thailand! You are a blessing and encouragement to us. We thank the Lord for you and your loving kindness!

We just recently arrived back into the United States due to COVID 19 and country shutdowns in Thailand. Both our Thai language school and the kids' school have transitioned to online studies. We are continuing both in the US via the internet. Steve and I are excited to be nearing the end of Module 1 for Thai language studies. Steve will continue to study language through March 2021. Kelly completes language study in August 2020. Why did we return to the US? We needed to return to the US in order to obtain Kelly's teaching visa through the Thai embassy in Washington, D.C. This visa

allows Kelly to volunteer teach full-time at Chiang Rai International Christian School (CRICS). Steve, Anna and Joe will obtain their visas through Kelly's visa. We also returned to the US in order to attend our son Keith's wedding in June.

We are excited to return to Chiang Rai in late July (or early August), so that Kelly can begin to serve at CRICS, Anna can begin 8th grade, Joe begin 4th grade and Steve continue his full-time language and culture studies.

Thank you again for putting your earthly treasure forward into heaven for God's glory! May God bless you richly!

Serving Together in the Joy of the Lord, Steve and Kelly"

We also had an update from the Vosters:

"Pastor Seltzer, We hope you and your family are well and that you received our latest newsletter sharing about our vision for a Christ-centered University Dorm in Phnom Penh. We are excited about what God is doing and looking forward to a time when we are able to get together and connect more deeply about our time in Cambodia and how God has been leading us.

Until then, we created a brief 2 min video to update you. You can download it using the link below and share it with others at Palisades how you see fit. [Note: Vosters 2 min Video Update

which I will show with our online service this weekend.] We are blessed to have our Palisades family support us through this journey. Your prayers and support mean so much to us. We ask that you join us in continuing prayer for Cambodia and our time in the US as we seek to garner prayer and financial support for our dorm ministry.

Blessings,

Tom and Alicia"



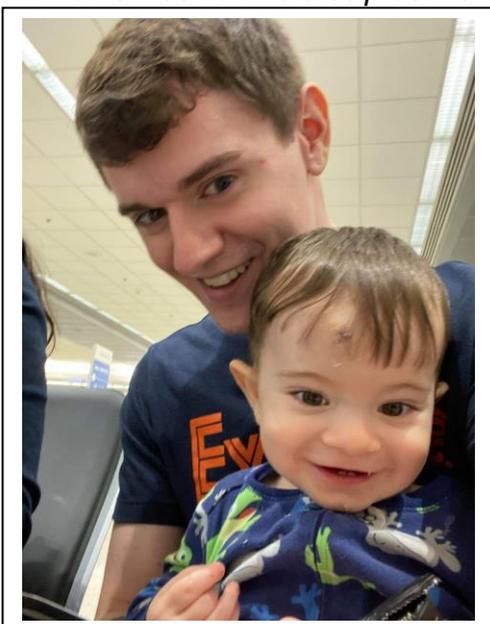
We are an upper-room church at Palisades because...

3. We grow by "multiplying" our faith and being more obedient in our faith. (Acts 6:7). Scripture says, "And the Word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the

priests became obedient to the faith." God works and grows when we are obedient. We pray that God keeps multiplying our prayers, not just adding.

We want to praise the Lord that Aline and Oliver have safely arrived back from Brazil. They are sitting out their 14-day quarantine at home. Keep praying, we just are so thankful for the prayer that you gave that got them back inside the US at a time when the borders are almost closed to South America.

We know that Josie was down to CHOP again



this week. She continues to gain fluid, and draining is the easiest on her body. Her allergies have started to kick in, so pray for her.

We also have been praying for Abby Lang, and we received this update when Jamie and Josie were down Wednesday: *“Abby is down at CHOP and doing well. Her diabetes was newly diagnosed, so obviously they need to bring her numbers down and have done well so far. This is all new to everyone. She has to learn, just like Maisie did, how to check her blood sugar multiple times a day/finger sticks/pokes, know the signs, give herself multiple shots a day... it’s a rough road for a kid. Mac was fortunate to have a mama with all the tools- they sadly, do not, so it’s more “old school” for them for now until they can get them.*

Pray for her mama (and dad, grandma, and siblings eventually) as she learns and juggles this on top of other things for Aleena’s health and all their kids home with schools being closed. Pray they stay away from ANY exposure to COVID. It would be lethal to bring it home in any fashion. Pray for peace of mind and stable sugars for Abby so that they can learn quickly, but not have to worry about if they are doing things right. It’s very scary to those who have no background in it. Pray she recognizes the feeling of high and the feeling of low sugar- a key instinct!!”

And we all will keep praying for both girls, right?

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

4. We pray because we are constantly faced by spiritual battles. (Acts 6:10). This is the story of the first “martyr” in the church. This man’s name was Steven. His story is so wonderful and continues on through Chapter 7 ending with his stoning. What is really amazing is that he had a wonderful spirit of love, even as Christ, for those who took his life in persecution. We do not live in a culture of persecution for what we believe. But we are always fighting spiritual battles. I’m wondering if this Covid-19 is a test run for end times. We do know that the church will be ever more persecuted before the Lord comes. But notice... this when unbelievers came to challenge Steven. It says, *“But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking” (vs. 10).* That spirit of wisdom comes from our Holy Spirit who promises to empower us to fight temptation and live for God. Paul prayed this for the believers in Ephesus: *“I fall down on my knees and pray to the Father of all the great family of God—some of them already in heaven and some down here on earth— that out of His glorious, unlimited resources He will give you the mighty inner strengthening of His Holy Spirit. And I pray that Christ will be more and more at home in your hearts, living within you as you trust in Him. May your roots go down deep into the soil of God’s marvelous love; and may you be able to feel and understand, as all God’s children should, how long, how wide, how deep, and how high Jesus’ love really is; and to experience this love for yourselves, though it is so great that you will never see the end of it or fully know or understand it. And so at last you will be filled up with God Himself” (vs. 15-19 The Living).*

This week we have been fervently praying for Sharon Rimmer’s sister Alane. We had this email come through Tuesday, *“Please pray for my sister Alane. She is*

in the hospital. She has a blockage in her colon from the cancer. They have put a colonic stent in to open it and give her relief but she still does not have relief. She has been on a liquid diet all week and since the colon is not functioning properly she has become malnourished. This is a problem because our bodies need nutrients to heal. Please pray for all of this and also since the no visitor policies of the pandemic she is alone in the hospital. This has been a great fear that she would be alone and die alone. We know as believers that God is with us and will never leave us but Alane is not a believer. So pray that her heart would soften and she would seek His face and find Him. She only communicates with me through text as she doesn't feel well enough to talk, so I have sent God's Word to her and have encouraged her to read it but I only get "thank you" back. It's a heartbreaker for me but I am leaning on a strong and mighty God."

Then this week the Lord took Alane home. "My dear church family

Sadly my sister passed away last night. Brad brought her home yesterday and she didn't last the night. I had given her into the Lord's hands and I have peace with that. I am so very thankful for all of your prayers. Much love, Sharon"

So, loved ones, we still don't know what happened in Alane's heart. But I know our prayers were answered and felt. Keep Brad and the kids still in prayer for the sorrow in the coming days.

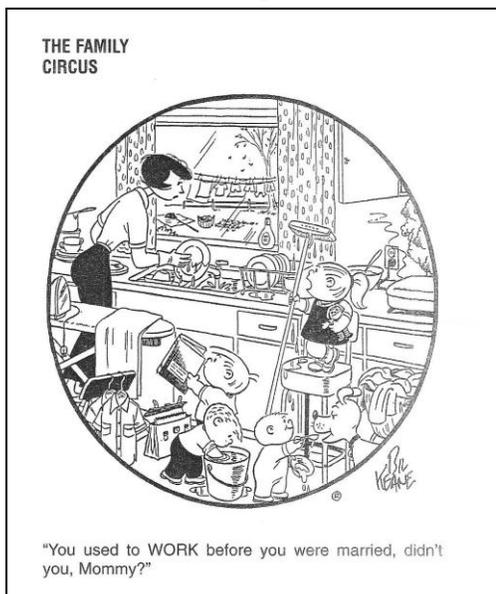


So don't take a break in our prayers! And if you remember *The Family Circus*, one particular cartoon shows the mother in the kitchen working

frantically, with all the dishes and work just piled up. And all the four children are helping their mother. Unfortunately, they were not aiding her, they were increasing the burden. And the daughter, Dolly, pipes up and says, "*You used to REALLY WORK before you were married, didn't you, Mommy? Now you don't have to.*" As if the work this mother did wasn't really a job? We know that a mother's work and job are never done. Being a working woman can be tough, but holding a job and having children is even tougher. We appreciate all you do moms! There is a story about a mother with three active boys who were playing "cops and robbers" in the backyard after dinner one summer evening. One of the boys "shot" his mother and yelled, "Bang, you're dead."

She slumped to the ground and when she didn't

get up right way, a watching neighbor ran over to see if she had really been hurt in the fall. When the neighbor bent over, the overworked mother opened one eye and said, "Shhhh. Don't give me away. It's the only chance I get to rest!"



"You used to WORK before you were married, didn't you, Mommy?"

So this Mother's Day, we want to you to know, dear moms and grandmothers, that we appreciate all your hard work and efforts. We pray for a tremendous day of spiritual rest for you. You are a tremendous example of Christ to us and our families! Thank you for all you do! We love you! We honor you today! God bless you greatly~!

Let's pray,

“Heavenly Father, on this Mother's Day, we thank You for our mothers through whom Your gift of life begins and through whom we are nurtured into great human beings. We lift up all mothers to Your love and care. We pray for them, for their needs of strength and support to continue to nurture a family of love, in honor and love for You, our God. Bless them with the fruits of the Holy Spirit, to become women of God overcoming the troubles of life in perseverance. We acknowledge that it's hard, conscientious work and effort and we ask You, Lord, to bless them for all their contributions toward family life and it's growth. Grant that they may be joyous in their ordeal of being a mother and proud in raising the family You have gifted. We now pray for every mother in every situation. So, Jesus, let them stand proud and tall of their achievements, of the families they have raised and above all, women of excellence who have gained Your favor in fear and obedience. Amen.”

***Praying and working hard for change,
Pastor Corvin <><***

p. s. Here is a fun word puzzle that Lori found on Facebook, and we want to include it for you and the kids to enjoy.

This is a little fun thing to do!

Quarantine Exercise: Can you find the names of sixteen (16) books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a fluke). It kept people looking so hard for the facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now.

There really are sixteen names of books hidden in this story!

**When you're attending Church online...
...but you normally sit in the balcony.**

