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Living a Life of Prayer part 2

Elder Charles Moore

Nicholas Waln, a Quaker preacher, was once traveling on horseback in the interior of Pennsylvania in company with two Methodist preachers. They discussed the points of difference in their respective sects, until they arrived at the inn where they were to put up for the night. At supper, Waln was seated between the two Methodists and before the three of them was placed a plate containing two trout. Each of the circuit-riders placed his fork in a fish and transferred it to his plate, after which each shut his eyes and said an audible grace before meat. The Quaker availed himself of the opportunity to transfer both of the trout to his own plate, merely remarking, when the others opened their eyes, "Your religion teaches you to pray, but mine teaches me both to watch and pray." He enjoyed his joke and perhaps the fish as well.

"Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving;" (Colossians 4:2). We are told not only to devote ourselves to prayer, but also to be alert in prayer. Why should you do that? Because there is an adversary **"Be sober be alert. Your adversary, the devil prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."** (1Peter 5:8) Samuel Chadwick said, "The one concern of the devil is to keep

Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toil, mocks at our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray." One of the things that happen when we pray is that we are engaging the enemy in order to defeat him. We are calling on God to do something in the spiritual realm that will enable his Spirit to do something here in the visible realm. We are doing warfare in the unseen realm so that we can see the blessing of God in the visible realm. That's spiritual warfare.

For some strange reason, God ties the accomplishing of His will to His people's willingness to pray. Do you want to stand with God on behalf of His purposes and call on God to heal the land? Listen to what is recorded in **2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.** When we start to pray, God starts to act.

Let me share a passage from Isaiah. **"On your walls, O Jerusalem, I have**

appointed watchmen; All day and all night they will never keep silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest for yourselves;" (Isaiah 62:6) Remind him

of what? Remind him of his promises. Remind him of his goodness. Remind him of his mercy. Remind him of his love for people. Why do I need to remind God of all of that? Surely he doesn't need to be reminded by me. No, he doesn't. But what you're doing is not just reminding the Lord, *you're reminding yourself.* You're remembering who God is when you pray by recounting his promises. You're quoting his promises back to him because it builds your faith in God. It shows you that God wants to do something. You are like watchmen standing on the wall. Why did watchmen stand on the wall back then? Watchmen stood on the wall to watch out for the enemy. Those watchmen were the first line of defense and that's what we're called to do in prayer. You who pray, you remind the Lord, so don't you take any rest until God accomplishes everything that God wants to do in your midst. If we see spiritual anemia in ourselves, then we need to inject ourselves with a good dose of prayer. That's the solution for spiritual anemia.

The devil will come along and tell you get up and quit praying. "Get up. You're not doing anything. You're just praying.

(Continued on page 2)

You need to do some work. Get up and do some work." He wants to cast prayer as if it were a waste of time. But it's not a waste of time. It is *the* work we need to be doing. And it is work. It's work to stay on your knees. It's work to keep your mind focused. It's work to pray through a list of people that you've been praying for a long time. But it's worth it. God will answer those prayers.

"And give Him no rest until He establishes And makes Jerusalem a praise in the earth." (Isaiah 62:7) We should never quit praying until we get either a 'yes' or a 'no' response. God can certainly tell us 'no'. Some of our prayers need to be answered, by a NO! Ruth Graham, Billy Graham's wife, once said, "God has not always answered my prayers. If He had, I would have married the wrong man several times!" When God says NO we ought to quit praying. God can also give us a 'yes'; He can answer our prayer. Then you can also quit praying. But when we hear neither a 'yes' nor a 'no', then we should keep praying. God may be using our persistence in prayer to accomplish His will. He may be doing something in you, or in someone else. George Mueller of Bristol prayed for two friends for over fifty years. He was asked whether He really believed that God would bring salvation to these men. He replied, "Do you think God would have kept me praying all these years if He did not intend to save them?" They were both converted, one shortly before, the other after Mueller's death. In His sovereign will, God uses persistent prayer to accomplish His purposes in the world. So pray and keep praying.

Michigan Report

Aurine Moore

What a cool, rainy, windy, busy and wonderful month we had at the Michigan church this month! The busyness was occasioned by the season (graduations), the ministry (the annual Summer Youth camp) and milestones (more later). Let's back up to the season of graduation. Jordan Begeman has graduated from Ida High School and had a wonderful graduation celebration at her home. It looked like the day might turn out rainy but it ended up beautiful. Waves of people came and went, the food was great and the graduate was gracious to all who came. She will be attending Monroe County Community College in the fall and currently works at La Fiesta Restaurant.

At the beginning of the month, Geneva Begeman had another birthday and Dale and Geneva celebrated their 54th year of wedded happiness. Congratulations! Almost immediately after, they went on to prepare for camp, with all the necessary food planning, purchasing and packing to take care of.

We had dinner at church the day before camp started and ended dinner by helping to load up items for the camp. The following day, the troops (staff) and campers all arrived at Camp. It is always a sight to behold as each member of the staff efficiently mans his or her work (battle) station and quietly sets about taking care of business. There were so many wonderful aspects to

camp. The fun of seeing campers discover which cabin they would be in (and sometimes begging Diane and Tim to be reassigned), the nurse checking in campers and medicines, the families hugging their children goodbye, the campers exploring and claiming their spaces and finding out when candy sale would be. Then came the normal activities that would characterize the week (not necessarily in order of importance)— meal time, dirt balls, nature classes, sports, swimming (or more sports in lieu of swimming on cold windy afternoons), Bible classes, morning devotions, cabin inspections, vespers, campfire, cabin devotions and prayers. We had 80 campers this year and they were all wonderful. Rob Vaughn, Doug Vaughn, Joe Smeltzer, Kathy Smeltzer and Kay Nevil all taught around the common theme of traffic signs such as 'go'—and tell the good news, 'yield' just like Jesus did, 'road narrows', and so on. There were many issues to simultaneously negotiate this year, what with health and family concerns, house hunting, sewer pipes backing up in the kitchen, and work schedules that kept people away who wanted to be there. We were very concerned when Theresa Jackson's little boy, Jonathan, was hospitalized for a severe asthma attack. She was ably relieved as dirt ball teacher by her friend co-teacher, Christie Thomas. Several new staff and old staff in new positions did wonderful jobs. For example, Seth Begeman led nature classes, Tisha Begeman worked in crafts, and Branden Carothers worked in the kitchen. We had a moving visit at camp with James Goins, whom many of the campers remembered from previous camps and his mother, Marshala. Thursday night's closing program included a DVD presentation featuring Nick Vujicic, an Australian evangelist born without arms or legs and a talk by Kathy Smeltzer on the need to make a decision. A large number of campers decided to do just that at the close of the program. The Friday night closing program in Howell included prizes, awards, songs, a talk from Elder Moore and slide show of photos by Mike Begeman. The camp wrap up meeting at church in Monroe the next day gave a satisfying opportunity to remember those events.

Ruth Charles turned 84 this month and was cajoled into going out for dinner with friends from church the day we had the camp wrap-up meeting. Meanwhile, Tim and Diane Begeman and Seth were off to Cleveland to move Seth into his new place. He has a new job working for a Cleveland Ohio park system. Pat Gill has a permanent job offer from a company he's been commuting to, one and a half hours each way in Defiance Ohio. Marcia Moore had two hospitalizations during the month for her breathing disorder and also suffered the loss of her sister. She was happy to get an air conditioner to make breathing easier. The month finished with a great party to celebrate Nate Valentine's 85th birthday. He had friends from far and near in attendance, most in person and some by mail, and they all seemed to have a great time. Some wonderful old pictures he has at his apartment were on display and we had a beautiful program with shared memories and comments and special songs (Paradise, Amazing Grace and I Can Only Imagine) from two of his friends (T.C. Creutz and Bob Young).

Until next month, may God be with you and you with Him.

The month of June is loaded with news events! We have weddings, birthdays, camp and other things.

June 1 was the date chosen for the lovely wedding of Brad Charles and Sarah Brownsey. It was an outdoor wedding and the weather cooperated with the plans, as it was a beautiful day. The reception was held indoors, so we were cool and had a great dinner together. Brad is the son of Larry and Peggy Charles and the grandson of David and Ruth. Both David and Ruth were not feeling well but they were present and David was able to have his part in the wedding ceremony. Congratulations, Brad and Sarah.

Camp week flew in with all of us scampering around to get everything done. It was a great week with folks filling important jobs for a successful camp. Sonya Pease had her usual quilt show at the Gibson living area one night. Each of us picked out the one we wanted for her to finish up as a gift for us. She does a great job and enjoys her craft so much. She taught the kids one-stroke painting on some decorative boxes for crafts. The kids were able to choose which craft they wanted to do with the majority making beautiful window sun catchers with Rachel Sottile. The last group made baskets again with Diane Begeman. There was much help out there in the "big barn".

We were so happy to have Josh Nevil, our young submarine navy seaman, with us at camp taking charge of the dining room clean-up three meals a day. He sure looked handsome in his uniform on Friday evening at the

camp closing meeting.

We send our best wishes to Jonathan Jackson, Teresa's 2 year old son. Teresa and Christine, a friend of hers, come from Cincinnati to teach dirtballs each year. Teresa is Jim Nevil's sister. Jonathan had an asthma attack at camp and spent a couple of days in the hospital. He has had another attack back at home and has been in intensive care. Please pray that Jonathan recovers.

On June 23rd Daisy Dorsey Shafer gave birth to a bouncing baby boy weighing 10 pounds 1 ounce. She and her husband Thomas named him Dylan Thomas. Three year old sister Cora is getting used to having a new member in the family. Congratulations to grandparents Mark and Karen Dorsey and great-grandmother Dorothy Layton and the whole clan.

On June 25 some of us descended on Peggy Charles' house for a shower for Julie and Brent Charles' expected baby in July. The tables were decorated with bowls of water with ducks swimming around, among vases of flowers. The gifts are put away and 'baby's' room is all decorated so Julie is ready to welcome baby! We wish you the best, Brent and Julie.

Our sympathy goes out to Heather and Kevin Lane as Heather's father passed away. May the God of all comfort be with your family, Heather.

Please pray for the many campers who gave their life to Christ during camp week. We are all praising God for such a great week together.

"No one is a firmer believer in the power of prayer than the devil; not that he practices it, but he suffers from it."

Guy H. King

"The greatest tragedy of life is not unanswered prayer, but unoffered prayer."

F.B. Meyer

"Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work."

Oswald Chambers

"Do not make prayer a monologue-make it a conversation."

Author unknown

"Work as if you were to live a hundred years. Pray as if you were to die tomorrow."

Benjamin Franklin

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Short Ones

A rock store was closed by the police -- they were taking too much for granite.

What is a computer's first sign of old age? Loss of memory.

"The Insomniac," by Eliza Wake

Notice! Take lettuce from top of stack, or heads will roll!

A letter carrier's career is a mail-dominated profession.

If a parsley farmer is sued, can they garnish his wages?

Why do they lock gas station bathrooms? Are they afraid someone will clean them?

Why is there an expiration date on sour cream?



NATE'S 85!



JORDAN BEGEMAN
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MOM TO BE
JULIE CHARLES



RUTH & THE GANG
CELEBRATING HER 84 YEARS!



MR. & MRS. BRAD CHARLES



CAMP CRAFT PROJECTS



THE KITCHEN CREW. THEY KEPT US ALL FED THE WEEK AT CAMP!