



FREEDOM OUTREACH INTERNATIONAL
(a ministry to the military)

Freedom Outreach - 21 Days of Prayer and fasting 2021



January 11—31 (worldwide prayer call on Saturday, Jan. 30)

ANNUAL PRAYER AND FASTING INITIATIVE

21-DAYS

JANUARY 11 – 31, 2021

Monday, January 11th until Sunday, January 31st

2020 surely was a year for the history books, or so we hope. For many people around the world, it's a history that they hope and pray does not repeat itself. The Covid-19 pandemic brought widespread economic turmoil with layoffs, business closures, travel bans and made doing life, not to mention ministry, extremely difficult. Yet, we have the promise of Jesus Christ, "And lo, I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20.) There are two factual take-away's from that scripture, the first being that Christ is Emmanuel, God with us, not just then but now, in this very time and moment. Secondly, He says, "even to the end of the age." Such emphasis was put upon that those final words that we can only surmise His intent was to comfort to those who would see the end of the age, those who might be tempted to doubt His presence because of the circumstances they see around them. I find it a tremendous consolation to say to myself, even aloud at times, "Lord Jesus, You are with me. You are here. I am not alone because of Your unfailing promise to be present in these times." For those who feel like they're still being tossed around in a storm, there is no greater comfort but to know that Christ Jesus, the Lord of All, is in the boat with us.

Yet, in these unusual times, we cannot focus so much on ourselves that we forget the call to corporate prayer. Especially in difficulties, we must come together in prayer, according to the promises of God made through Jesus Christ, that when two or more come into agreement, "it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven." (Matthew 18:19.)

Please join with us during this three-week period of prayer, fasting, and consecration. The focus this year is "OVERCOME" which is meant to focus us completely, individually and collectively, on the victory that the Lord secured for us on the cross and through the resurrection from the dead. We don't have to be overcome because He makes us to overcome every problem, circumstance and challenge through His absolute triumph!

Many people opt to do the "Daniel Fast" during this time. Information about this kind of fasting can be found here:

<http://storage.cloversites.com/realitythechurch/documents/21%20Day%20Daniel%20Fast%20Instructions%20.pdf>.)

However, let's be clear that HOW you fast is not as important as HOW you pray! The word of God tells us how: "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, NIV.) There should be confession and prayer for one another with great focus and fervency. When we pray together daily, preparing our hearts through the Word of God, and we agree together, mountains have no choice but to move. We overcome through the sure victory of Christ that was purchased on Calvary's cross! And we overcome when we stand together in agreement.

Don't forget to join us on Saturday, January 30^h for the worldwide prayer call where all of our Directors around the world connect for a two-hour live prayer meeting. The prayer meeting will begin at 6 AM Central - 7 AM EST USA time through Zoom per the information below.

We look forward to hearing testimonies of breakthrough during this time of how we, together, have overcome!

(All devotions were written by Jennie Humann except where noted and the author of the devotional is credited.)

Jacobsgen FOI is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FOI Worldwide Prayer Call 2021

Time: Jan 30, 2021 06:00 Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://zoom.us/j/94100609723?pwd=VDB4ekxxVm1NN1paS3hvOFVwTXFPQT09>

Meeting ID: 941 0060 9723

Passcode: 281115

+13126266799,,94100609723#,,,,*281115# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,94100609723#,,,,*281115# US (New York)

Dial by your location

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+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

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1 - “More than Conquerors”

Monday, January 11th

Read all of Romans 8



I wasn't an athletic kid. I was only four-years-old when I started kindergarten so I was a year younger than most of the kids in my grade. Beyond that, I was small for my age, able to fit into children's-sized clothes until 10th grade, and you better believe my parents made me wear them because they "still fit" (so embarrassing). The only playground game I was ever picked for was Red Rover –

the game in which the scrawny kids get sent "right over" because they can't break through the barricade. We little kids had a look about us when it came to playground games, like wounded gazelle's in the Serengeti, just waiting to be picked off (experiences we now laugh and call "character building"). No, I didn't know much about that kind of winning or the thrill of athletic victory.

In Christ, however, we are born winners, or more aptly put, "born-again as winners". The best part is that it has nothing to do with any natural abilities we might or might not have. We are winners because of Christ's victory. We cannot see the cross and resurrection from the dead as an event at a certain placeholder in the timeline of the world. Instead, we must understand that it is a perpetual victory, one that began when Christ cried, "It is finished!" and will never, ever end. As Romans 8:37 tells us, we are not just conquerors, as amazing and unfathomable as that is, we certainly are more.

What does that "more" look like? The children of Israel weren't just called to conquer the inhabitants of Canaan, they were called to take and inhabit the land. Joseph was not just destined to be the second highest political leader in the known world but he was there to save from a famine. Esther was not just called to be a queen, she was called to life-saving intervention for her people. We are not just meant to be free in Christ, as wonderful as His freedom is, but we are called to liberate others. There are conquests to be made – in Christ – for the Kingdom of God, but there is also more. We don't just endure through hard times, we overcome them with a supernatural joy, peace and care for others. We don't just survive but we live as irrefutable evidence of hope before a

hopeless world. We are conquerors through Christ, and hallelujah for that, but we are also more than conquerors because we bring that victory to everyone around us.

Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us understand and walk in the victory that Jesus Christ has won for us on the cross. Teach us to speak victoriously, to pray victoriously, to live victoriously, to give victoriously and to love victoriously. We repent of having lived below Your royal decree for Your children. We repent of looking and speaking too much like the world. A world in chaos needs to see a church in victory! Empower us, in these dark times, to be the hope of Christ to all of those around us – not in a trite, pretentious or superficial way, but with all humility and love. Help us appropriate Your word and to walk in overcoming faith this year, in Jesus' Name, amen.

Today in Our Prayer Guide

Dan & Andreja Davis - Vilseck, Germany - Pray for God to unite the leaders and workers together and refill us with His Spirit so we could take the region and beyond for Christ Jesus.

2 – “Strawberry Fields Forever” Tuesday, January 12th

Read: Luke 14:25-35

Looking at the bright side of being disappointingly “grounded” in 2020, at least I had time in the summer to plant a garden. My herbs and tomatoes did exceptionally well but I purchased 14 new strawberry plants in the spring and, after patiently waiting for six months, got two measly strawberries from the whole patch.

Having to make a quick trip to the Midwest to pick up some family antiques that had been stored there, we swung by my brother’s house for a short visit. I admired their garden which was mostly full of beautiful vegetables. One dirt patch remained unplanted. My sister-in-law said, “We planted strawberries last year and didn’t get more than a few the entire year, so we ripped them all out this spring.”



Perplexed that they had the same result as me, I began to do some research. As it turns out, strawberries are a plant that does not produce much, if anything, in their first year. They are unfamiliar with the soil and must navigate it. Also, the plants spend an entire year developing an extensive root system. All the work is being done in the dark, below ground, so that they can be fruitful in the years after. The plants must be protected and patiently nurtured if they’re going to reach maturity. Once mature, the plants develop “runners” up to 18” long which lead to bio-identical “daughter plants” and one single strawberry plant can effectively produce 3-4 daughters each year with each of those plants becoming independent and, in subsequent years, able to produce 3-4 of the same. Exponential growth!



This isn’t just TMI about strawberry farming. It is a lesson, from nature, about discipline. January is a time of new resolutions, of setting goals, and new beginnings. How often do we set goals concerning anything (health, finances, spiritual development) and then give up after life gets busy and the goals get buried? We get distracted, tired or frustrated and rip up the goals

(strawberry plants) before they are mature and before they bear the proper fruit and reproduce. The process of becoming more disciplined can be summed up this way:

being in good shape physically feels great but getting there doesn't feel very good at all. It's the patience of commitment we often lack in the process of walking out the goal.

A friend recently told me that her goal was, yet again, to read the Bible through in one year. She said, "I have set this goal every year and have never done it, but I've read all of Genesis in the month of January 27 times." It's funny because we can relate to starting over and over and not sticking with the process. However, once we reach maturity, if only in one or two areas, in spiritual disciplines, we find the Lord's blessing to multiply that discipline in other areas. Like the strawberry plant developing runners, once an individual begins starting the day with Bible reading, the daily time of prayer becomes a simple addition. For another man, reading a short lunchtime devotion most every day at work led to a greater heart for those around him, which opened the door to divinely directed opportunities to share Christ with his co-workers.

Jesus has called us not to be merely church attenders but to be followers, as true disciples, and disciples that are overcoming in every area of our lives. To do that effectively, we must trust Him through the underground process of developing the roots of discipline in our lives so that we can be fruitful, grow and multiply!

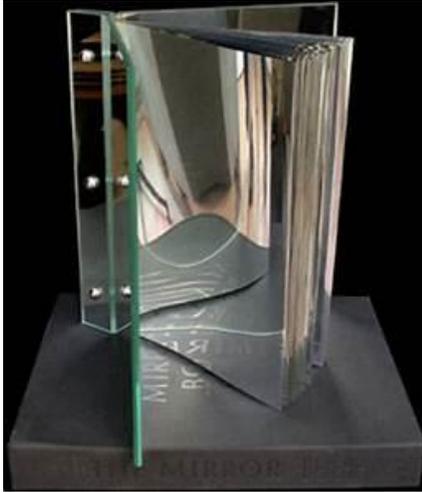
Our Prayer

Lord Jesus, for many people reading this today, fasting is a difficult discipline. You have told us that some prayers are *only* answered through prayer and fasting (Mark 9:29). There will be temptations to compromise or to abandon the process all-together. Help us, Lord, to develop discipline in our lives so that we can press on toward the goals YOU have set for us! We are asking and seeking You for breakthrough corporately as we have never experienced before. We live in dire times and we need supernatural empowerment and fruitfulness more than ever. Touch those that have set out on this journey and help each and every person to reach maturity, fruit and multiplication in these times of prayer and fasting. Amen.

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Angeles City, Philippines - Bong & Sharon Tiru, Clarkview Center - Pray God's help in wining souls; wisdom in ministry during the pandemic. Aladin Ordillo, Humphrey Center - Pray for a passion to learn for our students; new jobs and provision for jobless members & protection from sickness for members & coworkers.

DAY 3 – “Don’t Look Away” Wed., January 13th



Read John 14:1-6 and 2 Cor. 13:5

Nearly everyone has had this uncomfortable experience. You arrive at your doctor’s office. The nurse calls your name and begins to usher you back to an examination room, but stops and says the words we all dread: “First, let’s have you step on the scale over here.” If you are like most, especially after the holidays, you have a ballpark worst-case scenario in mind and may endure a shock if the scale surpasses even that. As the numbers climb, most people are tempted to just look away. You’d rather not know. You’re not prepared to deal with it right now. You figure you’ll weigh yourself at home when you start to

eat better and exercise and feel ready to look at the hard, cold numbers staring back at you on the scale.

Now imagine a patient having this conversation with his or her doctor:

Doctor: Your weight gain is concerning and is putting you into a high-risk category with health issues.

Patient: I believe that weight is just a number and doesn’t have anything to do with me.

Doctor: You’re showing symptoms of pre-diabetes.

Patient: I don’t believe in diabetes.

Doctor: Also, your blood pressure and cholesterol are extraordinarily high and, without interventions, you are at extreme risk for heart disease and stroke.

Patient: That’s your truth, not mine.

You may have surmised that we are not discussing weight or health here, but the subject of TRUTH.

Why is it that we (at least many of us) are tempted to look away instead of face the number on the scale? The machine has no bias against us. It isn’t trying to make us feel bad. It’s just reporting facts. The problem is that they are facts we aren’t wanting to face.

We live in a society that doesn’t want to look at the real, raw truth found in the Word of God. They, like the hypothetical patient, seem to ascribe to the ridiculous idea that truth is relative and not absolute. They would rather invent preposterous theories about God and the Bible rather than hear the unvarnished, unbiased truth. When faced with the undeniable realities in scripture, they would rather just look away.

During this time of prayer and fasting, we are pressing deeper into God and the only real truth, Jesus Christ, who tells us, “I AM the way, the truth and the life.” He is Truth Itself and truth requires a response.

We look into the Word of God and it becomes a mirror (James 1:22-24) to our most inward thoughts, emotions, intents and, yes, even sins. The Bible warns us to cast aside weights, and while bodily exercise is worthwhile, this mirror of the Word will show us weights that have nothing to do the number on a scale and yet keeps us from progressing in our walk with Christ.

“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:1-2).

If we are going to have breakthroughs and truly overcome, we must be willing to face the truth of what His mirror shows us and then be prepared to do something about it. Repentance is not a one-time experience but a daily discipline of allowing the Holy Spirit to set each of us apart as holy for God’s divine purposes in every one of our lives. We must embrace the most basic discipline of looking to the Word of God, as our mirror, to show us ourselves as we really are (and not as we would rather believe we are) and allowing that truth to bring confession, repentance and refinement. There’s not a person alive that does not need to undergo this inner-man wash-cycle daily! Even when these weights are hard for us to acknowledge and face, when we know the truth, the truth makes us free (John 8:32). There’s no freedom without truth and there’s no truth without the Word of God. In a society that would try to explain away or invent their own “truth”, let us be the people who look eagerly into the mirror of the Holy Bible and not look away.

Our Prayer

Father God, we acknowledge Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the only real Truth in this world! We look to the Word of God and ask for You to reveal the areas of our lives that You want to deal with. Wash us by Your Word and make us holy for Your service.

We ask for boldness in every believer and minister associated with Freedom Outreach, that we would be people of the Word and people of Truth. May we never compromise what you have said. Remind us that truth is freedom and a watered-down gospel is no gospel at all and has no power. Let us live in the light of the Word and shine that light boldly to everyone around us.

Anoint our leaders, we pray, that they may have great wisdom to declare an unpopular truth in a hostile culture. Let them lead with grace, love and through the authority of scripture. In the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.

Today In Our Prayer Guide

MTTM, Hawaii - Pray for anointing, favor & open doors to reach Schofield Barracks, MCAS Kanoeha, Hickham AFB and the huge military/DOD population on Oahu.

DAY 4 – “Proper Functioning”

Thursday, January 14th

(research provided by BibleStudyTools.com)

Read: Psalm 24 (entirely)



An old man had a pickup truck that he loved. His wife was tired of it and pressuring him to sell it, give it away or junk it – she didn't care which, but she just wanted it gone. “Why?” he protested. “It's an eyesore in front of our house and you never use it because it doesn't work properly. It burns oil and gets the most terrible gas mileage,” she answered. The man went about trying to prove to his wife that it was worth keeping. He devised a plan to go out every morning before she got up, push the truck up or back a few feet on the

driveway to make it look like he had driven it. He'd add a little oil and fuel each morning to try and disguise the fact that it was leaking and then he'd clean up the messes it had made the day before on cement. After a year, he looked up one morning and saw his wife, cup of coffee in hand, staring at him from the living room window. “You must think I'm terrible for trying to fool you so I could keep this old truck,” he told her later. “No,” she said. “What I think is terrible is that you could have spent less time and money working on the truck instead of trying to fool me and you would have had it completely restored by now.”

The generic meaning of sanctification is "the state of proper functioning." To sanctify someone or something is to set that person or thing apart for the use intended by its designer. A pen is "sanctified" when used to write.

Eyeglasses are "sanctified" when used to improve sight. In the theological sense, things are sanctified when they are used for the purpose God intends.

A human being is sanctified, therefore, when he or she lives according to God's design. Like the old truck, it's not just about the appearance but the process of restoration to full function and intended purpose.



The Greek word translated "sanctification" (*hagiasmos* [[aJgiasmov](#)]) means "holiness." To sanctify, therefore, means "to make holy." In one sense only God is holy (*Isa 6:3*).

God is separate and distinct. No human being or thing shares the holiness of God's essential nature. There is one God, yet Scripture speaks about holy things. Moreover, God calls *us human beings to be holy* — as holy as he is holy (Lev 11:44 ; Matt 5:48 ; 1 Peter 1:15-16). Another word for a holy person is "saint" (hagios) meaning a sanctified one.

Our Heavenly Father longs to restore each of us, as individuals and as the Church, to our proper functioning. We have an intended purpose that we are uniquely designed for but the decay of this fallen world, and our own mortal nature, has corrupted it. He calls us to sanctification and, yet, we cannot sanctify ourselves. It is He who does the work. The Father sanctifies (1 Cor 1:30) by the Spirit (2 Thess 2:13 ; 1 Peter 1:2) and in the name of Christ (1 Cor 6:11). Yet Christian faith is not merely passive. He, as always, asks us to cooperate – to be active and involved as we trust Him in the process.

Let's get out of the hypocrisy of trying to make things look good to others and actively surrender and participate with the Father in the process of sanctification. It's not an old-fashioned word from legalistic times-past, but a very present and necessary work that the Holy Spirit was sent to do in each of our lives.

Through this time of fasting, we have the choice to move around the old stuff so it looks like, to others, that we're making progress or we can become devoted to the process of allowing the Holy Spirit to renovate us through His work of sanctification. In the end, we all truly want to be restored to our intended purpose so that we are functioning effectively, as Holy and set apart people, in the service of the eternal Kingdom of our God.

Our Prayer

Oh Father, how good You are to call us to holiness and then provide the provision, through the finished work of the cross of Christ and the agency of the Holy Spirit, to make us holy! You will it and then you perform it through a life that is surrendered to You! Thank You for calling us, as the Psalmist said, to ascend to the hill of the Lord and to stand in the holy place. Thank You for providing us with clean hands and pure hearts through the shed, atoning blood of Jesus Christ! We surrender to Your processes and thank You for this work of holiness in each and every one of our lives. Convict our hearts when we are not active participants in Your work. Let us seek to be holy as You are holy, during this time and forever. In Christ's holy name, amen.

Today In Our Prayer Guide

Greg & Dana Smith - Velburg, Germany - Pray for God's help to reach this milcom; unity; Holy Spirit fire in the services.

DAY 5 – “When It’s Your Baby”

Friday, January 15th

Read: Acts 9:1-19

Two tribes were at war in the Andes. A tribe of highlanders had raided the encampment of the lowlanders and kidnapped a baby boy. The strongest and most athletic warriors went about the hazardous task of climbing the mountain to get to the village where the baby was being held



prisoner but the lowlanders did not know the terrain and could not make it to the other side. Defeated, they gave up and went back to their village to report to the chief when, to their amazement, they saw the mother of the child descending the mountain with her infant son strapped safely to her back. The head warrior asked her, “How could you, a small woman, make the journey that our most able warriors were not able to make?” She looked at him with quiet confidence, shrugged and whispered, “It wasn’t your baby.”

There’s an inner God-sent calling upon each person’s life that is unique to that person alone. In essence, the great Architect of the Universe has specifically and intentionally designed you and set you within a place, time and circumstance to do a work that is meant for you and you alone to perform. *You have a calling.*

The Apostle Paul, before conversion, even while he was raging against the church, was miraculously and gloriously saved on the road to Damascus. In that dramatic encounter, the Lord did not mince words, but spoke to Paul plainly when Paul (with trembling and astonishment) asked what he should do: “Arise and go into the city.” Another version translates the passage as, “Get up and go.” We read on that Paul was so impacted that he could not eat or drink for three days. Even Ananias was skeptical but the Lord told him, plainly, to go pray for Paul, “For he is a chosen vessel of Mine.”

The early days of recognizing the Lord’s special purpose for your life are exhilarating! He often reveals his specific calling within us through spiritual gifts and allows us to see Him perform them through our humble lives. As we grow and mature, He often allows us to endure more difficult seasons in which the calling is not as easy or personally rewarding as we once thought it should be. He sends us more hardened people, more difficult situations and sends us to tear down strongholds that are much bigger than we had previously faced. As we mature in Christ, He leads us to mature battles in which we can feel unprepared, overwhelmed or frustrated in our own strength.

We read through the Epistles of the Apostle Paul and often get this same sense from him. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 9, Paul's voices frustration with accusations against his character and against his validity in ministry. He pauses through the letter and exclaims, in verse 16, "Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"

Even Paul, the great Apostle and leading missionary of the church, got frustrated and upset sometimes, yet he couldn't walk away from the calling.

Not everyone will understand your mission or recognize the calling that the Lord has put upon your heart. Not everyone will see and appreciate your sacrifice. If we serve the Kingdom for the accolades of men, be assured that it's not the right Kingdom being served. If we sit down and marinate in our own disappointment, we need to hear again the words of Christ, just as he said to Paul: "Get up and go."

When others give up or get weary, strengthen yourself in the Lord and keep going. Even the strongest warriors sometimes fail to climb the mountain but you know that you must keep advancing toward what Christ has saved you and called you for.

After all, it's your baby.

Our Prayer

Lord Jesus, we ask today that You strengthen those who are weary and renew the vision before the eyes of all who serve in this ministry! We pray for a renewal of passion and purpose and for that great, irrepressible calling to motivate us to say, "Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" For those whose strength is failing, impart energy and focus. For those whose burning passion for Your service has fallen into dull obligation, relight the fire of divine purpose. For those who feel alone and unappreciated, may Your presence visit them and remind them that they are not alone, for You are Emmanuel, God with us, and we can do all things through You.

We pray specifically for those who are finishing the MIP course and those whose hearts You are touching to serve in ministry. Anoint every teacher, leader and overseeing pastor. Confirm the calling to those who are searching for Your perfect will. Raise up among us mighty warriors, men and women of outstanding valor, who will scale the mountain and bring all Your children home!

Today In Our Prayer Guide

Pray for fundraising efforts & support to cover costs of worldwide military ministry & family, youth, children's ministry & camp programs to impact the kingdom of God.

DAY 6

“Radio Silence” – Saturday, January 16th

Read: 1 Kings 19:1-13

There is an old term that has made a comeback by youth and young adults lately. It's the saying, “Radio Silence.” In contemporary vernacular, the phrase is used when one or both persons in a relationship stops communicating. Calls, emails and texts cease to give the person a clue that the other is no longer interested. Yes, it's much ruder than just breaking up!



However, the true origins for “Radio Silence” originate from the military, specifically from maritime communications during the First and Second World Wars. There are two usual reasons to call for radio silence. The first is to be in tune to distress calls. If a ship believes it can hear a faint “Mayday” emergency call, it will submit a command for “Seelonce”, a word derived from the French pronunciation of “silence.” Radio silence will cut all other communications temporarily so that the distress call can be heard and heeded. The second reason is during wartime. The order will always be issued by authorities higher than those on the ship and usually because an enemy is intercepting or infiltrating communications that put an entire mission at risk. In both instances, silence is critical and disobeying the order would have catastrophic consequences.

Silence can be counterintuitive, especially for those who have been discipled in western, Spirit-filled evangelical churches. We seem to value volume as a sign of engagement. Yet, when the prophet, Elijah, was at his lowest, as a marked man despised and hunted by the most powerful people in his country, he had to learn about radio silence. Knowing how desperate this time of war was for both Israel and for Elijah personally, God calls Elijah to a meeting. “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” What Elijah needed most in that desperate moment was to be in the presence of the Almighty and to be filled again with power and vision and passion.

Yet, this great prophet had a certain idea about how God works. He expected God to appear in the fierce wind as the rocks are shattering around him and the mountain itself is rent. Yet, God was not in the wind. He then felt the ground beneath his feet shake and, doubtless, as he felt the earth shift and his own body being flung back and forth, he thought, “This is when and how the Lord is going to appear to me.” Yet, God was not in the earthquake. Next, a mighty fire broke out and began to rage. Surely, he

remembered Moses and the burning bush and prepared himself for the thundering voice of God to call from the fire. But, God was not in the fire.

Then, and let's keep in mind that we don't know how much later, there was a gentle whisper which was so quiet, so sweet, so pure that it caused this mighty prophet to pull his cloak up over his face. It was then that God spoke.

Have you felt this year that your prayers aren't being heard? It's been a year of not being able to meet with God in the usual ways as lockdowns and travel bans have kept us from the typical formats of worship. Surely, if the great prophet Elijah had preconceived ideas about how God is going to communicate, then we do too. He had to learn to wait in the silence and embrace its purpose. Yes, the Lord is still near when we don't hear Him in the customary ways. There's a purpose in the quiet. Maybe we will hear something we've never heard before, as we are forced to depart from our traditional worship. It might be a faint mayday from a friend, a colleague, or a neighbor that we would have otherwise missed. Perhaps the very confusion that the enemy has caused through this global pandemic, forcing the Body of Christ outside the four walls of a building, is being used by God to quiet the church from her usual chatter so that we can clear the airwaves for a fresh word directly from His mouth. No matter the reason, we can trust the One who is ever in control. If there seems to be a radio silence in your life, don't despair but wait patiently, worshipfully, and rejoice. Soon after we will meet with the Lord, individually and corporately, and experience His awesome and majestic presence through a Still, Small Voice. He doesn't usually come as we expect, but be assured of this: He always comes.

Our Prayer

Lord Jesus, draw us to the mountain of Your presence through this time of fasting and prayer! Teach us to wait upon You so that our strength can be renewed (Isaiah 40:31). Thank You for cutting off the fruitless chatter and cultural noise that has infiltrated our minds and spirits. Take us to a place of quiet and eager waiting because we know You desire to meet with us. Oh, how we long for Your presence! How we long for Your touch and Your voice! Make these few weeks a season of active listening. Let us not run after the words of mortal men, as eloquent and spiritual as they may seem, but let us run toward the hilltop where You sit and wait for Your disciples to come to You. Like Peter, we say, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68.) We know that, like Elijah's bread when he was in a time of great distress, You will give us Your Word as the bread of life and we will be able to run as a people, as a ministry, in this next season with supernatural focus and energy. In Your most precious Name, Jesus, amen.

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Andrew & Rhonda Provazek - Sigonella, Italy - Please pray in agreement for the push back against the effects of COVID-19 in all of our military communities.

DAY 7 – “What Faith Alone Sees”

Sunday, January 17th

Read: Hebrews 11 (entire chapter)



A woman sat in her car in a Walmart parking lot waiting for her husband to run an errand. Soon after arriving, she saw a man drive up in a big truck into the row across from her. Nervous that she was parked on the distant side of the parking lot, she watched the man carefully as he got out and walked, suspiciously, around the car next to him. The

man then cupped his hands around his eyes and stared inside the car he'd parked next to. Alarmed, the woman texted her husband and reported that there was a suspicious man acting oddly in the parking lot. The strange man then began to roam up and down both lanes and then returned to peer inside the car. The woman strained to watch him while staying safely in her car, phone in hand, ready to text her husband about the situation. Much to her surprise, the stranger opened his truck door and lifted out a large tire wrench. He began smashing the passenger side window of the car he'd been looking into. Alarmed, the woman called her husband to ask what she should do. Her husband, alarmed, began running out of the store and tells her to, “Call 911...I'm coming right out!”

As soon as she saw her husband running toward the scene, she jumped out of the car and headed toward the man who had broken through the glass and was reaching to unlock the door at a furious speed. When he saw the couple running toward him, the stranger yelled, “Is this your car?”

“No!” The woman hollered, furiously, “And I'm sure it's not your car either!”

Just then a police car screeched through the parking lot, stopped in the middle of the lane and ran up to the man. The couple stood back, expecting the police officer to tackle and handcuff him. Instead, they saw the officer help break into the car.

The whole scene, now the focus of several dozen bystanders, seemed very perplexing until the police officer opened the now-unlocked back door. They saw the two men work together to pull a crying and sweaty baby from the back seat.

The woman realized that she had jumped to the terrible conclusion that the man in the truck was a thief when, in reality, he was a hero. Thanks to his quick thinking and actions, the baby that some neglectful person had left in the car was saved from what would have shortly afterward been death by heat exposure.

We don't always view situations clearly in the heat of the stress and confusion. We see our best laid plans shattered on the ground and panic, questioning God. "Why are You allowing this to happen?" We look with our natural eyes and draw the wrong conclusion when the Lord has told us, plainly, that we are to "walk by faith and not by sight." (2 Cor. 5:7.) What we can't see through the chaos is that every part of our lives is pointed toward one life-giving, divine mission – to seek and to save the lost.

It would be easy to focus on the shattered glass: a long deployment, a PCS to a place that NO ONE has on their "dream sheet," sending kids off to college in the USA while your family leave for assignment abroad. It would be easy to focus on the bizarre happenings of the past year and doubt the Father's care and protection. Has He seemed far off in the midst of the turmoil? In fact, the opposite is true. He is working in the midst of the madness to reach those in peril so that what seemed like an invasion is working toward an eternal goal. To be overcomers, we must trust that when we cannot see, He sees perfectly, and He has a plan through it all.

Our Prayer

Abba Father, there are those whose hearts are heavy because of the events of the past year. There are those who have lost loved ones and those who have fallen ill themselves. There has been worldwide fear and panic like no other time in modern history. Yet, You have not given us a Spirit of Fear but power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). We pray a sound mind over ourselves, our families, our churches and our nations. Let us operate in the mind of Christ in a measure like we have never before! We pray that this plague would end with a worldwide revival, repentance, renewal and an outpouring of Your Holy Spirit. You are the Hope of the Nations. You are the cure for our bodies, our spirits, and our minds. We choose to stop reacting according to what we can see with our mortal limitations and to make You Jehovah Shalom, the Lord Our Peace. In the Name of Your Son, Jesus, so be it!

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Doug Elliott- Aviano, Italy Pray for a Holy Spirit outpouring; God's help reaching the lost. Open doors!

DAY 8 – “Modern-Day Miraculous Provision” Monday, January 18th



Devotion written by Fran Threadgill (Dennis and Fran Threadgill are former FOI-MTTM Center Directors)

Read: Luke 12:22-34

HE IS FAITHFUL!

In 2008, after much prayer and leading from the Lord, we made the decision to retire from full time ministry. This was a huge change because we were leaving Germany and returning to the USA. Although returning to the states was not a big deal, the fact that we did not have a home or the money to purchase or rent a house was monumental! During most of our ministry we did not receive a regular salary, but lived by faith. While God always provided for us, we were not able to prepare for our retirement.

We moved in with our son and his family into a small apartment they prepared for us in their basement. We so enjoyed the times spent with them and being able to travel to Louisiana and Alabama and spend time with our daughters and their families. We were also able to travel frequently for the work of intercession and spiritual warfare for people, churches, ministries and needs in the areas.

Staying with our children and grandchildren was wonderful and so needed after living in Germany and only seeing them once a year. But, we also desired a place of our own. Waiting for a home was not a problem because we didn't have any money! We would often take walks or drives and see homes for sale and long to have a place of our own.

Our pastor called one day and said he and his wife wanted to talk to us. We went to lunch together, and he shared that a very precious lady in our congregation had passed away. She had one son and one grandson and neither lived in the area. The son called him and said that the family would like to give the home to someone that needed it, preferably someone who had been in ministry. Our pastor then asked if we were interested. And were we ever! YES! PRAISE GOD! HE IS FAITHFUL!

We were so excited and awed at this possibility. We met with the family and after a time of closure for them, they signed the home over to us at zero cost! It was a small brick home with a detached garage and full-sized basement. It seems that it was tailor made for us. It came with much of the furniture and all of the appliances. Isn't God Good-All the Time! We lived in the home for ten years and we still marvel at the faithfulness and blessings of God. I even have tears now in recalling how wonderfully He has and continues to care for us.

We had received a word from the Lord years earlier that we would be more fruitful in our older years than our younger. All this was a part of fulfilling that Rhema word. Retiring

and moving to the states without the promise of an income, opened so many opportunities for ministry. My husband had felt an intense desire for a prayer ministry for twenty years prior and this miraculous provision made that ministry possible.

Prayer was always a very important part of our ministry but he desired the freedom to travel and intercede for areas and people. Receiving this home and not having the responsibility of a pastorate allowed us the freedom to travel and intercede for so many people and situations. He is faithful and He has blessed us in so many ways we could not have dreamed possible.

12 The [uncompromisingly] righteous shall flourish like the palm tree [be long-lived, stately, upright, useful, and fruitful]; they shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon [majestic, stable, durable, and incorruptible].

13 Planted in the house of the Lord, they shall flourish in the courts of our God.

14 [Growing in grace] they shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap [of spiritual vitality] and [rich in the] verdure [of trust, love, and contentment].

15 [They are living memorials] to show that the Lord is upright and faithful to His promises; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him. Psalm 92:12-15 (emphasis mine)

Isn't that awesome! We are "LIVING MEMORIALS!" You are "LIVING MEMORIALS!" For what purpose? Not to say we are faithful, but to show God's faithfulness! Our lives are reflecting something, and I certainly want mine to show the faithfulness of God. Look at the wording for verses 12-15 in The Living Bible translation:

Even in old age they will still produce fruit and be vital and green.

This honors the Lord and exhibits his faithful care.

He is my shelter. There is nothing but goodness in him! Psalm 92:12-15 TLB (emphasis mine)

Do you see it? He is our shelter, and He provided the shelter of a home for us!

There is a specific aspect of every word that the Lord gives us directly. When you receive it, it doesn't happen automatically but must pray into it, believe the word and meditate upon it. Surely, it WILL come to pass!

Our Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank You for miraculous provision for each person and each center! We thank You that Your word is surety and that we can pray and seek the fulfillment of all that You have said. Increase our faith and our patient expectation to see seasons of miraculous breakthrough in provision so that each family and ministry can focus upon what You have called them to. In Jesus' Name, so be it!

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Rod & Steffi Nyman - Heilbronn, Germany - Pray for anointing to reach this area for Christ and spiritual growth in every member.

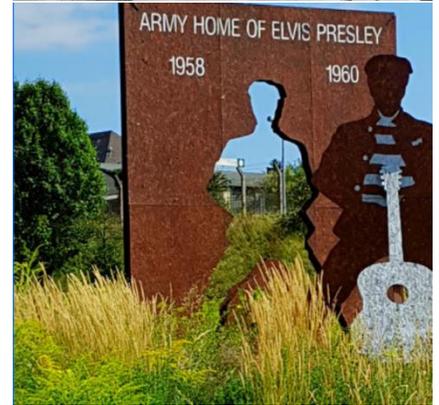
DAY 9 – “Bridging the Distance” – Tuesday, January 19th

Read: Luke 15 (entire chapter)

In 1956, Elvis Presley’s voice could be heard regularly over the airwaves singing, “Heartbreak Hotel.” The chorus ends, “Well, I’m so lonely, I get so lonely I could die.” It doesn’t seem like a sad song but it was among the most of the memorable of the rock-blues genre popular at that time. Written by Tommy Durden and Mae Boren Axton, Elvis released the song less than two years before he was stationed in Germany, part of the Army’s 1st Medium Tank Battalion, 32d Armored Division. If you’re ever in the area, you can see Elvis Presley’s statue in the middle of the roundabout linking Globus Baumarkt (hardware store) and the local car wash in the village of Friedberg, just north of Frankfurt off of the A5.

For military back then, being stationed abroad was a little different than it is today. Just twenty years ago, there was no

FaceTime or Zoom to see and hear loved ones back in the good ole USofA. There were only postcards and letters that took weeks and weeks to arrive. Even with the technology today, one facet of military life overseas still, unfortunately and inevitably, remains: loneliness.



This afternoon, I was browsing through social media and saw a post on one of the many community pages in Germany. I’ve inked out the names for the privacy of the people posting. It was obvious that wives of active duty Army soldiers stationed in Bavaria were attempting to connect on social media and lamenting about how isolated and lonely they feel. Loneliness seems to be a fact of life for military and their families, but it doesn’t have to be that way!

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!” (Ecc. 4:9-10 ESV)

This is what the Body of Christ is all about, lifting one another up to the glory of God our Father! The FOI ministry centers around the world have been home-away-from-home to countless thousands over the past 60+ years, bringing fellowship, joy and the community of Christ to countless individuals and families. In the 28 years that we have been part of this ministry, we have heard the same sentence repeated over and over by those who were part of a FOI fellowship in the past, "We were just like family."

This kind of family staves off the isolation and loneliness. It brings believers together in the very literal family of Jesus Christ where there is fellowship that does more than occupy time, it nourishes the soul. Those around us are starving for this kind of love and genuineness, whether they realize it or not. Once they come into contact with true believers who are filled with Christ's love, they will long to know the source of our hope and joy!

In Elvis' day, an overseas assignment might have felt a bit more like a Heartbreak Hotel, but today we have so many tools to reach and involve people around us that there is no reason anyone has to be lonely. The Kingdom of God has room for them! Let's commit to pray for them and reach out this year. Scripture tells us that, "God sets the lonely in families, He leads out the prisoners with singing," (Psalm 68:6). Let us be intentional about being that family in 2021 so that they can sing a new song, a hymn of praise to our God!

Our Prayer

Lord Jesus, give us Your heart for outreach. Teach us to be on Your divine rescue mission, to see with Your eyes and obey with Your heart. We acknowledge and cast out timidity and fear and ask for Your boldness and discernment to reach those You are leading us to reach. Help us to pray for those we work with, live near, and interact with. Make this a time of unprecedented outreach and soul winning so that we can bring these precious men, women and children into Your eternal family. In Jesus' Name, amen.

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Lance & Lisa Falagan - Camp Casey, Korea - Pray for God's help in outreach, discipleship, and training.



DAY 10 – “A Different Kind of Church”

Wednesday, January 20th

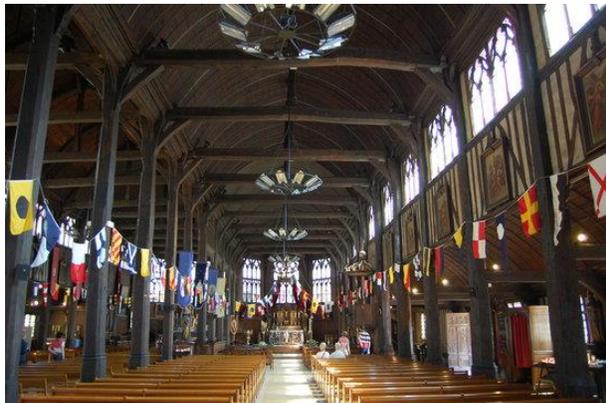
In Honfleur, France is the most unusual and remarkable church. There isn't another like it in all of Europe. Saint Catherine's church was built to celebrate the end of the 100-Years War, and France's victory over the English. The village of Honfleur (made famous a few century's later through the peaceful harbors of Monet's paintings), desired to reconstruct their demolished cathedral as an act of worship to God.

However, every local stone mason was booked up for years, consigned to other projects in rebuilding the area.

These were people of the sea who lived and worked near the coast (the area most battered by the 116 years of war with England). They knew fishing and seafaring. They were not carpenters or stone masons. Yet, in the year 1453, the will to erect a church out of the ashes of a devastating war was deep within their hearts, and they were impatient to offer this symbol of thanks to the Almighty. No matter what, the church had to rise again.



Instead of waiting for “qualified” carpenters or masons, they used what they had in materials and knowledge and built a church like no other — a cathedral made of wood and has an incredibly unique design. Being ship builders, the only architectural design they understood how to execute was a ship.



The entire structure is built from timber, not stone, which was unthinkable at the time. The fishermen harvested timber from the nearby Touques forest as the principal raw material. The most unusual aspect of the architecture is the roof that is built to look like an overturned boat – a flipped double hull. One cannot help but notice the interior of the church feels like being in the belly of a great ship.

The most special part of the cathedral is not the design or the materials, but the hearts of the people who were not content to let the church lie in ruins. It would not be another version of the church as it had always been. That was gone forever. It was the rustic labor of a people who had survived adversity and war – it was a church of overcomers. The new building was more central in their community, more authentic, and a more accurate representation of worship and gratitude than any traditional structure could have been.

This Covid-19 pandemic has changed life as we know it and it has changed the church. We could sit staring, glumly, at what this difficult season has taken or we can let the Holy Spirit guide us to build something new! He is calling us to new levels of involvement and true authenticity, to put our hands on the tools that we would have, even a year ago, sat back and let someone more “qualified” use. The truth is that the Lord Jesus Christ wants to use us, puny-little-unskilled-us, right where we are to do a new thing in the earth!

“For I am about to do something new.

See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?

I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland.”
(Isaiah 43:19)

Oh, that we would perceive it! Let us rejoice that church-as-usual is out the door! The experience of impersonal corporate worship has been knocked down and new authenticity must arise. Some may long for the traditional elements of the past but if we get too hung up on what used to be we will miss out on what IS right now and what can be. After all, who but our God always makes beauty out of ashes and who but Him alone would call people out of their comfort zones and put a hammer in their hands and say: “Now, children, build Me a church.”

Our Prayer

My Lord and My God, You in Your divine wisdom have set us upon the earth for such a time as this! Awaken us to the possibilities that surround us now that have never been before. Help us see with Your eyes what You would have us build now. Let us not wait for the traditions of man to reappear but to join with You in what You are doing right now! We say yes and amen to all of Your plans. Use us, each one, in a mighty way in this new thing You are doing on the earth! In Jesus’ Name – amen!

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Joseph & Evangeline Carranza: Vicenza, Italy - Pray for Holy Spirit outpouring; financial provision; wisdom and favor in reaching military and the local community.

Day 11 – “Living the Lord’s Prayer”

Thursday, January 21st

Devotional written by Pastor Andrew Provazek (New Hope Christian Center, Sigonella – Sicily – Italy)

Read Matthew 6:5-14



One of the first scriptures children ever memorize is the “Lord’s Prayer.” Most Christians can quote it verbatim but, like all scripture, it was not meant to be just memorized but lived out daily. To see how we can do that, let’s break it down in a way that helps us understand it.

Our Father who is in Heaven, Holy (Hallowed) is Your Name...

If You are my Father and You are Holy, how could I ever, as Your son, live in an unholy manner?

Your Kingdom come...

If it is Your Kingdom, why should I ever be territorial or build a ministry name unto myself?

Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven...

If Your will in Heaven is executed without fail and in an instant, why do I question, wrestle and resist Your perfectly revealed will here on Earth?

Give us this day our daily bread...

If You provide my bread for the day, why would I go into debt to have things today on tomorrow’s money?

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us...

If You forgive me based on how I forgive others, how would I dare to live in unforgiveness, grudges, broken relationships and bitterness?

And lead us not into temptation...

If it is not Your nature to take men places where I would be tempted to sin, why would I take myself to places where I would be tempted?

But deliver us from evil...

If You deliver me from evil, why would I then turn around and enjoy watching evil in the name of entertainment?

For Yours is the Kingdom...

If it is Your Kingdom, I will be a good steward. I will not make it my own mini-empire.

And the Power...

If all power is Yours, I will not trust in my efforts, skills, connections or resources but rather be filled with Your Spirit.

And Glory...

If all glory is Yours, I will not seek credit, position, titles or self-promotion that does not come from Your Sovereign Hand.

Forever and Ever, Amen.

If Your Kingdom is forever, I will not make eternal decisions based on temporary circumstances. I will conduct myself as if every work I do for You is forever.

So be it.

Our Prayer

Father God, help us to not just be hearers of Your word but doers also! (James 1:22-25.) Help us to live out scriptures in our daily lives, being the living epistles that You have called us to be, known and read of all men (2 Cor. 2:3). May Your Kingdom come in and through us as we recommit to the authority of scripture in every area of our lives In the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, amen.

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Jackie & Senetra Harris - Kaiserslautern, Germany - Pray for Holy Spirit empowerment & discernment; discipleship efforts; families; community leaders and local pastors.

Day 12 – “A Jonathan Spirit”



Friday, January 22nd

Read: 1 Samuel 14:1-16

If there's one thing that people in this ministry to the military understand perfectly, it's this: Warriors gotta fight.

There was a dire situation in Israel. The armies of the Lord were hiding from their notorious enemies, the Philistines. All of Israel's swords and spears had been confiscated by the enemy except for two – Saul's and Jonathan's. Here's the situation (1 Samuel 13:5-7):

⁵The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Mikmash, east of Beth Aven. ⁶When the Israelites saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. ⁷Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear.”

They were outnumbered more than 4 to 1. They were out-matched because they didn't have proper equipment anymore. They were cowering, hiding wherever they could find to hide, quaking with fear, like a people who do not know the might of their God.

Needless to say, we live in scary times. This Covid-19 crisis has shaken up the world. Media fear-mongering has become widespread enough to almost be considered an Olympic sport. In some ways, we can relate to Israel here. We don't know how to fight it so we are we tempted to just hide and wait for the crisis to be over.

In 1 Samuel 14, we see the great King Saul, happy to hide out under the Pomegranate trees. Why was this a significant enough detail to include in scripture? “The Bible refers to pomegranates in reference to fruitfulness, blessing, and prosperity (Numbers 13:23; Deuteronomy 8:8). The presence of pomegranate trees was symbolic of a nation's financial and material wealth (Joel 1:12; Haggai 2:19). The grumbling Israelites mentioned the lack of pomegranates as a sign that God had deserted them: “Why did you bring the Lord's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? . . . It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates” (Numbers 20:4–5).” (Research from <https://www.gotquestions.org/pomegranates-in-the-Bible.html>.) Saul's hiding place was representative of the strength of man and of a fruit that represented Israel's lack of faith.

Jonathan and his armor bearer were the only Israelites that were not hiding that day. They were scoping out the position of the enemy, assessing the situation, but with eyes of faith instead of fear.

⁶ Jonathan said to his young armor-bearer, "Come, let's go over to the outpost of those uncircumcised men. Perhaps the LORD will act in our behalf. Nothing can hinder the LORD from saving, whether by many or by few."

⁷ "Do all that you have in mind," his armor-bearer said.
"Go ahead; I am with you heart and soul."

You can almost hear Jonathan's voice, bursting with faith and excitement, whispering to the one and only person who had enough courage and confidence to go with him, "Come on. Let's go."

They turned the tide of the battle that day. The Lord gave the Philistines into their hands and the history of their nation was changed. Because of the faith of two men, the rest of Israel joined the battle. Because of their courage, people came out of hiding. Because they were not content to see God's people cower in fear, even traitors who had gone over to the Philistine camp turned back and fought for their country.

This is what faith does. It knows Who God is and knows that His intent for His people is always good. Faith doesn't hide when God's people are in need. Faith doesn't look at circumstances and base a plan out of what man can or can't offer.

We need people with a Jonathan spirit, those who are not afraid to make God's goodness and power known and proclaim a hope and future to a people cowering in fear. These are the people who pray in victory, knowing that the battle belongs to the Lord. These "Jonathans" go to the battle (and ours is surely a spiritual battle) even if no one else will go. We have to pray and fast and seek God for the victory. We have to have the backbone of overcomers who know Who their God really is. For us, this *is not* recklessly ignoring quarantine restrictions or blindly rebuffing sound medical advice but it is a steadfast inner peace, praying against the strongholds with the Word of God, and a righteous confidence before a frightened army that God is in control and this is not the end. Jonathan and his armor bearer knew what we are now being reminded of: warriors gotta fight.

Our Prayer: Mighty God, we look to You to turn this battle! We cry out to You for the eradication of this deadly virus. We pray for the church to have discernment to know how You are guiding during this crisis. May prayer warriors rise up and beat back this plague! May Your people dig into Your word and speak life over our families, our churches, our nation and world. Let this crisis lead to a world in repentance and a church in revival, in Jesus' Name, amen.

In Our Daily Prayer Guide: Harry & Cristy Rodriguez - Baumholder, Germany - Pray God's help in reaching this community; for people to replace those who have been transferred.

Day 13 – “A Jealous Mama” Saturday, January 23rd



Read: Matthew 20:20-28

I mean, the AUDACITY of that woman! We shouldn't be surprised because, audacity, evidently, ran in the family! The Lord had nicknamed her sons the “Sons of Thunder” for a reason. Although these young men were two of the three in Jesus' inner circle, they were still impetuous, not thinking twice about trying to call down fire from heaven to destroy the very people Jesus was sent to minister to (Luke 9:54).

Yet, there she was, this wife of Zebedee, the mother of James and John, asking the Messiah Himself if HER sons could sit with Him in glory, one on the right hand and one on the left! Anyone else would have rebuked her or given her a stern lecture about humility, but not our Lord. He answers her gently and speaks to her about the matter with patience and more grace than she seemingly deserves. In verse 23, Jesus speaks to “them” (tipping us off that James and John were with their mother when she asked):

²³ “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

Why didn't Jesus rebuke her – or at least rebuke His two friends who should have known better – for their audacious request that seemed to be rooted in sheer pride. In fact, that's exactly how the other ten disciples saw it!

No, Jesus did not rebuke this sweet mama. He wasn't at all harsh with her. Perhaps He knew it wasn't pride, it wasn't ambition, but it was the heart of a woman who wanted nothing more in life than for her dear children to be as close to Jesus as possible. She was jealous for His presence and made a beautiful plea, not for position, but for holy intimacy between her kids and her God.

“Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young-- a place near your altar,
LORD Almighty, my King and my God.” (Psalm 84:3.)

Even the sparrow knows what Zebedee's wife knew: there's no safer or better place for my children but in the presence of the Lord.

Our Prayer

Oh Lord, we lift up our children to You! We, like Zebedee's wife, desire nothing more than Your presence in the lives of our sons and daughters! Touch our children, Lord, those who are walking closely with You, as James and John were – help them to grow daily in holy intimacy and obedience. For those who are far off, especially touch their lives. You see where the strongholds are that we can't see. You know the areas where they are struggling. We place them before You today for the Holy Spirit to bring powerful conviction and a revelation of the truth. We lift up the children and teens of Freedom Outreach, Ministry to the Military, and we pray that they would know and participate in a true revival that impacts their entire lives. Use our children prophetically and in all the gifts of the Spirit. Use them to change the tide of apostasy in their generations. We entrust these precious souls to Your care and know that You will not rebuke us for wanting Your very best for them. We know, somehow, You love them even more than we do. Thank You for that security and hope, Lord Jesus, we pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

SHAPE, Belgium - Pray for revival in Belgium; for marriages and families; that people's hearts be open to discipleship and a hunger for the Word of God.

Day 14 – “Help Yourself” - Sunday, January 24th



Read James 2:14-26

My husband had finished Basic Training and AIT and was promptly sent to his first assignment in Germany. My job, back in the states, was to wait patiently and not get frustrated about how slowly we progressed on the housing list. We had no idea if the kids and I would be able to join him in Germany in one month or one year! I also had to figure out a way, on my own, to get to Offutt Air Force Base and get a military

ID card for myself and passports for me and our two very young children.

I'd never been on a military installation before. I had never known anyone in the military. I didn't know even one of the thousands of military acronyms or any protocols affiliated with being a military dependent.

I'll never forget the gate guard who scoffed when he saw my drivers license and demanded to see my ID card. My drivers license had been my only form of ID until that day. I explained my situation as he waited impatiently, signaling at the line of cars behind me. I was shaking but realized I needed to be as bold as possible, so I asked, “Is there any way you can tell me how to get to the ID card building?”

He explained that the buildings followed a numeric system that was something like, “Building 6790 is after Building 4205 and then you'll take a right in that gate by Building 7342 and right behind it is Building 5. That's where you need to go.”

Oh boy.

Realizing I was holding up traffic, I just smiled like I understood any of what he'd just said and I started driving. I must have flagged down half a dozen people walking on the road, wondering if I'd actually asked one person twice (they all looked the same, after all) before I was completely lost. I turned down a road and saw a sign that said, “Self Help.”

I walked in, surprised to find an array of household and gardening tools. I had no idea that this was a place where people on base could go and get items needed for the maintenance of their living quarters. I just asked the man at the front desk, “Can you please tell me where the ID card building is?”

He actually drew me a map on a slip of paper (very helpful), after which I thanked him and began walking out the door, holding a baby in one arm and clutching the hand of

my toddler with the other. The man asked, as I was leaving, “What in the world made you stop here, of all places, to ask for directions?”

I said, “Well, I saw the sign that said, ‘Self Help’ and I said ‘Self, go get some help.’”

Yes, he laughed quite hard at that.

God helps those who help themselves, you may have heard. No, that isn’t in the Bible but a quote from a man who wasn’t quite convinced of Christianity and had no business laying down doctrinal-sounding quotes (Benjamin Franklin). The hard, cold fact is that God helps those who cannot help themselves. He champions the cause of the outcasts, the disenfranchised, the alien, the fatherless and the widow.

Yet, in what at first seems like a contrary statement, He tells us that it’s our very weakness that makes room for His perfection. He finds us helpless but doesn’t leave us there. He is the greatest empowerment that any man or woman could ever find.

We used to sing song lyrics that went, “And now, let the weak say ‘I am strong,’ Let the poor say, ‘I am rich,’ because of what the Lord has done for us.” He takes our inability and inserts His ability so that He can perform great works through our lives and be completely glorified!

What talent do you have that is so small that the Lord Almighty cannot use it? What help do you need that He will not give you? There are needs in every single ministry center around the world that are not filled. It’s not because the Lord is not answering prayer by sending people but because the people He sends are often too bound up with insecurities, fears, distractions and even self-focus to allow Him to use them.

Yes, this does sound harsh but not as harsh as our brother, the Apostle James, who said, “Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith by my deeds.” (James 2:18.) Here’s the interesting thing. If we were confident in our own abilities, we wouldn’t need faith to serve the Lord. It’s trusting the One who makes our weakness strong – it’s faith in Him that enables us to do what He is burdening our hearts to do.

Perhaps this is the season to take a time-out and ask the Lord how He would have you serve where you are. Even a small commitment can make a big difference. Old Ben Franklin should have said it better as, “God helps those who trust His help.” (Still not in the Bible, but a little closer.)

Our Prayer: Lord Jesus, it is You who gives gifts to us for the sake of Your eternal Kingdom. You’ve warned us not to bury our gifts in the sand and not to make excuses about why we have not invested them. Lord, today, touch the hearts of those who You have sent to serve and show them how to use their talents, time and treasure for Your glory. We pray for even more laborers because the harvest is plentiful but laborers are few. Thank You for giving us each a heart that is willing and a hand that is helping.

Today In Our Prayer Guide: John & Kellene Tolbert –Iwakuni, Japan - Pray for God’s help in reaching the lost and making disciples & effectiveness in every area of ministry.

Day 15 – “Reclaiming Stolen Time” Monday, January 25th

Read John 10:1-21

Devotional written by Fran Threadgill (Dennis and Fran Threadgill are former FOI-MTTM Center Directors)

For years, researchers have debated whether children need “quality time” or “quantity time” with their parents. The most recent studies prove that children need both! Kids need their parents to be regularly present in their lives (quantity) but they also need meaningful and deliberate moments with their parents (quality). How much more do we need to apply these principles to our relationship with our Heavenly Father!



It is so important that we have times of intimacy with The Lord. It is during these times that we, ourselves, are quiet before Him and listen to His heart. You might think, “Fran, that’s easy for you to say, because you’re retired!” That’s true, and I love this time in our lives that we have more freedom and more time with The Lord. But, that hasn’t always been the case and we needed to learn a long time ago how to take back stolen time.

You see, the enemy is a thief and a robber. Jesus told us plainly that the enemy of our souls comes for three reasons: to steal, to kill, and to destroy. If we don’t purpose to have specific time with The Lord, Satan steals the time by crowding it out with the cares of life. I realize that many of you really struggle with this because of responsibilities in caring for your family, having demanding careers and a host of other commitments.

How do you “spend time” with a God who exists outside of time and is omni-present? Yes, He is ever present and even indwells the believer through the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it stands to reason that if one party is missing from the equation of spending time, it isn’t Him...it’s us.

When my husband and I were directors at the Ministry to the Military Christian Servicemen’s Center in Karlsruhe Germany, from 1989 to 1995, we were constantly challenged with the needs in the military community of young soldiers and their families – normal problems that were compounded by the difficulties of living in a foreign country away from family and friends. One morning in particular I felt the pressure of the day’s schedule. In addition to home-schooling our two teenagers, I felt the need to visit and encourage some of the ladies on post. Before I rushed out, I felt a deeper/inner prompting of the Holy Spirit to spend time in His word and worship, and by doing so He would make the time more efficient for the other responsibilities. After a time of worship

and Bible study, I began my schedule. It was amazing what I was able to accomplish by early afternoon - much, much more than usual. I also witnessed how the Holy Spirit had prepared the hearts of those that needed ministry before I ever got there!

That brings us to the question of "how". How do I enter that time of intimacy with God? How do I reclaim the time that seems to be stolen from me daily?

Although there are many scriptures that address this, let's look at the following: Psalms 104:2 MSG

Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Then make yourselves at home, speaking the language of praise. Thank Him. Worship Him.

Psalm 95:2,6,7 (NLT)

2 Let us come to him with thanksgiving. Let us sing psalms of praise to him. 6 Come, let us worship and bow down. Let us kneel before the Lord our maker, 7 for he is our God.

We are the people that He faithfully watches over, the flock under his care. If only we would listen to His voice today! God is so faithful to His word. He will meet you wherever you are. He met with Moses during his routine daily activities and He will meet with you also. Set aside time each day to seek Him. Don't believe the lie of the enemy that you don't have time to spend in prayer. Then, go to Him with thanksgiving and worship, focusing first on how wonderful He is, which puts everything else into perspective! He then awakens us to His constant presence throughout the day in everything else we do. It's both quality and quantity in prayer and empowers us to stop the thief of our time and reclaim true intimacy with the Lord.

Our Prayer

Lord God, we thank You for helping us to be deliberate about prayer and intimacy with You! We acknowledge that there is no greater place of power than sitting at Your feet! Lord, fill each and every person reading this today with a deep conviction of the importance of intimacy with You. Help us to stop the thief of time and to be intentional about daily devotion. Thank You for Your faithfulness to meet with us. You are a Good, Good Father and we worship You!

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Greg & Tamara Lunn - Osan, Korea - Pray for a spiritual awakening here; help to train believers in discipleship; ministry to people's needs; God's help equipping the church to evangelize & spread the gospel.

Day 16 – “Get the Lime Out” Tuesday, January 26th

Read Matthew 5:1-12 & Galatians 2:20

Long before social media,
even before television and movies,
entertainment existed only through in-person events.

Actors took to a stage filled with colorful backgrounds and props. Their diction was carefully crafted to carry the length and breadth of the auditorium or amphitheater. The ancient Greeks perfected live performances in their day with elaborate plays that were either comedies or tragedies – nothing else in between.

Modern “entertainment” is a mix of both – so tragic that it’s comical or so comical that it’s tragic. Small wonder that so many in modern “Christendom” have followed the theatrics, choosing to entertain rather than equip; opting to perform for the world rather than conform to the character of Christ; desiring to increase rather than decrease; craving the artificial limelight of a fallen world rather than the burning inner conviction of the Holy Spirit that cries out continually,
“I have been crucified with Christ.”

In the early 1800’s, stage settings were barely visible to those in the back of the theater. English inventor, Goldsworthy Gurney, set out to change that. In 1820, he invented what became known as the “limelight.” Although no green citrus was involved, calcium oxide was, and it became known as “quicklime.” The process involved hydrogen and oxygen being pumped into a blowpipe that caused an extremely hot flame. Although first used as a surveyor’s tool, by 1837 this flaming gas was used in theaters to beam a concentrated and powerful light onto the actors. The downside of this was that the block of lime had to be continually adjusted as it burned which created no small problems regarding the prevalence of fires. Thankfully, by 1879, Mr. Edison had developed prototypes for electric lights. Though the use of lime in stage lighting became obsolete, the term “limelight” continues to this day.

There is something inside the fallen nature of mankind that desires the spotlight. We live in the “Instagram-Age” where people desire to be “influencers” and gain “followers.” Photo filters and editing programs blur reality. Individuals are validated by “likes” and “shares”. We’ve exchanged intellectual and spiritual content for superficial, unrealistic social media content. It’s a weird time in the history of Planet Earth, that is for sure.

One cannot help but notice how trends like this affect the Church, especially in a time when quarantines and lock-downs due to Covid require ministries to broadcast online. Let me be clear that we are not poopooing an emphasis on quality and excellence in providing needed online worship and preaching, but we are doing a drive-by study of

the impact of social media culture upon the church. For the sake of gross generalization, we will call those caught up in this trend, “Insta-ministers.”

Insta-ministers have a certain way of talking that seems strange sometimes. I have developed a peculiar yet entertaining habit of annotating trendy catch-phrases used by worship leaders and some trendy pastors. Now, please understand that I’ve been a youth pastor for 27 years. I’m all about updating our modes and providing relevance in worship and preaching. Still, somehow, I don’t think we need to pour the Lord a verbal double-soy-latte-extra-foam in worship or “unpack” the Word of God by pulling a pair of skinny jeans up over the message.

There was a terrific post by one the members of the Executive Committee of the Church of God the other day calling for an emphasis on authenticity and a general hunger for churches to cut through the “fluff” in worship and preaching. People want truth without all the garnishes and side-dishes. Take a look at the news this past year. Things have gotten “real”. The church, more than ever, needs to also be real as an accessible, authentic center of hope.

We don’t have to read a bunch of books about how to be authentic, but we can simply follow the example of Christ who was culturally relevant in His time upon the earth (and throughout all time) without ever pandering to the crowds or fluffing up (extra foaming) the message. This world needs us to be the real deal to lead them to the real Person of Jesus Christ. Playing in the limelight is as dangerous as it was in the 1820’s – it’s a gassy, man-made fire. Let’s get the lime out and let the irresistible, untainted, mighty Word of God speak so that His light in us can shine before all men. Only then will they will see our good works and praise our Father in Heaven.

Our Prayer

Lord Jesus, forgive us for being conformed to the patterns of this world above being transformed by the renewing of our minds in You (Romans 2:12). You alone know how to reach people where they are. Help us to be bold, authentic truth-bearers to everyone we come into contact with. As we repent of all that is artificial, guide us to greater effectiveness in communicating truth in our worship, our preaching and even our daily conversations with those around us. Remind us continually that we can never be ashamed of the gospel because it is the power of God to save (Romans 1:16). May this be a year of unprecedented harvest as we reach out and evangelize in every format we can. Open the ears and hearts of those we speak to this year and prepare those with rocky and thorny soil to be good ground instead. We trust You for the harvest and we recommit to speaking the truth in love to everyone around us.

In Your Name, Jesus, amen.

Today In Our Prayer Guide

Alejandro & Dinorah Velazquez - New Life CC, Puerto Rico - Pray for open doors & anointing to reach and minister to families here.

Day 17 – “Representative!”

Wednesday, January 27th

Me yelling “REPRESENTATIVE!!!”
to the automated customer service



Read Hebrews 7 (entire chapter)

I have to leave the room when my husband dials a customer service number and is connected to a voice activated menu. Being endlessly recycled through a plethora of irrelevant options is definitely one of his pet-peeves and, evidently, me breaking out in peals of laughter as he yells, “Representative!” into the phone is not helpful.

No one likes to be on hold.

For example, there’s an airline with a reputation for notoriously bad customer service. I don’t want to name names, so let’s call them,

hypothetically, “United Airlines.” If you call with the hopes of reaching an actual pulse-bearing human being, you will have to wait through multiple menu options and listen to an endless loop of their corporate theme song which sounds like it’s being played through a tin can, just to be disconnected every thirty minutes or so. It’s nobody’s favorite way to spend an afternoon.

Have you felt like you’ve been “on hold” this past year? Or is it just me? Have you wept in front of your computer screen looking at the faces of the people who need you to take them in your arms and provide the comfort of Christ to them? Or maybe you’ve been the person who needed that special, reassuring touch. It would be easy to forget that God is always working. He is not in quarantine. He transcends viruses and travel bans and lockdowns. He is, right now, interceding for you and me! In fact, He “ever lives to intercede”, as Hebrews 7:23 says, because He is our High Priest who allows His heart to be touched by the things that touch us.

When you are struggling with disappointment, frustration and grief (as so many are grieving loved ones lost during the pandemic), it is easy to not feel like praying. Why? You know your attitude isn’t right so the enemy tells you that you aren’t worthy to go into the presence of the Lord as you are. The raw truth is this: you have never entered the presence of the Lord because you were worthy. It isn’t possible to BE worthy. We enter His presence covered with His robe of righteousness (1 John 1:8). His worthiness is why we come to Him, not our own. He deserves our time, our worship and our attention. The great King of Kings has extended His scepter to us and has bid us to come! How can we not?

We are never on hold with the Lord. He is doing a work in His people, and throughout the earth, in ways that we could scarcely comprehend. If you feel like you are on hold, just hold on! You have a Representative, the ultimate High Priest, who is advocating for you at this exact moment. You can reach Him any time of any day and He will incline His ear to your words. Don't hang up before you hear Him speak. Just hold on with expectation because one word from Jesus changes everything.

Our Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your faithfulness! Thank You for being our great High Priest! Thank You for allowing us to come before You and hearing our cries! We worship and praise You for being our Advocate. Oh, how we need You! Touch the hearts of those who feel disconnected and distant from the Body of Christ and from You. Draw them close today and overshadow them with Your presence. We sang Christmas songs about "tidings of comfort and joy" just last month, so we pray for that comfort and joy – joy unspeakable and full of glory – to overwhelm the people of this ministry. Let there be no one who drifts away but pull them closer to the Body of Christ, and to your heart, than they have ever been. In Your Holy Name we pray, amen.

Today In Our Prayer Guide

Cris & Mieko Reyno - Okinawa, Japan Pray for effectiveness in reaching the lost and spiritual growth in each one who attends here. crismiekoreyno@live.com Torii Station - Joe & Tara Scriven - Pray that God would direct our steps during the next season of ministry; that the ministries recently launched would continue to grow and be an outreach to the single military and families in the area.

Day 18 – “In The Garden”

Thursday, January 28th

Read Psalm 133

If you've ever run in a marathon or been one of the supporters of a runner, you'll know the excitement of the crowd and the cheers. You'll know the thrill of seeing your friends and family on the sidelines yelling, "You can do it!" and running besides you as you see the finish line ahead.



Spiritually, there is a rush of exhilaration when people catch a divine vision and are dedicated and unified under the cause of Christ. When you realize that someone shares your passion for the Lord and feel the same conviction and burden, your heart races with the possibilities of what can be done for the Kingdom of God! I hope and pray we all have seasons in which we are in a cheering crowd that run together for a divine vision that is impacting the earth. I believe that is the fruit of unity in the Body of Christ and the anointing that results from such unity.

We all long for those kindred moments, when the Lord brings them around, but things aren't always so ideal. Sometimes we will find ourselves alone with a conviction to fast and pray for breakthrough about an issue that others seem oblivious to or wholly unconcerned about. Pray anyway. Fast anyway.

Jesus held a prayer meeting in Gethsemane just hours before His betrayal and crucifixion. He'd told them plainly, just hours earlier, that He'd be betrayed that very night and even identified the betrayer. They had seen Judas get up from the table and depart, to "do quickly" the terrible deed he had been paid by the enemy to do. It couldn't have been clearer WHY Jesus asked them to come to the garden to pray. He pulled away from His disciples to pray alone, but while He was interceding with such fervor that great drops of blood and sweat poured down, He should have been surrounded by eleven intercessors, but He wasn't. He was alone and they were asleep. I wonder if, in the days that followed, the memory of His words struck their hearts, "Could you not even tarry with Me one hour?"

I'm not trying to give a martyr's complex to anyone. Always seek people to pray with you. It's important for two or more to touch and agree! But there are moments that you need to be alone to really prevail in prayer. Jacob wrestled all night alone. Jesus often prayed all night alone. There are times that we must be one-on-One with God and let

travail gush out in messy splatters of despair and hope. When you are in the privacy of your own personal prayer space, you can empty your soul of its grief, let your heart be rent and restored, until the Spirit within you has streamed through you like a great healing and restoring salve. It's not the kind of prayer we go to every time we pray, but it's where we must all go sometimes. There, alone, with hearts naked and unashamed before our Abba Father, we find we are not alone. For He is with us always, even until the end of the age.

Church, we have never lived in times like this. In fact, the world has never before known the days we now find ourselves in. May the Holy Spirit take us to a level of prayer that is required to bring forth a Spotless Bride at the end of it all. If we desire to be true overcomers, we must frequent the secret place, apart from man but together with the Lord, so that we can be in that anointed unity when we are assembled.

Our Prayer

Father, help us obey when You bid us, "Come away, My Love." For those who have never known the deep that cries out to deep in the waterfalls of anointed prayer (Psalm 42:7), may they experience Your presence this way during this season of prayer and fasting. If we want to function properly when we are together, we must function properly when we are alone. Forgive us for top-layer-only-praying and being neglectful of the call to deep intercession. Make us a praying people! Make us an interceding church! Make us a house of prayer for ALL nations in every home, every ministry center and throughout this ministry. In Jesus' Name – amen and amen!

Today In Our Prayer Guide

Pray for anointing on Strategic Partner Churches in the USA to reach the military harvest; God's help to begin new ministries in strategic milcoms & for Frank & Sue Alcorn (Southern Command and veterans).

Day 19 – “A New Nineveh” – Friday, January 29th

Read Jonah 3:1-6 and Isaiah 6:1-8

“Here am I, Lord.
Please send someone else.”

Jonah, Jonah, Jonah. What a character he was. How relatable he is to us! How many of us are putting our hands up for the most difficult assignments, to witness to the hardest people and to go to those who we are sure will reject us? Not many.



I met a lady on our military base years ago. I had never encountered such a bitter soul who had nothing good to say about anyone or anything. Her mouth was a fount of complaining and accusation and hatred. In fact, just hours before I left to go take my Exhorters exam to become a minister 20+ years ago, she felt compelled to call and verbally shred me with a thoroughly unbiblical and vitriolic lecture about how women were not called to be in ministry and how I would incur the wrath of God for going down the path to licensure.

Nice.



I walked away from my first real conversation with her and, driving home, literally said to God, “Whew. I am going to steer clear of that awful woman!” after which the Holy Spirit spoke to me with perfect clarity, “No, you’re not. I want you to be her friend.”

I did a bit of arguing with the Lord. Perhaps He hadn’t noticed how terribly prideful and judgmental she was? She didn’t know how to have a friend or how to be a friend. I argued with Him that, surely, I had reached my quota of dealing with nasty people. He didn’t relent. “I want you to be her friend,” He said again.

We’d rather keep all the salt in the salt shaker, where it’s nice and cozy, where everyone believes what we believe and is there to encourage and affirm us. We don’t want to have to go “out there” to where the

Ninevites live! No, not the fish slappers! (Veggie Tale fans will get that.)

Did you notice that, when Isaiah was called in the beautiful and renowned passage in Isaiah 6, that he didn’t ask what the assignment was? He didn’t deliberate about the

pros and cons. He didn't tell the Trinity that he had to, "go pray about it." He just said. "Here I am. Send me."

Oh, that we would have such hearts for God and for people! I am heartbroken when I read the news about cities that are strongholds of the enemy and places that it seems the Church has given up trying to evangelize.

The people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah. Oh, God, give us New Ninevehs! Give us entire cities, entire military bases and posts, entire Naval ships – give us a revival in our time like that!

One thing is for sure. He will not give us this kind of revival if we keep saying "no" when He tells us to go. I befriended that woman and God gave me His heart of compassion for her. She was resentful because she had been a repository of other people's negativity, abuse and bitterness all of her life. She needed one person in her life that would not run away from her angry personality but, instead, with the heart of Christ, run toward her wounds. I've failed more than I've succeeded in obeying the Lord this way, but this much I now know – what a blessing, what a privilege, to be the one to go.

Our Prayer

Forgive us, Father, for running from the one that needs us the most. Forgive us for not having compassion on the Ninevehs of our time! Give us your heart for the lost and your compassion on their souls. Let us lead with Your love – Your love never fails! May we say, like Isaiah, "I'm here, no matter what the assignment is, no matter who You send me to. Send me. I will go. Revival starts with me." In Jesus' Name we ask this, Father – amen.

Today In Our Prayer Guide

Children, Youth and Family Ministry in FOI-MTTM: Jacob's Generation Youth & Families Ministries - Brian & Jennie Humann and Jacob's Generation Kids - Ryan & Angie Miller - Pray for ongoing efforts to fundraise during COVID and creative ways to reach youth virtually. Pray for our growing team, for unity and opportunities to resume in-person ministry.

Day 20 – “Spiritual Vertigo”

Saturday, January 30th

Read Luke 10:38-42



If you were part of the European Directors Christmas party, held online via Zoom, you will remember Pastor Wade Miller saying the greatest blessing of 2020 was that (in a humorous nod to Elvis concerts), “The Church has left the building!”

Why is that a good thing?

Covid-19 lockdowns forced the church to go online and caused Directors to become televangelists and many of the Director’s family to become audio/visual experts overnight! That wasn’t the positive part, although these are skills we are all glad to have gained. The good part was the shake-up-realization about what it really means to follow Christ.

Modern Christianity has made so much of “church” about the building that it’s become easy to forget that the church isn’t a place, it’s a people. It seems that we have been snapped out of our usual means and methods – our customary ways. We have come to realize which things really do matter after all, and which do not.

“Vertigo is a subtype of dizziness in which a person inappropriately experiences the perception of motion.” That’s the literal definition. How much of “doing church” had become “spiritual vertigo” – the faulty sense of progress caused by a false perception of motion? Busyness doesn’t equate progress but it can sure trick us into feeling that way! This is not true of all people or all ministries, of course. However, as we read through the gospels we cannot help but notice how the Lord was constantly snapping people out of their traditional molds and attitudes and resetting them to be Kingdom people instead of religious people.

The Pharisees thought they were the most zealous, industrious workers for the God of Israel. No one out-performed them! In fact, the original title of today’s devotional was “How to Fast Like a Pharisee” and highlighted all the ways in which they went about prayer and fasting, thinking they were the most spiritual of all mankind and piling up

favor from God. The opposite was actually true, they were piling up wrath. (This web page lists 77 scriptures that rebuke the Pharisees: <https://bible.knowing-jesus.com/topics/Pharisees,-Attitudes-To-Jesus-Christ.>)

Before anyone becomes offended, no one is calling anyone a Pharisee. Yet, this we know: the enemy doesn't have any new tricks in his bag. If he can't make people abandon the faith, he will tempt them with religious pride and make them focus on futile things that do not truly advance the Kingdom of God.

Martha fell into this trap. Jesus was physically at her house. Instead of worshipping at His feet, she was grumbling in the kitchen. "No one works harder than me!" she must have said to herself. She surely thought all her busy toil brought her extra credit with the Lord. By the end of the day, she had learned that worship didn't look like a table with all the trimmings but a quiet heart that receives the Word and worships the Master.

We don't have time, as this world spins out of control, for spiritual vertigo. We don't have time for a perception of progress without real, spiritual results. We don't have time to spend on what does not impact eternity!

The Church has left the building – thank God, thank God, thank God! The Church has also left wrong perceptions of what really matters as well. Like Mary, we have learned to choose the better thing and the Lord has promised, Covid or no Covid, that it will not be taken from us.

Our Prayer

Lord, You are the cure for spiritual vertigo! You are the cure for religious pride and mindsets. You are the cure for all that distracts us away from what truly matters. We ask for Your forgiveness because each one of us has been guilty of Pharisaical attitudes at times. Help us to not focus on doing things that do not impact eternity, as Martha did, but to focus instead on being with You. You told Mary she had chosen the better thing. Help us to continually choose the better thing – Your presence and Your Kingdom. Amen.

Today In Our Prayer Guide

Pray for growth & fruitfulness in our USA network of "Connecting Point Ministries":

AL - Enterprise - Vernon & Barbara Johnson
AI – Madison - Herman & Doris Mitchell
CO - Colorado Springs - Ray & Connie Pettit
N. Florida - Phil & Becky Burton
GA - Ft. Gordon - Charlie & Kathy Bryant
MS - Keesler- Warren & Lisa Gaffney
TX San Antonio - Dan & June Barrera
VA Beach - John & Yvonne Wagner

Day 21 – “The Power of Hope”

Sunday, January 31st



Read Psalm 42:11

There is an old story, written in 1907, about an elderly artist who visits a young girl (also an artist) in the hospital during a pneumonia epidemic. The girl sees a vine covered with leaves climbing the wall outside her hospital window and, losing hope and the will to live, tells the old artist that she will surely die when the last leaf falls. The old man, never having painted a masterpiece in his life, spends an entire night painting, in extraordinary detail, a realistic leaf upon the brick wall. Autumn turns to winter but the “leaf” never falls. That tiny sign gave the girl enough hope to hold onto that she survived the epidemic. Unfortunately, the night the old artist spent in the cold painting the mural was too much for his aged body and he died instead.

While we do not want to end our 21-days of prayer and fasting with a melancholy story, it parallels a beautiful truth. We worship the One who gave up His life to give us hope. Unlike the story, death could not hold him! The grave had no claim! Our God lives forevermore!

The story does show us the power of hope. Like the leaf, we are the mural, crafted painstakingly by the Master, on display for the whole world to see. The love and light of Christ in us is meant to be a billboard for the world that says, “There is hope.”

Hope is what is needed now more than ever. Pity the atheist whose “scientific” imaginations offer him no comfort in the middle of the night. Pity the hater that can’t stand anyone who finds the peace he lacks. Pity the prodigal who finds himself alone in a pig pen longing for the home he once knew. Let’s do more than pity, let’s pray. Everything changes when God’s people pray. He will never stop fulfilling His word through His people. The world never stops changing but He is steadfast. His plans to reconcile mankind are yet coming to pass, even through this worldwide plague, and we get to be a part of it.

That leaf was just a symbol saying, “don’t give up.” May that be the message of our lives.

*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone!
Because I know, I know, He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives!*

That, my friends, is hope.

Our Prayer

Jesus Christ, Hope of the Nations, how we look to You in the days we are in. Guide us, speak to us and fill us one and all with Your Holy Spirit. Impart Your wisdom to Your children that we may know how to accomplish Your will. We say, let Your Kingdom come in Freedom Outreach – Ministry to the Military. Let Your will be done here, now, in and through each of us! May Your anointing flow! May Your signs and wonders follow us – we believe! May You be honored, pleased and glorified in our midst now and always. Amen.

In Our Daily Prayer Guide

Pray for FOI/MTTM leaders, Rob & Patty Moore; Jo Scott; FOI & MTTM Board Members and Military Chaplains for wisdom, direction, & anointing.