



March 2012

Horizons

PRAYER:

communication

with

GOD.



**Reggie
Hundley**

Editor,
HORIZONS

and

Executive Director,
Mission Services
Association

We welcome your letters to the editor. Letters no longer than one typewritten page are more likely to be published. Include your name and address on all correspondence. Only signed letters can be printed. Letters may be edited for the sake of length and clarity.

E-mail: editorial@missionservices.org

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editorial

Priorities . . .

so important, though we wish they weren't

It is never bad to occasionally stop to assess what one has been doing. A wise professor told me that one can never really understand where one is unless he knows how he came to that point in life. So, I recently took a moment to assess the books I have read recently. My iPad revealed I had read *Fearless* by Max Lucado, *Sticky Church* by Larry Osborne, *Radical* and *Radical Together* by David Platt, *When Missions Shapes the Mission* by David Horner, *You Lost Me* by David Kinnaman, *A Sweet and Bitter Providence* by John Piper, *Crazy Love* and *Forgotten God* by Francis Chan, *I Am A Follower* by Leonard Sweet, and *Discipleship* by Deitrich Bonhoeffer.

There was an overriding theme to the books I chose to read, though I confess they were not chosen based upon that theme. Each was chosen either because I enjoy other books by the author, the book was popular at the moment, or because it addressed a specific issue of which I had interest. Little did I think that I would ponder in early 2012 over the significance of them collectively. What I have learned is that we must prioritize our lives if we are to reach our desired goal. Not exactly an earth shattering or entirely new "truism" since I am sure my parents tried to teach me that more than two generations ago.

Yes, if we want people to stick to our church or discover how we have lost them, we must prioritize our activities. If we want to grow closer to God and know Him better, we have to prioritize our lives. If we want our lives to reflect God's glory through difficult circumstances, we must prioritize our goals. If we are to live fearlessly in this world, we must prioritize our relationships, possessions and interests. Our congregations can have a global impact, but it will require us to prioritize things.

The problem of acting upon this truth with any degree of success lies within our human nature. We do not want to prioritize things. We would much rather live on the wind of spontaneity than risk missing the moment of excitement for some goal of the future. Individuals prefer to drive the exciting new car than prioritize transportation with other needs in life. We prefer the thrill of momentary passion over the satisfaction of doing it well. Congregations choose building "more than comfortable" buildings and ever growing staffing levels over the life long satisfaction of lives changed one half the world away. When the latest sports scores are more important than reading the Bible and we are forced to buy the latest Dave Ramsey book on credit, it is safe to say our priorities may be suspect.

Setting the proper priorities in this life was a central teaching in the ministry of Jesus. In the height of Jesus' popularity, when great crowds followed him, he confronted them with this fact. No one can truly become his disciple without setting proper priorities and making difficult decisions. (Luke 14:25-33)

I pray that we will choose to do this now both as individuals and as congregations. If not, we will never become what God wants us to be. You think about that!



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God is doing a new thing today. If you want to be “in” on what God is doing, you must begin praying with greater passion and intensity. If you want purpose and meaning to life, and if you want your life to really count for God and to make a difference in this world . . . PRAY! Prayer is what God is calling His people to do today as a part of His plan for this world. It is His primary strategy for finishing the task!

. . . When we begin to pray with passion for those who do not know Jesus, whether our next door neighbors or those on the other side of the planet, God’s power is released to do that which only He can do. What a privilege it is for all of us to be “in” on what God is doing as we join Him in prayer.

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coming events

2012

JULY 10-13

North American Christian Convention

Orlando, Florida

Theme: "Refreshed"

President: Rick Rusaw

Contact information: North American Christian Convention
513-772-9970 / www.gotonacc.org

JULY 22-28

Lake James School of Missions

Angola, Indiana

Contact information: Jerry Sizemore, Program Chairman
317-695-0291 / jerrysizemore700@msn.com

JULY 25-29

Global Gathering of the World Convention

Goiania, Brazil

"Sharing the Love that Unites" ... Global Gathering 18

Contact information: Gary Holloway
615-298-1824 / www.worldconvention.org

NOVEMBER 9-11

Eastern Christian Conference

Hershey Convention Center, Hershey, Pennsylvania

Theme: "Your Kingdom Come ..."

President: Brent Storms

Contact information: Eastern Christian Convention
410-836-6102 / info@easterncc.com / www.easterncc.com

NOVEMBER 15-18

International Conference on Missions

Indianapolis, Indiana

Theme: "Radical ... again!"

President: John Caldwell

Contact information: David Empson
317-539-4231 / david@nmc-windows.org

2013

JULY 9-12

North American Christian Convention

Louisville, Kentucky

President: Matt Proctor

Contact information: North American Christian Convention
513-772-9970 / www.gotonacc.org



God is doing a new thing today. If you want to be “in” on what God is doing, you must begin praying with greater passion and intensity. If you want purpose and meaning to life, and if you want your life to really count for God and to make a difference in this world...PRAY! Prayer is what God is calling His people to do today as a part of His plan for this world. It is His primary strategy for finishing the task!

God is moving all things toward completion. I don't pretend to know when or how or any of the details that people often get so excited about. But I do know the key to the completion of God's purposes on this planet. It is evangelism. And the key to evangelism is prayer. Let me show this to you through the words of Scripture:

Jesus said, ***“And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations, and then the end will come”*** (Matthew 24:14). The Gospel is going to be preached to all nations...Jesus said so. If Jesus said it, I firmly believe it will happen. Sometime after the Gospel has been preached to the whole world, the end of all things will come. Evangelism is tied to the second coming of Christ. Without delving into issues of dates and times, the question for us today is, “Do we want to be a part of the fulfillment of Jesus' words?”

Jesus ties together prayer and evangelism in Matthew 9:37-38: ***“Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.’”*** The instruction of Jesus to His disciples regarding reaching the lost is that it begins with prayer. There is certainly more to do after we have prayed.

But evangelism will never be truly effective apart from the biblical beginning place of prayer.

The Apostle Paul continues this teaching in his first letter to Timothy: *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth"* (1 Timothy 2:1-4). Notice that Paul urges that prayers be lifted up, because God wants everyone saved. Prayer and evangelism are brought together in a powerful way and linked to the very purposes of God.

Not to be left out, the Apostle John shows us in his unique way that prayer and evangelism are inextricably connected. There are two passages of Scripture in Revelation that you may not have noticed before that are exciting in their presentation of prayer and evangelism: *"Each one has a harp and they are holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints"* (Revelation 5:8). *"Another angel, who had a golden censer, came and stood at the altar. He was given much incense to offer, with the prayers of all the saints, on the golden altar before the throne. The smoke of the incense, together with the prayers of the saints, went up before God from the angel's hand"* (Revelation 8:3-4).

After each of these incidents, in which the collected prayers of God's people are poured out before God, angels are loosed upon the earth to cause events intended to bring people to repentance and salvation. God uses the prayers of His people to bring about the establishment of Christ's Kingdom.

The second passage in Revelation comes in the midst of a half an hour of silence. Author Walter Wink explains the connection well: "Heaven itself falls silent. The heavenly hosts and celestial spheres suspend their ceaseless singing so that the prayers of the saints on earth can be heard. The seven angels of destiny cannot blow the signal of the next times to be until an eighth

Dave (left) at the National Prayer Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. Dave heads that committee.



“Prayer is what God is calling His people to do today as a part of His plan for this world. It is His primary strategy for finishing the task!” (right): Gathering for prayer at the end of a Prayer Seminar.



angel gathers these prayers...and mingles them with incense upon the altar. Silently they rise to the nostrils of God. Human beings have intervened in the heavenly liturgy. The uninterrupted flow of consequences is dammed for a moment. New alternatives become feasible. The unexpected becomes suddenly possible, because God's people on earth have invoked heaven, the home of the possibles, and have been heard. What happens next, happens because people prayed. The message is clear: history belongs to the intercessors.”

Dick Eastman said it this way: “God's ultimate purpose for mankind, the completion of Christ's bride and the establishing of His eternal Kingdom on earth will result only from the release of the prayers of God's saints.”

Graham Kendrick and Chris Robinson wrote the hymn, *All Heaven Waits*. See if their words call to your heart and stir within you a passion to be a person of prayer: “All heaven waits with bated breath for saints on earth to pray,

Majestic angels ready stand with swords of fiery blade.

Astounding power awaits a word from God's resplendent throne.

But God awaits our prayer of faith that cries, “Your will be done.”

Harvest Prayer Ministries

Almost twenty years ago, God took a compelling vision and filled our hearts with a picture of what could happen if His people would begin to pray with greater intensity around the great purposes of God. In 1993, my wife, Kim, and I began Harvest Prayer Ministries to encourage the Church to pray. After forming a board, HPM was officially launched. Our first mission statement is still essentially the same:

Harvest Prayer Ministries exists to call and equip the Church to become a House of Prayer for all nations, in order to see the revival of the Church and the completion of the task of world evangelization.

Harvest Prayer Ministries is all about bringing glory to God through teaching, resourcing and networking. Primarily, **Harvest Prayer Ministries is Teaching**. Our staff conducts weekend seminars, local church prayer conferences, Church Prayer Leaders Network (www.prayerleader.com) national and regional conferences, Learning to Love to Pray (www.40daysofprayer.net) seminars, etc. We also assist church prayer and missions teams in developing ministry plans for prayer and finishing the fulfillment of the Great Commission. In all of these places and events, the staff of HPM is teaching about prayer, helping churches: church leaders, families, and individuals do a better job of talking to and listening to the Father both individually and corporately. Churches often begin the process of scheduling a prayer conference by accessing the “Teaching” site online at: www.harvestprayer.com or by calling our office at: 812-238-5504.

Second, **HPM is Resources**. Our desire is to place effective resource tools in the hands of individuals and churches. To do this more effectively we launched PrayerShop Publishing (www.prayershop.org) which develops and produces books, booklets, prayer guides and teaching DVDs and CDs. Our web store makes available the best of prayer resources, including several books written by HPM staff. Currently, more than 600 prayer resources are available in our store.

One of the most exciting developments is the start last year of *PrayerConnect* magazine. This bi-monthly magazine, totally focused on prayer, is already making a real differences in the lives of its readers. One very exciting feature is that with every paid subscription, you receive a full digital version. You can check out the current issue at: www.prayerconnect.net.

One of our staff couples, Jon and JoLyn Graf, own and maintain the 65 acre Harvest Prayer Retreat Center, located between Terre Haute and Brazil,

PrayerShop Publishing develops and produces books, booklets, prayer guides and teaching DVDs and CDs. Currently, more than 600 prayer resources are available in our bookstore (right).



“Harvest Prayer Ministries is all about bringing glory to God through teaching, resourcing and netowrking.” HPM staffer Jon Graf (right) is pictured teaching a prayer seminar.



Indiana. Two cabins are available for missionaries and church leaders at very reasonable rates. More information is available on our website or by calling our office: 812-238-5504.

Two free resources to assist individuals and churches are:

- Harvest Prayer Newsletter – this monthly email newsletter includes articles, a calendar of prayer events, resource specials, information about what praying churches all over the world are doing, and much more.
- Connection! – a daily email devotional with prayer points and prayers to pray each day.

You can sign up for one or both of these resources at: www.harvestprayer.com.

Third, **HPM is Networking.**

- **The Church Prayer Leaders Network (CPLN)** helps connect prayer leaders in churches with each other, with incredible teachers, and with great resources. You can find them at www.prayerleader.com.
- **Greater Calling** (www.greatercalling.org) is a division of HPM that empowers people to meet together over the telephone by offering free teleconferencing services to churches, ministries and other non-profit organizations.
- **Restoration Revolution** - HPM is coordinating and providing leadership for the prayer piece of Restoration Revolution, a collaboration among Christian Churches/Churches of Christ desiring to share Jesus with all people. Dave and Kim Butts have written, *Revolution on Our Knees: 30 Days of Prayer for Neighbors and Nations* to assist this effort. We have found that it is providing the biblical teaching needed to turn our prayers from our own needs to the needs of a world that desperately needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have also been privileged to

launch **Light The Fire:24-7-520**, which is Christ-centered, missions-focused day and night prayer. Churches, groups of churches, colleges and missions organizations have been signing up to pray 24-7 for one week (168 hours), passing a “torch” of prayer from place to place. This prayer meeting will last until the end of 2020. It’s already exciting to see how many churches, schools, and organizations, large and small, are stepping out in faith to participate.

- **National and International Involvement:** Our co-operation with the National Prayer Committee, the National Day of Prayer, the Global Day of Prayer, the Mission America Coalition, the International Prayer Council and OneCry for Revival forms bonds with Christians worldwide.

Occasionally I am asked how HPM is supported. We are a mission, supported by individuals and churches. Those who understand the critical role of prayer in finishing the task of world evangelization are always invited and encouraged to put us in their regular monthly missions budget. From the very beginning of our ministry, it has been a struggle to carve out a place for prayer in missions. It is through God’s grace and His people of faith and vision that we have been able to continue in the task. Check out our website for ways to join us: www.harvestprayer.com.

Ultimately, Harvest Prayer Ministries is about helping churches do their part in completing the task of world evangelization! When we begin to pray with passion for those who do not know Jesus, whether our next door neighbors or those on the other side of the planet, God’s power is released to do that which only He can do. What a privilege it is for all of us to be “in” on what God is doing as we join Him in prayer.

**Leading in prayer
on the National
Day of Prayer in
front of the U.S.
Capitol.**



in memory

Gordon W. Thompson

July 10, 1927 - December 15, 2011

Gordon Wesley Thompson passed away December 15, 2011 at the age of 84 from a massive stroke. He was surrounded by his wife, Erma, as well as his minister and wife, Bruce and Julie White.

Gordon was born in Eugene, Oregon on July 10, 1927. His grade school years were spent at Santa Clara Grade School. For high school, Gordon drove to Junction City so he could be in the FFA. He also was a guard on their basketball team, graduating in 1945.



Gordon had always planned to follow in his father's footsteps and become a farmer, working on the Thompson farm. After his minister, Gene Shelly, told him that "even farmers need to know the Bible," Gordon enrolled in San Jose Bible College. It was there that his life plans changed and he decided to sow a different kind of seed -- to "sow seeds" for God.

While at San Jose Gordon met fellow student Vivian Pollock. On June 7, 1948 they were married in the Santa Clara Church of Christ. After Gordon's graduation from San Jose in 1949, they began their life together on the mission field of Colegio Biblico on the border of Texas at Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, Mexico. Gordon served as a professor there for five years before they felt called to go to Puerto Rico. In 1954 they packed up their two little girls, Kathleen and Judy, and moved to San Juan.

The Thompsons were pioneers in the work of the Churches of Christ on the island, starting the Caparra Terrace Church which is still in existence today. In 1958 the Thompsons started an English-speaking Christian Day School for which Gordon served as the director and Vivian as the principal. Teachers for the school were recruited from the States and raised their own support. Both Kathleen and Judy grew up attending the school. In 1974, 20 years after they left for Puerto Rico, the Thompsons returned to the States for health reasons. By that time, the school had its own property and building, both debt-free, as well as a student body of over 300 children.

In December of 2008, at their 50th Anniversary Celebration, the school brought Gordon back to honor him as Founder of the Christian Day School. The current Governor of Puerto Rico is a graduate of the School.

In 1976, after two years back home in Oregon taking care of health issues, God called Gordon and Vivian to the Dominican Republic. While in the DR, the Thompsons put thousands of New Testaments in the schools. It was through that effort that many converts and young men were taught by Gordon to become preachers who, in turn, started several churches, many of which still continue in the mountainous areas. Gordon and Vivian also held medical clinics for people who lived in the more isolated areas of the island. They remained in the Dominican Republic for the next 14 years until Vivian's health began to fail and they were forced to once again return home to Eugene, Oregon.

After returning home in 1990, Gordon commuted once a month for a year in order to help in the transition of their ministry work to Doug and Carol Reed. Even after his return to Oregon, Gordon continued to be active in Mission work. For many years he served on the Board of Oregon Latin American Evangelism as well as preached from time to time in Hispanic Churches. He also spent several years visiting and participating in the University Christian Campus Ministry which is directed by Dick Beswick.

In 2001, Gordon and Vivian's oldest daughter, Kathleen Hernandez, went to be with the Lord, followed in 2002 by his beloved wife of 54 years, Vivian. Gordon is survived by his second wife, Erma Smith Thompson; his daughter, Judy Murillo, of Santa Cruz, California; and grandsons, Raphael Murillo and Tony and Danny Rose, of New Jersey. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Gordon was a very devoted servant of God and served him faithfully on the mission fields. He was a wonderful, caring and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He and Erma lived life to the fullest every day in spite of the knowledge that he was living with a very large brain aneurysm for the last 3 years. Gordon had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to tell corny jokes. He was a mentor, teacher, and preacher and loved by so many. His Celebration of Life Service was held January 8th at Garden Way Church.



Gifts

in Memory of:

Gordon W. Thompson

Gladys Hamilton

Given by:

Given by:

Erma Thompson
Eugene, OR

Frank & Alice Baker
Knoxville, TN

focus on

Prayer Needs & Praises

Kenya

- Tim & Cheryl Doggett (ACM International) request prayer that work permits will be forthcoming.
- The Doggetts also request prayer for an East Africa trip in April.

Brazil

- Give praise that Lloyd David Sanders, a pioneer missionary, turned 94 in February. Of the 94 years, 64 have been spent in Brazil.
- Please pray for the Global Gathering of the World Convention being planned for next July 25-29 in Goiania.

Hong Kong

- Ken & Linda Smyth request prayer for their preparation for a 7-week IBS training program for China church leaders. This e-mail training is scheduled for April 2 - May 19.

India

- Richard & Marguerite Uriah request prayer . . .
 - for the church members in West Bengal.
 - for the new church recently begun in Mynsang.
 - for a young boy from the Mynsang area who is currently sponsored and being trained in school through grade 12 to become a leader in the church in his home district.
- Phillip & Margaret Ho give . . .
 - thanks that Phillip's health is improving and he will be able to resume all normal activities soon.
 - praise for the dedication of the Umlympung Christians and their efforts to spread the gospel and serve.
 - praise for the successful seminar in Nongpoh; pray that it will continue to bear fruit in the lives of the women who attended.

Guinea

- Marty & Tina Ganong request prayer for the Baga people.
- Pray for Marty as he nears completion of the translation of the book of Acts.
- Pray for peace to prevail in the country.

Japan

- David & Brenda Atkin (Taiwan) request prayer for a mission trip scheduled to Japan March 29 - April 5. Sixteen individuals will be going to the tsunami zone to help make a difference and be a light for Christ there.

Poland

- Give praise that a new minister is now serving in Plock. Leszek Juszczyzyn and his wife, Ela, will be serving a weekend ministry through August and then become full-time.
- Please pray for the Warsaw South congregation (Marek Sobotka, minister) as they continue to look for a new place to meet.

Ukraine

- Georges & LaVerne Carillet request prayer as they return to the Ukraine still awaiting visas. They will have 90 days to secure those after they arrive.
- The Carillets plan to return later this year in order for LaVerne to receive a knee replacement and also to have her bad ankle fused.

USA

- Rob & Catherine Taylor (Action, USA) request prayer for their unborn child (a baby boy due in May to be named Ethan Robert). It was recently discovered that the baby has a heart defect which will require surgery within his first week after birth. This procedure is scheduled to be done at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. It is estimated that several surgeries will be required to correct the defect.

Team Expansion

- Join S & K in a sensitive field in praying for seekers to meet Jesus, and for new leaders to step out in faith.
- Pray that AB will progress in language learning in the sensitive field in which she is serving.
- Ask God to give direction to A & K for next steps in the pursuit of ministry in a foreign land.
- Join R & E in praying for the Aceh people currently in Joplin, Missouri. May they hear the Good News and take it back to their own people.
- Ask God to bless Lora Christenberry (Japan) in language learning and outreach to teens.
- Chad & Jennifer Huddleston (Japan) request prayer for the people of Tohoku as they recover from the effects of the tsunami which occurred over a year ago.
- Ask for God's direction for Elisabeth Johnson as she begins a new season of ministry in Japan.

Papua New Guinea

- Jesse & Karie Pryor give praise that their new clinic is under roof. A ramp has also been constructed and cement pads are in place to hold the new 9,000-gallon water tanks.
- Pray that the new classroom facility to house the mission school will be ready for full use before the Pryors return to the US on furlough in April.



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