



The Mustard Seed



Rehoboth Baptist Church Newsletter ~ September 2018



Turning Scripture into Prayer – Pastor Steve

I'm sure if asked any of you how your prayer life was going, I would get a similar response. We all tend to be a bit embarrassed that we do not pray more often; and when we do pray, how often do we put ourselves to sleep?

I was reminded this week of a simple method that I often use when praying up front on Sunday but do not think to use the rest of the week. Praying the scriptures. The idea is very simple to implement, and I believe it would greatly enrich our prayers for one another.

Sally Michael in her curriculum for older toddlers, "His Praiseworthy Deeds," explains how to change Psalm 1:1 into a prayer for our little ones:

"Verse 1: Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of markers.

"Don't let him listen to ungodly advice or follow the wisdom of this world; or be swept up into untruth. Don't let him follow ungodly friends or associate with those who despise the truth and sin against you; help him to choose good friends and to love the people of God. Help him to love those who love your word and listen to the advice of those who would seek your counsel. Don't ever let him mock the things of God or make fun of truth; help him not to be ashamed of the gospel." (bold hers)

This gives you the basic idea. I would like to challenge our church family to do the following:

Each week we could take a verse or two and turn it into a prayer request. Take some time and write it out for yourself. Next, using our church directory, we would pray this prayer for one family each day (along with those already on your daily prayer list).

Your prayer could easily be adapted for unsaved loved ones, neighbors, our missionaries, and for ourselves.

I believe this simple method would greatly enrich our prayer life. It would certainly break the tedium of praying the same thing for the same people day in and day out.

An excellent resource to further stimulate this practice is Matthew Henry's book, *Method of Prayer*. I

found an on-line version of his book at: <http://www.matthewhenry.org/> which provides easy access to his scripture-based prayers in several different categories.

Let us get in the habit of turning the Scriptures into prayer, conforming our requests for ourselves and one another to the great purposes of God.



On the Lord's prayer

If you are interested enough to have read thus far you are probably interested enough to make a shot at saying your prayers: and, whatever else you say, you will probably say the Lord's Prayer.

Its very first words are Our Father. Do you now see what those words mean? They mean quite frankly, that you are putting yourself in the place of a son of God. To put it bluntly, you are dressing up as Christ. If you like, you are pretending. Because, of course, the moment you realise what the words mean, you realise that you are not a son of God. You are not being like The Son of God, whose will and interests are at one with those of the Father: you are a bundle of self-centred fears, hopes, greeds, jealousies, and self-conceit, all doomed to death. So that, in a way, this dressing up as Christ is a piece of outrageous cheek. But the odd thing is that He has ordered us to do it.

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Visit us at: www.RehobothBaptistChurch.org
Ideas & Comments: dla85@dlittlehale.com



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MISSION NEWS – Sellers

Is Hungary on the Brink Of a Christian Revival?

"God has not abandoned Hungary," say missionaries in Budapest.

An article by World Venture:

When Geza, the Grand Prince of the Hungarians, began ruling in 972 A.D., he quickly gained a reputation as a cruel leader. But something changed when he decided to make peace with the Holy Roman Empire: he accepted Christianity and welcomed missionaries from the West into his land.

According to one historian: "He laid down a rule that the favor of hospitality and security be shown to all Christians wishing to enter to his domains. He gave clerics and monks leave to enter his presence; he offered them a willing hearing, and delighted them in the germination of the seed of true faith sown in the garden of his heart."

And yet, Geza did not fully relinquish the pagan practices of his past, continuing to sacrifice to both the Christian God and his previous gods.

In a sense, modern Hungary is replicating what Geza established more than 1000 years ago. Crawling back from the Communism era, the country is taking a steps to re-institute its Christian heritage. Take, for example, Hungary's recent constitution changes. Not only does it read, "God bless the Hungarians," but it also takes the stance that marriage is between one man and one woman, affirms life at conception, and condemns eugenics. In addition, Prime Minister Viktor Orban has installed religious education in all public schools, and gave larger families a break in the tax code.

With these Christian values playing a dominant role in the public sphere, some wonder whether Hungary is experiencing a Christian awakening. And yet, Hungarians, at the same time, are holding on to the secularism that's typical of Europe, even expressing interest in neopaganism. How do Western missionaries help Hungarians accept salvation through Jesus?

It Starts With Language

World Venture missionaries Keith and Beverly Sellers said this about Hungarians, "They're nice enough on the surface, but they're not going to be your friend just because you're buying their apples." They illustrated that how Hungarians are not interested in superficiality, especially from foreigners.

Arriving in Budapest in 2000, the Sellers proved the depth of their commitment to the country by learning Hungarian, one of the hardest languages for English speakers to learn. They spent three years of intense language learning, and continued to dedicate themselves to additional tutoring.

Was it worth the hard work? Absolutely, they say. Without it, the Sellers would never have reached beyond cultural politeness to deep relationships. "Hungarians brag, "It's a heavenly language-it takes an eternity to learn," said the Sellers. "You will never know if Hungarians like you or like what you are doing, until you learn their heart language."

Over the course of many years, Keith and Beverly have directly aided the growth and strengthening of six churches, while also having indirect involvement in countless others. Because of his mastery of the language, Keith preaches in many different types of churches, from traditional to modern, urban to rural. The couple serves in several other capacities, including teaching English to Hungarians, as well as running youth sports outreaches. Keith and Beverly are strongly dedicated in strengthening the existing churches, which is a great need. "A lot of new churches have started since the wall fell, but many are struggling too because of a lack of teamwork and understanding of how Christian leaders function with each other," they say. "There is a wave of churches, but there's a need to strengthen what's there too. There is a need to rediscover the Gospel."

Faith Church, a megachurch in Budapest, boasts an attendance of 8,000, and 70,000 around the country. Sandor Nemeth, its pastor, started the church 36 years ago in an apartment, risking harassment from the Communist government at the time. The church now runs a seminary and teaches religion classes in public schools.

Keith and Beverly have said, "Faith Church is dynamic; it's growing." But they worry that Faith Church promotes a prosperity gospel. "Praise God that people have come to the Lord, but there are many who have been disappointed."

Changes in Culture

The controversial church law of 2012 limited what the country defined as a church from 350 groups to only 14. Some saw this as a breach of religious freedom, as the faith organizations that lost their church status also lost tax breaks and other benefits. But according to the Sellers, the law may have had more to do with finances, and less to do with religious discrimination.

The law did not affect how Keith and Beverly are growing and strengthening the existing churches. When they are out evangelizing and meeting Hungarians, the biggest thing they are noticing is a shift away from the organized church. "There are pockets of spiritual awakening, but mostly it's an underlying culture change, Keith said.

What the Sellers are noticing, especially among many younger Hungarians, is that they are seeking something beyond what their secular culture is giving them. "They know there has got to be answers out there, and they are more willing to talk to foreigners or people with new ideas than ever before, they said.



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Keith and Beverly are using this new openness and interest to draw Hungarians to Christ. "The next step is to hopefully help people become spiritually aware, and then spiritually hungry...God is definitely working, God has not abandoned Hungary," they said.

Church planting and evangelism in Hungary takes more time, energy, and effort. The Sellers are seeing the fruit of patient labor in young people coming to Jesus, rediscovering the Gospel, and church leaders who are growing their Gospel-centered churches.

In the meantime, Keith and Beverly are continually learning from the Hungarians. They have learned how to pray. In a culture that is heavily influenced by Eastern thought, stories -and stories about the life of Jesus- have the potential to greatly impact the minds and hearts of the Hungarian people.

The Sellers are praying that the flood of revival will come to Hungary. Until they finish breaking up the fallow ground to plant seeds of truth, they will continue starting and deepening relationships with Jesus among the Hungarian people.

"The friendships that we have made with the Hungarians are so deep, and they will be forever, and we are really thankful for that," they shared.

Prayer requests from a recent newsletter-

Pray for the young families and children in the church where Keith and Beverly currently serve, that there will be future spiritual growth in their lives.

Pray for the Lord's provision of a larger facility for their church in a new location.

Pray for English language students, Laszio, Zoli, and Erzsebet, that they would remain strong in their faith.

Pray for a revival in Hungary

Pray for Keith and Beverly as they serve the Lord so faithfully, and share His Gospel in Budapest.

How to Go to God

by Steve Brown

A man once called me to talk about some very difficult problems. After he finished his story, the man said, "Please pray for me..."

...I'm not on speaking terms with God."

My first reaction to that was, "Oh, come on now, you don't have to be on speaking terms with God...he loves you. You just talk to him the way you talk to a friend."

While what I said was true, it is not as simple as that. One of the problems with parents is that we sometimes forget what it was like to be a child—filled with wonder and with questions, filled with joy and with fear. It is the same way with us as believers at times. We forget what it was like to be an unbeliever.

We forget that the things that seemed so true, so simple and so real are not always that way when Jesus is a stranger.

I remember when I was a teenager and had just come to know Christ. I had some questions about a Bible translation and someone said to me, only kidding, "Why don't you ask Billy Graham?" Needless to say, that suggestion was almost beyond my comprehension, but Dr. Graham was preaching near by. I went to hear him and waited around until everyone else had gone. Then I went up to Dr. Graham with fear and trepidation to ask him what he thought about the Bible translation. I was surprised as Dr. Graham bent over to talk to me about his thoughts as if he had all the time in the world.

My feelings on that occasion were probably similar to those feelings people have who have not yet met Christ, as they contemplate coming to know him.

So the questions are: If you aren't on speaking terms with Jesus, what do you say? How do you act? What should you expect? When you go to God, if you go to him, how should you do it? Let's find some answers in Mark 2:1-12.

Go to God with persistence and faith (Mark 2:4-5).

One of the reasons people never really experience the reality and the joy of a relationship with Christ, and one of the reasons why many Christians are so far from him, is the flippant attitude we take: "All right, God. I'm checking you out and if, in the next five minutes, you don't reveal yourself to me, then I'm going to show you. I just won't believe in you."

How different from that attitude are the comments of the psalmist: "My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning—Yes, more than those who watch for the morning" (Psalm 130:6). It reflects the truth of James 1:4, "But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

We live in an instant society. However, God is not like frozen food we plo p into a microwave and is ready to eat in two minutes. When you care enough to try long enough, God will be there.

Back to, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). It is also the persistence of the widow in Luke 18.

Doubts? Stay with it. Afraid? Stay with it. Wondering what the Christian faith is all about? Stay with it. Problems? Stay with it. You will be surprised at where such persistence leads.

Go to God with others (Mark 2:3).

The fact is no one ever comes to Christ by himself or herself. A lot of times I have heard people make the comment, "No one led me to Christ. I just quietly, in the privacy of my own room, asked him to come into



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my life.” The truth, though, is quite different. When hearing such a comment, I want to ask...Who told you? What did God do—just zap you with knowledge? Did you not read the Scriptures? Where did you get the Bible? Who wrote the words? Did you not meet his followers somewhere who had peace, meaning and love, and then cry out that you wanted it too?

Peter had his Andrew. Paul had his Stephen and Ananias. Timothy had his Paul. John Mark had his Barnabus. God has ordained that when we come to him, we usually come with others.

Have you ever been completely helpless? Have you ever had to trust someone else? If you have ever been lost in the mountains, faced an operation or tried to learn a new skill such as swimming then you know what I mean. Sometimes it takes that kind of trust.

What is interesting about this is that the person who leads you to God for the first time or for the umpteenth time back to him may be the least expected person. It may be the man or woman who works for you. It may be your neighbor. It may be a distant family member. If you come to him, though, you will probably come with others.

Go to God despite opposition (Mark 2:6-7).

If you are a Christian, you are in the minority. If you search for Christ, you will be in the minority. But, you see, truth is not decided on by an election. Truth is true because it is true, not because anyone voted on it.

Matthew 7:13-14 teaches this: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

If I had a nickel for every time I have been called a fanatic, I would be a very rich man. If I had a nickel for every time a believer I know faced opposition, hostility, mocking or anger, I would be able to buy whatever my eyes set upon, without exception.

The principle is this: If there is a God, there is his opposite. If God’s purpose in this world is to draw all men and women to himself, the purpose of his opposite is to keep all men and women from him. When you get serious about God, don’t think for a moment that there will be no opposition. If there is no opposition, then you’re walking down the wrong road.

Go to God accepting what he has to give you...not what you want him to give you (Mark 2:5).

The paralytic and his friends here wanted to see a miracle. They did not want forgiveness...but Jesus is always surprising people.

What happens when you encounter a surprising God? You may pray for power, but receive patience. You may pray for money, but receive trust. You may pray for time, but receive discipline. Like a good doctor,

God is accurate in his diagnosis and treatment. He knows exactly what we need.

What should you expect when you go to God? I don’t know. He treats each one of us as individuals. We are not a number with him. God knows your particular story and will respond to you differently than the way he responds to others. But go to him, open and waiting. Whatever he gives, take it, for that is always best.

Go to God expecting to come home whole (Mark 2:9-12).

I don’t know much, but I do know this: Jesus is in the business of putting things together. Jesus is in the business of creating balance. Jesus is in the business of making people whole. That is what Jesus sells in his store: “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly” (John 10:10).

Remember that God is not playing a game with you. He gave up his only Son for you on a cross. It was not a joking matter. He broods over your wholeness. It is not a game.

Sometimes God’s goodness and holiness are hot and hurtful, but it is the heat and the hurt of a surgeon’s knife that you might be well. Sometimes he will appear distant and withdrawn, but it is the distance of a leader who would beckon his follower to the top of a mountain to see the magnificence of the world. Sometimes his love will seem angry, but he is a Father who loves his child more than his own life. Sometimes his demands will seem impossibly hard, but those demands are the demands of one who would teach you to trust, to wait, to be still and to know.

Samuel Rutherford many times gave the following advice to those who had come to him depressed and doubting: “Take you a house next door to the (great) physician, for it will be very singular (indeed) if you should prove to be the very first he ever turned away unhealed...” God’s purpose for you is always wholeness. Outside of him, there is no wholeness.

So decide to go to him. God is waiting with the open arms of love and acceptance.

Time to Draw Away

Read John 3:16 & John 20:24-29

Are you on speaking terms with Jesus? Are you afraid to even approach God? No matter where you find yourself on the belief continuum between certainty and doubt, God will meet you right there. We are saved by his grace. We grow by his grace too. So go to God with your questions, doubts and struggles—without censoring a thing (he can take it). You’ll find him waiting.

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September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	3 Wendy Soares Labor Day	4 7:00 pm Deaconess 7:00 pm Missions	5 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting	6	7 Mark Phelps	8
9 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	10	11 7:00 pm Elders & Deacons	12 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting	13 Caleb Kitchen Cindy Kitchen	14	15 10:00 am Rehoboth Block Party 3:00 pm Honoring Al & Wendy
16 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	17	18 7:00 pm Eld./Deac. Pray & Visit	19 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting	20	21 Paul Schneider	22 John & Kathy Frye
23 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Members' Meeting	24	25 David & Elaine Costanzo	26 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	27 4:00 pm Good News Club	28	29
30 Elaine Costanzo Jennie Turnquist 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service						

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October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Diane Gustafson 7:00 pm Deaconess 7:00 pm Missions	3 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	4 4:00 pm Good News Club	5	6
7 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	8 Columbus Day (regional holiday)	9 7:00 pm Elders & Deacons	10 7:00 pm Semi-Annual Business Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	11 Debbie Walls John & Bev Winsor 4:00 pm Good News Club	12	13 10:00 am Visitation
14 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	15	16 7:00 pm Eld./Deac. Pray & Visit	17 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	18 4:00 pm Good News Club	19	20
21 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	22	23 Edie Payne Rebekah Gendron	24 Tony Belcher 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir	25 4:00 pm Good News Club	26 Loraine Belcher 3:00 pm Bolton Conference	27 3:00 pm Bolton Conference
28 9:00 am Sun.School 10:30 am Worship 6:00 pm Evening Service	29	30	31 Elizabeth DaRosa Halloween 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Choir			