

CPC This Week

JANUARY 27, 2010

LEARNING TOGETHER

THE PRAYER STORY

BY BOB CLARK

As many of you know, the youth group spent last weekend at a retreat in the Chicagoland area. Our speaker was a friend of mine, Bob Allums. Our topic was the "Praying Life".

I was impressed by one particular aspect - a different take than I've heard before regarding prayer. It was seeing my prayer life as a story - a story that recounts the working of God in all of life - mine and yours. Specifically, that we are all part of His story for this time, yet it links to both our past and future. Our prayer story builds upon the stories of so many others who trusted God to work in amazing ways in their days. In fact, many of us who are serving God and His church today, do so as an answer to prayers. Many of us who are married, have the husband or wife as a result of many, many prayers. Your occupation is due, in part, to words uttered on knees from, well, who knows.

So, it follows that our prayer life will be the writing of another part of God's story, both now and in the future. God uses the combination of our requests and His answers to communicate the story of the living gospel to the world. As Bob said, think of all the times that Jesus spoke to His Father in the midst of ministry to others. So it should be with us. The co-worker, the family member, the friend - they are all part of our story in God's grace that we tell through prayer. Although there were many, I wrote down this particularly great quote from Bob - "Prayer is the activity that most resembles the gospel."

But prayer is hard work. It takes time and energy to be involved in this story. This point wasn't missed by Bob or the writer of the Prayer Life participant's manual. Their subtitle is "Learning to pray in a distracting world." It's easy to be distracted from prayer. Distractions come from anywhere, anybody, and anytime. And we don't often do much to help ourselves when distractions occur. Still, Bob encouraged us to begin the process - even if it was just five minutes every morning. Not only then, but Bob also encouraged our youth to fill their days with what I will call "divine interruptions."

It was an excellent reminder for all of us of just how important prayer is for our relationship with our Father. When we get started, another page of the story is written.

**THIS SUNDAY'S SERMON TEXT:
EXODUS 3:1-4**

**FEBRUARY VERSES TO MEMORIZE:
1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-7**

LIFE TOGETHER

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- * **The Sierra Leone team: Melissa Owens, Jim Roszell, and Beth Ann Stein. They will leave Thursday and return on Saturday, February 6.**
- * **CPC Seminary Students: David Baker, Jeff Nottingham, and Amy Petery**

HELPING HAITI

If you would like to contribute to the work of Gladys Thomas in Haiti in the wake of the recent earthquake, here is the address and website:

**USFCH, PO Box 521171,
Tulsa, OK 74152-1171
www.usfch.org.**

All monies go directly to Haiti to meet the needs.

THIS SUNDAY... QUARTERLY OFFERING FOR ROCK SOLID

This will support Rock Solid's Breadbasket Ministry, through which we serve meals on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

THIS SATURDAY... MEN'S BREAKFAST 7:30-8:30 A.M.

**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF YOU
PLAN TO ATTEND!**

PRAYING FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH: NIGERIA

**VOICE OF THE
MARTYRS REPORTS
NUMEROUS DEATHS
FROM VIOLENCE
BETWEEN MUSLIMS
AND CHRISTIANS IN
JOS, NIGERIA.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO...

1/27 - Mike Cougill
1/28 - David Byrd
1/28 - Taylor Stein
1/31 - Melanie Munn
1/31 - Violet Nottingham
2/3 - Kris Hubbell
2/3 - Zachary Lett

THIS WEEK'S FRIENDLY REMINDER...

Each Sunday morning, our musicians begin leading "gathering songs" at 9:20. Please join us as we enter our season of worship to the Lord.