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Too busy to pray? – Bret Nazworth

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and He brought them out of their distresses. He caused the storm to be still, so that the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they were quiet, so He guided them to their desired haven. Psalm 107:28-30

Thomas Edison once said, “Being busy does not always mean real work.” I think one of the subtlest attacks on modern Christianity has to be our misconception concerning busyness. Many of us believe that if we are active, especially with God’s work, we are pleasing the Lord. In reality, busyness can become a real enemy.

The two articles this month both highlight the importance of prayer. In 2017 don’t let the many good activities you are involved in get in the way of communicating with the only **One** who can make a real difference.

While our loving Father invites us to bring all our needs to the throne room of His grace, we often give mere cursory acknowledgment to this open door. We think we have far too much to do to take time for prayer, while in reality apart from God we can do nothing! As we begin the New Year, we all need to be reminded once again of our need to depend on God.

Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead; who delivered us from so great a peril of death, and will deliver us, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many. 2 Corinthians 1:9-11



Workshops 2016-2017

- March 16-27
- March 20-25
- March 22-26
- April 10-15
- April TBD
- April 24-28

- LIBERIA, AFRICA – Panrama of the Old Testament workshop**
- LIBERIA – Panorama of the Old Testament workshop**
- LVIV UKRANE – Women of the Word workshop**
- CAMPO BELLO NEW BRUNSWICK – Colossians workshop**
- SIERRA LEONE – Revelation workshop**
- ZAMBIA – Panorama of the New Testament workshop**

Prayer Requests

Pray for wisdom for trips that are being planned for the spring and summer. Pray for visas, travel safety, funding, and open hearts for each team we send out. Pray for a filming project we hope to undertake this year to film DM2 curriculum. Pray for several DM2 curriculums to be finalized including 1 Corinthians and Hebrews. Pray for young people who are part of DM2 college ministries on various campuses. Pray for churches to have success in disciple making here and abroad.



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James 5:16b – The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

because of God intervening for His glory. I cannot thank you enough for the prayer requests sent to God’s throne room in support of our efforts to serve the Lord in Sierra Leone.

Now we are looking forward to the spring trip to return to our African home to teach the next workshop. It is never too early to start praying for the next opportunity to serve the Lord. We are transitioning to Field Director Michael Turay’s new church for future conferences. There are several logistical needs that must be accomplished to meet that goal. The next curriculum must be reviewed and learned for the teachers to be prepared to accurately communicate God’s Word in the spring. The local group of believers in Sierra Leone needs our constant prayers for their ministry as they continue to grow in their understanding of God’s Word. Just as your prayers were clearly evident in the completing of this trip, they can also be of great benefit for the preparation and execution of the next trip. I humbly request that you keep the DM2 Sierra Leone field as a permanent addition to your prayer list as you continue to devote yourself to prayer (Col. 4:2).

Praise the Lord for granting us the provision of unlimited access to the throne of grace through our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus so that we may approach the Father in prayer with confidence.

Having returned home safely from Sierra Leone and having spent some time reflecting on the blessing we experienced throughout the trip, one thing has become apparent: it is wonderful to have such a dedicated group of prayer warriors taking our trip to God’s throne room! I believe this was the best mission trip in which I have had the pleasure of participating. The studying and teaching of the material is always edifying and worthwhile. The evidence of God working behind the scenes during these trips is always clear. And the wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ in Sierra Leone are always sincerely welcoming and joyful. These things all seem to grow in magnitude with each trip.

The message of Colossians was of great significance to me in my physical circumstances and had great impact on my spiritual growth. It has been an immeasurable blessing to dedicate time to focusing on the reality of my position in Christ as Paul taught in his letter to the Colossians. Pulling in references from other Pauline epistles that communicate the same truth related to living out our spiritual life resulted in making this aspect of God’s Word become more alive in my understanding, and, Lord willing, as I apply them, more alive in my daily walk. I am to set aside my old self and put on my new self (Col. 3:9-10) by means of maintaining a focus on my position of being seated at the right hand of the Father in Christ (Col. 3:1-4), letting the Word of Christ richly dwell within my thinking (Col. 3:15-16).

One of the most motivating aspects of this trip was the clear evidence of the support we received from our fellow believers. Every day we saw clear results of saints taking the needs of the mission trip to the Lord in prayer. Answers were abundant everywhere we looked. Logistical needs were all met. Health needs were all met. Travel needs were all met. Rest needs were all met. Teaching needs were all met. And these are just the major items that were clear answers to prayer requests from many of you. I could fill several pages of individual examples of how the Lord answered prayers during this trip. Being of a scientific mindset, I can tell you that the probability of all these elements lining up as well as they did is far beyond the rationale of being coincidental. Clearly, this trip was elevated to this level of success

Clearly Epaphras was a disciple-maker who learned from Paul and then took the truth to his hometown of Colossae. Next, from Colossians 1:9-12, we taught the beautiful prayer for a fruitful life of service to the Lord.

Most of the attendees of the workshop have been with us for the past five years. We are so thankful to God’s grace for the ongoing growth in these men and women. Time and space alone are not enough to share the stories of so many who have done so much with the truth they have learned. They are not simply getting knowledge for the sake of knowledge; as true disciple-makers, they are putting their knowledge into faith-application. All glory to God!

All in all, the rest of the week went extremely well. By God’s grace, we were on schedule to finish a little early, giving us time to dig into some topics that needed addressing. Since many of these disciple-makers have been with us from the beginning, we were able to focus on some side issues we knew needed clarification.

Please continue to pray for these men and women. Our field director informed us that many have come under conviction concerning errors in their churches that need to be changed. They have also come under conviction concerning issues in their own personal lives. We are grateful for the way God has used His Word to bring about a renovation of thought in so many.

All went well as we ended on Friday afternoon. We were greatly encouraged by the written replies to the post-workshop survey. Many expressed their gratitude for the teaching of God’s Word and explained changes the teaching had made in their thinking. Several new folks who had doubts concerning their salvation became convinced of their security in Christ. Many expressed how the teaching of Colossians 3 regarding marriage and family profoundly impacted them. As usual, the course-completion ceremony was a joyful time of celebrating God’s grace. Once again, a fruitful week of serving the Lord together had come to an end.

Pray for God’s timing and logistics as we plan to return to Sierra Leone in the spring to teach the book of Revelation. Grace Center Bible Church has been completed and we are thankful we will be having workshops in this facility the next time we go to Sierra Leone. Thank you for your concern and please remember the disciple-makers of Sierra Leone before the throne of grace.

Pastor Clay Ward –Pleroma Bible Church

Kooshey! (Hello everyone!)

After arriving in Sierra Leone, Tommy Northcott and I spent a relaxing Saturday making final preparations for the Colossians Workshop. Michael Turay, the DM2 field director, shared several areas of concern he felt we should address during our teaching. Much to Tommy’s chagrin, this meant additional PowerPoint slides, but thankfully God provided cooler-than-usual evenings and electricity to run our fans all night long.

The next day we enjoyed a time of fellowship with the body of Christ at Grace Center Bible Church where Michael pastors. The message we shared focused on distinctions between Peter and John in John 21. Our emphasis was on faith-resting in what the Lord has done, and is doing, for us, rather than on what we can do for Him.

As the service ended, we trudged down the hill to a shallow creek just below the new church worksite for a baptismal service. It was a great event with a total of eleven believers baptized.

By the time Monday morning rolled around, we were excited to begin teaching the book of Colossians. Due to the difficulty of travel in Africa, only thirty-five disciple-makers were present the first day, but more soon arrived.

Tommy and I shared the teaching load, alternating each hour. Our emphasis was on our sufficient and preeminent Savior, Jesus Christ, and how He must remain the constant focus of our faith. Our preparations had reinforced in our own minds how we can only know God through the eternal Son, Jesus Christ. With this major focus on Christ in mind, we taught His sufficiency not only for our salvation but also for our sanctification. From the start of the epistle, by exalting Christ, Paul attacked a heresy that later became known as Gnosticism. Sadly, this erroneous thinking still disrupts our churches today.

Early on, Paul mentioned Epaphras, the one from whom the Colossians had learned the truth. As Tommy taught Colossians 1:7-8, he took advantage of Epaphras’ discipleship-in-action to emphasize the biblical model of teaching believers to replicate that is followed by DM2.

Tommy Northcott – Regional Ministry Director

