



The Mustard Seed

February 2012

Power Through Prayer

E. M. Bounds wrote “What the Church needs today is not more machinery or better, not new organizations or more and novel methods, but men *and women* whom the Holy Ghost can use, men *and women* of prayer, men and women mighty in prayer. The Holy Ghost does not flow through methods, but through men *and women*. He does not come on machinery, but on men *and women*. He does not anoint plans, but men *and women* – men *and women* of prayer.” Hebrews 10: 19 states that we have “...*boldness to enter the Holiest...*”. The writer to the Hebrews also exhorts us (4:16) to “...*come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*” James, reminds us “...*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*” and then points to Elijah as our example who is a man just like us.

According to the Scriptures, all of those who are “*in Christ Jesus*” have the indwelling Spirit and have access to the “*throne of grace*”. All of those whom are the children of God by faith in Jesus are to “...*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;...*” There are many prayers in the Scriptures that may be used as models for our own prayer life. But, the exhortation from Philippians 4 invites us to “...*let your requests be made known ...*”.

Many in our midst are concerned about a variety of things. They express their concern to one another. As a people of God, our concerns ought to be expressed to the “*throne of grace*”. It is from the “*throne of grace*” that we “*obtain mercy and find grace*”. So, do you take your concerns to the “*throne of grace*”? Do you pray for each person in the congregation as well as the corporate body? If your concern is: number of attendees, money in the coffers, public opinion, or other mundane issues, do you take these concerns to the “*throne of grace*”? If your concern is: the need for reconciliation, that others would have the assurance of our inheritance, that all would grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ, that all would exercise their Spiritual gift that all would benefit, that God's people would declare the Gospel without fear, that the corporate body be salt and light lifting Jesus so that men and women would be drawn to Him or other issues of the heart, do you take these to the “*throne of grace*”? What a privilege to tell the Father who is in Heaven what is on our heart. Whatever is our concern is a request that may be brought before the “*throne of grace*”.

But, our requests are to be accompanied by thanksgiving. We are to approach the “*throne of grace*” with grateful hearts. Consider the privilege of entering “... *the Holiest...*”. In the Old Testament, only the High Priest with blood was permitted to enter the “*Holiest*” and that but once a year. You, the child of God redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus, have access “*24 / 7*” to the “*throne of grace*”. The Scriptures even exhort us to “*pray without ceasing*”. This 24 / 7 access is possible because our High Priest, Jesus the Christ, entered the “*Holiest*” with His own blood and rent the veil of the Temple thus profaning and putting aside the Old Testament practice with its limitations. The shadow has become the reality. So, I encourage you to enter the “*Holiest*” and enter with praise upon your lips. Take all your requests and concerns before the throne, of grace, of the One who searches our hearts and knows our thoughts from afar off.

Let us become men and women of prayer. Let us be those through whom the Holy Ghost flows so that others may be blessed. As Jesus said to the woman of Samaria “... *the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life*”. That water is the indwelling Spirit. As He flows through us we become a means of blessing to those around us. Let us pray, individually and corporately , that we would be a people of prayer.

Pastor Russell



Annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 19th, 8-10 am

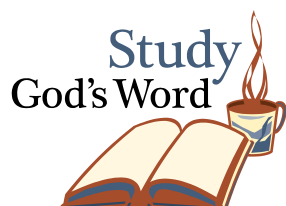
The Boy Scouts are cooking breakfast!! Come for breakfast, stay for service & then we will have lunch together too!! What a great day of fellowship.

NO Sunday School.



February Coffee Hour Hosting Schedule

February 5	Adult & Young Adult Sunday School
February 12	Church Council (includes entire congregation)
February 19	Congregational Pot Luck Luncheon
February 26	Stewardship



Our theme this year "A Call to Persevere" based on Hebrews 10:19-25

"Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, and having a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."





Dear Congregation,

Thank you for all the support you have shown at the Chili Cook-off to help us begin to raise funds to go to New Orleans this July to attend Challenge 2012, the EFCA National Conference for youth.

We are asking you to partner in prayer with us as we prepare our hearts and minds for what God has in store for us to learn at the conference. Please check out the following link for ways you can stay updated on prayer concerns for Challenge: <http://challengeconference.org/prayer>. If you would like to know more about challenge, please talk to Sonja Schmidt. We appreciate your love and encouragement through prayer as we learn and grow in Christ together!

In Him,

L.I.G.H.T. Youth Group



Pot Luck Luncheon

Diaconate invites you to join together on the 3rd Sunday of the month for a meal & time of fellowship together as a church family.

Next potluck is Sunday, February 19th. Bring a dish to share for our gathering. Thanks!



We are exploring sending our Newsletter electronically & would like to know if anyone would be interested in receiving it through email? Please send an email to office@wilcong.org with your preference. It will still be mailed to those who would prefer to receive it in print. This will save us money in postage each month to deliver some electronically.

Thank you!



Jon Ayers of Campus Crusade has left his ministry in Vermont and will be working in the mental health field. He will no longer need our support and wanted to let us know how much he has appreciated our prayers and support.

A recent letter from Mercy Ships thanks all of us for our continued support. The ship is presently off the coast of Sierra Leone in Africa. This past year thousands of people have experienced life-changing, and in many cases, life-saving transformations. Christmas had a special meaning for many people. Twelve year old Fanie walks with perfectly straight legs. Eleven year old Comfort attends school without criticism as her large facial tumor has been removed. Fatema sees for the first time after congenital cataracts were removed from her eyes. Six month old Aissatou's life is no longer cursed since her cleft lip repair.

New Life Ministries in Manchester, NH sent a letter about the fifteen children and their mothers who are presently in the home. They expressed the joy they see everyday with God's workin the hearts of the moms and in the lives of their children.

The Fold Ministries in Lyndonville, VT. Wrote us about the increasing and frightening pattern facing all of us - the assault upon the Christian family and traditional values that have been pillars of our society. Parents to whom they minister are feeling overwhelmed and discouraged by how easily their teens have become prey to worldly values and influences, provoking incredibly immoral attitudes and behaviors. These alarming trends amplify the importance of their mission: "Changing lives - Renewing hope - Restoring families - one son and one daughter at a time!"

Several missions members had the pleasure of meeting Dr. John Wang who is a cardiologist and adjunct professor in Biomedical Engineering at UMass Lowell. Because the infant mortality rate in parts of Peru is among the highest in the world and many Peruvian children do not survive to age ten, Dr. Wang has started the Peruvian Children's Fund and is in the process of going to Peru for three years to help reverse this tragedy. He has asked our church members to please pray that his work there is successful. To read more about his mission, please see their website at: www.peruvianchildrensfund.org

Your Missions Committee

EFCA & NEDANews

.2012 NEDA (New England District Association) Conference

The 2012 NEDA Conference "Jesus Speaks to His Church" will be held April 25, 26, 27 at Camp Spofford. Conference speaker is Dr. Grant Osborne, from TEDS. You will not want to miss it! See the attached brochure or go to our website www.efcneda.org for more information and online registration! Registration deadline is April 18, 2012.

Prayer Request (More detail on Ves' prayer request sent via prayer chain)

Please pray for our ministry partner, Aila, in the Horn of Africa:

Fighting broke out again last evening right in Isiolo where we are, less than 3 km from where we are staying and doing trainings. There is a killing in a place where we have a Church plant and it is in this place where we are to do medical camp this morning. 40 of the people who are in CPM training are stranded and had fears as we were praying last night. Please pray for us. Most of our Church Planters are here with me, Medical Camp team and we are all stranded, and tomorrow we were to go to Laisamis to be among the Samburu/Rendille, we don't know the safety on the way so we need your prayers. The fighting in Isiolo is between Somalis and Turkanas. The fighting here have completely affected our Church Planting movements, and its hard even to locate some of the believers who had moved far away to the region

Also same thing happened yesterday where our Church Planters and partners are meeting in Moyale. There is a training going on in Moyale for all the Church planters and partners from South Ethiopia and Northern Kenya at the time when this happened. Our Coordinator reported to me that Yesterday afternoon, the fighting broke out in Moyale town between Gabbra and Boran, less than 2 km where the meeting is taking place. The training could not go on for the afternoon session, as 60 people who are in the training on Church planting and Leadership took cover and resorted to prayers. When i talk to Adisu our field coordinator, they were still worried and don't know how this is going to turn out to be, the gun fighting started around 11 am and went on up 6 pm in the evening. Houses were burnt, some people reported to have died, i will get the full reports this morning to help me make decisions to call off the meeting and whether i can proceed for the remaining

Please pray for:

- 1. God's wisdom on how i can make decision for this day. We have 40 people on training and 11 for medical Camp and i have to make this decision within the next 2 hours*
- 2. Pray that in all these the people of God will find peace, the displaced Churches and their families*
- 3. At the training we have church planters from all these fighting tribes, let them be able to stay together without fearing of what is happening outside*
- 4. Many of the people in the villages had run to areas where the police are, please pray for the Churches which are being displaced*
- 5. Pray for me that I may stay strong, be able to advise well the teams on the ground*

Blessings and thanks for your prayers

Dr. Aila Tasse

Lifeway Mission Intl – Director

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Moving?

*Please notify the church office of
any address change. Please help us
keep our mailing list up-to-date.
Thank you!*

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March
Newsletter Deadline
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