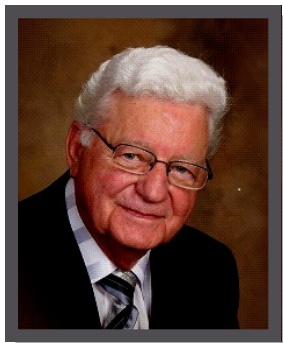




Events

OF THE WORLD BIBLE WAY FELLOWSHIP

THIS PRESENT DAY



I believe we are in the days which try the souls of men and the patience of God. Let me begin by presenting a graphic description of the age in which we find ourselves.

A day of influences operating against the progress of Christians' life and truth, it is surely a time for an emergency call to bring the people of God together for thanksgiving, confession and supplication that the tide of evil may be driven back and the wave of salvation may sweep over our land with a Heaven born, Heaven sent revival which is brought on by the power of prayer. Sadly enough, there was never a time when so many people wear the name Christian and yet never a time when, with far too many, the name meant less.

My friend, we are in a period of unrest. Great social forces are heaving and tossing until they threaten the very foundations of everything worthwhile. New and godless systems of social and economic life are rearing their heads, and boldly avowing their intent to destroy religion and wipe out the name of God among men. There is a gigantic conflict looming upon every horizon arraying class against class and breeding hatred in thousands of hearts. Across our planet hatreds are endeavoring to fan the flame until nations are baring their teeth ready to spring at each other's throats. There are great social evils that threaten not only the church, but the whole fabric of modern life. God help us! I am convinced that this battle is not

against "flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places". We surely need a fresh infusion of zeal for the things of God, an empowerment of the Spirit like that which made the church of the apostles a dynamo of evangelistic energy. The obstacles that confront us can never be overcome by the puny arm of flesh, nor by any devices of our own invention.

Is it not time for us to cry out to God with effectual fervent prayer? Is it not also a time for confession and repentance? Sadly enough so many of our churches have yielded to the popular clam-

yet sinners are not repenting, and the lives of multitudes of the saints are of the "earth, earthly" in many cases we have been told that the day of revivals is past and that we must no longer expect the sorrow for sin or the glow of pardon that once marked the work of salvation. Those things, they tell us, belonged to crude, primitive emotional experiences which our culture has outgrown. My friend, does it not say that our God is "the same yesterday, today and forever"? Sin is just as hideous and ugly as ever and its wages are still undying death. The plan of salvation has not changed a single iota. Repentance and faith remain the only way into eternal life through

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or that the voice of protest is miserably weak. The supreme hope of many religious organizations is to grow in power and increase their revenues rather than to save men and build Christian character. We seem to have more feasting than fasting, making merry than mourning over the lost, we have lots of applause with little reverence, many services but few converts. There seems to be a persistent clamor that the gospel shall adapt itself to the spirit of the age, and not that the people of the age shall repent and believe the gospel truths. We are not lacking in eloquent preachers in many pulpits, nor artistic singers in the choirs, but the appeal of the soul winner is lacking. We talk charmingly about goodness and sing seraphically about Heaven,

Christ. And the new birth is just as necessary as when our Lord preached to Nicodemus in the shadows of the Judean night. The trouble is just as in the days of the weeping prophet. "My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living water, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that hold no water." (Jer. 2: 13) Don't you think that it is high time we learn the futility of our human endeavor, the folly of fighting in our own strength, in the armor of our own invention? We need the Spirit who came at Pentecost. Let us not perish for lack of the breath of God.

What do you think about it!

SOME THINGS ARE NOT EASY

Scientific developments and economic prosperity through the years have created for most a soft life. The onerous task of shoveling snow has been relieved by the snow blower. Or perhaps we have managed to escape snow altogether by moving to areas where winter's discomforts are seldom or never a problem. Increasing numbers of us live in housing arrangements under which all our yard work and major maintenance jobs are done by others. And our homes, these days, are filled with a plethora of labor saving appliances and comfort enhancing devices. We move from place to place in efficient and comfortable cars that have power steering, power brakes and automatic transmissions that have made driving a pleasure. Sitting through a church service is made easier by padded pews and carefully controlled temperatures in both winter and summer. And should we be called upon to kneel, it is sure to be upon a carpeted floor if not upon a well-padded kneeler.

Some aspects of Christian living and the Lord's work will never be easy. This is especially true of effective intercessory prayer. Clearly the New Testament teaches there are important things that cannot be accomplished apart from fasting and long periods of waiting on God. Some praying brings the believer into conflict with demonic forces. Jesus emphasized in (Luke 11) and again in (Luke 18) the importance of persistence in prayer. There is still need for extended seasons and earnest effort in intercession. Intercessory prayer is work. It is the product of discipline more often than delight. It

fights sleepiness, pushes back distractions, perseveres despite discouragements and asks not for recognition or praise. It does not stop when the knees get sore and the body is tired. It does not hurry away after 15 minutes to return to other things. It is not relegated to spare minutes but is the first concern and priority. Indeed, in order to learn how to pray or to increase our effectiveness we end up spending more time reading books, attending week-end seminars or listening to inspiring speakers than we spend in actual prayer. To become true prayer warriors we must practice forcing ourselves, when it may become sometimes painful, to do so until we establish habits of protracted and traveling praying. Let us be honest. Few of us are paying the price of effective intercession. But that could change.

Every morning and evening I see people jogging. Some reflect pain on their faces and soaked with perspiration. Recently I have seen people who have braved bitter cold temperatures and biting wind to get their exercise. To whip their bodies into shape they expend this time and push their bodies to exhaustion. Persevering despite discomforts. Surely there are those of us who are willing to do so much in the ministry of intercessory prayer. The whole jogging craze started when many people finally were convinced that soft living was leading North America to ruin. Perhaps real intercessory prayer will become more common again when enough Christians recognize that softness could lead the church to ruin.

What do you think?

World Bible Way Fellowship

2015 Camp meeting - Bridgeport, W. Virginia

**KENNY HOWE, RORY COBBS,
ADAM LAWSON**

**MAURICE GRAY, JAMES GIZZI,
LARRY SOPCHAK**



"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord..."

West Virginia was the second of five nationwide minister conferences for WBWF

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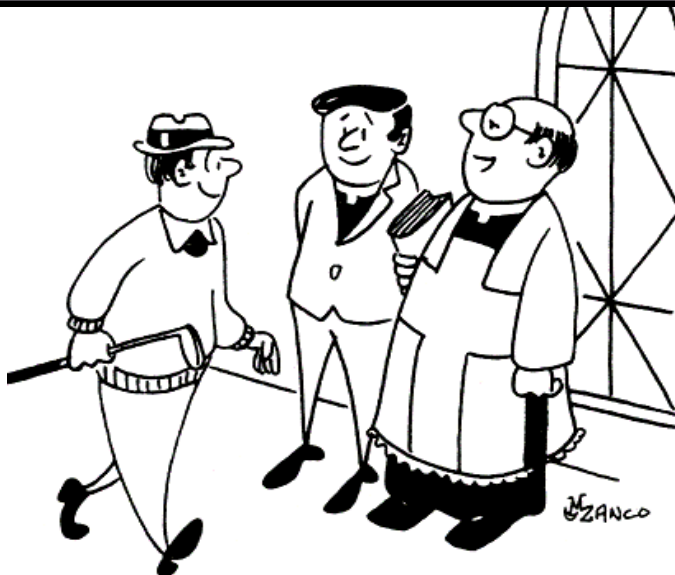
The Events

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*The heart is happiest when it
beats for others*



"Church attendance has doubled since I had a putting green installed in the vestibule."

