

October 2024

The Lighthouse

Here are some encouragements from the past on the subject of prayer. I have taken some selections from Lewis Bayly, Practice of Piety (first published around 1611), and lightly modernized them. I hope they encourage you!

Grace & Peace,
Tim

Meditations to stir us up to Morning Prayer.

1. If, when you are about to pray, Satan shall suggest that your prayers are too long, and that therefore it were better either to omit prayers, or else to cut them shorter, meditate that prayer is your spiritual sacrifice, wherewith God is well pleased (Heb. xiii. 15, 16;) and therefore it is so displeasing to the devil, and so irksome to the flesh. Bend therefore your affections (will they, nill they) to so holy an exercise; assuring yourself, that it does by so much the more please God, by how much the more it is unpleasing to your flesh.

2. Forget not that the Holy Ghost puts it down as a special note of reprobates, "They call not upon the Lord, they call not upon God." (Psal. xiv. 4; liii. 4.) And when Eliphaz supposed that Job had cast off the fear of God, and that God had cast Job out of his favor, he charged him that he restrained prayer before God (Job xv. 4;) making that a sure note of the one, and a sufficient cause of the other. On the other side, that God has promised that "whosoever shall call on his name shall be saved." (Rom. x. 13.) It is certain that he who makes no conscience of the duty of prayer, has no grace of the Holy Spirit in him, for the spirit of grace and of prayer are one (Zech. xii. 10;) and therefore grace and prayer go together. But he that can from a penitent heart morning and evening pray to God, it is sure that he has his measure of grace in this world, and he shall have his portion of glory in the life which is to come.

3. Remember, that as loathing of meat, and painfulness of speaking, are two symptoms of a sick body; so irksomeness of praying when you talk with God, and carelessness in hearing, when God, by his word, speaks unto you, are two sure signs of a sick soul.

4. Call to mind the zealous devotions of the Christians in the primitive church, who spent many whole nights and vigils in watching and praying for the forgiveness of their sins, and that they might be found ready at the coming of Christ; and that David was not content to pray at morning, at evening, and at noon (Psal. lv. 16, 17), but he would also rise up at midnight to pray unto God (Psal. cxix. 62.) And if Christ did chide his disciples, because they would not watch with him one hour in praying (Matt. xxvi. 40), what chiding dost you deserve, who thinks it too long to continue in prayer but one quarter of an hour? If you have spent divers hours at a vain

ball or play; yea whole days and nights in carding and dicing, to please your flesh, be ashamed to think that praying for a quarter of an hour is too long an exercise for the service of God.

6. Lastly, when such thoughts come into your head, either to keep you from prayer, or to distract you in praying, remember that those are the birds which the evil one sends to devour the good seed, and the carcasses of your spiritual sacrifices; but endeavor with Abraham, to drive them away (Gen. xv. 11.) Yet notwithstanding, if you perceive at times, that your spirits are dull, and your mind not apt for prayer and holy devotion, strive not too much for that time, but humbling yourself at the sense of your infirmity and dullness, knowing that God accepts the willing mind, though it be oppressed with the heaviness of the flesh (Matt. xxvi. 41; 2 Cor. viii. 12), endeavor the next time to recompense this dullness, by redoubling your zeal, and for the time present, commend your soul to God in... prayer.

Farther Meditations to stir up to Prayer in the Morning.

Think not any business or haste, though never so great, a sufficient excuse to omit prayer in the morning: But meditate--

1. That the greater your business is, by so much the more need you have to pray for God's good speed and blessing upon it, seeing it is certain that nothing can prosper without his blessing.
2. That many a man, when he thought himself surest, has been soonest crossed; so may you.
3. That many a man has gone out of his door, and never come in again: many a man who rose well and lively in the morning, has been seen a dead man ere night. So may it befall you: And if you be so careful, before you go abroad, to eat and drink, to fence thy body from ill airs, how much more careful should you be to pray to preserve your soul from evil temptations?
4. That the time spent in prayer never hinders, but furthers and prospers a man's journey and business.
5. That in going abroad into the world, you go into a forest full of unknown dangers, where you shall meet many briers to tear your good name, many snares to trap your life, and many hunters to devour your soul; it is a field of pleasant grass, but full of poisonous serpents: adventure not, therefore, to go naked amongst these briers, till you have prayed Christ to clothe you with his righteousness; nor to pass through these snares and ambushes, till you have prayed for God's providence to be your guide; nor to walk barefoot through this snaky field, till having your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, you have prayed to have still the brazen serpent in the eyes of your faith; that so if you come not home holier, you may be sure not to return worse than when you went out of your door.

Steven Hammond

September 2024

Serving in Nagoya, Japan

Welcome to the first **Steven Hammond in Japan** newsletter! (Well, I'm not in Japan *yet*. I'm getting there, though!)

I want to kick things off by giving you an update on how things are going. As it stands now, I've raised around 60 percent of the support needed to deploy, which is incredible! This, of course, is because of faithful partners and donors like you! So, I'd like to take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU!!**

Because of your generosity, I'm still on track to move to Japan around April 2025. For that I am extremely grateful. You guys are the best.

In the meantime, I'm continuing my work as a part-time after school caregiver at my church's Christian school until Christmas. It's been a blessing getting to serve these children over the past two years, and I pray I can finish well.

In October, I'll be attending Serge's Launch Week for a time of fellowship and spiritual refreshment in preparation for future deployment. That'll be fun, I'm sure!

In January, I'm heading out to Colorado to attend cross-cultural training at MTI, which I'm SUPER excited for. I've never been out west (as a conscious adult—toddler years don't count), so being able to finally travel that direction just adds to the hype.

Prayer Requests

Of course, I could certainly use your prayers! Please pray that:

- Support would continue to come in
- That I would finish my time as an after school caregiver well, sharing the love of Jesus with the kids until the very end
- For travel safeties to Philadelphia and to Colorado
- For health and wellness (working around children drastically increases my chance of getting sick, I've learned)

Once again, thank you so much for your prayers and support. It's because of faithful friends like you that this is possible.

Thank You For Praying with Me

ADDITIONAL PRAYER REQUESTS

- For my continued walk with the Lord and for spiritual health
- For protection & courage amidst spiritual warfare
- That my time in Philadelphia and Colorado would be fruitful, and that I would receive the instruction with a receptive and humble heart
- For rest when needed

*In Christ,
Steven Hammond*

From our missionaries to Burkina Faso...



Dear Friends and Family,

My family and I appreciate all your prayers recently as so much has changed in the past few months for us. As many of you know already, my sister-in-law died suddenly from what we later learned was aggressive, late stage leukemia. Please continue to pray for our family and for my brother Ian Jones and his three kids since Heather's passing. It has been a very difficult time as we all try to adjust to a new reality without Heather. Ian and his kids are in America, living near my parents and my sister and brother-in-law, for the near future. Please pray for them as they try to settle into a

routine. Nothing much has seemed normal since losing Heather, but we are all trying to take one day at a time.

This summer has been very busy as I have traveled twice to Africa and managed to finish my language requirements for seminary with a two-month intensive with Greek. We also recently learned that we will be welcoming twins into the family around January. We were completely flabbergasted in the beginning, as I'm sure many other parents of multiples have been before us, but we're really excited and can't wait to meet our twins!



For the first time since becoming parents, we decided to do a gender reveal party with our kids. The kids were very excited to learn we were having a boy and a girl

Charlotte has just gotten glasses! She has been very excited to wear them so far, and we are thankful that she is able to see so much better.

Update on my dad, David Jones

We have been especially thankful to be able to see my dad a good bit this year. His pancreatic cancer has been held at bay for a while this past year, but the doctors have recommended a new chemotherapy. Overall, things have been going well as the cancer is remaining contained, but from what we understand new, albeit small, tumors have emerged as well. Please pray for my dad as he has decided to undergo a new form of chemo. Pray for patience and strength on behalf of my parents and siblings who are near and helping, and please pray for the doctors as they work so hard to prolong his life.



My kids are grateful for the time they get to spend with my Dad

Update on Burkina Faso

Please continue to pray for Burkina Faso. So much has changed for the Presbyterian Church in Burkina Faso as I have returned to America and now they are coping with Ian's sudden departure as well. It has been exciting to see that the ministry is continuing to grow as Jean Baptiste has taken full responsibility for the church and its growth. The new interns have eagerly continued to grow as they have also taken more responsibilities. Please pray for the churches and our church family so far away.

During this time of transition, I am excited about what God has in store for the Presbyterian Church in Burkina with the development of our agricultural program. Through agriculture we have seen God open so many doors to show his love and grow the outreach of the church. Up to the moment of my departure, we met with members of our community and held trainings preparing the local farmers for planting season and how to restore their soil. The local church has been able to show the love of God to the poor and suffering as we have been able to visit and train over 1,000 pastors and farmers in the neighboring village of Dapelogo. Our interns at the Timothy House have expressed their excitement as they see the blessing God has given

Burkina Faso in the soil and are starting to feel that it is possible to sustain gospel contract churches even in the poorest rural areas of West Africa.



Jean Baptiste's churches has continue to grow as more young men have started coming.

The agricultural program in Burkina has continued to gain momentum as this year's harvest had the best results yet.

Update on Equipping Farmers International

I have also been growing in my responsibilities with Equipping Farmers International as I visited Senegal to help with the local presbyterian pastors for a 5-day training. The Presbyterian Church in Senegal has seen significant growth since its foundation, and I was excited to be able to train their pastors in our agricultural course. It was encouraging to be able to work with them as they strive to use agriculture to become more and more financially stable. Please pray that it will be able to help their pastors as they look to become self-sustaining.

Please be in prayer for me this month as I will be traveling to Cameroon for another agricultural training in mid October.



The ministry has only been possible because of your prayers and donations to our ministry. Bonnie and I have always been amazed at the willingness of churches and their members to give their time and money to support the growth of the church in West Africa.

--Evan and Bonnie



You are cordially invited to the 3rd annual "Happy Fall Y'all" party at the home of Pat & Ken Pennell on Saturday, October 26th, at 4:00 p.m. Join in Fun, Food, & Fellowship. Please feel free to bring guests. Food & Beverages provided. RSVP to Pat (text-678-360-2999) or e-mail patpennell454@gmail.com.

Prayer and Praise

Jody Collinge

September 17, 2024



“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 (NASB)

Travels: (Dios mediante)

September 20 to 28 To Seoul, South Korea

September 30 Back to Zihuatanejo

Prayer and Praise:

1. This has been a wonderful relaxing summer in the new cabin at the base of the Christian Health Service Corps in Grand Saline, Texas! And the cabin is finally finished! Thanks to each of you who have helped out. But there have been some adventures ...



2. Mowgli, our very friendly black community cat, returned from his roaming, looking sick. When I tried to help him, he bit me and died shortly later. Thank God that my thumb seems to be healed. And we have been adopted by another community cat. What would you name him? Mufasa? Mostaza? Mozzarella?

Our Fourfold Vision for the Global Church

The gospel for every person

Disciple-making churches for every people and place

Christlike leaders for every church and sector

Kingdom impact in every sphere of society

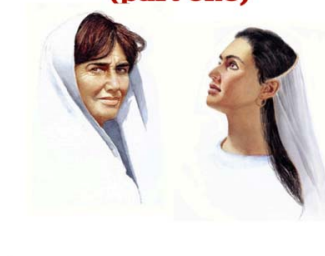
3. This Friday I head to Seoul, South Korean for the Fourth International Congress on World Evangelization. This is the fourth in a series of world congresses, beginning in 1974 in Lausanne, Switzerland. About 5000 people from nations worldwide will attend the congress, along with another 5000 online. Please pray for:

- That people of many nations, cultures, languages and races may unite together in strong fellowship
- For new and renewed friendships
- For many connections and a continuing effort to work together
- For strong teaching and new ideas to put into practice
- That the gospel will penetrate every people group and that we may be faithful as we "go and make disciples"
- For safety in travel

4. After returning from Seoul, I look forward to heading back to Zihuatanejo! Please be praying for:

- A joyful transition back to Mexico
- For renewal of community ministries
- For God's direction for our church
- For wisdom for me--how shall I divide my time between Mexico and Texas

CAPTIVATING WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (part one)



5. On October 1st, our online Bible study will begin again. We will meet on Tuesdays at 6:03 pm Central time. I hope you can come! Write to me if you are interested.

¡Muchas gracias!

Thank God for his faithfulness!

And thanks to you for your prayers, encouragement, and support! Let me know how I can be praying for you.

With love,

Jody

BIRTHDAYS



FOR OCTOBER



CORINNE WILLSON 2ND TRICIA GAUTHIER 20TH

ANN PRINGLE 19TH FRANK GENZER 24TH

LANE WILLSON 24TH

Dates to Remember for October

- October 4 Game Night in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- October 5 Men's Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall
- October 6 Communion
- October 7 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.
- October 11 Cruisin Picnic at the church at 5:00 p.m. Join us for a time of fellowship and to see the old cars. Bring what you want to grill and a side dish to share.
- October 13 Monthly luncheon after the worship service. Please bring a dish to share.
- October 19 Women's Retreat in Brookhaven
- October 21 Deacon's Meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- October 21 Men's Bible Study at 6:30 p.m. in the parlor.
- October 27 Reformation Sunday
- October 29 Session Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

