



Pastor's Perspective — Praying for Our President

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

Recently, I was asked: "Do you pray for our President?" I said: "I do!" I then directed them to 1 Timothy 2:1-6 where we are commanded to pray for our President (*for kings and all those in authority*) and to give such prayer a place of priority in our worship services—and by extension, in our lives. Paul wrote: *I urge then that first of all (proton tauton; as of first importance) prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone....*

I was asked: "Do you pray for Mr. Obama, and if you do, what do you pray for him—do you pray for his success?" I said: "I do! I pray for him. I do not pray against him. It's not a matter of politics." I said that I want Mr. Obama to be successful in fulfilling his responsibilities as defined by the Constitution.

I said that I pray he would come to know Jesus Christ as his sin-bearing Savior, if he does not know Him in that way—and that his actions as our President would do nothing to undermine our way of life as Christians in this country nor infringe on the liberties and the peace we've come to enjoy, and are provided for in our Constitution and Bill of Rights.

I said that I pray in the same way for the Vice President, for the Members of Congress, for the Justices of the Supreme Court and for those who serve

at other levels of government in our nation—and in other nations, hostile and friendly.

I also said that I am praying in the same way for our next President, whomever that might be, whether Mr. Trump or Mrs. Clinton or someone else. I asked if they were doing the same. I know Christians who are praying for our President, but only for his downfall.

I pray for him. I do not pray against him.

I know some who are looking to a passage like Psalm 109:8 for support in doing so. Of an enemy, King David once wrote: *May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.* But I see no indication that we are to understand David's prayer as being applicable to any situation other than the one current in his life at the time. I certainly do not see such prayer prayed in the church of the first century A.D. as seen especially in the book of Acts nor enjoined in the New Testament epistles for the church today. Indeed, I see every indication to the contrary.

Let me challenge you to pray for our current and future President along the lines described in 1 Timothy 2:1-6. This is what God expects of the church—not politics, but fervent prayer *for kings and all those in authority.*

2016 Missions Conference—The Power of God

"The Power of God" is the theme of our annual missions conference, September 9-11. Missionaries Larry & Sallie Fogle, Jason & Beth Lang and Kent & Kelly Craig will be joining us. Since the Langs and the Craigs are new to us, we are using this and next month's Facets to introduce them—beginning with the Langs who serve in Nicaragua with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE).

Camp Ministry

The Langs have been developing an evangelistic camp ministry at their mission's 160 acre ministry center outside of Managua, Nicaragua. Their goal is to use the camp ministry to assist the local church and especially new church plants to grow. They ran a year-long camp season during 2015 consisting of both overnight and day camps. Through the year the fledgling camp ministry hosted over 6000 kids and youth. In January 2016 they were able to hire a part-time camp staff consisting of 14 college-age students.

Church Planter Training

ABWE Nicaragua has had a primary focus on church planter training since 2008. To date they have graduated four classes of church planters totaling over 60 church planters with approximately 40 of them actively involved in church plants. They offer a two year program in which church planters and pastors receive classes ranging from church planting strategy to theology and church administration. Jason is a regular teacher for the pastors and church planters. Beth is actively involved in teaching and training the



pastor's wives and other women church leaders in areas such as being a pastor's wife, Bible study, parenting and biblical counseling.

Local Church Ministry

For a little over two years they have partnered with Pastor/Church Planter Javier Mejia and his wife Maria at a church in the San Francisco barrio of Ciudad Sandino. They served as the children's Sunday School teachers and helped the pastor with planning, training and evangelistic outreach. As they look forward to returning to the field in 2017 they are praying about how the Lord would lead them in regard to local church ministry. They sense that there is a great need for a "focus on the family" type of ministry. "If the Lord would so lead us we'd love to offer marriage and family type seminars in the local church plants as a means of discipleship and training of new leaders," they said.

Outreach Opportunities at the Olympics in Brazil

The Olympics are under way! And our supported missionaries Dawn and Nathan Patefield, living in Rio de Janeiro, are ready to use the event to help spread the Good News.

"We have been working for months on Project Eternal Medals—an evangelistic outreach with the goal of distributing 305,000 pieces of literature and sharing the Gospel with people from all over the world. An upsurge in crime isn't going to stop us from doing what we believe the Lord wants us to do. However, we are thinking through security issues as we plan our outings."

The Patefields informed us that while buildings have been built and transit lines constructed to make things better for the Olympic Games, the crime in Rio has grown worse.

"At the beginning of the month, a major Brazilian magazine sent several reporters to Rio to cover crime statistics in a 48-hour period. They arrived on Friday evening and left at the same time on Sunday night. In those two days they recorded 27 people murdered, 19 fire fights that flung bullets through numerous neighborhoods, and 7 mass assaults in which armed gangs blocked traffic and robbed drivers of their valuables. These crimes did not all occur during night hours, but often in broad daylight. Authorities will try to solve this problem by flooding the city with 85,000 military and police men."

They added, "Just last week a couple blocks from our house, police cornered car thieves and a ferocious shoot-out ensued at 8 p.m."

Please pray for security in general and especially for those who are there to share what this world most needs to hear—the Gospel.

The tract distribution focus will be primarily in three places—the neighborhood around the congregation, Radical Park (where radical sports like BMX, mountain

biking and canoe slalom will take place) and Madureira Park—a nearby park in which fans will gather to watch competitions on huge screens.

"Please pray for us and other groups in the city who are desiring to hand out tracts and engage in clear conversations about the Gospel. All tracts and booklets direct readers to a website where they can find more information on what it means to be saved, downloadable studies in John, and information about churches here in the city. Readers from outside the city can also ask for help and we will attempt to connect them with a fundamental Baptist church near them. We invite you to visit, too, at www.eternalmedals.com after the games have begun!" they said.


Dawn added, "Sunday night we, as a church, were praying for opportunities to give the entire gospel plan to at least one person. The message title was think BIG—we have a BIG GOD! So after the message we just asked GOD to help us be aware of the opportunities He gives us and the courage to take them."

"Yesterday morning, a girl that used to come to our children's club clapped at our door. She wanted to speak with Joy. She brought her aunt with her. Her aunt had some biblical questions that she has been asking and people just laugh at her. So she asked Joy, 'How much do you charge to do Bible studies with people?' Talk about God bringing the opportunities to the doorstep. Isn't He wonderful! Excited about what lies ahead."

Money Matters

July Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$3,995
Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,052
Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$143,066
Budgeted Needs to Date	\$156,612

August Calendar	
Aug. 9	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Aug. 14	France Missions Trip Report (6:00 PM)
Aug. 24	Missions Prayer Meeting (7:30 PM)
Aug. 28	Missionary Cupboard Shower & Ice Cream Social (after PM Service)



2016 Bible Memory Project
August Verse

"Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him."
~ Proverbs 30:5

Fellowship Baptist Church

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