



Pastor's Perspective — Your Best Work

By Dr. Ron D. Lindholm, Senior Pastor

A dear friend recently wrote a brief treatise in which he asserts the indispensability of prayer—that in whatever's happening in this world for God, prayer is always at the critical center. His writing got me thinking about the hard work that is often involved in prayer (see Luke 18:1; Colossians 4:12), and how the mere thought of that hard work can sometimes keep us from the undertaking when in fact we need to embrace it because prayer is the best work we'll ever do.

Andrew Murray seemed to understand this about as well as anybody, as evidenced in *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. Of prayer he wrote: "The powers of the eternal world have been placed at its disposal." He describes prayer as "the essence of true religion, the channel of all blessings, the secret of power and life." Murray looked at the commands and promises Jesus gave about prayer in Matthew 7:7-8 and called them "the fixed eternal law of the kingdom." And he added: "Though in its beginnings prayer is so simple that the feeblest child can pray, yet it is at the same time the highest and holiest work to which man can rise."

Prayer is the greatest and best thing for God you'll ever do. "Prayer doesn't fit us for greater works," writes Oswald Chambers in *My Utmost for His Highest*, "prayer is the greater work." Murray speaks of prayer as "the highest part of the work entrusted to us, the root and strength of all other work."

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Think about it...

You can commit your life to a ministry of prayer, and thereby touch the world. You can go to Africa, to China, to India, to Russia, to the Middle East, to South America—anywhere, by going to the throne of God in prayer for those men and women who serve the kingdom's work out among all of those places. You can literally affect what is going on throughout this world by praying. But you've got to pray.

Listen again to Andrew Murray: "Christ has opened the school of prayer specially to train intercessors for the great work of bringing down, by their faith and prayer, the blessings of His work and love on the world around."

It ought to take away our breath to realize that our almighty God invites us to have such a huge part in the work of bringing in His kingdom for all eternity. May we never tire of doing it—and may the thought of it being hard work never keep us from it.

McMillens and Arcederas to Join Us for Missions Conference

Last month, we introduced John and Janine Chilufya, missionaries who will be participating in this year's missions conference and who will be serving in Zambia. This month we present the remaining participants: Phil and Kitty McMillen and Jonel and Eunice Arcedera.

We have been supporting Phil and Kitty McMillen for many years through the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE). Phil grew up in the Central African Republic as a missionary kid while Kitty was raised in Detroit. They began their lives together after meeting at Cedarville College and marrying their senior years. In 1982 they began serving in Togo, where they continued for 11 years and helped plant and establish two churches. Then, from 1997 until 2010, Phil and Kitty worked in church-planting in the greater Chicago area.

But to their great joy, Phil and Kitty were asked to



return to Africa in 2007. They returned in 2010, with Phil working as the Regional Administrator for the Gambia, Liberia, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Cameroon teams with ABWE. They serve a team of 75 missionary families there, and oversee and promote missions projects and open mission fields. They report that they are "thrilled!" about what God is doing there. "There is much more demand for our time than we anticipated," Phil also reports, "and costs are higher, but God's enablement has been there."

The McMillens have three adult children: Karee, Kristina and Kylee.

Jonel and Eunice Arcedera, with their daughters Amzi and Addi, minister with Word of Life in the Philippines. Jonel is the National Director of the Bible Club Ministry. Jonel became a believer at 22 after hearing the gospel at his grandmother's funeral. Soon after, he became a security guard at Word of Life, where he was discipled by a staff member. From that mentor's challenge to attend the Bible Institute, Jonel completed the four-year program and was hired as a Bible Club missionary.

Eunice trusted Christ as her Savior at age eight, through the help of her Sunday school teacher. When she was 25, she attended a camp retreat at Word of Life, where she met Jonel. They were married three years later. She also attended school at the Word of Life Bible Institute, completing the one-year program.



In 2006, Jonel became the director of the Bible Club program with Word of Life, where he presently oversees five full-time Bible Club missionaries and works with over 50 Bible Club churches. He also is involved in preaching and teaching the gospel in the camp ministry. "Our desire is to reach more young people and train them to reach others as well," Jonel says.

Excitement at the Nationals Game

Have you ever seen a grand-slam at a baseball game? If you came to the Nationals game last month, you would have seen this rare event! Don't miss it next year!



Christmas in September



During the month of September, Women's Ministries will begin collecting items for Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. There is a list of suggested items on the Information Table in the foyer but anything that would fit in a shoebox and bring joy to the heart of a child this Christmas is appreciated. There will be a designated collection box in the foyer for these items—start your Christmas shopping early! Women's Ministries will be hosting a "shoebox party" later this fall to sort items and fill the shoeboxes. Look for details to follow. For questions, see or call Jill Porter at 703 537-0408.

Money Matters

August Giving Per Week (General Fund)	\$6,023
2012 Budgeted Needs Per Week	\$5,105
2012 Budgeted Receipts to Date	\$166,471
2012 Budgeted Needs to Date	\$178,665

September 2012 Bible Memory Challenge



*Jesus answered them,
"It is not the healthy who need a
doctor, but the sick.
I have not come to call the
righteous, but sinners to
repentance."*

Luke 5:31-32

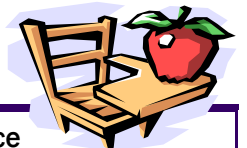
Ladies' Retreat: Our women's retreat is September 14-15 at the home of Wendy Marshall in Stafford. Missionary Kitty McMillen will be speaking on "Praising God through the Trials of Life." Registration and payment are due by September 9. The cost is \$25.00. All are welcome. Questions, call Gina Irving 703 239-2161.



AWANA begins September 16. Any member who is interested in helping with this ministry should contact Doug Mount at 703 221-5422.

Women's Bible Study

Our women's Bible study resumes in the Brick Room on Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 AM, beginning September 11. All are welcome. We'll be using Jean Syswerda's "Women of the Bible." For ordering information or for any questions, call Gina Irving 703 239-2161.



Calendar

Sep. 7-9	Missions Conference
Sep. 11	Nursing Home Ministry (2:00 PM)
Sep. 11	Women's Bible Study (9:30 AM)
Sep. 13	ESL Classes Resume (7:00 PM)
Sep. 14-15	Women's Retreat
Sep. 16	Awana Resumes (5:30 PM)
Sep. 23	Youth Bowling (7:00 PM)
Sep 29	Church Picnic (Noon—3:00 PM)

Fellowship Baptist Church

5936 Rolling Road
Springfield, VA 22152