

~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

Does prayer really change things?

One morning this past week before entering into my devotional time, I opened my morning 'newspaper' to see what was going on in the lives of folks I care about. Facebook seems to be the 'middle-aged' folks' newspaper...at least it's quickly become mine. I immediately saw three people dear to me requesting prayers for God to help them through a difficulty they were facing that day. It's troubling to see people we love go through difficult times, isn't it? I quickly came to an assumption. If these people didn't think prayer worked, why would they send out a public request asking for folks to lift their name up to God? A second thought crossed my mind...has there ever been a time I've seen someone request prayers and I told them I'd be praying for them, but never did? I believe we need to be very cautious when telling others we're praying for them. Anyone who requests prayers and is told they're receiving them are anticipating answers from God. If we've said we're praying, but we really aren't, God isn't being asked to intervene, heavenly power isn't received and the one making the request may believe they've received their answer, when in actuality they haven't. By far one of the most precious gifts we have is the gift of prayer. I'll not pretend to understand all the complexities associated with prayer being asked or answered, but I really like what Charles Stanley said one time in a devotion I read. He said when we beseech God, He doesn't readily respond with, "No". In some instances He'll say, "Yes". If He so chooses not to say "Yes", He'll say, "Not yet". If these first two options don't appeal to Him, He'll end up saying, "I've got something better for you." I really like Charles' take on prayer! Does prayer really change things? Absolutely! If it didn't, why would we take the time to do it?

Have a blessed day and remember the One who gave it to you!

Kevin

Good Morning & Welcome!

News and Notes

If you've not yet submitted names to our Shepherds for who you believe would be well-suited to be an Elder or Deacon at Whitehall, make sure you do that soon!

Volunteers Needed to Serve - If you've not had opportunity to sign up to help serve Thanksgiving Dinner at the Union Mission, please be sure to do that today. Sign-up sheets are on back table. We need folks to help clean the kitchen, prepare the food and deliver the meals. Thank you!

Free Market - Make a note of the up and coming Free Market scheduled for Saturday, December 5th! We will need folks to help set up, to help the day of and to help clean up after the event.

Save the Dates – **The Senior Saints Christmas Luncheon** will be held on Sunday, December 6th immediately following the morning service. This is for everyone over the age of 60. If you have questions, please see Pam Jackson, Marsha Sparks or Dianne Tonkery.

Church Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 13th immediately following the morning service. More info coming soon! If you have any questions regarding the party, please see Rod & Tammy Hayhurst.

Prayer Requests

- ♥Keep the family of Keith Kisner in your prayers. Keith passed away and his services were held on Wednesday the 12th.
- ♥Continue to pray for Edwina, the Shaffer family, Sharon Little, Kim Dumire, Bob and Holly Casto's granddaughter and Margret Brand.
- ♥Kathie Clayton has requested prayers for her granddaughter, Madison. Madison is suffering with a tree nut allergy. Also keep Gary Keefer (friends of Gary and Kathie) in your prayers. Gary is on Hospice care.
- ♥Deb Carpenter is scheduled for an MRI today for her knee.
- ♥Peggy Glaspell is having another breast biopsy on Monday. There are some spots which are suspect. Keep her and the Lipscomb family in your prayers.
- ♥Keep Serena Croy in your prayers. Also, Mary Titchenell's surgery is scheduled for the 30th of this month.

Thank You

Thank you so much to all that provided food and helped serve the family of Keith Kisner this past week. You are all greatly appreciated!!