

REVIVE

WEEK 3: PRAYER

MAY 11/12, 2019

IF MY PEOPLE PRAY

LUKE 11:1-13

SENIOR PASTOR BYRON MACDONALD

Prayers Rooted in a Shared Kingdom Desire and Purpose:

- Our Father; beloved children of the all powerful and caring God and Father, v. 2.
- That the name of Jesus is lifted up in each life and over the earth for the glory of God, the Father (John 13:31-32; John 17:1-4), v. 2.
- That the rule of God comes to and through individual lives who have been transformed by the Gospel, united as a local church, committed to taking the Gospel to their community and to the ends of the earth, v. 2.
- That God would provide the physical necessities to sustain life, v. 3.
- That those who belong to Jesus would be as forgiving of others as God is of them, v. 4.
- That each would be victorious in the daily battle against the world, the flesh and the Devil, v. 4.

Prayers are to be Rooted in Boldness and Persistence:

- Pray confidently knowing that God has made you His friend and child, vv. 5, 11-14.
- Pray boldly knowing He will answer:
 - Ask boldly for those things He has promised to give, vv. 9-10.
 - Seek boldly for God's will knowing He will reveal it, vv. 9-10.
 - Knock for opportunities to share the Gospel, vv. 9-10.
- Pray seeking the filling and leading of the Holy Spirit, God's best gift of Himself in this life, v. 13.

P A S T O R ' S C H A T

We are people who live by promises. Christian faith is dynamic for we are pursuing the promises of a living God who is faithful to His promises and those who live by them. God makes history through the fulfillment of His promises and, as we live in pursuit of His promises, we become history makers. Jesus gave a promise that has compelled the church into the future throughout the generations. It is a promise that we are within weeks, months, certainly not many years from fulfilling. The promise of Jesus as recorded in Matthew 24:14 says, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”*

This past week, I was a participant and speaker at the fifth Global Alliance Conference at the Back to Jerusalem Center in South Korea. Over 3500 were registered with another 500-1000 from South Korea part of the large assembly meetings. Representatives were there from over 70 countries representing 82 ethnicities. Messages were translated live into 20 languages through wireless receivers. There were three commitments to the promises of God that were the focus as we committed ourselves to be history makers for the Lord Jesus Christ and the Gospel. First, was to commit together, as the global Church, to finish the mission to get the Gospel to every people group. Second, was to join together with Jesus and His global Church, united in our mission to the nations. Third, that the last wave of the Gospel is to take the Good News of salvation by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the cross back to Jerusalem and Israel.

The organization that held the conference is InterCP, founded by Missionary Paul Choi. InterCP, which

stands for international church planting, is on the move with over a thousand missionaries who have given a year of their life to share the Gospel in a given nation. Many of these are college students. They live at the same level of the people they are reaching and thus it is quite economical. No one in the leadership of InterCP takes a salary.

It was thrilling for me to hear testimony after testimony from the nations on how God is moving. In the Middle East there is a massive turning to Christ. Turkey, historically one of the most difficult countries to reach, is seeing fruit. God is moving in Syrian refugee camps. He is moving in Saudi Arabia. There were 160 there from Indonesia. I must say I found myself in tears at times in the meetings to see people assembled from the nations of the world joining together as one for Jesus and His glory among the nations.

What is also so encouraging is how close we are to see the promise of all nations and peoples being reached for the Gospel. The standard for a people being reached is that there is a witnessing church of those people alive and growing. Back in 1989 there were 18,000 unreached people groups. The number now is down to 500. There was such passion at the Alliance Conference that we are in the very moment of each group being reached and Jesus coming for His Church in glory. I was also struck by the way people were willing to go forward, even at risk of imprisonment or death, for the Gospel. The theme of the conference was history makers. I am thankful that we at RHCC are part of the history makers for the Gospel.

~ Senior Pastor Byron MacDonald