

MSWSBA Messenger

April 2017

“Doing together that which we cannot do ourselves...”

Recently I had the privilege of getting to see many of you at the movie event “The Insanity of God” that Durham Baptist Church graciously put on for us. There were several things in that movie that I was moved by and forced me to consider what we tend to value most as individuals, as churches, and as an association. If you missed it, this movie (and book) is a compilation of true stories of persecution that takes place around the world told by Nik Ripkin, who served the International Mission Board traveling to different underground churches and learning about the challenges that they face. One of the stories that I found to be most encouraging was when he was speaking in a compound where an underground church met disguised as a farming operation. They had asked him if the gospel had made it to other countries and he began to tell them stories of what Christians face around the world. The next morning, the compound was full of these Chinese believers crying out to God in prayer and he learned that they were so moved that they committed to waking one hour earlier every day for the rest of their lives in order to pray for the church around the world. This can be taken as a challenge for us. What kind of commitment have you made to spend time with the Lord daily in prayer and in His Word? How committed are you to praying for the church (locally and globally) and the lost around the world? Here’s a small way that we can check ourselves, are you praying for at least one lost person for at least one minute per day? One minute is a small commitment, but are we that committed? This week I heard a comment from an atheist who asked, “If a truck were about to hit someone and you stood by and did nothing, that is pretty hateful. How much do you have to hate someone to know in your belief that they are going to burn in hell for eternity and not say anything because it’s uncomfortable?” The question that it really comes down to and what the movie kept coming back to was “Is Jesus worth it?” That is the question that we must ask ourselves. Is He worth being uncomfortable in order to share our faith? Is he worth making commitments for? Is He worth making real sacrifices for?

In his concluding comments, Nik Ripkin states that the Great Commission gives us the freedom to share the gospel. We do not need the government to give us that permission. We already have that freedom from the authority of Christ. You are just as free to share the gospel in Somalia or China as in Missouri. The true question that we have to ask is, “Is Jesus worth it?” Ripkin said that He is worth it to these people, but when he looks at the American church with this question, the response is silence. There is overwhelming silence to the call to make radical sacrifices for the gospel.

As we approach the time of Easter and celebrate the greatest sacrifice that has ever been given and the greatest victory that has ever been won, let us search within and see if we are willing to lay our own lives down daily to follow Jesus. To follow Him is an uncomfortable life and globally as well as historically persecution has been the norm. Regardless, we do know this; the victory has already been won. We just have the duty now of telling the world so that they might turn away from the defeated enemy and come to Christ who gives victory. May we worship Him with joy in all circumstances and with sacrificial love this Easter season because He is worth it.

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Upcoming Events

Tues. April 4

Missions/Evangelism Meeting
@ Ten Mile
6:30pm

Camp Team Meeting
@Ten Mile
7:00pm

Thurs. April 6

No Council Meeting
Leaders can turn in calendar events to Chris
Kuenzle or Violet Brownell

Fri.-Sat. April 7-8

WMU Annual Meeting
@ FBC Lebanon

Tues. April 11

Hymn Sing
@ FBC Edina
7:00pm

Fri.-Sat., April 14-15

RA Congress
Contact Teri Broeker
tbroeker@marktwain.net

Thurs, April 20

Trustees Meeting
@FBC Ewing
6:00pm

Executive Board Meeting
@FBC Ewing
7:00pm

Thurs, April 27

WMU Quarterly Meeting
@FBC Hurdland
9:00am-2:00pm

Mon, May 1

Camp Registration Deadline

Annie Armstrong Easter Offering

Statewide Goal: \$2 Million

Pray For Tripoli, Lebanon

Praise the Lord and thank you for your prayers! Mohammad Yamout and his fellow ministry workers are back in business with a new center in Tripoli for gospel proclamation. Please continue to pray that God will give them boldness and protection as they spread the gospel in the Middle East.

Pray For Your Pastor

Pray that he may have boldness to proclaim the gospel that emboldens the church as well.

Pray that he has protection from the enemy.

If he's married, pray for his wife and minister to her.

Pray For The Lost Challenge

Who: Choose at least one lost person to pray for in your church's community.

How: Commit 5 minutes per day to pleading to God for that person's salvation. If that seems difficult, pick a Psalm each day and read line by line and pray back your response to God to converse with Him in prayer for this person until you run out of time or run out of Psalm. Remember to ask God for opportunities to share the gospel with this person and be ready! Let me know how it goes! -Chris Kuenzle

How To Contact Your DOM

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