

International Commission

April 8

NEWSLETTER

2012

Jim and Silvia Nimmons & Family

God Bless You!

I would like to take use some space this month to express my very strong appreciation to so many of you who my ministry partners. I so love what I am doing. It is all because you have giving me this opportunity to serve God in such a marvelous way. With your prayers, your encouraging letters, emails and phone calls, and your financial support you make it all possible and you make my day on so many days. It seems that when I start to feel a little weary, if I go to God I almost always get an encouragement from the Lord through one of you.

Also, It is such a joy to work with godly people getting them involved and participating directly in The Great Commission. I am blessed by the pastors, lay members and my ministry colleagues. It is so inspiring to see lives changes from every angle. I get to see lives changed and hearts touched as I share in churches. I get to see people who are convinced that start off believing that they can't be used of God by sharing their faith. But as they open the door of faith I get to see all that change. I'm still new here, but God is already doing so much. Lives are being changed right here, and I believe that as we go many lives will be changed over there.

I also want to apologize for being so late this month with the newsletter. I wanted to be like clockwork and get it out on the 8th each month, but I've been a bit overwhelmed lately. And since I will be leaving for Africa on April 11 I doubt that I'll get another one out before I leave. We shall see.

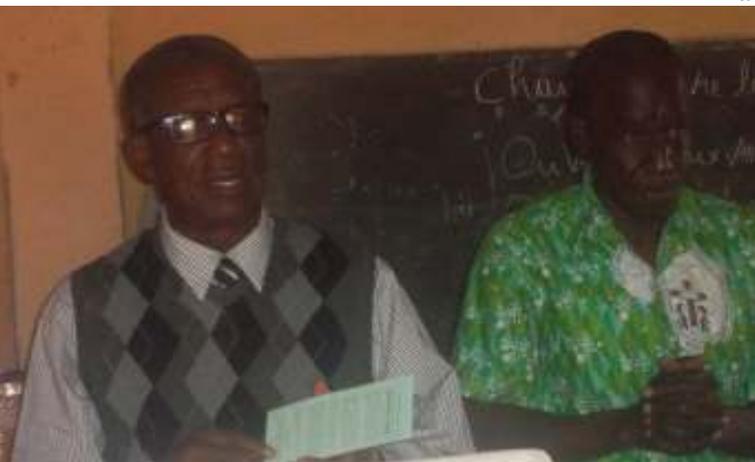


Thanks be to God for His Encouragement through You!!!

The work load is definitely increasing and I'm still on a pretty steep learning curve. Technically, I'm working on three projects at the same time right now—Burkina Faso (leaving in April), Brazil (leaving in October), and Russia (leaving next March).

For Burkina Faso things are in high gear. We are finalizing testimonies and their translations, getting Visas, coordination ways to help the local IMB missionary, shots, practicing French, and having numerous conference calls with participants and leaders in Africa. We still are short on laborers. We are expecting God to work it all out for his glory. We only have ten going (one more came on board last week—Praise God). Of the 19 churches we are working with we will commit 5 outlying church completely to nationals. Of the other 14 we will have to combine some of the churches to make thing work out logistically. Please pray for our great God to do greater than we can think or ask.

Most of my time is now focusing on Brazil. It is seven months away which is just the right amount of time to raise the money for those who need to if they want to go. I'm calling different pastors, speaking in churches, and trying to recruit as many people as possible to go. We are working with 29 churches there and need at least 58 Americans to properly fill the need. Most people dismiss the idea out of hand. I hope you aren't one of them. Anyone can do it. All you need is to be committed and believe in a great God to provide. I am working with about 10 people right now on the fund raising issue. It is so neat to see God work. Some people think they can't share their faith. Well maybe you won't have to speak with your mouth. Maybe you can go and speak with your actions. Let God open your mind to the possibilities and don't let Satan cause you to pressure yourself. I'd love to help you.



D. D. Agyare—IC's Area Coordinator for West Africa

Well, Winter went by fast was fairly mild. Now are the spring sports. Josiah & Jedidiah are playing soccer. Liz wanted to play & wants to but we haven't found a league we can afford. We tried the Y, but her age group didn't have enough girls for a team. So, she is focusing on music instead. She is very talented at soccer, but we haven't found a solution to this problem. All the kids have been busy with musical things. All but Noble are in a home school choir that practices on Wednesdays. Noble and Dayspring have been busy with school. Noble is working odd jobs. He teaches/coaches swimming as well. He will be getting a life guard cert later this month. Day is doing well with her piano and violin students. They are getting pretty good. One great piece of news is Silvia's health. Her uterus issue cleared up and we financed her teeth. It seemed the best option. Teeth don't wait. We're praying for many requests that you have been

Upcoming 2013

International Project

- Serbia (Backi-Petrovac).....March 14-25
- * Cuba (Special Youth Project).....Possibly April
- * Burkina Faso (Bobo Dioulasso).....April 11- 22
- * Gabon (Franceville).....April 18-30
- * Armenia (Yerevan).....April 25-May6
- * Brazil (Special Youth Project)...May 28-June 6
- * Turkey (Istanbul).....May 31-June 9
- * Ukraine (Lviv).....June 20-July 1

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Prayer Requests & Praises:

- 1) **Praise God for Silvia's health.** The uterus and teeth are all better. We still are looking for what to do about the hernia. Continue to pray that I will have wisdom.
- 2) **Pray for Noble.** He is aspiring to go to Liberty University in Virginia. We are looking at costs, financial aid, etc.
- 3) **Pray for Burkina Faso — Pray to the Lord of the Harvest for many miracles.** May we learn how to pray.
- 4) **Begin to Pray for Brazil—I am beginning work on a project in Brazil. About 25 Churches are participating. It is in southern parts of Brazil in the State of Parana. Pray as I begin the process of sharing with churches.**
- 5) **Pray for our Nation.** May God raise up Godliness again. May our churches once again become bible centered and not just bible study. May we be doers of the Word.

Soul Food for Strong Hearts

The rest of this newsletter is meant as a help for those who are hungering to grow in their prayer life or just want more of Christ formed in their soul. (Gal. 4:19) My simple goal is to share concepts from God's word which have been helpful to me. May it be a blessing to you!

How to Pray

I love to read books on prayer. I am convinced by the bible that nothing is more important than our prayer life. I have found that books on prayer written long ago are often much more forceful than most modern books on this subject. I am here including some excerpts from R. A. Torrey's book entitled simple "How to Pray". I am taking this excerpt from the chapter called "Praying unto God".

We have seen something of the tremendous importance and the resistless power of prayer, and now we come directly to the question- -how to pray with power.

1. In the 12th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles we have the record of a prayer that prevailed with God, and brought to pass great results. In the 5th verse of this chapter, the manner and method of this prayer is described in few words: "Prayer was made without ceasing of the church UNTO GOD for him."

The first thing to notice in this verse is the brief expression "unto God." The prayer that has power is the prayer that is offered unto God. But some will say, "Is not all prayer unto God?" No.

Very much of so-called prayer, both public and private, is not unto God. In order that a prayer should be really unto God, there must be a definite and conscious approach to God when we pray; we must have a definite and vivid realization that God is bending over us and listening as we pray. In very much of our prayer there is really but little thought of God. Our mind is taken up with the thought of what we need, and is not occupied with the thought of the mighty and loving Father of whom we are seeking it. Oftentimes it is the case that we are occupied neither with the need nor with the One to whom we are praying, but our mind is wandering here and there throughout the world. There is no power in that sort of prayer. But when we really come into God's presence, really meet Him face to face in the place of prayer, really seek the things that we desire FROM HIM, then there is power.

If, then, we would pray aright, the first thing that we should do is to see to it that we really get an audience with God, that we really get into His very presence. Before a word of petition is offered, we should have the definite and vivid consciousness that we are talking to God, and should believe that He is listening to our petition and is going to grant the thing that we ask of Him. This is only possible by the Holy Spirit's power, so we should look to the Holy Spirit to really lead us into the presence of God, and should not be hasty in words until He has actually brought us there.

One night a very active Christian man dropped into a little prayer-meeting that I was leading. Before we knelt to pray, I said something like the above, telling all the friends to be sure before they prayed, and while they were praying, that they really were in God's presence, that they had the thought of Him definitely in mind, and to be more taken up with Him than with their petition. A few days after I met this same gentleman, and he said that this simple thought was entirely new to him, that it had made prayer an entirely new experience to him.

If then we would pray aright, these two little words must sink deep into our hearts, "UNTO GOD."

2. The second secret of effective praying is found in the same verse, in the words "WITHOUT CEASING." In the Revised Version, "without ceasing" is rendered "earnestly." Neither rendering gives the full force of the Greek. The word means literally "stretched-out-ed-ly." It is a pictorial word, and wonderfully expressive. It represents the soul on a stretch of earnest and intense desire. "Intensely" would perhaps come as near translating it as any English word. It is the word used of our Lord in Luke 22:44 where it is said, "He prayed more earnestly: and His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

"We read in Heb. 5:7 that "in the days of His flesh" Christ "offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears." In Rom. 15:30, Paul beseeches the saints in Rome to STRIVE together with him in their prayers. The word translated "strive" means primarily to contend as in athletic games or in a fight. In other words, the prayer that prevails with God is the prayer into which we put our whole soul, stretching out toward God in intense and agonizing desire. Much of our modern prayer has no power in it because there is no heart in it. We rush into God's presence, run

through a string of petitions, jump up and go out. If someone should ask us an hour afterward for what we prayed, oftentimes we could not tell. If we put so little heart into our prayers, we cannot expect God to put much heart into answering them.

We hear much in our day of the rest of faith, but there is such a thing as the fight of faith in prayer as well as in effort. Those who would have us think that they have attained to some sublime height of faith and trust because they never know any agony of conflict or of prayer, have surely gotten beyond their Lord, and beyond the mightiest victors for God, both in effort and prayer, that the ages of Christian history have known. When we learn to come to God with an intensity of desire that wrings the soul, then shall we know a power in prayer that most of us do not know now.

But how shall we attain to this earnestness in prayer?

Not by trying to work ourselves up into it. The true method is explained in Rom. 8:26, "And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (R.V.) The earnestness that we work up in the energy of the flesh is a repulsive thing. The earnestness wrought in us by the power of the Holy Spirit is pleasing to God. Here again, if we would pray aright, we must look to the Spirit of God to teach us to pray.

It is in this connection that fasting comes. In Dan. 9:3 we read that Daniel set his face "unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes." There are those who think that fasting belongs to the old dispensation; but when we look at Acts 14:23, and Acts 13:2,3, we find that it was practiced by the earnest men of the apostolic day.

If we would pray with power, we should pray with fasting. This of course does not mean that we should fast every time we pray; but there are times of emergency or special crisis in work or in our individual lives, when men of downright earnestness will withdraw themselves even from the gratification of natural appetites that would be perfectly proper under other circumstances, that they may give themselves up wholly to prayer. There is a peculiar power in such prayer. Every great crisis in life and work should be met in that way. There is nothing pleasing to God in our giving up in a purely Pharisaic and legal way things which are pleasant, but there is power in that downright earnestness and determination to obtain in prayer the things of which we sorely feel our need, that leads us to put away everything, even the things in themselves most right and necessary, that we may set our faces to find God, and obtain blessings from Him.



**We need to see
prayer differently
than we do**



**Prayer can take us
to new heights**

**Much.... prayer has
no power because
it lacks heart.**