

September 30, 2020

Good morning, Everybody.

I guess you saw the temperature this morning. The thermometer here at the house read 50.8. Sooooo nice. Sweater weather (smile).

Meditation:

C. H. Spurgeon once related a little habit that he had when reading.

When I read a book for about half an hour, I like to walk awhile and think it over. I shut up the volume and say, "Now, Mr. Author, you have made your speech; let me think over what you have said. A little meditation will enable me to distinguish between what I knew before and the fresh subject you have communicated to me. . . ."

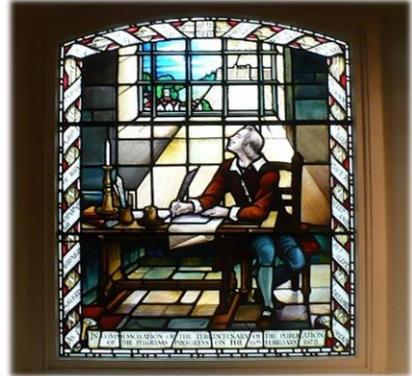
He's talking, of course, about his way of reflecting upon books other than the Bible. But it's good counsel for our Bible reading as well. It's a way of meditating.

Meditation doesn't have to be arduous and lengthy. Most of us don't have the time to do that kind of meditating every day. But there's a meditation that we can do very easily, and that for me works great. I just sort of stumbled upon it in the regular course of Bible reading.

I like to pause after every chapter (or paragraph) and take a moment to **try to recall its highlights**; the major events if it was a story, the key doctrines if it was from an epistle, the primary commands if it was applicational, etc. I just look up from the page, stare at the wall, or out the window, or up at the ceiling, and I try to think my way back down the page of what I just read. It's the first and simplest kind of meditation.

It takes all of about 30 seconds or a minute to do it, but it increases the benefit and blessing of reading many times over.

And then, inevitably, I find my heart almost immediately turning some of that recall into prayer. It's almost as though you don't even have to decide to pray. It just happens. The Holy Spirit indwelling you, prompts you to respond back to God about what He's just said to you.



The usual result is that you actually *feel* your disposition altering wonderfully. You're aware that your thoughts are being *spiritualized* and that your heart is calmed and strengthened, paragraph by paragraph. It doesn't seem to matter where in the Bible you're reading, the same thing happens. Your mind and heart begin to change for good, right there in your chair, morning by morning. It's wonderful. Try it yourself (smile).

Tonight:

This evening the M-Z half of the alphabet will be attending the service on site. Dr. Troy Manning, with Bibles International, will be updating us on his ministry in the field of scripture translation. We'll get to welcome Oksana and the two boys, Eliyas and Mikaeyas, as well. They were here this last Lord's Day, and some of you had the opportunity to fellowship with them then. Troy and his parents were members with us for many years, so whenever he's back there's a lot of good catching up to do.

After the presentation, we'll have two options for the prayer time. Those of you who wish can remain in the auditorium, where several of our men will lead in prayer. Others of you who wish to pair up with someone will be able to leave the auditorium and pray separately.

Just one reminder about our pairing up with folks for prayer. We almost always have visitors in attendance, so it's helpful if not everyone prearranges who they will pray with. That way some of you can be alert to the visitors and invite them to join with you.

More Responses:

Shirley is including more of the appreciative responses we've received from our missionaries. They'll bless your heart (smile).

Lord willing, see you tonight for a good service together. May the Lord enable you to walk in the Spirit today.

Praying for You,

Pastor Minnick

Thank you!

. . . from our Missionaries

Dear Mount Calvary Church Family . . .



Where does one begin to express gratefulness for the sacrifice and vision that resulted in your gracious gift to Gospel Fellowship Association Missions? Mere words are certainly inadequate, so the only other communication available to us is our actions. To that end, please know that we are committed to taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every nation around the globe as our Savior opens doors, and we look forward to doing everything in our power to enable the missionaries you folks send as your ambassadors. It is a special joy to me personally to be a member of Mount Calvary, a church that loves missions and its missionaries. Thank you for your magnificent generosity.

May the Lord multiply to you the blessings that you have so sweetly poured out upon us! You have encouraged us beyond measure—that encouragement has challenged us to “spare not” so that God can use us to see the message of hope through the true Gospel proclaimed to all the “desolate” in the world.

“Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes; For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.” [Isaiah 54:2-3]

Sincerely yours,



Mark E. Batory
GFA Executive Director



Thank you so much for the recent generous monetary gift! It was exciting to read the story of how God allowed for the sale of the Reedy River property and led for these funds to be gifted to ministries around the world! Thank you so much for the heart that you have for missions. It is a special privilege to be a part of your missionary family.

Although COVID has changed some of our ministry plans such as having to cancel the youth camp this summer, there still are so many venues of ministry that continue here in the Highlands of PNG. Religious education classes are taught weekly in three government schools, the gospel goes out 4 days a week at clinic to all patients, the small Christian school works to train 14 young people from the Bible, and many believers come to Bible school classes on Fridays. A small retreat for pastors is planned for September. Pray that our team here in Aibai would be faithful stewards of all of the opportunities that God gives us and that we would clearly communicate the truths of Scripture.

I am praying for you all, too, as you face the effects of this virus on your day-to-day lives as well as the MCBC ministry. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support all the time, but especially during this unusual time!

Gratefully,
Rachel Langendorfer (Papua New Guinea)



Cathy and I want to express our deep appreciation for your very generous recent gift to us and to all your missionaries. This was totally unexpected and was a great encouragement and blessing to us. We are very thankful for it and are praying for the Lord's leading on how to use it for the advancement of His kingdom in South Africa.

Thank you again for the generous financial gift; we will plan to share with you later how the Lord leads us to make use of your investment in South Africa.

Tony & Cathy Payne (South Africa)



What a blessing from the Lord for the church, and what a blessing to see the grace of God displayed in such a sacrifice. Truly, the Lord has given the leadership and the people at Mount Calvary a Spirit-induced understanding of God's own priorities, and the direction that funding flows reflects that. We are grateful to the Lord and to you for this generous contribution. At present, we are not quite sure why the Lord has blessed us with this extra provision, so please pray the Lord enables us to steward it wisely.

In Christ,

David & Naomi Minnick (deputee to Australia)



Becky and I and the Faith Ministries Team want to thank you so much for the \$7,000 that you voted to give to Faith Ministries. It is such a blessing to see how God is using our church family to be such a support for the outreach of the Gospel in many ways.

*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
always offering prayer with joy
in my every prayer for you all,
in view of your participation in the gospel'
from the first day until now.
For I am confident of this very thing,
that He who began a good work in you
will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."
Philippians 1:3-6*

May our God richly bless you each one!

**Keith Ekberg
for the Faith Ministries Team**



Thank you for your bountiful special gift this month. It was exciting to hear how the Lord has provided for so many ministries through the sale of the property. Your gift will be a blessing to us as we purchase tickets to return for furlough, Lord willing. We'd appreciate your prayers as travel arrangements are complicated and can be precarious these days.

We also would like to ask you to pray for two days of meetings for pastors in our region. The meetings will be held here September 17th and 18th. Michael desires to help the men accurately understand and preach the Word.

In our Lord,

Michael and Janice Berbin (Papua New Guinea)



Thank you so much for the extra \$1,000 over and above your regular monthly support. I'm telling the story of Amy Carmichael in my children's classes this month. Your gift is a modern-day example of answered prayer and of God's provision in His perfect time. The decision to give so generously to us missionaries from the sale of the property is simply another evidence of your true desire to take the Word to the world. Thank you!

In Christ,

Tammy Detwiler (Austria)



Thank you all for your faithful prayers and financial support over the last 4 years of my short-term ministry in the Philippines. Thank you for continuing to be involved in what the Lord is doing there by taking me on for monthly support as I now transition to career missions. Thank you also for the generous extra gift! The Lord has been abundantly providing for me in so many ways as I start my deputation journey, and you all have been a big part of how He is working to meet my needs.

I am thankful that in spite of COVID-19, the Lord has been opening up many doors for deputation meetings, especially in the upper Midwest. Lord willing, I will be in Greenville later this year. I look forward to seeing many of you then!

Thank you!

Rachel Steffensmeier (deputee to the Philippines)



All of us here at Pioneer Bible Camp were greatly encouraged when your letter and financial gift arrived! Although the Summer of 2020 has had some discouraging setbacks as well as a few days of wondering when camping ministry might return to normal, the example of your congregation has truly been a "sweet aroma" to us of the kind Paul mentioned in Philippians 4.

It is also wonderful to see a congregation that has such a heart for missions moving you all to share 5 college-age students with us. Hannah, Anna, Steven, Kevin, and Jesse were a wonderful help and blessing to this ministry. Then to generously share with us some funding where we were lacking; we are just so grateful and overjoyed!

There are several things in the works here at camp in Utah, all of which point toward an improved Pioneer Bible Camp for 2021 and beyond. Some, but not all, include remodeled and/or repaired buildings, new recreation equipment, and a new couple doing an internship with us for the next year. Thank you also for the portion for Joe and Anna Baker, who are such a blessing to us and this ministry!

Thank you again, and may God richly bless as you continue to train and equip others in His service.

Gratefully,

**Steve Ransom
Director
Pioneer Bible Camp (Utah)**



We are overwhelmed by your generosity to us in your special gift last month. Thank you. In these times of much uncertainty, it's amazing to see God providing in unexpected ways. Thank you for being part of our faith being strengthened during this time. May the Lord continue to bless your faithfulness to Him and your part in our ministry here in PNG.

YOURS,

Matt and Rebekah Crain



As you are aware, in May of this year we began destruction of the existing fashion center and workshop and reconstruction of an 80'x40' replacement.

God supplied a youth group and a men's group to help tear down the old buildings and a back-hoe and operator to help me excavate the underground plumbing, septic system, and level the pad.

Since May we have completed exterior and interior construction, roughed in the plumbing and electrical, and completed the initial land shaping of just over an acre of ground.

Men from Indianapolis, Martinsville, and French Lick have volunteered to assist with all these parts of the project, and even paid for some of the material supplies.

Even with all this assistance, we were very close to running over the initial gift amount to complete all that is needed. Finish items like a blacktop driveway were looking like an impossibility.

Then came the gift from you folks!

To put it mildly, Hallelujah! (I wish you could see me jumping up and down.)

I have ordered the blacktop estimate for the drive for the front and rear of the building, which should be done under that gift amount. (I will do all the prep and stonework, and hire just the blacktop itself.)

Thank you for thinking about missions in your decision to use that property sale for "getting the Word to the world." And thank you for considering Shepherd's Bethel both in your prayers and regular gifts and as one of the recipients of this extra blessing.

**Michael P. Weiss, President
Shepherd's Bethel (Indiana)**

