



ED LACY MINISTRIES, INC.
P.O. BOX 9062
MOBILE, AL 36691



**STRIVING TO DO
 GOD'S WORK, GOD'S WAY, FOR GOD'S GLORY**

EDLACYMINISTRIES@CS.COM

251 (660-8942

(251) 421-8338

EDLACYMINISTRIES.ORG

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Praying always, with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. – Ephesians 6:18. The Word of God is replete with multiplied commands and myriads of promises, which are directly related to the glorious privilege and sacred priority of prayer. The Holy Spirit has made prayer a preeminent aspect of the scriptures. Therefore, prayer must be an essential priority in our lives. God has said a great deal about prayer, because friends, we have a great need to prayer. A “fruitful prayer life” is essential to every aspect of a growing relationship with the Lord. Certainly, we realize that no one’s relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ will rise above the level of his or her prayer life. If your “prayer life” is consistent and strong, then your relationship with the Lord will consistent and strong. But if your prayer life is inconsistent and weak, then your relationship with the Lord will be inconsistent and weak.

As we enter into 2014, we must never forget the important truth, that we will be fiercely opposed in this essential priority of prayer. The enemy of your soul will bring many other important priorities to your mind, that you are responsible to accomplish, in his attempt to deter you from this supreme priority! He will tempt you to do any other duty, (even Christian duties), if he can hinder you from your primary duty and delight of praying about all of the lesser priorities. We must make a daily commitment to “submit ourselves to God and resist the enemy” from tempting you to be negligent or to be deviated from this indispensable component of our lives! Even your own flesh will continually oppose you, throughout this year, when it comes to this critical element of “seeking the face of our Lord” in prayer. Your flesh despises the discipline and the delight of prayer. Your flesh would rather do anything else, than to spend daily, quality, priority and consistent time in prayer.



So how should each of us respond this year? Oh dear brothers and sisters, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, we must put to death the deeds of the flesh; we must discipline our body and bring it under subjection; we must present ourselves to our Lord as a holy sacrifice; and we must set our mind and our affections on things above, if we are going to be a victorious conqueror in this most indispensable imperative of 2014.

Have you considered the truth that the level of your prayer life reveals your level of spiritual maturity? Do you realize that you can have all of your “doctrinal ducks in a row”; and still be miserably failing to walk in a manner that is pleasing to the Lord, if you are failing to apprehend and apply this necessity of prayer? Biblical knowledge and sound doctrine are extremely important. But there is one thing that is just as important; and that is “spiritual breathing-in of the King’s atmosphere”, through a daily, quality, priority and consistent time seeking the Lord in prayer! As a matter of fact, I would even submit to you that the more theology that we know about God, the more that it should inspire us to know God, in the intimacy of spiritual prayer. If our accumulation of knowledge about the scriptures is not producing the delight of prayer, then there is something desperately wrong about the manner in which we are receiving that knowledge! (CONTINUED P. 2)



So dear brothers and sisters, it is my prayer for each of us, in this New Year, that we might be men and women who are “praying always, with all prayer and supplication.” It is also my petition to the Lord that each one of us would be men and women who are “praying by the power and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit”. For all of us must realize that the prayer that reaches Heaven; is the prayer which began in Heaven! We must grab hold of the biblical reality that “only the prayer that comes from God, will move the heart of God; and then bring down the blessings of God”! It is

also my prayer that we would be men and women who will persevere in prayer. We must never abandon prayer concerning any person; for as long as they are breathing, they are potential objects of the mercy of Almighty God. Oh in 2014, may we be known as prayer warriors who don’t give up; don’t give in; and don’t give out! Even if it seems as if the Lord has closed their ears; we must not close our mouths! We must keep on asking; keep on seeking; keep on knocking! My precious wife and I persisted in prayers through 26 calendar years, before we saw God’s answer in the conversion of my own dad! Even now, we are still involved in persevering prayer on behalf of the souls of others.

So dear friends, may each of us make a new commitment to be men and women of prioritized, passionate, persistent, Spirit-empowered and Christ-exalting prayer! As Charles Spurgeon has well said, “May the motto for this year be, ‘continue to pray’”!

KENYA – PASTOR’S CONFERENCE!

Ephesians 6:18, was our theme verse, from which I had the joy and privilege of teaching 14 sessions a few weeks ago, in Kitale, Kenya. There were over 400 pastors and prison chaplains, from all over the nation of Kenya and Uganda, who congregated at the Kenya Ministries Training Institute. We studied the workbook God graced me to compile, entitled, “The Biblical Path To An Effective Prayer Life”! The first two sessions of teaching covered the subject of “Our Confidence In Prayer”; then 2 sessions on “Praying In The Spirit.” The Holy Spirit mightily moved on our hearts in these sessions.

Those particular sessions were used by the Holy Spirit to impel the pastors into a corporate movement of hours of passionate prayer, which began about 3 a.m. the next morning! The following 2 sessions covered the subject of “Persevering In Prayer”. God, the Holy Spirit, powerfully performed an awesome convicting and correcting work in the lives of the pastors, during these sessions. For the rest of the week, I taught on the various types of biblical prayer, that we are all called to be involved in. We studied the essential importance of being involved in prayers of worship, thanksgiving and praise; we studied the vital issue of being consistently involved in personal confession of sin; as well as, walking in forgiveness toward others who wrong us. I used personal illustrations in each of these areas; as well as personally challenged these leaders to be renewed and revived, in each of these crucial areas!

We then spent two sessions on the “Triangle Of Intercessory Prayer”. God used the example of Moses’ faithful intercession, for the rebellious children of Israel, to mightily challenge all of us, in this critical area of passionate and persevering intercession for the stubborn rebels, who are within the sphere of the influence of our lives! We concluded by teaching on “Personal Petitions” for our own needs, in the walk of a disciple! I especially challenged all of us to keep the main focus of our personal petitions on spiritual issues; and not primarily focusing on physical issues! The Holy Spirit used that challenge in an awesome way in the lives of these precious pastors and chaplains!

Friends, my heart is so full of rejoicing and thanksgiving for what the Lord accomplished in the lives of these spiritual leaders. The Holy Spirit mightily applied the truths of each session to our lives and ministries, in ways that can only be explained by His awesome, life-transforming Presence and Power! The Wind of God swept through our lives so evidently and supernaturally, that God was initiating passionate and powerful “prayer meetings” in the lives of most of the pastors, which would continue on for hours each morning. These prayer meetings were being ignited in the hearts of pastors, for many hours before the sun rose! (CONTINUED P. 3)

I really cannot put into words all of the many things that God accomplished in the lives of these leaders. But I will simply say, that the Living God graced us with an awesome revival in our “prayer lives”. Let me give you just a few of the hundreds of personal testimonies from this prayer conference.

TESTIMONIES

George Wafula, the Director of Kenya Ministries Training Institute, shares these words of gratitude, “It was indeed a big honor and blessing for me to have an opportunity to serve the people of God together with you. You have been a BIG blessing to my life and ministry. We thank God always every time we pray for you, because of your partnership with the evangelical church in Kenya. The conference on “The Biblical Path To An Effective Prayer Life” was a great blessing to our pastors and church leaders. Many of them have already called us back; to appreciate the opportunity they were given to attend the meeting. Everyone that I have met has had a personal testimony to give. For me personally, the conference was very challenging and inspiring to me. I learned things on Biblical prayer that I had never heard of, for all these years that I have been preaching. I felt like I was in the classroom of the Holy Spirit; and my understanding was being illuminated, to see what I had never seen before, in the Word of God. On the second day of the conference, God spoke to my heart personally about the people in my life that I had stopped interceding for; because for some reason, God had delayed to answer my prayers about changing them. The Word of God came to me with such conviction and power on this issue. I have asked God to help me, through the Holy Spirit, to stand in the gap, on behalf of all those he has brought in my life and continue interceding for them. I thought that I was the only one in that meeting that God has spoken to, on this particular issue; but after the meeting, many pastors came to me, telling me they faced the same negligence in their lives. They testified that God had convicted them through His Word and they had repented. One Bishop from Nakuru said, “I wept silently throughout that session; because I felt that God was speaking so personally to me”. Some pastors who traveled 14 hours from Lodwar Town, which is near the border of Kenya and Sudan, testified that, “What we received from this conference was more than worthy of the journey. God brought us to this conference, to let us know just how far that we had fallen from the truth about prayer”. The pastor that led the team from Lodwar said, and I quote, “If you hear that this man of God is coming anywhere in East Africa to preach, please let me know; so I can attend his meeting, because he has spoken life to me; and he is full of God’s Word”. I am truly excited to hear what God accomplished in the lives of the pastors and leaders who were in attendance. I give all of the Glory to our Lord and Savior”.

Pastor Dominic from Nairobi shares his heart about God’s work in his life. “I have personally come to realize that, even though I am a pastor, that most of my prayers were not in alignment with the will of God; and thus, they were not effective! I was not cooperating with the Wind of God to move me along the pathway of the Will of God; also, my prayer life was not being moved along by the Holy Spirit, in the direction of the will of God. But I thank God for His servant, whom God has used to minister to us in this conference. God has mightily used him to transform our entire outlook on prayer. We realize that prayer was never given by God, to place us on the throne. But prayer was given by God to place us on our knees before the Sovereign Throne of God; so that God’s will might be accomplished, through the means of our prayers! I am now praying that the Wind of God will propel me into everything that I do, for the glory of my Lord and Savior.”

Chaplain Edward from Kapetiguria Prison said, “This conference was a great personal blessing to my life. It was amazing to realize how all of the teachings spoke specifically to my heart, about all of the things that I had been going through in the prison ministry. The teachings of this brother had already become a great blessing to my life, through the “Christ-centered Evangelism” study last year. It resulted in a great change in my evangelistic ministry to prisoners and to the workers at the prison. This teaching is also going to bring a great change to my prayer life. And this will bring an even greater transformation in my life, my family and my prison ministry!



Pastor John from the Central Republic of Kikuyu, Kenya was overflowing with praise to our God, for His transforming work in his heart, during the conference. He testifies, “It is really hard to put into words, all of the things that I have personally learned this week, in this precious conference. But I will not hesitate to say that all of the teachings, have not only been personally inspiring; but also life changing. This is my 3rd conference that I have attended, where Ed has been the teacher. Bro. Ed, we are so extremely grateful to God for placing you in our lives. We are also grateful for your loving wife, who has stood with you as you have travelled up and down this planet, to be a

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blessing to the people of God! God has used you to ignite my heart to persevere in evangelistic intercession for the rebel sinners, within the sphere of the influence of my life and ministry. I want to be a part of a mighty revival of prayer that will shake our nation for the glory of God.”

Pastor Walter from Kilimani - (This is the neighborhood in Nairobi where the Islamist terrorist attack in the shopping mall occurred recently) He testifies, “The spiritual journey through this conference has been a tremendous discovery and transformation in my life. It has revolutionized my entire state of being! I have been changed from a ritualistic and religious person, into a purposeful, evangelistic and interceding believer! This conference was so timely for me personally. I was an intercessor who would easily give up, when my prayers were not answered. I would assume that this must not be the will of God, when I would go a long time without an answer from the Lord. But I have been changed! I have come to realize that God delights in persistent prayer; regardless of how long we have been praying! Also, I would easily become so angry, when I would see sinners involved in deliberate rebellion against God. I was often tempted to cease in my intercession for such rebels. But my entire outlook has been transformed, after learning about the powerful testimony of Moses’ loving intercessions for the rebellious children of Israel! The Lord used this teaching to convict my heart and prompted me to repent of my attitudes; and to purpose to persevere in compassionate and passionate intercession for the rebel sinners around me. The Lord also used Bro. Ed to teach me to



focus my personal petitions mostly on spiritual things; and not on physical things. I was powerfully reminded the spiritual things have eternal value; and physical things only have temporal value. I must testify that my prayer life has been totally changed for the good. I am committing to be faithful to the teachings that I have been extremely blessed with! These teachings have brought new hope to my heart. They have set a new beginning in my spiritual life! Bro. Ed has been used, not only to be a tremendous blessing to me; but to all of my countrymen who were in this conference. We have lived in spiritual darkness in this essential area; not even understanding what we ought to be doing in our prayer lives. But our God has enlightened us spiritually and doctrinally, through this precious brother.

These are only a handful of the hundreds of testimonies that fill my briefcase, as I began to head back to the states! Dear brothers and sister, I want to thank you for interceding for this conference. I only wish that I could have zapped you into the middle of it, to witness the mighty working of the Holy Spirit, as He was teaching these glorious truths to the lives of these leaders, who will be able to teach others also. Please continue to pray for a tremendous multiplication of the truths in this study, to hundreds of congregations all over Kenya, parts of Uganda, and the border of the Sudan, where so much Muslim terrorism is occurring, even now!

OUR PRAYERS ARE PERFUMED BY THANKSGIVING FOR YOU!



Our petitions for you, for this upcoming year, are perfumed by thanksgiving to our Lord, for allowing our “life paths” to cross! Our hearts are overwhelmed with a fragrance of gratitude, as we think of you and the intricate role, which you play in this ministry! As we prepare for the opportunity to teach 280 “church planting missionaries” from the Eastern Baptist Convention, we are well aware that your intercession and your loving support is absolutely essential to this conference. As I pray over the 2 trips to Cuba scheduled for this year; along with the 2 conferences in India that are ahead in the coming months; and the pastors’ conference in Kenya, that I am already preparing for later on in the year, I am acutely aware that you will play an essential part in all of them, as well as many other opportunities that are ahead. Please know that we are praying for you, and thanking God our Father for you. So friends, please know that Dianne and I want to say, from the bottom of our hearts, we love you in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Ed & Dianne Lacy

If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please e-mail us at edlacyministries@cs.com.