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# THE HERALD

Newsletter of the Orrville Grace Brethren Church

## The Boiler Room

Making Prayer Your Church's Highest Priority

It is a famous story. Charles Spurgeon loved to take people to the “boiler room” of his church. Confused why he wanted to show them the heating system, they soon learned that it was actually a prayer room where hundreds of Spurgeon’s church members met to pray for him during his sermons.

While he preached, his people prayed. And God heard. Spurgeon is still called “the Prince of Preachers.” His preaching stirred more than the ten thousand listeners that gathered each Sunday to hear him in 19th century London. Manuscripts of his messages stirred people across the globe, and his sermons are still read today. One church prayed and nearly every Bible-believing church in America has benefited—because it would be very unusual if your pastor has not read Charles Spurgeon.

God is not partial to Londoners over a century ago. He is ready to answer prayer today. He is looking to demonstrate his power in any church, anywhere, that will give him that same opportunity to honor prayer.

What does your church need? If your first answer is some program or ministry, or change in music style, or better preaching, then prayer won’t be a priority.

There is a quotation from A.J. Gordon hanging on my office wall: **“You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed.”** If we really believe what our churches need is more of God then we will pray first and work on everything else afterwards. Usually it is the other things we depend on to make our churches what we want them to be. But if we became serious about making our churches what God wants them to be, prayer would be given the highest priority.

How can we increase prayer in our churches? I suggest looking at prayer in three categories: formal, informal, and personal.

By formal I mean the scheduled, structured prayer times in a church. These need to be planned and they need to be attended. Encourage your leadership by attending the prayer times already scheduled or encouraging them to start scheduling them. These may be a mid-week prayer service, a prayer time for the sermon right before the morning service (or during the sermon as one of my churches did for me), a Saturday morning men’s prayer breakfast, or a ladies’ prayer time perhaps connected to a new mothers ministry. My church has a ladies’ prayer time specifically to intercede for the children and their teachers in school, especially in public school.

Informal prayer is given spontaneously as the church, the body of Christ, interacts. As believers gather for fellowship, a time of prayer—perhaps for an urgent need of a beloved member— ⇒

can be such a blessing. When people share about a trial, how meaningful when the person listening says, “Can I pray with you right now about that?” I often saw two people with heads bowed in the hallways of my church before and after services.

Finally, personal prayer is the private praying each member does alone. Jesus called this our “closet” (Matthew 6:6) where we commune with God and intercede for the church. A specific place and time for this is best for most people who otherwise forget. Make a prayer list or use prayer cards such as the ones missionaries provide. You can make your own prayer cards on index cards for the pastors, Sunday school teachers, shut-ins, and others you want to remember.

Don’t be discouraged if you are not a praying person now. Just determine to start by praying short prayers throughout the day as God brings things to your mind. Charles Spurgeon said he never prayed more than five minutes at a time, but he never went more than five minutes without praying. Didn’t the Apostle Paul encourage us to “pray without ceasing”? This is what he meant.

Prayer doesn’t have to be difficult to arrange in our lives. If we think we need to find a quiet place, get on our knees, confess all our sins, pray for every missionary, and do it with tears in our eyes we are mistaken about the kind of prayer God hears.

Anyone can pray. And your prayer may be what God is waiting for to do something special in your church. When I finish praying I often remind myself that because I prayed, God will do more than he would have done if I had not prayed. God is loving so he will act on our behalf even if we don’t pray—but he does more when we pray. Friend, pray just a little more.

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**Biography of Author, David Childs ⇒**

David Childs is Vice-President for Student Services at Appalachian Bible College and a member of Maxwell Hill Baptist Church. He and his wife, Linda, have two sons, two daughters, and two grandchildren. His interests include history and cowboy movies, which inspired him to build his own muzzleloader.



## NET '16 Highlights

### Bryanna Stergios - Mishawaka GBC

It was a blessing and such a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to serve on NET again this summer. My most memorable experiences that I have were with all of the wonderful people that we met on our trip. We were able to visit a nursing home/rehab center and do a few living room programs in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. It was a time when we were there to encourage them, but hearing a few of their testimonies about when they put their faith in Jesus encouraged me! I love meeting brothers and sisters in Christ.

While we were at the Berean Faith Fellowship we met a group of children that lived in houses close to the church. Quite a few of these kids had rough home lives. The first night that we met these kids was quite the experience! They had started throwing stink bombs at our cars. As the week went by they warmed up to us. Every day that we had free time we would play games with the children. A few of these children even started coming to the Faith and Family Nights at the church. Some of the little girls even started wearing dresses to church after the first day. The girls really listened as we shared the Gospel. Even though they did not make a decision, a seed was planted. I pray that the seed will grow and they will realize their need for Christ in their lives. I was thankful for the opportunities that we had to share the Gospel with them and just to love on them.

## Josh Miller - Orrville GBC

It is always hard to narrow down NET memories to just a few highlights or even just one, but here I go at attempting to accomplish that task. There were two things that I would consider highlights this year. First of all it was a wonderful joy to see how the returning team members had grown from last year. It was encouraging to watch them gain confidence in sharing their faith. But that isn't what I would consider my favorite highlight. My favorite memory/highlight was prayer time. This year in Mt. Vernon, all of the single guys were staying at the same house. We had an empty room in the house and so we deemed it the prayer room/war room. It was a place where several of the guys could go and pray for awhile and others would come join them at any given time if they were able. We also prayed in the evenings together before heading off to bed, all twelve of us would circle up and pray together. I am continually learning more and more how important prayer truly is and it was an amazing blessing to pray often with my brothers in Christ while on NET.

## Ian McAllister - Trinity GBC

Going door to door made me nervous, but once we started doing it I really enjoyed it. It was also fun going with different people throughout the week. Seeing how each person went about door to door in their own unique way was helpful and encouraging.

I also really enjoyed spending a week with all the guys in Mt. Vernon. It was a lot of fun and very encouraging. The talks that went on (mostly in the evening) were fun and profitable to be a part of. I also enjoyed spending time with my prayer partner after devotions.

**You can see videos and pictures from the 2016 NET trip at [www.facebook.com/NationalEvangelismTeam](http://www.facebook.com/NationalEvangelismTeam)**

## Rachel Steiner - Orrville GBC

It is hard to pick a specific highlight from the trip this year! It was so cool to see how God worked through prayer this year! On Sunday night we had a time of prayer with the whole team. We all got together and Joshua would give different topics. For example, the VBS that we were going to be doing that week, door to door contacts, and different things like that. I think we need to have more times like that because prayer is such an important and vital role in the way God works in people's lives. God really did a work in my heart by giving me a heart for the people that we were ministering to in Mt. Vernon.

In Mt. Vernon, we went to a nursing home Thursday. After the program I was talking to a lady and it was so encouraging to talk with her! She was like a grandmotherly figure and was super neat to talk with her about the Lord and our spiritual walk.

Many seeds were planted in Mt. Vernon. God was at work in many lives. We were praying that God would save five people. So far four people have come to know the Lord!

Even though there was a smaller number of girls this year it was so neat to see how God brought us all really close to each other. I really enjoyed getting to talk with the girls and sharing our struggles and hearts with each other. I also really enjoyed prayer partners this year. It was so encouraging to be able to share struggles and requests with each other and then bring them before the Lord and see Him answer!

This year in team devotions we studied the life of Abraham and I have really been thinking a lot about the faith that he had and how I need to have similar faith in my life. That is what I love about team devotions it forces you to find a concept to apply to your life so you are not reading God's Word just to read it but actually getting something out of it daily.

# FUNNIES

Everybody should pay his taxes with a smile.  
I tried it, but they wanted cash.

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A young man applied for a job, and brought with him glowing references from his minister and a dozen elders in the church. The prospective employer nodded with pleasure at the written statements, but said, "These are very nice. Could you get one from somebody who knows you on weekdays?"

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It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of growing old doesn't appeal to anyone.

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Susie signed up for an exercise class, and the instructor told her to wear tennis shoes and loose-fitting clothing. She replied, that if she had any loose-fitting clothing, she would not have signed up in the first place.

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One student in the world-history class at U.C.L.A. asked the professor, "is it true that history repeats itself?"

"Indeed, sir," came the reply.  
"Particularly if you flunk it."

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When the federal income tax was signed into law in 1913, a senator speaking in opposition to the bill stated: "If we allow this 1 percent foot-in-the-door, at some future date it might rise to 5 percent.

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Why do banks charge a fee on "insufficient funds" when they know there isn't enough?

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Ours is the only country in the world where people pay \$200,000 for a house and then leave it for two weeks every summer to sleep in a tent.

A father is asked by his friend,  
"Has your son decided what he wants to be when he grows up?"

"Yes, he wants to be a garbage collector,"  
replied the boy's father.

His friend thought for a moment and responded, "That's a rather strange ambition to have for a career."

"Well," said the boy's father, "he thinks that garbage collectors only work on Tuesdays!"

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A dog ran into a butcher's shop, grabbed a string of sausages and ran back out again. The irate butcher recognized the dog as belonging to one of his regular customers, a lawyer. So that afternoon he went to the lawyer's office and said to the lawyer, "if a dog steals meat from my store, do I have the right to demand payment from the dog's owner?"

The lawyer replied, "Yes, absolutely."

"Well," replied the butcher, "you owe me nine dollars for the sausages your dog stole this morning."

The lawyer signed and wrote out a check for \$9.

A week later, the butcher received an envelope from the lawyer containing a bill for \$50 for consultation.

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A man who owned a house in Chicago's fashionable Lake Shore Drive decided he was tired of it and called upon a real estate broker to offer it for sale on his behalf.

In the following Sunday's Chicago Tribune he read the ad which the broker had worked up for him. It sounded so good that he reread it to himself.

Then he called the broker, to whom he said:  
"I've decided not to sell."

"What made you change your mind?"  
asked the realtor.

"That ad of yours," he replied.

"It convinced me that this was the kind of house I've been looking for all my life."