

The Power of Prayer Changes the World

By Pastor Larry Rupp

The following are stories of prayer and revival from some of the great men of faith and revival. Please read these accounts and be in prayer for revival here in Iowa!

R.A. Torrey

"Up in a little town in Maine, things were pretty dead some years ago. The churches were not accomplishing anything. There were a few Godly men in the churches, and they said: 'Here we are, only uneducated laymen; but something must be done in this town. Let us form a praying band. We will all center our prayers on one man. Who shall it be?' They picked out one of the hardest men in town, a hopeless drunkard, and centered all their prayers upon him. In a week, he was converted. They centered their prayers upon the next hardest man in town, and soon he was converted. Then they took up another and another, until within a year, two or three hundred were brought to God, and the fire spread out into all the surrounding country. Definite prayer for those in the prison house of sin is the need of the hour." Dr. R.A. Torrey

"We are too busy to pray, and so we are too busy to have power. We have a great deal of activity, but we accomplish little; many services but few conversions; much machinery but few results." R. A. Torrey

Charles Spurgeon

Spurgeon's "boilerroom." Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon.

Hudson Taylor

"Eighteen-year-old Hudson Taylor wandered into his father's library and read a gospel tract. He couldn't shake off its message. Finally, falling to his knees, he accepted Christ as his Savior. Later, his mother, who had been away, returned home. When Hudson told her the good news, she said, "I already know. Ten days ago, the very date on which you tell me you read that tract, I spent the entire afternoon in prayer for you until the Lord assured me that my wayward son had been brought into the fold." *[Hudson Taylor (1832-1905) was a famous missionary in China. He was founder of the China Inland Mission which, at his death, included 205 mission stations with over 800 missionaries, and 125,000 Chinese Christians. He spent 51 years in China].*

"Since the days of Pentecost, has the whole church ever put aside every other work and waited upon Him for ten days, that the Spirit's power might be manifested? We give too much attention to method and machinery and resources, and too little to the source of power." Hudson Taylor

**We meet for Prayer every Sunday morning at 8:30 and Wednesday nights during E.K.G.
Join us for prayer and lets change the world!**

"Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

GRACE BIBLE CHURCH CONNECTION

Thinking about baptism? Wondering about church membership?

Have you ever wanted to be baptized? Maybe you haven't even thought about baptism and have some initial questions? Great! We're here to help you consider making that step!

Or perhaps you are wondering about church membership - is it important? Should you become a member? Why should you think about taking this step? Those are all great questions and we'd love to explore the answers with you. See Larry or Kevin for additional information and details.



Strong & Courageous: The Study of Joshua

Beginning on January 3rd, we will begin to study the Book of Joshua in Larry's Sunday morning class. This will be an exciting and informative time of working through the Book of Joshua to see how God worked in ancient times and to draw parallels with how He is working today and what He requires of us as Christ-followers. Joshua's life provides much food for thought as to what it looks like to seek the fulfillment of our own desires versus seeking after what God has in mind for our lives. Please join us on Sunday mornings in the sanctuary at 9am.

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO "DO" CHRISTIANITY?

WE'LL BE LOOKING AT ANSWERING THAT QUESTION AS WELL AS ASKING AND THINKING THROUGH MANY OTHER QUESTIONS IN OUR NEXT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ON 1 & 2 TIMOTHY AND TITUS. WE WILL BE STARTING ON FEBRUARY 7, 2010 OVER AT THE PARSONAGE AND INVITE ANY WHO ARE INTERESTED IN UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE MESSAGE OF TIMOTHY AND TITUS HAS FOR US TODAY. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!



The Trellis and the Vine

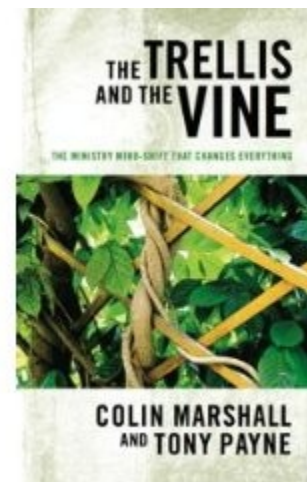
In this day and age it seems as if everybody has an opinion on how to do church - run big events, don't do big events, focus upon making new members, don't worry about membership, etc. - argh! It's enough to make your head spin. Personally, I've tried to steer clear of many of the newest and trendiest thoughts in church growth because they often have a predictable pattern: first, they usually have little Biblical support. More and more often it comes down to "growing" a church by having larger budgets, adding staff members, and basically spinning our wheels to make it seem as if everything is going along just fine. And yet, I must ask - where is true, Biblical discipleship in all of that? Secondly, it also seems as if many of the books focus more upon the here and now rather than on what God has in mind for a church in His plan for all time. Ideas are often put forth which, to be quite frank, seem like they play more into being upper-middle class and having disposable income rather than reaching the lost and discipling the found towards greater faithfulness.

It is because of these many ideas that you have so many books and church growth gurus all preaching different methods of success. But what if the goal isn't earthly success? That is the question that Colin Marshall and Tony Payne are asking in their work "The Trellis and the Vine." I've had the chance to read through the first two chapters of this brand new book and can say that this is nothing short of a breath of fresh air. The primary call of this book is to return us to the Great Commission of Matthew 28: we as a church exist to make disciples. That means that we must first get people to understand and accept what Christ has done for them on the cross, and then teach them how to explain that truth to others. That's it. When you break it all down, making disciples is nothing more than teaching others what Christ has commanded for them to do if they are to be followers of Him. It's that simple. As a result, Marshall and Payne call the church to remember these simple Scriptural truths and to equip every believer to be a disciple-maker in the Biblical paradigm.

Several mind shifts need to be made to accomplish this according to Marshall and Payne, among them: 1) We need to look more towards building people than running programs, 2) We need to start training people rather than running events, 3) We need to train new Gospel workers rather than just filling gaps in our volunteer lists, 4) We need to focus upon long-term Gospel growth rather than immediate needs, 5) We need to engage in more disciple-making ministry and less corporate-style management, and 6) We need to change our mindsets from seeking church growth to seeking Gospel growth.

While many other points are made, these few have stuck out to me the most as I have been reading this book. Friends, I would greatly encourage you to pick up a copy and read along with me - think through the Biblical arguments that Marshall and Payne are promoting and let's see together how we as a church can focus more on doing what we as a church exist to do, rather than simply doing what the Christian culture and society tells us will bring immediate success. We exist to make disciples for eternity - let's get to work!

-Pastor Kevin



**CHANGING LIVES
THROUGH JESUS CHRIST**

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*CONNECTING TO THE GILBERT AREA
 WITH THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST*



Larry Rupp - Lead Pastor

Kevin Miller - Discipleship & Community

Engagement Pastor

Amanda Jennings - Worship Director

Service Times:

Sunday morning prayer: 8:30am

Sunday School : 9:00 a.m.

Church Service: 10:30 a.m.

E.K.G. - Wednesday 6:00pm

Ministering to the Lord, the Church, and Others

Worship Coordinator: Annette Miller

Week Date	Nursery	Ushers/Greeters	Treats	Cleaning
02-07-10	Karen & Rachael	Jeremy & Seth	Annette	Rupp's
02-14-10	Carol & Blair	Dave R. & Kirk	Holck's	Joan & Baker's
02-21-10	Cindy B. & Susan	Wade & Annette	K&M Miller	Becker's
02-28-10	Anita & Bonnie	Trent & Joseph	Becker's	Cindy & Annette