

Faith Report

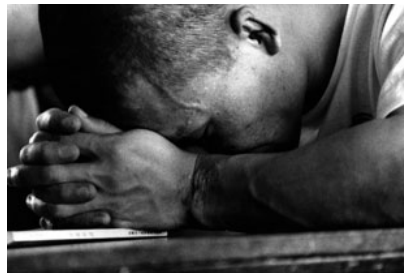
Relying: Encouragements in Prayer

by Craig Garriott

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty." Zechariah 4:6

This first edition of The Faith Report for a new year and new decade is rightly focused on prayer for, as Jesus made clear, *"apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15: 5 Our Westminster Confession says, "Prayer is an offering up of our desires unto God for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of his mercies." That is a great and full definition of prayer. But I personally like the Canaanite woman's example of biblical prayer when she desperately came to Jesus, kneeling and pleading for him to heal her demon possessed daughter, "Lord, help me!" Three words say it all. "Lord" - affirming His sovereignty, "help" - a bold, desperate, humble, appeal of her need, and "me" - God wants our personal and relational engagement. Our praying does not demand that we understand all the biblical principles of prayer. The God of the universe is attracted to our weakness and desperate cries because they are expressions of simple, even weak faith to which He wants to respond. Why does God want to respond to our cries

and pleas? Because when we pray in the faith of His Son, God receives our prayers as though His very Son were praying them. Do you realize that the God of the universe is a Holy, almighty, loving Father who is super attentive to your prayers?



My desire is not to beat you with guilt techniques to get you to pray more. They never work. It is the grace of God that compels us to grow in prayer. Instead, I will just share some helpful wisdom from various scriptures and believers who have encouraged me in my prayer life, that you too may grow in the grace of prayer.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

"...O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge." Psalms 62:8

"Tell God all that is in your heart, as one unloads one's heart, its pleasures and its pains, to a dear friend. Tell God your troubles, that God may comfort you; tell God your joys, that God may sober them; tell God your longings, that God may purify them; tell God your dislikes, that God may help you conquer them; talk to God of

your temptations, that God may shield you from them: show God the wounds of your heart, that God may heal them. If you thus pour out all your weaknesses, needs, troubles, there will be no lack of what to say. Talk out of the abundance of the heart, without consideration say just what you think. Blessed are they who attain to such familiar, unreserved intercourse with God." Francois Fenelon

"Why is it so important that you are with God and God alone on the mountain top? It's important because it's the place in which you can listen to the voice of the One who calls you the beloved. To pray is to listen to the One who calls you "my beloved daughter", "my beloved son", "my beloved child". To pray is to let that voice speak to the center of your being, to your guts, and let that voice resound in your whole being." Henri Nouwen

"The truth is that the church has always accomplished the most when she has deeply realized her own helplessness. Dependence upon God is our greatest need; it focuses our attention on what HE can do; and it makes his glory a supreme reason for all our concerns." Ian Murray

"Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16:24

Pray and experience God's power, pleasure and joy.♦



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*United that the
world would
know*

*¹⁸And pray in the
Spirit on all occa-
sions with all kinds
of prayers and
requests. With this
in mind, be alert
and always keep on
praying for all the
saints.
Ephesians 6:18*

Introducing Kevin Feldman
By Helen Brown



After a search of several months, Faith Christian Fellowship is delighted to announce the hiring of Kevin Feldman as the Faith Urban Works (FUW) Executive Director. Kevin has come, most recently, from Chicago and will be followed by his wife, Kate, and 5 of his 7 children at the end of the school year. We had many candidates for this position but very few met the key qualification of having had experience in fundraising. Kevin eclipsed all of them and, at a time when the economy is tight and giving is generally down, we are trusting that the Lord will use Kevin and his gifts to establish and further develop the work of Faith Urban Works.

Kevin has worked in a number of non profit organizations over the last 20 years including the Bible League, World Venture, The Christian Broadcasting Network and a Food Bank. He has worked in places as far apart as Maine, Virginia, Colorado, Chicago, Michigan, and now Maryland. He began his nonprofit career as an educational program director for inner-city youth in Detroit, Michigan 20 years ago which subsequently saw a growth of enrollment of young people into job training and placement programs. Since then he has worked in a number of fundraising and development environments to help to grow their awareness and income.

Kevin says that his years of nonprofit work have involved the formation of strategic relationships with business, the media, and community. Clearly, such relationships are vital for the development and survival of FUW.

On a personal level, apart from being a busy husband and dad, Kevin's interests have led him to be a scout leader, a therapeutic riding instructor, a television an-

nouncer and camera man.

Kevin will be ably assisted by FUW Development Assistant, Karen Bullard, who was hired early in 2009. We praise God for the encouragement that FUW has received through the FUNd RUN donations which continue to come in. Our current total stands at \$70,879!

Welcome to Faith, Kevin. ♦

Transitions at FCF

- We welcome Jim Whiting to the FCF staff. Jim is a long time member of our congregation and has been appointed to the position of Building Superintendent effective on January 4.
- Congratulations to Kaitlin Strine and Steve McGrath, Kristina Kniley and John Raine who recently got engaged. Both couples are planning early summer weddings.
- Congratulations to Vic King and Joanna Crossley who are in the process of becoming members at FCF and were married by Pastor Stan on January 1.

CALENDAR

Jan. 1 Office Closed
Jan. 8 Concert of Prayer 7 p.m.
Jan. 9 Women's Prayer Breakfast
Jan. 13 No Faith Leadership Night. See bulletin for details of ministry meetings.
Jan. 18 Office closed for Martin Luther King holiday.
Jan. 20 Annual Congregational Meeting 7.30 p.m. (Dinner at 6.30 p.m.)
Jan. 30 Parenting Workshop