

A Really Big Thing

First Timothy 2:1-4 reveals a power for positive change many people never fully tap. Those verses say, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." Paul has much to say in 1st and 2nd Timothy about preaching and ministry and the spiritual resources available for waging the good warfare and fighting the good fight of faith. But he begins by saying, "I exhort first of all that you pray!"

Someone noted "prayer" is a little word for a really big thing. Indeed it is. In the passage just cited, Paul reminds us that the prayers of God's people can influence kings and others who have power and authority to make decisions that affect the circumstances in which we must live our daily lives! In the words of Hebrews 4:16, prayer is the means by which we "come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." On that throne sits the omnipotent, Almighty King of the universe. Charles Hodge, in his book *Prayer: The Voice of Faith*, has written, "I do not believe in prayer, I believe in God; therefore, I pray." Prayer is power because God is God. Prayer works because God works! Prayer moves the hands that move the world" (Resource Publications, 1996, p. 11).

S. D. Gordon provokes us with the following words: "The greatest thing anybody can do for God and man is pray. It is not the only thing, but is the chief thing. The greatest people of the earth are the people who pray. I do not mean those who talk about prayer; nor those who say they believe in prayer; nor yet those who can explain about prayer; but I mean those people who take the time to pray." What can we do to help change a world filled with sin, violence, and millions of lost people? Each of us can do something really big - we can pray! Let us remember that when we work without prayer, we get what we can do. When we work through prayer, we get what God can do! Prayer really is a really big thing!

Pray without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5: 17

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Sunday, December 3, 2017

<p>Prayer List Updates</p> <p>Adrienne Penix – biopsy tomorrow</p> <p>William Salley – Peter’s father; in a regular room; started rehab</p> <p>Jimmy and Barbara Wilkins – Nancy Lasley’s brother and his wife; mission trip to Haiti this week</p> <p>Announcement</p> <p>Monette church of Christ has asked for our help with Christmas Eve dinner at Mission Outreach in Paragould. The food list is on the back information table, and they also need men’s hats and gloves. If you want to help serve the meal, we will leave from the activity building at 3:30 pm.</p>	<p>Upcoming Events</p> <p>Tuesdays 10 am ladies’ Bible study in activity building; children welcome</p> <p>December 6 prayer night; give prayer requests to Raymond by tonight</p> <p>December 9 10 am ladies’ brunch and ornament exchange at Pam Beach’s home; bring a wrapped ornament</p> <p>Dec 24 3:30 pm leave for meal at Mission Outreach</p> <p>Birthday</p> <p>Zaida Cagle December 8</p> <p>Anniversary</p> <p>Carroll and June Towell December 11</p>	<p>Correspondence Course Ministry</p> <p>week of November 27-December 2: 8 lessons graded</p> <p>December Haiti Needs</p> <p>powdered milk deodorant</p> <p>Last Week’s Attendance</p> <p>Sunday morning: 50 Sunday evening: 38 Wednesday evening: 40</p>
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Weekly Service Assignments

Sunday Morning	Bible class: 9:45 am worship: 10:45 am	Sunday Evening	6:00 pm
First Prayer	Raymond Lasley	First Prayer	Rudi Cagle
Announcements	Rudi Cagle	Closing Prayer	Jerry Bolar
Second Prayer	Josh Vires	Lord’s Supper	Matthew Sills Justin Beach
Scripture Reading	Raymond Lasley	Wednesday Evening	7:00 pm
Lord’s Supper	1. Ed Young 3. Larry Towell 2. Matthew Silsl 4. Justin Beach	First Prayer	Raymond Lasley
Closing Prayer	Peter Salley	Closing Prayer	Jerry Bolar