

Dear Church Family,

There is this small verse found in the Bible that I keep scratching my head over. While it only consists of three words it is often quoted and commonly pondered as to its meaning. Which passage is that God keeps setting in my path? The one found in I Thessalonians 5:17 and appears in the King James Version as "Pray without ceasing."

"What, do nothing but pray all day long?!" is a normal reaction to these words of God. In the process of contemplating over this verse, one question that I continue to have is what do our lives look like when we take "pray without ceasing" seriously. While I feel like I am far from fully comprehending this Biblical injunction I wanted to share with you all a few descriptions that God has placed on my heart.

1. We must pray. This seems so obvious but we cannot do any activity "without ceasing" if we don't begin in the first place. If prayer is vital—and it is!—it begins with small steps that grow much larger. Don't forget that prayer is a relationship with our Heavenly Father that we must be serious about developing.

2. What is our first inclination at the sign of trouble? Do we retreat and wait for the danger to go away or meet it head on and battle it with full force? Do we seek out others for help or advice to face the problem? Or, do we begin with going to the Lord in prayer?

3. Do we encourage others to pray during hard times or do we tell them they must tough it out? While the second option seems logical in our world today, one who truly prays without ceasing will encourage others to seek out the source of true power that they have experienced for themselves.

4. During our days do we find ourselves blurting out "Thank you, Lord" or "Help me, Lord?" When we "pray without ceasing" it will permeate our entire beings and even seep out at times we don't expect it. Now I'm not talking about a negative connotation that seeks to be a "polite" curse word, but a natural spilling forth of glad and sincere hearts.

5. When something good happens—especially something that we have been praying for—do we say that we were lucky or that we were blessed by God? One who prays without ceasing will realize that luck is a false idol and will be overjoyed to give credit where credit is due. I am not surprised that 5:17 is sandwiched between two verses that speak of joyful lives and thankfulness in our hearts.

You know, praying without ceasing is all about letting the Holy Spirit permeate our entire beings and allowing Him access into "every crook and cranny" of our lives. The basic question is really this: Is God at the center of our thoughts or do we shove Him off to the periphery?

I believe that F. F. Bruce summed it up best in his commentary when he shared these thoughts:

To "pray without ceasing" does not mean that every activity must be dropped for the sake of prayer but every activity must be carried out in a spirit of prayer which is the spontaneous outcome of a sense of God's presence.

I believe that a song that was popular from the early 70's (it came from the Broadway musical *Godspell*) imparts the aspiration of praying without ceasing:



A lot of things planned in February for 4:12 Youth Ministry. We will be joining the rest of the church family on February 2nd to go bowling at Scottsburg Lanes from 2-4pm. On February 8th we will be hosting our annual Not-So-Newlywed Gameshow, Luau theme! It is only \$5 a person, plan to join us for a fun and laughter-filled night!

Then on February 16 we will be hosting our Pulled Pork BBQ fundraising dinner. This will be a free-will offering. Half of everything we raise will go to The Refuge, a children's home for Scott County. After the dinner we will have our third Sunday gathering from 1:30-3:30. We will be joining adult Bible study on February 26th for our special Ash Wednesday service. Finally, on February 29th we plan to go and volunteer at CRADLE for a few hours.

We thank you for your prayers and your support. These are marvelous teens and we urge you to get to know them, you won't be disappointed!

God's Blessings, Pastor Tyler & Leah

Future Events

- March 1st Youth Gathering, 5-7 PM
- March 6th Movie Night, 6 PM "Wonder Park"
- March 8th CCA Annual Meeting at Kent Baptist Church, 4 PM
- March 13th-14th Pastor Tim to Ohio Leadership Academy
- March 15th Youth Gathering, 5-7 PM
- March 16th ABW Mtg. at KCBC, 12 PM
- March 21st Man Up Conference at Turning Point Church, 7:30 a.m.-1 PM
- March 21st Shared Blessings, 10-2
- March 22nd-25th Youth Spring Retreat at Southeastern Baptist Youth Camp
- March 28th-30th Chrysalis Flight
- March 29th CoMBaT Fish Fry in FLC, 12-2 PM
- April 2nd Semi Formal Fundraising Dinner at SEBYC, 6 PM
- April 4th Spring Clean-up Day at the church, 8 a.m.-?

1 Timothy 4:12

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

(cont. from page 1)

Day by day, Day by day/ O Dear Lord, three things I pray/ To see thee more clearly/ Love thee more dearly/ Follow thee more nearly/ Day by day.

Sisters and Brothers, to truly grow as a Church, we must be a Praying Church. There is no substitute for plugging into the power of God. May we embrace and truly know the presence of God in our lives "day by day."

With Love for You All,

Pastor Tim.

Leap and love. Here we are leaping into the second month of 2020. This is the shortest month of the calendar year. Even tho we will have 29 days instead of the normal 28 it will still fall short when compared with its predecessor January. February is known as the love month, and with that in mind are you leaping into love? Do you remember when you met your significant other how your heart would leap in your chest, or you would leap through hoops to make them happy? But as time goes on you still love them but aren't quite leaping to do the things that you used to do as you were building your relationship. A lot of people are the same way when it comes to a relationship with Christ. They come to know Christ and they can't contain the joy that coming to Christ brings so they leap to the task of doing what he bids and the things that make him happy and helps build a solid relationship with him. Then eventually, after years have passed, they realize that they still claim to love Christ, but they aren't leaping at the opportunities that he gives them to continue to strengthen their relationship with him. So, as we start this month of February, may we strive to show more love throughout this whole year, and may we leap at opportunities to share the love of Christ to a lost and dying world. Have a happy valentines and leap day. Love **Perry Stainbrook** y'all.

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STEWARDSHIP & ATTENDANCE

	SS	MW	0	FFERING
Dec. 29	36	88	\$	2,775.00
Jan. 5	45	117		2,650.00
Jan. 12	40	121	\$	3,725.00
Jan. 19	40	114	\$	2,600.00
4 <u>Wk. Avg.</u>	40 <u></u>	-7 <u>] 1</u> 10 <u>(</u> -12	2]	

4 W <u>k. Total Received</u>	<u></u> 11,750 <u>.00</u>
4 Wk. Total Needed	\$_13_320 <u>.00</u>
4 <u>Wk.</u> Rec. Last Month	\$_10,575 <u>.00</u>

YTD needed: \$ 69,930 YTD received: \$ 58,725

(September 1, 2019-January 19, 2020)

The Food Drive for the Edna Martin Christian Center will end on February 9th at 10:30 a.m. Anything brought in after that time will not count for the Men/Women Contest but will still go to EMCC. So be bringing in the last of your donations asap. As of this printing not very much has been brought in but the men are leading 139-84.

- WHAT: The Red Cross Blood Drive
- WHEN: Tuesday, February 4, 2020
- TIME: 3:00-8:00 PM
- WHERE: KCBC Family Life Center
- WHO: You!! If you are able to give blood then you are needed. There is a critical shortage of blood at this time. So please bring a friend or two and come out that day and "GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE".

ASH WEDNESDAY

This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 26th. At 6:30 PM that evening Pastor Tim has planned a special service to celebrate it. Everyone is invited to come. If you don't normally come to Wednesday evening services, please try to make an effort and come out for this service.

Just a heads up for March. During that month we will be taking the America for Christ offering each Sunday. There will be envelopes in the pews, but the Red Buckets will also be passed. Our goal is \$1300.00. Theme is "You Shall Love Your Neighbor as Yourself". Matt. 22:39.



We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from The Message Bible reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. MSG). *****

Love-ly Superlatives

To fall in love with God is the greatest of romances, to seek him the greatest adventure, to find him the greatest human achievement. --St. Augustine

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FAMILY MEALS

The Wednesday night family meals are open to everyone. It costs just \$1.00 per person (to help cover the cost of the entrée). We ask that you bring an item to share from the lists below or check the Sunday bulletin. If you would like to prepare the entrée for one Wednesday night, please sign up on the sheet on the desk in the small fellowship hall.

FEBRUARY 5 - Tacos (Diana Sebastian) Shells, Chips, Shredded Cheese, Shredded Lettuce, Diced Onions, Diced Tomatoes, Salsa, Rice, Refried Beans, Dessert, Drinks

> FEBRUARY 12 - TBA **Dessert**, Drinks

FEBRUARY 19 - Chicken & Noodles (Diana Sebastian) Lima Beans, Peas, Corn, Rolls, Dessert, Drinks

> FEBRUARY 26 - TBA **Dessert**, Drinks

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Roy & Cynthia Floyd, 1968
- 5 Jewell Rutherford, Jim Mummert, Malina Jeffries, Daniel Stone
- 7 Samantha Campbell
- **Ryan Blevins** 10
- Beulah Wells, Barb Deal, Tristan 11 Rowland
- Keith & Tracey Bixler, 1993 12
- 12 Amanda Hurt, Tim Brunner
- Marly McNeely, Doug Snelling 13
- Juanita Hobbs, Leslie McDaniel, Emily 14 Amos, Kyrie Joyce, Charlie Shields, **Taylor Towne**
- 16 Earl & Karen McClellan, 1996
- Virgil McKinnev 17
- Chris & Jenny Beverly, 1994 18
- Matt & Amanda Jones, 2006 18
- 19 **Odin Petty**
- David & Janet Wells, 1966 20
- 21 Alicia Johns
- **Jason** Johns 23
- Pat Berna 26
- Makayla Nowlin, Rebecca Sims 27
- 28 Markt & Sherry Nay, 1993
- Angie Avendaño, Doris Schrock 28

I still want to make sure that I have everyone's birthday & anniversary on this page. If you don't think I have yours on here, please let me know. Thanks, Judy P.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT **ATTENDANCE**

	Adults	Youth	Team Kid	<u>Totals</u>
1/01	No Serv	vices on	NEW YEAR	'S DAY
1/08	22	12	23	57
1/15	19	9	24	52
<u>1/22</u>	-			
Avgs.	20	11	24	55
Last Mont Avgs.		10	24	47