



Gulf Breezes

February, 2019

David Staal is the CEO of Kids Hope USA and shares this with us today. Is Prayer Crazy?

Crazy ideas change the world. The Bible contains story after story that began with ideas that likely seemed far-fetched. Fight the giant warrior with just a sling? Leave the family fishing business? Gather together in Jerusalem and simply wait—for what? Fortunately, the people in those stories had just enough faith in God to take crazy ideas seriously.

A couple decades ago, someone shared a wild option for our organization to consider. We do just one thing: we partner local churches (many are UMC) with local schools and equip the churches to mentor at-risk students at the schools. One mentor with one child. Simple. The new idea: Add a prayer partner to each relationship, someone willing to feel a burden and pray behind-the-scenes specifically and consistently for the student, the mentor, and their relationship. In other words, ask churches to recruit two people for every one student. In a single word: Crazy. Finding one volunteer is hard enough.

I'm so glad we went with the far-fetched idea. Twenty years later, data arrived that demonstrates the value of this "different" approach. Specifically, evidence that points to passionate, specific, persistent prayers as delivering something amazing. Yes, I realize that this should not be new news. But before you suddenly stop reading this column, please answer this: Do you have well-researched data that shows prayer works?

I do. And it's crazy-exciting. A two-year evaluation of our program by a highly-credible, external researcher showed that the existence of a highly engaged prayer partner serves as the single greatest predictor of a positive outcome in a student. In fact, twice as much impact as the next highest factor. In the clearest of terms: Students do far better when a persistent and passionate prayer partner joins efforts with a mentor.

The researcher, a secular expert on measuring mentoring's effectiveness, asked me to explain the prayer partner role because he had not seen such compelling data before. Today, when he consults with other mentoring organizations, he boldly recommends they add another role to their program—an "accountability partner."

Calling it a "prayer partner" must be a bit too crazy for some. Full disclosure: Our organization did not originate this idea. Possibly the most effective, yet unheralded prayer partner was Pearl Goode, a little old lady from Pasadena.

When the 1949 Billy Graham crusade came to Los Angeles, Pearl volunteered to work the event and felt compelled to appeal to heaven for the ministry team. "That night God laid those boys on my heart as a burden," she explained in a 1963 issue of Decision magazine, "and I have been praying for them ever since. I went to the Crusade every evening as long as it lasted, and began talking to God about them, asking Him to anoint them individually and to give them boldness in proclaiming the Word."

Following the L.A. event, she began to pray for every crusade, traveling to cities across the country without attracting attention. On buses, starting in the 1950s. Just her. Very crazy. Very behind-the-scenes. Eventually, crusade organizers noticed that her name consistently appeared on volunteer lists. Arrangements were made for her to travel with the crusades so she could continue this critical role.

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FYII: For Your Information & Interest

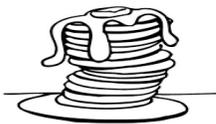
At Pearl's funeral service, Ruth Graham paid her very public tribute with these words: "Here lie the mortal remains of much of the secret of Bill's ministry."

But Pearl wasn't the first in this role either. Go back in time to a hill overlooking Rephidim, found in Exodus 17. The Israelites battle the Amalekites, and the Israelites prevail whenever Moses raises his hands. This is man-to-man combat, so Israel's success required individuals to do well. Eventually, this keep-your-hands-up-behind-the-scenes support becomes too much for him to continue and Israel suffers when his arms collapse; he needs a prayer partner or two. So Aaron and Hur stand beside him and prop up his arms.

That three-person team on a hill, Pearl's willingness to own a burden, and our army of prayer partners all share a common passion: to see God move.

Do you have a Pearl? Seems crazy if you don't.
Pastor Mike

Pancakes



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST
FUNDRAISER
BOY SCOUT TROOP 776
Saturday, Feb. 16
7:30am~ 11:30am**

**Pancakes-Eggs-Bacon-Omelet Bar-
Variety of Sides
\$10.00 per person**

All proceeds will be used to help the Scouts attend summer camp.

THE CHURCH AS MOSAIC



A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step

back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch. —Henri J.M. Nouwen



Scriptures -February, 2019

2/3

The Dachshund Dilemma
Luke 4:14-30

2/10

Pastor Tabitha Jordan

2/17

Who Touched The Remote Control?
Jeremiah 17:7-8

2/24

I'm O.k.; You're A Little Suspect
Luke 6:37-42



Ladies Lunch Out will be at Ruby Tuesday's on Sunday, February 10 at 12:30. Please join us! Contact Sandy Doty at 941- 875-4199 or ssdoty975@yahoo.com

or Deb Howell at 330-441-2852 or dehowell3902@yahoo.com.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Hey Football fans! It's Super Bowl Season and with that it's our annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" campaign. This year's collection date will be held on Super Bowl Sunday,

February 3. Show your support by wearing your favorite NFL team shirt! Remember all funds and food items go directly to Englewood Helping Hand - there are no administration costs whatsoever! **Don't forget to wear your favorite team jersey that Sunday!**

GOT LOVE?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

FINANCES

FUNDING GOD'S MINISTRY for December 2018

		YTD
TOTAL INCOME	\$51,804.33	\$421,603.21
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$9,400.05	\$97,411.15
EDUCATION/NURTURE	\$821.03	\$10,823.36
APPORTIONMENTS	\$4,504.90	\$49,553.90
STAFF SUPPORT	<u>\$24,742.65</u>	<u>\$290,134.80</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$39,468.63	\$447,923.21
SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$12,335.70	(\$26,320.00)
TOTAL INCOME W/Reserved Funds		YTD
		\$452,809.21
OPERATING EXPENSE		\$97,411.15
EDUCATION/NURTURE		\$10,823.36
APPORTIONMENTS		\$49,553.90
STAFF SUPPORT		<u>\$290,134.80</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$447,923.21
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		\$4,886.00

study the scripture text he will be using for the following Sunday's sermon. You can join a study group without having dinner; likewise eat dinner without joining a study group. Please make Wednesday nights a time you spend with your church family so you can feed your body...and soul!

"FOOD FOR THE SOUL"



Please join us on Wednesday nights for a chance to grow closer to God and others in our church family. Dinner is served from 5:30-

6:00pm. The weekly cost is: \$4/per Adult; \$2.50/per Child under 12; \$12/Family maximum. This month's menu includes

- Feb. 6-Sloppy Joes
- Feb. 13-Ham & Scalloped Potatoes
- Feb. 20-Chicken & Rice
- Feb. 27-Shepard's Pie

Reservation deadline is the previous Sunday--you can list your reservation on the pew attendance pad on Sunday mornings: Mark "Food" & the number of people.

Clean-up is at 6pm, then there are various activities for ALL ages. Children have Jesus Rocks in #109/110; Youth, gr. 6-12, meet in P #206; and an adult Bible study, the After Dinner Group, meets in #102. At 6:15pm, Genesis Small Group, another adult Bible Study, meets in the #114.

For those who prefer an earlier evening, Pastor Mike leads a Bible study at 4:30pm in P#201 where they



Feburary



2/01	Pam Richter	2/01	Linda Starck
2/03	Dean Corrie	2/04	Bob Miller
2/04	Judy Tomlin	2/04	Beverly Fonder
2/07	Randy Clarke	2/08	Mary Robinson
2/08	Ken Baus	2/08	John Mackenzie
2/08	Duff Duer	2/10	Margaret Case
2/14	Joan Calisti	2/15	Jessie Choate
2/16	Lois Moore	2/16	Renee McVety
2/19	Alberta Weinheimer	2/19	Deb Crandall
2/19	Bryan McDaniel	2/21	John Kotula
2/22	Corey Pooler	2/22	Walt Stull
2/22	Carol Ankeney	2/22	Tom Shatzer
2/23	Joe Marchert	2/23	Linda Atkinson
2/24	Sue Pickell	2/24	Mike Thonnerieux
2/25	Bill Kennedy	2/26	Mary Cantrell
2/27	Viv Andrews	2/28	Mark Porter
2/28	Anna Wenzel		



Feburary



2/04	C.T. & Patty Twardzik
2/07	Randy & Beth Clarke
2/08	Tom & Margaret Case
2/14	Herb & Edna Bradley
2/14	Ralph & Marilyn Calladine
2/21	Sam & Becky Walters
2/22	Don & Shirley Burton
2/23	Jonnie & Shirley Webber
2/26	Bill & Alberta Weinheimer
2/27	John & Elaine Dorotics

I SURRENDER!

Everybody eventually surrenders to something or someone. If not to God, you will surrender to the opinions or expectations of others, to money, to resentment, to fear or to your own pride, lusts or ego. You were designed to worship God — and if you fail to worship him, you will create other things (idols) to give your life to.

You are free to choose what you surrender to, but you are not free from the consequences of that choice. E. Stanley Jones said, "If you don't surrender to Christ, you surrender to chaos."

—Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven Life*



February



Calendar Highlights

Feb 1	11-7pm	Friday	Pig Pickin' & Cookie Dash	Feb 16	7:30-11:30	Saturday	Scouts Pancake Breakfast
Feb 2	9:30-12pm	Saturday	Closet of Hope P#204		9:30-12pm		Closet of Hope P#204
Feb 3		Sunday	Souper Bowl Sunday	Feb 18		Monday	Office Closed
	12:15		Vbs Planning #109	Feb 19	8am	Tuesday	GCUM Men's Breakfast
Feb 5	8am	Tuesday	GCUM Men's Breakfast		7pm		Finance Meeting #103
Feb 19	12:15pm	Sunday	Ladies' Day Out	Feb 20	2:30pm		Inglenook
Feb 11	11:00pm	Monday	Newsletter Deadline	Feb 25	7:00pm	Monday	Church Council Meeting
	7:00pm		Trustee Meeting #103				

Sundays:

- 8am Traditional Service
- 9:30am Contemporary Service
- Seekers II Sunday School P#201
- Kids' Church/Sunday School #109/110
- 11am Traditional Service
- Adult Bible Study #109/110
- 2-5 Girl Scouts Troup #538 (1st & 3rd) #108
- 5-7pm Youth Group P#206
- 6:30pm Family Bowling

Mondays:

- 6:30pm Girl Scouts Troop #899 (1st & 3rd) #108
- 7pm Boy Scouts P#201
- 7:30pm AA Support Group #109/110

Tuesdays:

- 1pm Friend to Friend #109/110
- 7pm Al-Anon #109/110

Wednesdays:

- 12pm *Weekly Bulletin Deadline*
- Mid-Week Boost Bible Study #102
- 4:30pm Pastor's Bible Study P#201
- 5:30pm Food for the Soul Dinner
- 6pm Jesus Rocks #109/110
- Youth Group P#206
- After Dinner Group #102
- Faithful Ladies P#201
- 6:15pm Genesis Adult Bible Study #114

Thursdays:

- 8am Grounds Main't Crew @ Barn
- 9am Crafty Ladies Oak's Cove
- 4:45pm Handbells Rehearsal P#203
- 5:30pm Praise Team Rehearsal Sanctuary
- 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal P#203
- 6:30pm NA Recovery Meeting #109/110



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