



1Thessalonians 5:13-15

Rise and Shine

13 and that you esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Live in peace with one another. 14 We urge you, brethren, admonish the unruly, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people.

Plymouth Apostolic Lutheran Church,
11015 County Road 15, Plymouth, MN 55441

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February 2015

...from the Pastor's Office

Recently we heard an explanation of the Parable of the Unjust Judge by Dr. RC Sproul from **Luke 18:1-8**. The central tenet from this parable is to always pray and not lose heart (faint) even in times of difficulty and trouble or when we think God isn't listening/hearing/answering.

To the unjust judge in the parable the widow was very bothersome and not caring about her, not caring for her, nor caring about justice, he did answer her request after a time because of her persistence even if only to be rid of her.

Jesus tells us that God is not like that in comparison-He delights in hearing our prayers as we believe and trust that he hears them and will answer them, in His timing, and that He cares very much for us and about us. Our persistence in prayer, with faith, is honorable in God's eyes because we realize that He is the only One we can depend upon, the only One who will hear our cry and act upon it. Every other source is false, an idol, woefully insufficient, or deceiving. Jesus, as speaking the heart of His Father and with His own authority, is speaking this parable to illustrate to us that it is okay to be persistent in our prayers. He is also indicating the value He places upon caring for you and caring about you.

Placing all of ones trust in Jesus shows godly wisdom. Talking to Him regularly and continually removes worry and anxiety and strengthens our relationship with Him. So keep praying and do not lose heart nor faint.

Shalom to each of you. Pastor Joel

Pastor Baker's e-mail: shalom2u2@usfamily.net
Church e-mail: secretary@plymouthapostolic.org

Church website: www.plymouthapostolic.org
Prayer Chain: 612-554-6823 or pep59@aol.com

February at PALC

Sunday 1

9:00am Bible Study for Everyone
 10:30am Worship Service
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship

Monday 2 Ground Hog's Day!

Wednesday 4

9:00am Men's Breakfast at Perking
 9:15am Ladies' Bible study
 6:30pm Bible study for all ages
 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday 6 Youth Ski Trip to Duluth
 Saturday 7 Youth Ski Trip to Duluth

Saturday 7

9am – 5pm **Beyond the Veil** women's training

Sunday 8

9:00am Bible Study for Everyone
 10:30am Worship Service
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship
 11:40am Prayer Time in Sanctuary

Wednesday 11

9:15am Ladies' Bible study
 9:30am Men's Bible study
 6:30pm Bible Study for all ages
 8:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 12

11:00am Senior Potluck

Sunday 15

9:00am Bible Study for Everyone
 10:30am Worship & Communion Service
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship

Tuesday 17

5:45pm Mission Committee
 6:30pm Board of Trustee Meeting

Wednesday 18 Ash Wednesday

9:15am Ladies' Bible study
 9:30am Men's Bible study
 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich

Supper

7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
 8:00pm Choir rehearsal

A light supper to precede Lenten services. Volunteers needed. Sign up on Narthex desk.

Saturday 21

9-11am Women's Bible study
 Beginning new study ROMANS

Sunday 22

9:00am Bible Study for Everyone
 10:30am Worship Service
 11:30am Abbreviated Communion
 11:30am Coffee Fellowship
 11:45am Youth Rally Planning Meeting

Wednesday 25

9:15am Ladies' Bible study
 9:30am Men's Bible study
 6:00pm Soup & Sandwich dinner
 7:00pm Lenten Service
 8:00pm Choir rehearsal

February Birthdays

Cynthia	Aho	02/02
Sharon	Wahala	02/02
Henry	Wempen	02/04
Pietro	Serazzi	02/09
Al	Saari	02/09
Sue	Jukuri	02/19
Kevin	Myrmel	02/20
Pam	Bielinski	02/20
Larry	Walters	02/23
Ryan	Rintala	02/24
Melba	Waataja	02/24
Nicole	Bartell	02/26

February Anniversary

Eric and Cynthia Aho 02/02

30th Annual

Are You Ready for the Hills

The Esko Apostolic Lutheran Church hosts the



annual ski trip once again!

Polish your skis, pack your bag, (and maybe a snack), and get ready to have fun! The van ride should provide lots of chatter

and laughter, and memories, too.

Are you interested in a women's training called **Beyond the Veil** for interacting with Muslim women? It will be held on **Sat., 2/7/2015** in Bloomington at Bethany International, 6900 Auto Club Road, Bloomington, MN 55438. It is from 9 - 5 and includes lunch. It is \$40 per person (\$45 day of the event) and \$35 per student (\$40 day of the event). Please reference the flyer on the narthex table. (See Susan with questions) Topics covered:

- History of Islam
- Islamic beliefs that specifically pertain to Muslim women
- Addressing misconceptions
- The issue of culture and identity for Muslim women in the U.S.
- Practical application of witnessing to Muslims

Video "A Time to Speak"

The Senior Group meeting is February 12 (note this is the 2nd Thursday of the month) at the church at 11:00 a.m. It will be pot luck. The video from the American Family Association is A TIME TO SPEAK about the threat to religious liberty in America. Joyce, Stew and Shirley will supply the main dish. We look forward to seeing all of you .Questions? 952-942-7528 or 952-881-3778.



YWAM and Nicole Team Up Again

Please pray for our daughter Nicole. She is back in Ensenada, Mexico volunteering at the YWAM (Youth with a Mission) base. Right now, she is running the coffee shop and helping wherever needed. In a month or so, she will be helping with the Mission Adventures program, where groups come for a mission trip over spring break to build a house for local people in need.



Pray for peace and contentment and to hear God. If you'd like to write, mail to the address

below. They have staff that goes between the office near San Diego and Ensenada several times per week, and they bring the mail!

YWAM San Diego/Baja
Nicole Bartell (ENS)
100 W. 35th Street
National City, CA 91950

NOTE: Nicole's
birthday is 2/26

Prayers are being answered Naghmeh Abedini Is Met by President Obama

President Barack Obama met on Wednesday with Naghmeh Abedini, the wife of imprisoned **Pastor Saeed Abedini**, and their two children in Boise, Idaho. Abedini said that she had been praying a long time for such a meeting, while Obama promised the family to do all he can to bring the pastor home.

"I am extremely thankful the president took the time to meet with our family and told us that securing the release of my husband is a top priority," Naghmeh Abedini [said](#) following the meeting.

"The president was focused and gracious — showing concern to me and my children. I know that *this meeting could not have occurred without prayer, and I am grateful to the many people around the country and world who continue to pray for Saeed's release.* The president repeated his desire to do all that he can to bring Saeed home. That means the world to me and my children and has given me a renewed sense of hope."

Pastor Abedini is serving an eight-year sentence in Iran, after having been arrested in September 2012 while working on an orphanage. The American Center for Law and Justice, which represents Naghmeh Abedini and the couple's children, has said that the pastor, who was born in Iran but became an American citizen, is being punished for his Christian faith.

During the meeting, which occurred in an office at Boise State University, Obama promised 6-year-old Jacob and 8-year-old Rebekka that he will do all that he can to bring their father home. *Abedini told Obama that she prays for him, and*

believes that their meeting is a result of fasting and prayer.

When Obama announced that he will be visiting Boise this week, Abedini wrote him a letter expressing her hopes that he will decide to meet with her.

"My heart leapt with hope when I heard that you would be visiting my hometown of Boise, Idaho. Since the Iranian government took my husband, Saeed Abedini, almost three years ago, *I have been praying and wanting to meet with you,*" the letter read.

The ACLJ noted that during the meeting Jacob asked Obama the question: "Mr. President, can you please bring daddy home for my birthday?" Obama then asked the young boy when his birthday is, and after Jacob told him it is on March 17, the president promised he will make every effort to grant his wish.

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world have joined together in prayer and signed petitions calling on Iran to release Abedini, who has faced beatings and other mistreatment while in prison. Obama has spoken to Iranian President Hassan Rouhani over the phone about freeing the pastor, but the ACLJ has said that more must be done if that goal is to become a reality.

Jordan Sekulow, executive director of the ACLJ, said that the law group is grateful that Obama took the time to meet Abedini's family.

"Pastor Saeed has been wrongly imprisoned for nearly two and a half years. He has been separated from his wife and children. The pain experienced by the Abedini family is impossible to imagine. The meeting between President Obama and the Abedini family is a very welcomed development," Sekulow reflected.

"It demonstrates the president's concern and compassion for this family. It also underscores the importance of Pastor Saeed's case, a U.S. citizen imprisoned in Iran merely because of his Christian faith. The face-to-face meeting elevates pastor Saeed's plight on the world stage — and should send a powerful message to the Iranians — it is time to release pastor Saeed so he can return home to his family."

Taken from ChristianPost.com

C. H. Spurgeon – from his book *Morning and Evening*

"Continue in prayer."—Colossians 4:2.

It is interesting to remark how large a portion of Sacred Writ is occupied with the subject of prayer, either in furnishing examples, enforcing precepts, or pronouncing promises.

We scarcely open the Bible before we read, "Then began men to call upon the name of the Lord;" and just as we are about to close the volume, the "Amen" of an earnest supplication meets our ear. Instances are plentiful. Here we find a wrestling Jacob—there a Daniel who prayed three times a day—and a David who with all his heart called upon his God. On the mountain we see Elias; in the dungeon Paul and Silas. We have multitudes of commands, and myriads of promises.

What does this teach us, but the sacred importance and necessity of prayer? *We may be certain that whatever God has made prominent in His Word, He intended to be conspicuous in our lives.* If He has said much about prayer, it is because He knows we have much need of it. So deep are our necessities, that until we are in heaven we must not cease to pray. Dost thou want nothing? Then, I fear thou dost not know thy poverty. Hast thou no mercy to ask of God? Then, may the Lord's mercy show thee thy misery! A prayerless soul is a Christless soul.

Prayer is the lisping of the believing infant, the shout of the fighting believer, the requiem of the dying saint falling asleep in Jesus. It is the breath, the watchword, the comfort, the strength, the honour of a Christian. If thou be a child of God, thou wilt seek thy Father's face, and live in thy Father's love. Pray that this year thou mayst be holy, humble, zealous, and patient; have closer communion with Christ, and enter oftener into the banqueting-house of His love. Pray that thou mayst be an example and a blessing unto others, and that thou mayst live more to the glory of thy Master. The motto for this year must be, "Continue in prayer."