

Word from Pastor Don: Prayer: Don't Talk About it...Just Do It!

Attending a Celebration and meal last Sunday with a number of other Christians, I found myself struggling with something that has become quite common. On two different occasions that evening, persons were asked to pray and then proceeded to bow their heads and, basically, give announcements, talk directly to the audience, speak "about prayer" but not actually talk to God, as they "waxed eloquent" with a presentation that missed the mark. Don't get me wrong, I love prayer but it shouldn't be about impressing the hearers in the room and I believe it is something that any and all Christians should welcome the opportunity to do. True prayer doesn't need to be "impressive" with our words but it does need to be personal and honest. The only goal needs to be that we focus on God and talk with Him as we share our hearts. On that Sunday evening, I had to beg for God's forgiveness as our focus wasn't really giving him praise, seeking His direction, or doing anything that was tied to communication or respect of our Heavenly Father.

According to what I see in Matthew 6:5-7, it is clear that prayer should be done by us with humility: "And when you pray, you

shall not be as the hypocrites are for they love to pray standing in their churches and on the corner of the streets to be seen publicly of men. Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward! But as for you, when you pray, enter into your closet and close the door praying to your Father which is in secret; and you Father with sees in secret shall reward you openly! Use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do, for they think they will be appreciated for their words."

I could wish, that at any time, we might be able to turn to a brother/sister and ask them to pray for us knowing that he/she would welcome the opportunity and boldly lead us toward our Lord with their hearts/words. When, in history, religious terminology became a stumbling block for so many to participate in public prayer is unknown to me. Yet, we must find a renewed joy in our freedom to talk with our Lord, at every opportunity, and take up those moments with joy!

Prayer Items

Let me hear in the morning your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for you I lift up my soul. -Psalm 143:8

1. Praise God for his steadfast love and guidance.
2. Praise God for the safety of our congregations during the church wide Fire and Earthquake drill last Sunday.
3. The Guatemala missions team and the Tsawout Mission team that the leaders stay true to God's word and His will in planning for these trips.
4. Wisdom in the planning of our Summer Conference 2015, so that the congregation will learn and grow

in Christ through this annual event.

5. The brothers and sisters who need comfort, strength and healing while recovering from their illnesses, and remember their family during this trying time.
6. The safety and protection for all VBS volunteers and participants during the week of July 6-10, and provide the opportunity to lead those who has not known about Christ to hear about the gospel through this event.
7. God's guidance for those who are seeking summer and permanent employment.
8. All those serving in our church with their gifts and willing hearts that they may continue to grow in spirit through their ministry.
9. Good health, strength, energy and clear vision for all our pastors.

Sunday worship at vcbc

28 June 2015

9:30AM English
Worship Service

www.vcbc.bc.ca/english



Order of Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Isaiah 40:25-26

Praise & Worship

Our God,

I Stand in Awe / The Stand

Sharing of Community
Life

Tithes & Offering

Speak O Lord

Scripture Passage &
Message

Mark 2:1-12

What Do We Do with the
Miracles of Jesus?

Dr. Tawa Anderson

Invitation/Response

God is Able

Closing Prayer

Doxology

Please feel free to stand or sit as we sing.

Friendly reminder for parents of preschoolers and kindergarteners: please pick up your children downstairs at 10:45.

Sermon Outline

What Do We Do with the Miracles of Jesus? Mark 2:1-12

- I. The Prevalence of Miracles in Scripture (especially the Gospels)
- II. Modern and Post-modern Skepticism of Miracles
 - A. Deism and David Hume
 - B. Rudolf Bultmann
 - C. Bart Ehrman

Is it reasonable to believe that biblical miracles really happened?
Is it reasonable to believe that miracles happen today?
- III. Responding (Briefly) to the Skeptics
 - A. Hume: miracles are impossible, natural laws are unbreakable
Transcendent deity can transcend His natural laws
 - B. Bultmann: no educated person can believe in miracles
Educated people will follow the evidence where it leads, even when it leads to miracles.
 - C. Ehrman: miracle is always the least probable explanation, and therefore unreasonable to believe
Antecedent improbability can be overwhelmed by evidence: e.g., lottery winners
- IV. Are there Good Reasons to Believe in Miracles?
 - A. Today
 1. Craig Keener's exhaustive research
 2. Testimony of personal friends: is such testimony trustworthy?
 - B. Mark 2 (i.e., The Gospels)
 1. Ubiquity of Gospel miracle-claims: early, eyewitness, multiply-attested, enemy-attested
 2. Natural wisdom of ancient audience
 - a) Jews knew how babies were born
 - b) Everyone knew that dead men don't rise and leprosy doesn't disappear

WE ARE NOT SMARTER THAN 1ST CENTURY JEWS AND GREEKS
- V. Reason Alone Won't Do it
Good reasons to believe in miracles; no good objections to believe in miracles, but ...
Embracing the *rationality* of miracles is insufficient: we need life-changing experience/faith

Sunday L.I.F.E. Groups

*Our Sunday L.I.F.E. Groups start from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For class listings, please see the EC bulletin board in the basement (outside rm B1-2).

Events This Week For YOU To BE Involved

Sunday (today)

1. Prayer Group at 8:45am; Contact Betty at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca
2. Worship
3. L.I.F.E. Groups & Bible Study.
See bulletin board in the basement (outside rm B1-2).

Monday

Small group discussion. Young adults, young couples welcome. Contact Henry at henryhwcheung@msn.com

Wednesday

Church-wide Prayer Meeting; Weekly at 7:30pm in VCBC basement; All welcome (primarily Cantonese but we'll translate as needed!)

Thursday

1. "Experiencing Forgiveness" Women's Bible Study; (3rd Thurs at 7:30pm); VCBC E1; Contact Winnie Lai-Fong or Cindy So.
2. Dayspring Ladies Bible Study; (1st & 3rd Thurs at 10am); VCBC Rm B1-2; Contact Carolyn Yip at carolynyip1949@gmail.com

Friday

1. Prayer Group at 7:45pm (1st Friday); VCBC W2; Contact Winnie at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca
2. EDGe youth fellowships for grades 6-12; Oct-Jul from 7:30-9:30pm at VCBC; Contact Alfred at alfredlu@gmail.com

Saturday

1. Journey Young Adult Fellowship. 7:30pm in VCBC room B3-5. Contact Chris at ChrisChCheung@hotmail.com or ask for a Journeyer to get introduced today!

Announcements

1. Just a friendly reminder that **today** is the last Sunday for **Sunday L.I.F.E. groups**. We will break for the summer. See you in Sept!
2. **Summer Conference 2015**. Plan now to be a part of our English Congregation retreat at Cedar Springs, **Sep 5-7**, Labour Day long weekend. Mark the dates in your calendar and check your passport's expiry date! More details to follow.
3. **VBS 2015 Preparation** – Please note the following preparation that will be taking place at church in the next 2 weeks: **(1) Fridge clean-up**: If your group has anything in the fridges, please remove them before this Saturday, as both fridges will be cleaned out next Sunday. **(2) Decoration**: the whole church will undergo decoration next Sunday after the Noon Service, including setting up of tents in the parking lots, which must be cleared of all cars by 12:45. **Note**: Volunteers are needed to help set up the tents, which will take about an hour. Lunch will be provided in the kitchen area, work starts at 12:45. Sign up at the church office. **(3) During VBS Week (July 6-10), the parking lots will be closed** to traffic, with only a loading and unloading area, parents are asked

to drop off your child(ren) quickly and on time. **(4)** On Friday, July 10, our church will host a **Block Party** from **5:00 to 9:00 pm**, with free food and fun for everyone, come mingle with the neighbours! **(5)** The whole church will undergo **clean-up** on Saturday, July 11.

4. **Church Office** – Will be closed on Wednesday for Canada Day, and will resume normal office hours on Thursday.
5. **Rev. Gilbert Nigh's Welcome Reception Photos** – Are now posted on bulletin board in basement. Please order and pay at Church Office.
6. **SYC. Summer Youth Celebration (SYC)** is a summer camp for youth who have finished grade 7 to grade 12. It will take place this year at Gardom Lake Bible Camp from August 24 to August 28. The cost is \$230 + \$30 bus fee. The registration deadline is July 5. For a registration form, see a youth leader or email Alfred at alfredlu@gmail.com
7. **Offering and Expenditure** for the month of **May 2015**, and Year-To-Date balance for all Funds:

	<u>Offerings</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>YTD Surplus</u>
General Fund	66,715.95	73,645.67	14,553.22
Mission Fund	10,725.81	16,013.82	7,352.71
Charity Fund	2,985.65	5,924.00	241.65
Building Fund	2,550.33	514.24	4,727.77

(Note: Financial Statements are posted on the bulletin board in foyer)