

The background of the entire page is an abstract, textured composition of thick brushstrokes. The colors are primarily teal and a deep, dark red, with some darker, almost black, areas. The strokes are layered and directional, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is reminiscent of a modern, expressive painting.

march 2017

PRAYER

guide

Prayer is the most ancient, most universal, and most intensive expression of the religious instinct. It includes the simplest speech of infant lips, and the sublime entreaties of older age. All reach the Majesty on high. Prayer is indeed the Christian's vital breath and native air.

But, strange paradox, most of us find it hard to pray. We do not naturally delight in drawing near to God. We sometimes pay lip service to the delight and power of prayer. We call it indispensable; we know the Scriptures call for it. Yet we often fail to pray.

Let us take encouragement from the lives of saintly leaders who overcame this natural reluctance and became mighty in prayer.

Of Samuel Chadwick it was said:

He was essentially a man of prayer. Every morning he would be astir shortly after six o'clock, and he kept a little room which was his private sanctum for his quiet hour before breakfast. He was mighty in public prayer because he was constant in private devotion. . . . When he prayed, he expected God to do something. "I wish I had prayed more," he wrote toward the end of his life, "even if I had worked less; and from the bottom of my heart I wish I had prayed better."

(N.G. Dunning, *Samuel Chadwick*, p. 19)

"When I go to prayer," confessed an eminent Christian, "I find my heart so loath to go to "God, and when it is with Him, so loath to stay." Then he pointed to the need for self-discipline. "When you feel most indisposed to pray, yield not to it," he counseled, "but strive and endeavor to pray, even when you think you cannot."

Mastering the art of prayer, like anything else, takes time. The time we give it will be a true measure of its importance to us. We always find the time for important things. The most common excuse for little time spent in prayer is the list of "to-dos" that crowd our day—all our many duties. To Martin Luther, an extra load of duties was reason enough to pray more, not less. Hear his plans for the next day's work: "work, work from early till late. In fact, I have so much to do that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer."

-From J. Oswald Sanders *Spiritual Leadership* (Chicago: Moody, 1967),
83-84.



big
<events

>> **Knowing God Message Series**

- + Pray that God would use the series to draw more people into a deeper relationship with Him.
- + Pray that God would use the series to create talking points with friends, kids and neighbors.
- + Pray God would be glorified by the preaching of Jesus Crucified.
- + Pray people would understand they aren't saved or kept saved by their own efforts.

leader
focus>

ELDER | Brad Smith (wife: Kristi)

DEACON | John Spina (wife: Deb)

DEACONESS | Shannon Jepsen (husband: Gary)

Shelly
Zadina>



>> We are with Medical Ambassadors International and have been working in poor, Islamic communities in Albania since 1999. We use a ministry strategy called Community Health Evangelism to heal broken communities, transform lives, and multiply disciples. Our goal is to see transformed communities, to strengthen existing churches, and to plant churches where none exist.

We also train and equip other churches and organizations to use CHE to reach their own communities in Albania and the Balkans.

- + Pray for continued growth in the believers and increasing ability to take over leadership of the churches and programs in each of the villages.
- + Pray for safety for Shelly as she travels on home assignment and endurance for the team in Albania since they are working short staffed while she is here in the US.

local
ministries>

Evangelical Chaplain **MINISTRIES**

- + Pray that each chaplain will make the Message clear to each person.
- + That new residents will join with us in our services.
- + That the chaplains will have a growing awareness of the brevity of time we have with many of our residents.

PATTY & DENNY BOLE | Pray for **Denny's** continued battle with cancer.

JOE & JANE EATON | Pray for **Joe** who had a heart attack and is home with chronic heart disease. Also pray for **Jane** who is going through chemo for chronic ovarian cancer.

KEVIN & LEAH JOHNSON | Please pray for their father going through treatment for skin cancer.

RON & SHARON LEHMAN | Continue to pray for our granddaughter, **Megan (27)**, being treated for ovarian cancer.

STEVE & MARYLU RISEWICK | Pray for our friend, **Harley**, with colon cancer and our brother **Dick** with Parkinson's.

TERRY WEBER | Pray for my 1st cousin's husband, **Bob Schultz (55)**, who has 3rd stage colon cancer, enlarged spleen, fluid around his heart, & major heart issues.

JULI YOST | **Emma R.**, a young teen (13) with leukemia on life support with sepsis, pulmonary edema, critically ill. There has been some improvement- lungs are better, blood pressure is better, kidneys are better. Her parents are believers.

NAIAH DAVIS | Pray for **Sydney (Carr)** & her mom to get better soon.

JEFF & AMY KRITENBRINK | Continued prayers for **Michelle Carr** as she recovers from surgery.

salvation>

GARY & JENICE BARTON | Continued prayers for our unsaved family members.

AINA BROWN | My parents, **Arnold** and **Elfrida**, both in their 80s with declining health.

RON & JOAN REINDERS | Pray for our 3 sons and thier families. Pray that their hearts would soften towards Christ.

MONTE & SHERRI HESS | Please pray for salvation for our adult kids: Nick, Cierra, Brooke, Sam & Tiffany. Spiritual growth for Meghan, Alex, Jill, & Maddie.

m a r c h

JACK & MARY DAVIS | Please pray for Mary's nephew, **Austin**, and all those in the military.

FELICIA MIEDEMA | Pray for **David Miedema**, as he transitions from military to civilian life, for decisions about work and school.

SCHOLTEN FAMILY | Pray for **Zach Scholten** in the Marine Reserves here in Des Moines.

<military

careers>

ANTONIO BALDERAMOS-GONZALEZ | Please continue to pray for me to find the right job.

JOHN & JENNIFER HOWARD | Career guidance as I am looking for a new career.

JORDAN & ANNA ZIMMERMAN | Career/Job situation for Jordan.

PAMELA SCHARNBERG | My new job ended in December. Pray that I find another that honors Christ.

ALICE GRAY | Pray for the Lord's guidance & protection for me & my daughter.

NATE & MANDY FRANJE | Pray for our upcoming trip to Africa for our 1st visit for our adoption. March 9th -20th.

RYAN LENIHAN | Please pray that I be consistent in my walk with the Lord.

INDRA PERERA | Asking God to bring my husband and daughter to the USA.

ROB & RACHEL ROBISON | The education system in Johnston, the Des Moines area, & our country. Pray for patience, knowledge, & understanding in the ever changing environment.

TOM & BARB STEARNS | Please pray for our granddaughter, **Mallory Stearns**, who left Sept. 8 on a mission trip to South Asia.

DANIELLE THOMPSON | Please pray for me & my daughter.

TOMMY ANTHONY | India mission trip, for fundraising & safety traveling

JOAN REINDERS | Pray that God will use us mightily as we help feed elementary children at Madison School.

other
< needs



JOHNSTON
evangelical free church