

Put Joy Back in Bible Study!

PictureThis! Prayerline

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JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2013

In all of my ministry, I have never been so covered in prayer as in this trip to India. It seemed every direction I turned someone would say, "You are on my prayer list." A good friend at our church set up a "global prayer" network including all the nations where The Picture Smart Bible has been taught. All of this intercession on behalf of the word going out prompted me to ask God, "How can I connect with all of these prayers? Is there a way to bring these down to earth?" I began to search the word, trying to trace the path of prayer. The Bible of course, is full of prayers. Jesus taught His disciples (and us) how to pray. Some of the most powerful prayers are recorded in both the Old and New Testaments for our inspiration and emulation. Paul admonishes us to pray with all kinds of prayer and pleads for prayer for himself. But there are few clues regarding the actual path of prayer. Where do our prayers go? More specifically, how do they connect with earth?

.....THE
PATH
OF
PRAYER

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In Revelation 5:8 we read that the 24 elders who surround the throne of God fall down before the Lamb with golden bowls full of incense, "which are the prayers of the saints". (In my mind I am thinking, prayers in heaven are great, but I need them on the earth). A few chapters later, an angel collects incense with the prayers of all the saints to offer on the golden altar before the throne. He filled the censer with fire and cast it to the ground, "and there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake" (8:4). Whatever else this may mean in the process of the final judgment, prayers are answered and they powerfully IMPACT the earth! In Acts, an angel informed Cornelius "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God" (10:4), and we know as we read further that God answered Cornelius' prayer in a way that changed

the course of history. When Solomon prayed, fire literally came from heaven to consume the sacrifice (II Chron. 6:12-42). But I wanted more specifics. I was leaving in a few days for what I sensed was the most important ministry to date and I knew there were hundreds of people praying for me; I felt I must know how to "activate" intercession. God answered, but not as I expected. I believe He said something like, "I did not call you to 'connect the dots'. I called you to live by faith." The connections are His call, not ours. We pray, He answers when and how He chooses.

Always know: God hears and honors your prayers. And He answers every time. He answered your prayers for India, Juanene and me. Together we give Him thanks. He has done great things!

INDIA REPORT



India was in many ways, the most difficult assignment to date. Flying non-stop for 20 hours in economy class is torture for a 6' 3" frame. However, that was a breeze compared to domestic travel in India. Traffic in the major cities is your worst nightmare- a mass of humanity on foot, bicycles, scooters, motorcycles, 3 wheel and 4 wheel cabs, buses and trucks- separated by a fraction of an inch, going opposite directions as fast as possible. Traffic lanes and signals are meaningless- it is



a game of chicken and the biggest vehicle wins. Horns blast incessantly. Shacks, business cubbie holes, and open markets crammed together line both sides of the streets. Dust swirling up from unpaved roads, open sewers and piles of trash create a unique smell. In contrast, the Indian people remain clean and well groomed. Many are dressed in white, men wear black pants, women are adorned in beautiful colors.

My Indian friend Abhijit and I, stayed mostly in church compounds with guarded



gates. Unlike the apostle Paul, I did not receive "40 lashes save one" but I did sleep on padded boards, and I showered and shaved often in cold water. I did not "spend a day and night in the deep", but I did spend the night and part of a day in an outside privy losing everything I had eaten for the past few days. For a good part of the remaining time, I either fasted or ate mostly bread and drank water. (I lost 15 pounds very quickly).



As we traveled through a Muslim neighborhood

late one evening, our driver ran over the heel of a boy in a crowded alley. The boy fell to the ground screaming. Our driver pulled over and ran back to help. When he came back to our car, he asked us get out; he had to rush the boy to the hospital. As he drove off leaving us standing in an ally, surrounded by Muslims, I silently asked God, "Is this where it ends for me?" A lady came out of a doorway and asked us to come in. As I sat down on her couch, I looked around and saw a picture of Jesus hanging on the wall! "This is a Christian home!" I exclaimed to my friends. Only then did I realize, my friends (who spoke her language) knew that before we entered the house. (The boy had surgery and is doing fine now).



But I am quick to identify with Paul, "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which (came later)." Crisscrossing central and southern India, I taught The Picture Smart Bible to pastors, teachers, leaders, bookstore owners, Bible school students, and orphans in 5 major cities. The pastor of the church founded by William Carey in the 1800's, after seeing TPSB asked me to speak to a gathering of Sunday school



leaders in Calcutta. I was in my element! Drawing and teaching the Bible to word hungry audiences! It doesn't get any better for Dan Peters. The highlight of every presentation was watching Indian teachers and pastors illustrate the entire book of Acts on a white board! Looking at that completed drawing, I knew- mission accomplished: the seed was planted. I ended each workshop paraphrasing II Cor. 9, reminding them that God had caused all grace to abound for them. His grace brought The Picture Smart Bible into existence and caused it to succeed in America. When God told me to go global with TPSB, I said "How

do I do that?" Abhijit Nayak walked up to my table. He simply said, "The children in India must have this curriculum." That was God's grace. It was His grace that moved my friends to give me over \$8,000 for this trip and my board to give India the TPSB printing files.

On my way home, God spoke to me once more from II Cor. 9. "I have given bread for you to eat and seed for you to sow. I will now supply and multiply that seed and increase the fruits of your righteousness." Please stop right now, and give thanks to God. And receive our thanks to each one of you.