

Teach Us to Pray ~ The A.C.T.S. Prayer Model
October 23 & 24, 2010

Adoration

- “a deep love, respect for,” “to worship”
- ***Honor the Lord for the glory of His name. Worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness. Psalm 29 verse 2 (425)***

Confession

- “to admit my sin, turn from it”
- ***If we confess our sins to God, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John chapter 1 verse 9 (941)***
- ***Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. Psalm 51 verse 2 (436)***

Thanks

- “to express my gratitude, to recognize & acknowledge God’s goodness to me”
- ***Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim His greatness. Let the whole world know what He has done. 1 Chronicles chapter 16 verse 8 (321)***
- ***I will give repeated thanks to the Lord, praising Him to everyone.***
Psalm 109 verse 30 (465)

Supplication

- “to kneel in submission, to make a humble request, to ask”
- ***May You hear the humble and earnest requests from me.... Yes, hear us from heaven where You live, and when You hear, forgive. 1 Kings chapter 8 verse 30 (265)***
- ***I cry out to the Lord; I plead for the Lord’s mercy. I pour out my complaints before Him and tell Him all my troubles. Psalm 142 verses 1 & 2 (477)***

Teaching them more about prayer, Jesus used this story: Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You say to him, “A friend of mine has just arrived for a visit, and I have nothing for him to eat.”

And suppose he calls out from his bedroom, “Don’t bother me. The door is locked for the night, and my family and I are all in bed. I can’t help you.”

But I tell you this, though he won’t do it for friendship’s sake, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you whatever you need because of your shameless persistence.

And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

Luke chapter 11 verses 5-9 (793)

Next week: Baptisms & Praying for Spiritual Growth - Ephesians 3:14-21

Miraculous Healings at Bethel

Compiled 9/3/10 by Wes Whitehead

Prayer for the sick was always done in accordance with James 5:14-15.

Many healings were recorded prior to 1917 among people who would later become a part of Bethel Temple at Front Street and Indiana Avenue then later at B Street and Allegheny Avenue. Some of these were as follows:

- Mary Erb - Cancer
- F.I. Holler - T.B.
- Clara Boggs - marasmus
- Lottie Gatter - female trouble (The Gatter home was used for first meeting of Bethel)
- Emma Baker - female trouble (Mr. Baker was an early Deacon)
- Amy Griffin - Heart Trouble
- Ada Moffit & Gertrude Moffit - Typhoid Fever
- Emma Parks - Kidney trouble
- Marguerite Whitehead - Dying in hospital as a child later healed from Diphtheria (daughter of Pastor G. Whitehead)
- George Whitehead - Diphtheria (son of Pastor)
- Mr. Bates - St. Vitus Dance (Mr. Bates was an early deacon)

After Bethel formalized in 1917 there were no printed records of healings, so these will be from my personal experience and memory.

- Dan Glasstetter was born with a crippling birth defect and healed after being anointed and prayed for by Pastor George H. Whitehead.
- A teen age boy named Roscoe Wilde came into contact with Bethel. Roscoe was completely blind and could read by the use of Braille. He had attended a school for the blind. Mrs. Hobson (our world champion Sunday School teacher—at one point she had almost 500 in her class) had faith that the Lord could heal Roscoe. She took him to Pastor G. Whitehead and probably J.W. Whitehead was there as well. Roscoe was anointed, prayed for and received his sight. His eyesight was never perfect but he was able to leave the blind school and got regular employment. Roscoe studied voice, was able to read regular print and became a frequent soloist at church under the direction of Edith Curry who accompanied him on organ and piano. He later married Gladys who was totally blind and they had a daughter Cindy who has occasionally attended Bethel @ Franklin Mills.
- Spinal Meningitis sent me (Wes Whitehead) to Frankford Hospital at about age seven. I was isolated in a glass room at the end of the children's ward for about two weeks and given a series of spinal taps (withdrawing fluid for lab analysis). These first showed I had the disease then, as the church prayed, the tests showed I was healed. The hospital burned all

my books, toys, clothing etc. and I was released, too weak to stand, but healed. I am sure I was anointed but have no clear memory.

- Florence Schaible was shopping on Frankford Avenue in Mayfair one Saturday evening when a steel tipped hunting arrow hit her in the head and she was rushed to the hospital. Pastor J. Wesley Whitehead got a call at home on Sunday morning saying what had happened and that she was dying. He was scheduled to preach shortly but felt that he must go to be with the Schaibles. The service went on in worship and prayer and Pastor arrived just before closing and said that Florence had made a miraculous recovery. Florence, her husband Bill and sons Dave and William all were regulars at Bethel.

The most common miracle was that of the healing of infertility. There were so many children born to couples that were previously told it to be impossible, that we had a running joke, that this was Bethel's secret method of building our Sunday School.

- ❖ One such couple was Thelma and Dan Glasstetter who named their first miracle baby "Faith".
- ❖ Marian Wagner Arbuckle and her husband also had a miracle baby Georgia. Marian was church office secretary.
- ❖ Bud and Helen Piston waited seven years and had been told no hope. Then through prayer and anointing the healing came with Nancy.

There were at least two times that people were invited to gather in the church balcony after Sunday School to pray for a person who was grievously ill. The balcony was filled almost to capacity and many cried out to the Lord on behalf of these folks and healing came. I am sad to say that at this point Nancy and I cannot recall who the persons were that were healed.

Bethel never advertised healing services but after each service, morning and evening, there were people at the altar rail seeking to be anointed. People were there for all sorts of needs and, of course, most importantly for salvation. The prayer room was always in action even after Sunday School. I am not exaggerating when I say that we never left that building until at least an hour after the service ended. It was hard for the preacher's kid to cope with.

Sometimes miraculous healings occurred without the anointing with oil and the elders. One such was that of Nancy Curry when her children were very young. She went to the family doctor with excessive bleeding and was told of a large mass. She went independently to a specialist and did not tell of the prior diagnosis. He came to the same conclusion. He advised immediate surgery without which her life would be threatened. Later upon entering the hospital Nancy received a call from one of Bethel's most faithful Sunday School teachers, praying that there would be no need for the surgery. Nancy believed, though the surgery was commencing. When she awakened she was told that there had been only a minor procedure that had taken place, no mass being found. The

teacher's faith for the healing was so strong that she just expected it, and would never even inquire if it had happened.

Just by word of mouth people came from places like Norristown and Lancaster for anointing and the prayer of faith. I know there were healings in these circumstances but do not know details.

Of course there was the medically documented healing of our daughter Beth. Dad had gone home to be with the Lord and Beth had been in several hospitals and finally the then new Temple University Medical Center where people with her symptoms came from around the world to seek help. A rare Epstein Bar virus had attacked and killed her autonomic nervous system. Her heart beat was at a rate that would kill a person her parents' age, she had no equilibrium and great pain. They gave her a device to wear around her waist that allowed her to inject a drug to help when the pain became unbearable - but only after Nancy and I had signed a paper releasing them from liability should the drug kill her. She was a recent Eastern College graduate and had served the Lord at Bethel, faithfully teaching, playing piano, and singing. These eminent doctors said there is no hope.

Much prayer went up for her at Bethel at other churches (1100 prayed for her at the opening of the Greentree Worship Center just outside Ocean City N.J.) A pastor in N.J. had quietly seen some miraculous healings from cancer, etc. was asked by Nancy and me to come and anoint Beth. He and his wife came to Temple and anointed her and we prayed while world-famous Dr. Holtke sneered. At this time a shock surged thru Beth and in a little while the doctor's partner said he wanted to test her again. He did the next day and her autonomic system was alive. It took several more years for these once dead nerves to grow back and there were still lots of discomfort but Beth clung to many scriptures. She became very successful in our architectural practice. She is now married and has a five year old daughter. She and her family live in Virginia where she teaches in a woman's ministry at her church.

I am sure that many healings have happened at Bethel since then and that some of the best stories are yet to be written.