



From: Oak Crest News

By: Pastor Blain Craig

May 2, 2007

Let me thank so many of you who faithfully participated in this week's Prayer Conference with Dr. Michael Taylor. God truly, richly blessed us through the teaching and preaching of Bro. Mike. I think there were two primary blessings that came out of the conference. First of all, we were reminded of the importance and power of prayer. All through April, we have been focusing on prayer. Bro. Mike shared important truths about prayer that we probably had not considered before. Oh sure, we have always known we should pray, but we should also know how to pray in a Christ exalting, God honoring way. This week's conference was simply one more step toward Oak Crest becoming more and more the house of prayer God desires us to be. May we be even more fervent in our individual and corporate prayer lives after this week.

There is yet another blessing we received this week. Bro. Mike shared these truths about prayer through solid, expository teaching and preaching. I am sure you have heard me use that term "expository" on other occasions. I hope and pray you see it modeled week in and week out at Oak Crest, but I know you saw it modeled this week in Bro. Mike's teaching....Oak Crest Baptist Church must continue to know God through prayer and His Word. May God be praised that He has blessed us with a greater understanding of both of these this week.

"God loves us the way we are, but too much to leave us that way."

Leighton Ford

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### For Personal Study

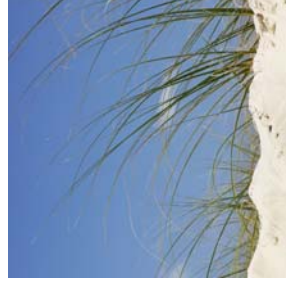
Reading through the Bible each year is a good habit. Allow me to suggest a different strategy. Choose a short book of the Bible like Philippians or Jonah; or a section of a long book like Matthew chapters 5-7 or John chapters 13-17. For six weeks, read that book or section of a book each day. Read it from start to finish. Read it slowly. Allow it to saturate your mind. After a few days you will be able to meditate on the Word more effectively.

After a week or two, you will begin to notice the intended divisions of the book. In Philippians, you will realize that 1:1-11 and 4:21-23 are the opening and closing of the book. In 1:12-26, Paul encourages his dear friends not to worry about what has happened to him or about what may happen to him because the gospel is advancing. In 1:27-2:18, Paul tells them how to conduct themselves as Christians regardless of what happens to him. In 2:19-30, he tells them what is going to happen with Timothy and Epaphroditus. In 3:1-4:9, he gives the Philippians further instructions in Christian living. In 4:10-20, Paul thanks them for their loving financial support.

After three or four weeks begin to intensively study the division of the book to which the Spirit draws you. But continue to read the entire book each day.

This approach will take us much deeper into the Word.

*Mike*



"The devil sees nothing more abominable than a truly humble Christian, for that Christian is just the opposite of the devil's own image."

Hans Nielson Hauge

## Recent Conferences . . .

It was a joy to work with each of the following churches and their pastors.

- Apr. 15–18 at FBC Poteau, Oklahoma , with Pastor Phil McGehee.  
Main Conference: Nehemiah  
Day Conference: Prayer to the Father, Through the Son, In the Spirit
- April 22-25 at FBC Coal Hill, Arkansas, with Pastor David Qualls.  
Main Conference: The Armor of God  
Day Conference: God's Suffering Servant
- April 28 at FBC Bastrop, Louisiana, with Pastor Jim Ingram.  
Training Adults in One-to-One Discipling
- May 6-9 at FBC Hartman, Arkansas, with Pastor Grady Glass.  
Conference: The Book of Ruth
- May 20-23 at Batson Baptist Church, Clarksville, Arkansas, with Pastor Mike Shields.  
Conference: Prayer to the Father, Through the Son, In the Spirit
- June 3-6 at FBC Point, Texas, with Pastor Jay Sikes.  
Main Conference: Discipleship in the Gospels and Acts  
Day Conference: The Book of Ruth

## Prayer Praises . . .

- ◆ In 2006, all the conferences were Bible Conferences. None were devoted to Prayer or Discipleship. This became a matter of prayer. God is answering. Portions of eight of the conferences completed this year have focused on Prayer or Discipleship.
- ◆ The health of board members Wanda Eldredge and Gene Loyd is improving.
- ◆ The Lord is leading most of the pastors we have worked with this year to reschedule for 2008.
- ◆ With the increased number of conferences, the ministry is now able to pay my monthly health insurance premium.

## Prayer Request . . .

- ◆ That at least four more conferences will be scheduled for this year. So far there have been 22 conferences scheduled. The goal for 2007 is 26 conferences.

## Upcoming Conferences . . .

- July 21–25 North Tenth Street Baptist Church  
Blytheville, Arkansas
- Aug. 26–29 First Baptist Church  
Booneville, Arkansas
- Sept. 30–Oct. 3 Rome Baptist Church  
Chillicothe, Illinois
- Oct. 5–9 Metro-Peoria Baptist Assoc.  
Peoria, Illinois
- Oct. 10–12 Dayton Ave. Baptist Church  
Peoria, Illinois
- Oct. 21–24 Fianna Hills Baptist Church  
Fort Smith, Arkansas
- November 4–7 First Baptist Church  
Coal Hill, Arkansas
- November 10, 11 First Baptist Church  
Alma, Arkansas
- November 25-28 First Baptist Church  
Hartman, Arkansas

“A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God.”

Leonard Ravenhill

