



New Lifer News



Let's Keep Praying

by Bob See

I hope you were able to be with us at the Learn to Love to Pray seminar last week. **I have heard from people all across New Life who have said this was one of the best training times they'd ever experienced.** If you were unable to attend, please watch the seminar on the New Life website at www.newlifeonline.org – if you watch it online, you'll want a copy of the workbook (available at the Info Center or church office for only \$2 - cheap!).

God has had New Life focusing on prayer and revival for many weeks; I encourage you to continue giving your personal attention to prayer and seeking God. Find some time to review the concepts Dave Butts taught us last week at the seminar. Go back through the Asleep in the Land of Nod devotional and reflect on the points that caught your attention. Choose one or two ideas from last weekend's training and apply them to your personal life.

There are two prayer requests I'm asking all New Lifers to pursue – first, ask God to pour out a spirit of prayer on New Life. Dave Butts spoke about asking God to increase our commitment and dependence on prayer, and how this is the way to move toward being a prayer-saturated church – ask God for it! And second, as we are a few weeks from Easter, ask God to pour out on us a spirit of evangelism. Our Easter services will especially speak to people who perhaps made a decision for Christ earlier but are not, now, following Him closely. They aren't opposed to Jesus, but their lives are far from Him. Let's pray that Easter will be the day when many of these people, who God loves deeply, will make a new surrender of their lives to Him. Pray that God will pour out a spirit of outreach on New Life and people will step out in inviting their friends and family, classmates and coworkers. **Let's see what God can do in changing lives!**



Learning to Love to Pray

by Jason Morris

Prayer is the conversational part of the most important love relationship in our lives. This was one of the foundational concepts that author and speaker Dave Butts shared at the prayer seminar that much of our church body attended last Saturday, March 13th, called *Learning to Love to Pray*.

A crowd of close to 200 comprised predominantly of New Lifers enjoyed a five-and-a-half hour seminar that never dragged, consistently provoked thought, and inspired action. Dave Butts, author of the daily devotional *Asleep in the Land of Nod*, addressed the assembly in three separate sessions, tracking through a bound work booklet that attendees could take home for further study and review.

Dave's challenges to pray were basic, but laced with an intricacy that required us to rethink the way we pray. At one point he encouraged our church body to step out in prayer by praying to the different Persons of the Trinity, reminding us that all three persons of the Trinity are involved with us when we pray. This concept might not seem too novel on the surface, but his challenge revolved around the idea that embracing this type of prayer would both broaden and deepen our understanding of the true nature of the One we call God. The body of believers was asked to quietly pray to the three persons of the Trinity at their seats as an exercise in individual communication with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Dave covered topics of praise, thanksgiving, petition and intercession, opening up powerful ways to further deepen each listener's prayer life. He proposed that God *wants* us to praise him; that it is the very purpose of our existence, and if praise is not a part of our lives, we are living out a life of practical atheism.

He delineated the often-blurred line between praise and thanksgiving by asserting that praise is directed at the face of God, meaning we praise God for who he is, and thanksgiving is directed at the hand of God, meaning we thank him for what he gives.

At one pointed moment Dave contended that we need "a theology that will allow God to speak" and he illustrated this concept through a personal story. He was driving to have coffee and donuts with some friends when he was suddenly struck with the thought that he should go to the hospital. After an internal argument, he conceded to the thought and drove to the hospital to find that a man he had planned to visit later in the day was in a moment of crisis, and he was able to minister to the need at hand. However, at the time of this event, Dave didn't have a theology that allowed God to speak, so he was dumbfounded as to how he could have somehow known that he needed to go to the hospital rather than attributing his "thought" to the direction of God. Dave's honest divulgence of personal experience with success and failure combined with practical takeaways gave the entire day a sense of traction and purpose.

Gary and Karen Lohr are long-time New Lifers who spent their day at the seminar. "We really enjoyed hearing Dave Butts' down-to-earth and to-the-point talk on prayer. We especially liked the Cycle of Prayer concept - the way God gets things done on earth. Also the idea of listening as a part of conversing with God in prayer was an excellent reminder to listen more. Our passion for prayer has been ignited!"

Childcare, a variety of snacks, and the provision of a sack lunch created an environment where New Lifers and guests could enjoy their time together while focusing on the world-impacting material that Dave covered over the course of the day. In the end, we were convinced that prayer is a richly interactive relationship, a hand in hand walk with God.

Easter Services at New Life

Sunday, April 4 at 7:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Then, join us for our Easter Breakfast.

Be praying about
who YOU can invite!

*Tickets are on sale, now, in the Lobby
between services or
during church office hours.*



Easter
Breakfast

Featuring French Toast with syrup or fruit topping, scrambled eggs au gratin, sausage links and more.

Adults.....\$5
Kids 4-10.....\$4
Kids 3 & under.....FREE

Tickets are required and are available at the Info Desk or Church Office during business hours.