



# New Lifer News

## Your Story

by Jason Morris

It's been five months since Bob See asked us to commit to praying daily for what we affectionately termed our "Kenya Prayers." Some of us have been faithful to that call every day since the fall, others of us have been spotty with our consistency, and I'm guessing that a big group of us prayed with fervor and regularity for a number of weeks but then began to forget here and there until one day we realized that our Kenya prayers were a thing of the past rather than the present.

If you've been able to ride the Kenya prayer commitment all this time without getting distracted or forgetful, you have my respect and kudos and a big fat pat on the back from the rest of our church body. If you're in the group whose Kenya prayers might be described as less than continual, there's no need to be ashamed. You know what you felt led to pray for back in the fall, and that prayer might have been answered already in some way or maybe it's still the big one on your heart and you feel the burden of picking it back up and pressing into God, finding the answers He has for you.

In this month leading up to the prayer seminar on March 13<sup>th</sup>, please don't be sheepish about taking your original Kenya prayer back to God. He loves you. The things that weigh on your heart are important to Him and he longs to see you changed into the person he created you to be; to learn to trust him with every desire of your heart.

One of the hopes our leadership team has held on to during this time of prayer is that people within our church body would find God answering their cries to him; that as they would pray daily for that "one big thing," God would answer in miraculous ways and stories would begin to emerge as He worked. Think about it for a minute. Has God answered your Kenya prayer? Has he driven things forward in your situation in a way that only God can move? Are you in the middle of his answer or just at the beginning? Did he respond and bring closure to your specific request within the first month or two? Has he been silent? What is the current status of the subject of your Kenya prayer, even if you haven't brought it before God in a long time? On March 21<sup>st</sup> we'd like to share the stories that you share with us in our services as an encouragement that God is working at New Life.

We're spending these weeks focusing on revival and prayer, and many of the great revivals of the past have been sparked by someone's story of God moving, of Him changing them or showing up in a God-sized way. Do you have a story like this? Is God working on your Kenya prayer? If you're open to sharing even in a one on one setting, please contact me or one of the pastors and we'd love to sit down with you and hear what God did or is doing in your life. You can e-mail any one of us at the following addresses to tell us your. Please don't be shy. God's intervention deserves our attention, so tell us your story!

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HAVE YOU PRAYED  
FOR YOUR "KENYA" TODAY?

JOHN 14:13-14 NIV



Karen and I attended our first Weekend to Remember when we were in the family years. We had always considered that our marriage was very good even with occasional communication problems or conflicts in our individual goals and priorities of life. I was just starting my career at Caterpillar; Karen was a stay-at-home mom with four kids, mountains of laundry, a dog and a cat. Life was good. Life was busy—boy was life busy.

We saw the Weekend to Remember as more of a romantic get-away weekend for the two of us. Honestly, I don't remember the exact year or city because we've attended a dozen or more of these FamilyLife events. But here's what we experienced:

- Friday afternoon ... filled with excitement and anticipation ... arrived at the hotel ... took a deep breath ... picked up a light dinner ... Karen and I could talk uninterrupted ... a night in a hotel with Karen ... nice.
  - Friday evening ... wow, there are hundreds of people here in the ballroom ... couples of every age ... some married less than six months ... some married more than 40 years (old people) ... entertaining speakers ... it's like they're talking just to us ... how do they know all this stuff?
  - Saturday morning ... back at it ... this is kind of fun ... they're talking about God's blueprint for marriage ... good stuff ... break time and an assignment ... Karen and I write each other a love letter and we get to read them to each other ... kiss ... kiss.
  - Saturday afternoon ... we're talking about communication ... now we're talking about physical communication ... yes! I didn't know sex was God's idea ... another break ... another reflective assignment ... and now for a romantic date night ... just the two of us! Yeah!
  - Sunday morning ... separate sessions ... guys in this ballroom to cover material on being a husband and father ... ladies in the other room looking at being a wife and mother ... good stuff ... so much to learn and apply ... challenging ... a ton of really great books and other material in the resource center.
- Sunday afternoon ... back to reality ... ready to conquer ... revived ... recharged ... we're a team.

After our first Weekend to Remember, we realized how vitally important it was for us to get away to focus on our marriage periodically. God also brought many other couples to mind that were struggling with their marriages, and from what we experienced, we knew that the Weekend to Remember could give them hope and the tools they needed to heal their marriages.

As part of a local volunteer team that has supported the Peoria conference over the years, Karen and I have seen first hand some real Kingdom victories. There have been many couples that came to the conference as a last chance for their dying marriage—sometimes with divorce papers ready to sign. God met them there and changed the course of their lives, healing their marriage and saving their family from destruction.

**At FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember marriage conference, you can put aside life's daily distractions and focus on each other again. For over 30 years, FamilyLife has helped more than a million couples make their marriages stronger and healthier. They can help you realize the potential in your marriage too.**

We invite you to join us on March 5 – 7 at the Hotel Peré Marquette for FamilyLife's Weekend to Remember marriage conference. In just one weekend you'll discover God's purpose for bring you together, your distinctive roles as husband and wife, how to resolve conflict, and secrets to putting sizzle in your sex life. To register go to [www.familylife.com/groups/bdrelph](http://www.familylife.com/groups/bdrelph) (use promo code "BOGO" to save \$\$!) For Hotel reservations, contact the hotel directly at 309.637.6500 and ask for the FamilyLife Rate of \$96.

For more information go to  
[www.weekendtoremember.com](http://www.weekendtoremember.com)  
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*Your marriage*



*Our conference*



## 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting

by Bob See

This weekend completes the 21 days of prayer and fasting that New Life has participated in. I've spoken with many of you who participated and have found the experience both hard and rewarding. Many of you established some new practices in your family such as praying together and turning off the TV. Perhaps even more important was the experience you had with Christ as you spent more time seeking Him. I believe God is at work in New Life, preparing us for the future. Before God does a new work He first prepares His people through repentance and prayer.

I encourage you to continue to pray for your Kenya prayer requests and for God's work at New Life. Please continue to pray especially for the next several Sunday mornings as our messages will continue to pursue the themes of revival and repentance. For inspiration check out the article we've posted on the website that walks through the history of revival in America – last week the Sunday messages referred to the Welsh revival; you can read more details in this article (go to the information tab and open the "how to fast" file). Let's believe God is going to move in power in our lives!