

APPALACHIAN BIBLE COLLEGE

PREMIER
ISSUE

DOUWLOS

"WHOEVER DESIRES TO BE FIRST
AMONG YOU, LET HIM BE YOUR **SLAVE**"



ISSUE 1 • SUMMER 2016

Making Prayer Your Church's Priority
Student Testimony: Kayla Maas
Alumni Story: Cary & Verna Perdue

– from the –

PRESIDENT'S HEART

Welcome to *Doulos*. I invite you to enjoy the blessing of a new tool to communicate with you as we partner together in carrying forward the mission of Appalachian Bible College.

"*Doulos*" is the Greek word for "slave." The concept of abandoned service to the Lord is not new to ABC. After all, our motto for over thirty years has been "Because Life is for Service." It is that passion which has led us to introduce *Doulos* communicating our mission to equip an ongoing supply of Biblical Slave Leaders, based upon Jesus' instruction in Matthew 20:25-27. In this dialogue with His disciples, Jesus clearly declares that the qualifying mark of a Biblical leader is to be a "*doulos*"—a slave.

I pray that you will be blessed and challenged as you periodically receive *Doulos*. Be a slave for Jesus!

Another exciting initiative from ABC is the introduction of our "20/20 Vision." This strategic plan identifies eight goals we are asking God to help us achieve by the year 2020. Each contributes to our mission of preparing servants for the church.

Our first goal is to "grow a President's Prayer Partner ministry with 700 partners interceding in daily prayer." Without divine enablement, our plans are in vain! We must have God's

guidance and blessing. This goal is advanced through the distribution of a weekly email contact which includes a short prayer message followed by prayer requests pertinent to that specific week. Persons who prefer print receive a monthly prayer list by mail. We have seen tremendous answers to prayer since we initiated this opportunity! Already we have over 450 partners.

I am so grateful for the privilege to include you in this first issue of *Doulos*. These are wonderful days to be slaves of the best Master in the world—Jesus Christ. As you explore the testimonies of prayer in this issue of *Doulos*, I trust that your burden to pray will be increased. Let us join our hearts and our hands as we invade the darkness of this world with the light of the Gospel ...Because Life is for Service.

His Slave,



Daniel L. Anderson, Th.D.
President
Psalm 84:11, 12



Join the President's Prayer Partners
at abc.edu/pray

November 14, 2015. It was two days after my nineteenth birthday and a Saturday afternoon like any other at Appalachian Bible College, filled with homework, laughter, and friends. I had been anticipating horseback riding on this particular day, but I never imagined how the day would turn out—and how God would use it to draw me closer to Himself.

student stories

HE HEARS!

KAYLA'S TESTIMONY OF ANSWERED PRAYER

**THE OUTPOURING
OF PRAYER
SHOWS ME
HOW, EVEN
WHEN IT SEEMS
HOPELESS, GOD
ANSWERS HIS
PEOPLE**



Kayla Maas just finished her freshman year at ABC. She is from Cincinnati, pursuing a B.A. in Bible/Theology and Elementary Education. Her injured collarbone still causes problems, but her back is healing well and she says she can't wait to ride again!

That Saturday while horseback riding, I was thrown from my horse at a gallop. I've fallen before, always brushing the dirt off and getting right back on. This time was different. I went flying through the air, landing hard on the ground before rolling to a stop.

My riding companion, also an ABC student, dismounted and came right to my side. Michelle asked if I was okay and I simply responded with, "Nope." I couldn't stand up.

While an ambulance sped our way, Michelle and I prayed aloud, asking for God's peace and comfort and protection. That was the first of hundreds of prayers following my accident.

After finding out I had broken my collarbone as well as my spine, I was transferred to a hospital in Charleston, WV. I spent several days in the ICU, unsure if surgery was needed or if I would be paralyzed. I was finally released to go home and rest, wearing a back brace and sling. I'll be honest: while I should have been incredibly thankful to be alive, I was devastated to leave college. ABC truly feels like a home and family to me, and I was crushed to be leaving it early, not knowing when I could return.

Whole churches prayed for me: my home church in Ohio, my church in West Virginia, and many other believers throughout the country. I was prayed for in countless classes at ABC, and my roommate says she would walk in the dining hall and hear groups of people praying at their tables. My story spread quickly.

The doctors told me I'm lucky to not be paralyzed, that it could have easily killed me if the break had been a bit higher on my spine. But thanks to God's enduring love and the faithful prayers of so many, I returned to ABC in January. I'm continuing my education and growing daily in my relationship with Jesus.

Every day multiple people ask about my back and tell me they've been praying. The outpouring of prayer shows me how, even when it seems hopeless, God answers His people. "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us..." (1 John 5:14).



THE BOILER ROOM

MAKING PRAYER YOUR CHURCH'S HIGHEST PRIORITY

"What does your church need? If your first answer is some program or ministry, or change in music style, or better preaching, then prayer won't be a priority."

It is a famous story. Charles Spurgeon loved to take people to the “boiler room” of his church. Confused why he wanted to show them the heating system, they soon learned that it was actually a prayer room where hundreds of Spurgeon’s church members met to pray for him during his sermons.

While he preached, his people prayed. And God heard. Spurgeon is still called “the Prince of Preachers.” His preaching stirred more than the ten thousand listeners that gathered each Sunday to hear him in 19th century London. Manuscripts of his messages stirred people across the globe, and his sermons are still read today. One church prayed and nearly every Bible-believing church in America has benefited—because it would be very unusual if your pastor has not read Charles Spurgeon.

God is not partial to Londoners over a century ago. He is ready to answer prayer today. He is looking to demonstrate his power in any church, anywhere, that will give him that same opportunity to honor prayer.

What does your church need? If your first answer is some program or ministry, or change in music style, or better preaching, then prayer won’t be a priority.

There is a quotation from A.J. Gordon hanging on my office wall: “You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you can never do more than pray until you have prayed.” If we really believe what our churches need is more of God then we will pray first and work on everything else afterwards. Usually it is the other things we depend on to make our churches what we want them to be. But if we became serious about making our churches what God wants them to be, prayer would be given the highest priority.

How can we increase prayer in our churches? I suggest looking at prayer in three categories: formal, informal, and personal.

By formal I mean the scheduled, structured prayer times in a church. These need to be planned and they need to be attended. Encourage your leadership by attending the prayer times already scheduled or encouraging them to start scheduling them. These may be a mid-week prayer service, a prayer time for the sermon right before the

morning service (or during the sermon as one of my churches did for me), a Saturday morning men’s prayer breakfast, or a ladies’ prayer time perhaps connected to a new mothers ministry. My church has a ladies’ prayer time specifically to intercede for the children and their teachers in school, especially in public school.

Informal prayer is given spontaneously as the church, the body of Christ, interacts. As believers gather for fellowship, a time of prayer—perhaps for an urgent need of a beloved member—can be such a blessing. When people share about a trial, how meaningful when the person listening says, “Can I pray with you right now about that?” I often saw two people with heads bowed in the hallways of my church before and after services.

Finally, personal prayer is the private praying each member does alone. Jesus called this our “closet” (Matthew 6:6) where we commune with God and intercede for the church. A specific place and time for this is best for most people who otherwise forget. Make a prayer list or use prayer cards such as the ones missionaries provide. You can make your own prayer cards on index cards for the pastors, Sunday school teachers, shut-ins, and others you want to remember.

Don’t be discouraged if you are not a praying person now. Just determine to start by praying short prayers throughout the day as God brings things to your mind. Charles Spurgeon said he never prayed more than five minutes at a time, but he never went more than five minutes without praying. Didn’t the Apostle Paul encourage us to “pray without ceasing”? This is what he meant.

Prayer doesn’t have to be difficult to arrange in our lives. If we think we need to find a quiet place, get on our knees, confess all our sins, pray for every missionary, and do it with tears in our eyes we are mistaken about the kind of prayer God hears.

Anyone can pray. And your prayer may be what God is waiting for to do something special in your church. When I finish praying I often remind myself that because I prayed, God will do more than he would have done if I had not prayed. God is loving so he will act on our behalf even if we don’t pray—but he does more when we pray. Friend, pray just a little more.



David Childs is Vice President for Student Services at Appalachian Bible College and a member of Maxwell Hill Baptist Church. He and his wife, Linda, have two sons, two daughters, and two grandchildren. His interests include history and cowboy movies, which inspired him to build his own muzzleloader.

IT SEEMED SO IMPOSSIBLE

– God’s provision through prayer for one missionary family –

In the summer of 1965 I was on the faculty of Appalachian Bible College and also Administrative Assistant to President Dr. Lester Pipkin when I was approached by Virgil Newbrander, leader of Far Eastern Gospel Crusade. “We have a very fine Bible college in Manila but there is no graduate level theological school. We would like you to consider going to help develop a much-needed grad school.” That conversation forever changed my life.

My wife, Verna, and I decided to respond to this request. Since I had a Th.M. and the new school would be on a graduate level, I needed more education. At just the right time we were invited to pastor near Knoxville, TN and have the freedom to pursue a post-graduate degree.

We moved from Beckley in June 1968; I pastored Oak Ridge Bible Church and started at the University of Tennessee. I received my degree in 1970. That fall we applied to Far Eastern Gospel Crusade and were accepted into the mission in January, 1971, with assignment to the Philippines for theological education.

But then reality set in! “You will need this much monthly support; this one-time amount; and you will need it by June 7 for a July 7 flight. There is a rush because you are needed to replace the person there now who is scheduled to come home.”

This meant lots of travel and communication quickly. The church elders graciously allowed me to be gone often. One elder mused, “Pastor, it just can’t be done in this short time.”

I started working the phone. The first pastor I called said, “You are welcome to come but I don’t think you will be able to leave in July.” And so it went. I was often told, “You are welcome here but there will be no support.”

One trip to Charlotte, North Carolina yielded no results except lunch with a church member named Jack who told me he would pray. Driving home through the Smoky Mountains, I was less than happy. “What a waste of precious time.”

My farewell message at Oak Ridge was on June 6. A generous offering was given, and another friend promised \$20 monthly support. We had retired for the night when the phone rang. A pastor in Virginia stated his church had decided on \$25 monthly support. It rang again: a West Virginia pastor announced another \$25.

The June 7 deadline came, and I did my usual reading in the Greek text. That morning was

I Peter 5:7, “Casting your anxiety on Him....” and then literally, “it matters to Him about you.” The phone rang at 8 AM. “Hello, this is Jack.” “Who?” “Jack from Charlotte. What are your support needs?” My response: “We still need 19% of our monthly support and 42% of our one-time expenses.” Jack said, “Let’s see what happens today. I’ll be praying.”

About 3:30 PM Jack called again. “Did anything happen today?” “Yes, another \$20 support but nothing else.” “Well, Cary, I will underwrite what does not come in by the time for you to go.” Verna and the children were listening nearby. We all threw our arms around one another and sobbed. They had never seen me cry; one of our daughters, frightened, ran to the bedroom and hid.

For the first time II Cor. 9:12 burst into radiant view before us: “For the administration of this service not only supplies the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God.” Here are some of the notes we received:

“It was the thrill of the year to hear that God had provided your need.”

“It seemed so impossible and of course it was—but God! I prayed earnestly and with such a burdened heart—and human enough to keep wondering. No wonder tears overflowed!”

“Thanks for your letter, telling of HIS provision for His own. HE alone is worthy, let us praise HIM.”



Cary M. Perdue is a 1956 graduate of Appalachian Bible College. He and Verna (1955) went on to serve for twelve years as president of Asian Theological Seminary in Manila. Later he continued in other ministry capacities and still remains active traveling and teaching. Listen to his passionate message on the call of God at abc.edu/chapel (Oct. 5, 2015).



ABC Homecoming

OCTOBER 6-7

Calling all alumni! Rekindle old friendships and enjoy a variety of activities for the whole family. Homecoming is planned for October 6-7 with speaker Dr. Gary Anderson, President Emeritus of Baptist Mid-Missions. Watch for more details online and in your mailbox.

MOBC

For the second year, 32 inmates at West Virginia's maximum security prison are taking accredited courses in Bible, theology, and pastoral studies. The goal of Mount Olive Bible College is to train inmates to evangelize and disciple their peers inside the prison and their communities upon release. Bob Sprigg has been named Acting Director of MOBC. Pray for this unique ministry of ABC as it gains momentum.



The Gospel Heralds on Tour

The Gospel Heralds music ministry team is on the road for their summer tour. Pray for protection and lasting impact as they travel the Midwest and Mid-East coast. View their itinerary and request a ministry team: abc.edu/tours. Follow their travels: facebook.com/ABCgospelheralds.



Congrats Grads!

The Class of 2016 includes forty graduating with a Bachelor of Arts, seven with a Bible Certificate, and one with an Associate of Arts in Bible and Theology. Find more photos at facebook.com/appalachianbible.

SERVANT'S NOTES

TESOL Summer Interns



Eight students in the Missions-TESOL Ministry Major are spending their summer in overseas internships. While one gains experience teaching English in India, the others are in China supervised by TESOL Advisor Abbey Stiles. To help sponsor their opportunities for evangelism in restricted-access countries email abbey.stiles@abc.edu.

Blessings

Praise God for generous gifts toward technology upgrades, a 15-passenger van, and McCarrell Hall restroom renovations. You can invest in training servants for the advance of the Gospel, too: abc.edu/giving.

New Canoe Excursions

Alpine Ministries introduces a new outdoor Adventure: Canoe Excursion. Groups of 6 to 12 can explore a serene 270-acre lake nearby. Thanks to a volunteer work group, the paintball field has been completely renovated and expanded. Other Christ-centered Adventures include whitewater rafting, caving, rappelling, hiking, team building, high ropes course, and laser tag. Info: alpineministries.com/adventures.





Appalachian Bible College

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news tips or story ideas, email publicrelations@abc.edu.

The intent of Doulos is to expand constituent participation in ABC's purpose of educating and equipping servants for the church of tomorrow while edifying the church of today. To submit

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