

Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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I would like to share with you another thought provoking article from perhaps one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Please, take time to read the article, for it helps give us an insight into what the Word of God says about prayer.

Pastor Charles Lucchesi

PRAYERS FOR SALVATION

God may have lessons for us in the way he answers our askings.

J.I. PACKER / Posted April 1, 2003

The Bible tells us that anything we ask according to his will, we shall have (1 John 5:14-15). How is it, then, that not all prayers for the salvation of others are answered?

—Amy Lynn Nuttall, Brooklyn, New York

All Christians, I suppose, like myself, have prayed for the conversion of loved ones without seeing it happen. So did Paul (Romans 9:1-3, 10:1), and so did prayer giant George Müller in at least one case (though the prayed-for person came to Christ at Müller's funeral).

Much is uncertain here; we cannot tell, for instance, how God may deal with holdouts who, as we say, "know it all" in the moments of their dying. But we know the pain of the love that makes us pray for them, and while they continue impervious to Christ, the pain stays.

Now, our heavenly Father is indeed a promise-keeping God who answers all proper prayer in positive terms. Proper prayers flow from faithful, obedient hearts bringing to God real needs that we beg him to meet. His answer may be "Yes, here and now, as requested," or "Yes, but in a better way than

you asked," or "Yes, but you must wait - I will take the right action at the right time, which is not yet."

God, the perfect Father, loves to give good gifts to his children, but reserves the right to give only the best, and only in the best way. What he gives, therefore, is not always what the praying believer had in mind.

But proper prayers are made according to his will; what does that mean? The Lord's Prayer shows. All our requests are to be a spelling out of our motive, purpose, and desire, which matches God's own, for the hallowing (honoring, glorifying) of his name (that is, of God himself as revealed in the Bible and its Christ).

The bottom line here must ever be that God's will (command and plan) be done - not just in others' lives, but in ours too. In our lives God may have lessons for us in the way he answers our askings.

As children growing up in God's family, we are to work out what we think will most advance the divine glory and pray for that (as did Paul when he asked that his thorn in the flesh be healed). Then we must wait and watch to see what God, in his greater wisdom, does in answer (as when he strengthened Paul to live with the thorn unhealed).

(continued on next page)

But, given all that, does not God categorically state in 2 Peter 3:9 that he wants everyone on Earth to come to repentance? Well, no; not there, anyway. "The Lord," says Peter, "is patient toward you (my Jewish-Christian fellow believers, whom I am addressing), not wishing that any (of you) should perish, but that all (of you) should reach repentance." Texts must be understood in context, which often limits their application, as it does here.

But does not God call everyone who hears the gospel to come to Christ and be saved? Yes, but be careful; there is mystery here, the mystery of God's sovereignty. The gospel message is a *bona fide*, good faith, "whosoever will" invitation to Christ, who is truly present to save all who truly turn to him in faith and repentance.

To us who thus turn, the New Testament explains that God reached out to open our eyes, renew our hearts, and raise us from spiritual death into new birth and new life. Hence he is to be praised no less for our conversion than for providing our Savior. But not all

turn, and the unbelief of those who do not is diagnosed as their own fault. Beyond this, the mystery of some-but-not-others is left unexplained, and humbly we have to settle for that.

Yet, though our prayers do not make God dance to our tune, they do make a difference. When, as so often, those who have come to faith learn that someone was praying for them, they know that they owe their salvation, under God, to that person.

And when God moves me to love and pray for someone (with verbal witness to them also, as God gives opportunity), I should assume that God means to bless that person. He is privileging me to be a link in the chain and will answer my prayer in positive terms, whether or not I see how.

Keep loving, then, keep praying, keep expecting, keep trusting God to know what he is doing, and keep praising him for his unsearchable wisdom. So did Paul (Romans 9-11, especially 11:33-36), and so should we.

Church Updates

It has been over six months since the pandemic restrictions have been put in place. As we now start the fall season, Calvary still needs to follow the guidelines to keep everyone's safety in mind.

The church will continue to hold two separate worship services each Sunday, although there is one minor change to announce. The first service on Sunday morning will now be held at 9:30 a.m. (not 9:00).

**Worship services: 9:30 a.m. service to be held downstairs in the Family Fellowship Room
11:00 a.m. service to be held upstairs in the sanctuary**

Please be sure to wear a face mask before entering the building and during the service, hand sanitizing stations are available by the entrances, and physically distance yourselves from one another. Sunday School, Nursery, and Meet & Greet are still on hold.

Children's Church continues meeting on-line on Sunday mornings. The Wednesday Night Bible Study meets at the church at 7:00 p.m., and the Thursday Night Ladies Bible Study meets on-line via Zoom the 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

To financially continue to support the church, there are many options. When attending a service, there is an offering plate in the back of the room; donations can be mailed directly to the church or even dropped off in the church mailbox; or you can donate on-line through the church website using PayPal.

For those who cannot attend the Sunday service, the worship service is still being recorded and will be posted on the church website (www.cpcbaldwin.com - click on "YouTube") and streamed on YouTube at www.youtube.com (search for Calvary Church, Baldwin, NY).

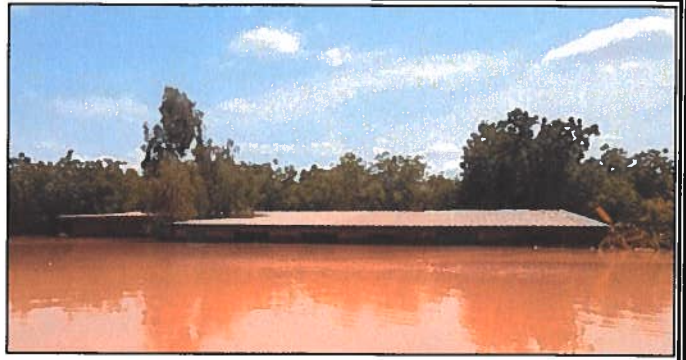
Keeping Connected

To keep the church family connected, weekly communications are e-mailed (sometimes more frequently) with current information, updated health concerns, and prayer requests.

If you have not been getting the church's e-mail updates, please contact the church office (516-223-4070) and give your information to Sharon. We will gladly add you to the e-mail list.

M I S S I O N A R Y Prayers for the DeValve's

John and Nancy DeValve, who are part of the church's missionary family, serve with SIM in Niger, Africa. The people there are currently experiencing catastrophic flooding as they are in their rainy season. The Niger River has risen to levels they have never seen before, dikes have collapsed, and the water has rushed into the local neighborhoods.



Flood water inundated Sahel Academy (SIM's international school) and the Bible College campus which also housed the international church where John and Nancy regularly attend services. The photo above shows the church and college under 7-8 feet of water.

In the city the waters inundated the University of Niamey, the university hospital, and water treatment plant. In the country, 350,000 people have been displaced and many have lost their lives.

Pray for John and Nancy and the local people as they struggle to recover from the devastation and loss.

R May God grant them peace and strength as they restore and rebuild.

Pastor Appreciation Month

October has been designated as Pastor Appreciation Month, although we should always be praying for Pastor Lucchesi and his family throughout the year.

Let's make October be a special time for Pastor Charlie by sending a personal note, or giving him a call, to express your gratitude, thankfulness, and love.

At this time monetary donations are being accepted and a special love offering will be given to the pastor. Your gift can be mailed to the church, placed in the church mailbox, or put in the offering plate on Sunday in an envelope clearly marked "Pastor Appreciation." If giving a gift by check, please make check payable to Charles Lucchesi (not Calvary Church).

Let us all make this a memorable month for the Lucchesi family. May we be a great encouragement to their hearts!



An entertaining photo of Pastor Charlie with hair. Can you guess who was in on the joke and sitting behind him when the picture was taken?

"Plane Crash Survivors" - a little humor to lighten your day!

Two men crashed their private plane on a South Pacific island. Both survived. One of the men brushed himself off and then proceeded to run all over the island to see if they had any chance of survival. When he returned, he rushed up to the other man and screamed, "This island is uninhabited. There is no food, there is no water. We are going to die!"



The other man leaned back against the fuselage of the wrecked plane, folded his arms, and responded, "No, we're not. I make over \$100,000 a week."

The first man grabbed his friend and shook him. "Listen, we are on an uninhabited island. There is no food, no water. We are going to die!"

The other man, unruffled, again responded, "No, I make over \$100,000 a week."

Mystified, the first man, taken aback with such an answer, again repeated, "For the last time, I'm telling you we are doomed! There is no one else on this island. There is no food. There is no water. We are, I repeat, we are going to die!"

Still unfazed, the first man looked the other in the eyes and said, "Don't make me say this again. I make over \$100,000 per week. I tithe 10 percent. My pastor will find us!"

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BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

4th Samantha Hetzel
Schultz
6th Victoria Manuel
10th Barbara Corcoran
13th Vincent Elcock
15th Robert Brown Jr.
17th Stephanie Wong
18th Eden Nembhard
18th Brett Rose
21st Connor Watts
22nd Ellen Heneghan
23rd Barbara Jamison
25th Vickie Mandato
29th Ryan Waldvogel

NOVEMBER

2nd Charlie Hetzel (Jr.)
3rd Courtney Gross
3rd Lou Kelting
4th Ronnie Roddy (Jr.)
7th Sherry Valentine
8th Bridget Dowling
8th Paul Nembhard
9th Zavier Foster
9th Paula Kulla
12th Kirk Nehring
18th Roy Seymour
19th Shannon and
Shelby Verity
20th Florence Emeigh
20th Nadeline Sandoval-
Vallejos
22nd Barry Senita
27th Nicole Alcindor
28th Joe Waldvogel

**Happy
Birthday!**

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

2nd Howard & Maryann Brockway
8th Vincent & Rosemary Rotolo
10th Denis & Giselle Sandoval
12th Wes & Becky Carman
16th John & Lisa Conroy
16th Tony & Sarabeth DiCostanzo

NOVEMBER

5th Lou & Ree Kelting
13th Fred & Sherry Valentine
19th Bob & Diane Benedetto

Four Big Little Words

Trust in the Lord for His promise is true,
Delight in the Lord, it will bring joy to you.
Commit yourself, do His will every day,
Wait on the Lord, hear what He has to say.