



Effective Prayer

By Kevin McCauley

In 1964, communist Simba Rebels overran the town of Bunia in Zaire. They captured and executed many citizens of the town. A local pastor by the name of Zebedayo Idu was one of the individuals seized by the rebels. Soon, Pastor Idu was put through a mockery of a trial and sentenced to death by firing squad, to be carried out the next morning. Early the next morning, Pastor Idu together with a large number of prisoners were herded onto a truck and driven to the public square for execution. With no explanation, an official told the prisoners to "line up and number off - one, two, one, two." The "ones" were placed in front of the firing squad and summarily shot while the "twos" were taken back to the prison. Pastor Idu was among those spared and sent back to the prison. Back in their cells the prisoners could hear the sound of gunfire. The pastor took advantage of this moment to share with the other prisoners the story of Jesus - and the redemption offered. Eight of his fellow prisoners gave their lives to Jesus that day. About the time Pastor Idu finished talking and praying with these eight men, a messenger excitedly burst into the cell block with a release order. Pastor Idu had been arrested by mistake and was now free to leave! He said goodbye to each of the prisoners and prayed again with each of the eight converts. He left the prison and went directly to the little church he pastored in Bunia. When he walked in he found his congregation praying for his release. When they saw Pastor Idu walk into the room, and the obvious answer to their prayer, it is said that the most exuberant praise service in the history of that little church began!

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The very same God who heard the prayers of the early church (Acts 12:5) and caused the release of the Apostle Peter, heard the prayer of the church in Zaire in 1964, and is the God who listens to the cry of your heart today!

*Give ear to my words, O LORD,
Consider my meditation.
Give heed to the voice of my cry,
My King and my God,
For to You I will pray
Psalm 5:1-2 (NKJV)*

Who are the Wolffs?

Ray and Monique, both Bay Area natives, just celebrated their fifteenth anniversary in January. Their blended family consists of three children: Tiana, Nicole, and Jurgen.



Tiana is Ray's 30-year old daughter. She and her husband Jason live in the Sacramento Area. Nicole is

Monique's 27-year old daughter. She lives locally with her husband Brad. Monique's youngest is Jurgen (24). He will graduate this summer from Southern Oregon University.

Monique and Ray were high school sweethearts who ran into each other again, after 18 years, at the Billy Graham crusade at the Cow Palace. Ray had been a believer for a little over a year and was singing with the choir that night. Monique was attending with her "Spiritual Mom" Billye Kay, whose example of unconditional love led her to Christ in the midst of a marital crisis. The brief encounter in the hallway left Ray thinking "It's good to know that Monique has found Christ". It was a year later when, out of the blue, they shared a meal, and shared their stories.

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Although Monique was separated from her then husband, Ray didn't feel it would be right to have any regular contact, but asked if he could pray for her and her husband's marriage. Three years later, after countless prayers and many reconciliation attempts, Monique's almost 20-year marriage came to an end.

In January of 2002 Ray had an extra ticket to a Sharks' game and asked Monique if she'd like to go with him, not a date, just a fun time. She said yes, and just over a year later they were married here at Hope. There's a lot more to the story, a lot of God things. You should ask them about it sometime.

What is your church background?

Ray was born into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons). He left the church at age 16 and tried to get as far from God and religion as possible for the next 22 years. In February of 1996 God finally got through his thick skull and opened his heart to Christ. In the next several years he attended a very large church, then a very small church, both non-denominational.

Monique was born into the Catholic Church but stopped attending when she started college. She did not attend church regularly again until she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior in 1997.

What initially brought you to Hope Church?

Ray: The small church I was attending was closing its doors, so I went on a 6-week search for a new church home. I would show up on my motorcycle in full black leathers, just to see how each church I visited would react. When I pulled into the parking lot at Hope, a familiar voice called out to me "You criminal, what are you doing here". I was pleased to see an old friend I used to work with walking up to me. I stayed for the service, liked the teaching, and was impressed by the band.

Monique: I came to Hope because Ray was here!

What was your first impression of Hope?

Ray: They were very warm, welcoming people who weren't freaked out by the way I looked.

Monique: Everyone was always very friendly, and looked out for each other and me.

What do you like most about Hope?

It's an extended family that cares for one another, and shares God's love in very meaningful and practical ways.

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At your time at Hope, have there been any meaningful experiences you would like to share?

It's where we were married, where our kids were baptized, where Monique's father's memorial service was held, where we fellowshipped as a part of the Married Couples study, led by the Andersons, for 14 years with many wonderful people.

Why did you decide to make Hope your home church?

Ray: The circumstances that led me to Hope on that particular Sunday were, in my opinion, divinely orchestrated. It was a God thing.

What groups at Hope are you involved with?

Ray: I'm a member of the Elder Board, the Music Director. I supervise the Multimedia Team and the Prayer Team, and am an honorary member of the Welcome Team (I brew a mean pot of Java).

Monique: I'm a member of the Multimedia Team, the Leadership Team and the Prayer Team, and the "clean-up after service" team - I make sure the doors are locked and take care of the leftover communion.

What gifts or special talents do you think God has blessed you with?

Ray: God has demonstrated to me that I have the gift of teaching, and has blessed me with a lifelong love of music and musical ability.

Monique: God has blessed me with the gift of service.

How do you see yourself serving God at Hope and/or outside of Hope?

Ray: However God leads me. I'll serve as I currently am until He moves me to something else. Outside Hope, I hope I'm serving him by being an example of Christ's love. I am not always the best example I can be, but I keep at it.

Monique: I will continue with what I am doing at Hope. Outside of Hope and work, much of our time is spent caring for my 91-year-old Mom.

Do you have any message for people who are seeking God or striving for a closer walk with Him?

Get yourself out of the way and let God's Spirit light your path, through prayer and time in His Word.



Meanderings of an Idle Mind

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself”.

Ephesians 5:25-28: (NIV)

Submitted by Eddie Auria
inspired by Grace

Men, the women in our lives are there by choice. What brought about their choice is not ours to question but accept. But the impression we made to encourage that choice is ours to maintain from the beginning.

‘We met at a picnic on the beach given by a mutual friend. The day was clear and warm with a gentle, cool, breeze blowing, enough to sway summer dresses. I saw her amongst a group, Champaign in her hand, gleefully sharing stories with friends. White chiffon dress, scattered with flowers, gently swaying with the rest...’

When is the last time you went out with your wife and were motivated enough to remember the details of her loveliness? Love is a once in a lifetime, individually unique experience, with its own temperament and nuances. Love shouldn't be a mystery. Love doesn't take conscience effort or games of deception for sake of peace. Love is innate. Love is as natural as sleeping. The trick is to love by the Spirit.

“Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man”. - *Genesis 2:22: (NIV)*. God made women of the same flesh and offered her to us. God breathed the same Spirit of life into women. God didn't say, you shall love man despite his treatment. God didn't say, in marriage there shall be bondage through abusive behavior. God did say: *“And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself”*.

Matthew 39: (NIV)

So men, feel grateful for the gift, fortunate for the choice. Continually, show her the love you felt for her, and yourself, from the first moment you saw her; The love that brought you to your knee and a commitment to eternity. And, to those contemplating marriage, if you're not prepared to give yourself entirely or you can't realize that entirety in the women you cling to, turn away from our propensity for mortal lust and look to The Spirit for the truth.

Some upcoming events at Hope Christian Church

Games and Lunch – Sunday, Feb 4, 11:45am-1pm

Join us for an afternoon of excitement! We'll be playing some (inute to Win It) games and eating some lunch! This is a great time to have some fun and get to know others more! Invite a friend. Invite a neighbor. ALL ages are welcome! Check out the lobby or see Deahna Rosch (chilibonkas@yahoo.com) for more details.

Hope Workday – Saturday, Feb 10, 8am-Noon

There is always a lot to do at a Hope Work Day! Come for a bit or stay the whole time and help with the care of our buildings and grounds. All can help! We always have a good time serving together – and getting things done! Coffee and bagels provided! For questions, please contact Oscar Gomez (oog1978@icloud.com).

Kids Cooking Club - Saturday Feb 17, 8am-9:30am

Donut making class! Kids, join in the fun as we cook up some fresh delicious donuts! This is a Cooking Club you don't want to miss! For kids 5th grade and under (3 year and under, parent must stay). Please sign-up in the lobby or with Deahna Rosch (chilibonkas@yahoo.com)

A look ahead at Sunday Messages

Feb. 4	Luke 8:26-39
Feb. 11	Luke 8:40-56
Feb. 18	Luke 9:1-9
Feb. 25	Luke 9:10-17

Hope Christian Church

Pastor: Kevin McCauley

Music Director: Ray Wolff

Children's Director: Deahna Rosch

Youth Group Leader: David Rosch

Please submit all articles/news for the next Hope Notes by **Monday, February 19th, 5pm.**
Send to: Eddie Auria
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