

What's the single most important thing...

Bernie May, a former president of Wycliffe, relates this story about how right after he became president he went to a seminar on strategic planning. The guy leading the seminar asked, "What is the goal of your organization?" This answer was obviously easy: "a Bible in every language". And then the guy asked the second question: "What is the single most important thing you can do to advance your organization toward the goal?" And Bernie says how he was embarrassed about how long it took him to come up with the answer that ought to have been just as obvious: "The single most important thing is Prayer".*

*this story is the beginning of the Bibleless People Prayer Project that today has 13,000 some participants.

So, at work, it's a fun diversion for me to come up with various creative ideas for prayer events we have. Last month, we prayed for IT people (in process and on the field). I had an idea to print up little cards for each person (with their name and job title and city and country) and then I set up stations around the room: one for "Family", one for "Health and Rest", for "Finances", "Work", "Church", "Relationship with God", "Praying Scripture", "Protection". At each station, I posted prayer requests: Like for work: "Pray that they will have all of the resources they need", "Pray for their relationship with their boss", "Pray for their computer, that it would work well for them today", "Pray for decisions they need to make", "Pray that they would find a solution to tough problems they're facing"... People wandered about from station to station picking up a card and praying for the person. I thought it was great. I told people at the event, "So I'm an introvert; I design activities for introverts".

The thing is prayer events are diversions for me. I believe prayer is the single most important thing... I do. And recently I was not so gently faced with the fact that I actually don't. It started with this question, "What would a person who believed prayer is the single most important thing do?" And it wasn't like the right answer was "Cease all activity and pray 24/7" (or shave my head, move to a monastery, nothing like that). Just a startling revelation that what I believe (prayer is the single most important thing I can do to move my organization toward its goal which is to get God's Word to people still waiting) isn't consistent with what I do or my priorities or maybe way more than I'd like to admit.

I do like planning prayer events. And we have an administrative assistant now so I can have loads of fun because I don't have to also implement all my ideas. In October (October 2) is the next thing. It's a day of prayer. I've enlisted (they were selected randomly. I called it the Day of Prayer Lottery) speakers to share a story and leaders to lead various sections. We'll be spending time alone with God (again with the activities for introverts), praying for Bibleless people groups, and doing some prayer station deals (this time someone else's creative ideas from creativeprayer.com). Would you pray for that day and for the people speaking and leading (some of whom are the kinds of people who equate public speaking with something really bad), for good weather (it's outside) and for me to figure out what a person who believes prayer is the single most important thing does?

You could also pray for:

- Wisdom at work.
- New phone system went live!!! It's a big deal; I thought I might not live to see the system live. It's not over, but there is progress. I'm thrilled. Thank God!!!
- A new monthly supporter joined me. It was the most encouraging thing. See, even in the middle of whatever I'm in the middle of, there is a plan and a purpose... and at least one other person who God wants to be in on what He has planned for my ministry.
- The team in Dallas. They're in Dallas; I'm in Waxhaw. I'm struggling with the remote supervising thing.
- We've started a new project at work (I know, I'm in IT, and we're always starting yet another...). It is great because we've got customers beating down the doors to get accounts (rather than us beating the bushes for customers), and not so great because the process to get ourselves up to speed is not happening as fast as word is spreading to create more work. If you know any IT people who have two weeks or more to come to Waxhaw for a fun volunteer project, let me know (I've no doubt that God will supply the people, the process, etc. that we need of course .. there's a distinct pattern to needs being supplied).
- I'm healthy. If I could remain so just until Nov 3 (my marathon). Healthy and injury free for my whole training.

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