

"So I try and get one thing accomplished per day", I tell my boss. "Today I made a dentist appointment".

He says this is both funny and very, very sad.

I think so too.

Sending a newsletter involves printing envelopes. Usually printing envelopes involves me saying unkind things to my uncooperative printer, occasionally there are some threats and fist shaking at it. I thought the problem was the printer. I replaced the printer and discovered the problem is maybe my ability and/or patience with printing envelopes.

I've decided that this (where "this" involves me expansively gesturing to include all of the unaccomplished things at work: delays and cost over-runs and conflicts and such and envelope printing failures at home representing a growing list of to-do items that surely ought not be so difficult), is all about perseverance. And possibly character development and/or learning about gratefulness. Mostly perseverance.

Meanwhile, you could pray about some work things:

- ❑ Waxhaw phone project. Six weeks ago, this project was going great. Funding was somewhat miraculously provided. People were excited. I was attributing its success to the length of time it sat waiting for funding, being prayed over. Now, there's a lot not going well. People are discouraged. Delays, cost overruns (and it wasn't a small price tag to start with), and some conflict with the vendor. God is sovereign of course and not at all surprised. I would like for the plan to be for this system to serve the Bible translation movement well.
- ❑ Wisdom. Much as I/we would like to do it all, there can only be one #1 priority. Something has to be #2 and #3 ... and #100. Tension arises when each topic comes to the forefront. There are disagreements about priorities. There is a desire to make each topic critical (which of course leads to no topics being critical: if they're all important, none is important). Pray. Perhaps for a miraculous intervention to allow for more with less.
- ❑ My role at work. I just got off the phone (Skype) with someone I was able to pray for and (I hope) encourage. God, I feel so blessed to have been given responsibility for this great group of people. I want so much to do a good job because they deserve a good leader. Pray for them and for me. Pray for the right people to join the team. Pray for my team's needs: financial and otherwise. Pray for health. For enthusiasm. For God to work in their lives. And pray for perseverance. I would also like stuck things unstuck, more productivity, etc. though I have a feeling it's perseverance I need you to pray for me.

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In the realm of ideas everything depends on enthusiasm... in the real world all rests on perseverance.
--Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

By perseverance the snail reached the ark.
--Charles Spurgeon

Failure after long perseverance is much grander than never to have a striving good enough to be called a failure.
--George Eliot