

ANNEX 12

INTERESTING FACTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF PRAYER

1. The legend is that James the Just, the relative of Jesus, and the first leader of the Jerusalem church, had knees which were hard like camels knees because he prayed so much.
2. Martin Luther prayed two hours per day.
3. A Moravian prayer meeting in Herrnhut in Saxony, beginning as a prayer watch in 1727, continued without stopping for over a hundred years. By 1791 the same community had sent out over 300 missionaries to all parts of the world.
4. The Benedictine monasteries were established by St. Benedict based upon two concepts known in Latin as *Labora et Ora* meaning work and prayer.
5. In the U.S. the National Day of Prayer was instituted in 1952 by Congress while Harry S. Truman was president.
6. *Engel v. Vitale*, 370 U.S. 421 (1962) put an end to a state supported New York school's required prayer at the beginning of each day. This case served as a precedent for future cases limiting prayer in the U.S.
7. Hudson Taylor was a mighty man of prayer. He was a medical missionary who took seriously John 14:14: "*You may ask anything in my name, and I will do it.*" Taylor founded the China Inland Mission to reach the Chinese for Christ. Through prayer he asked for 24 people to help open up China. He later prayed for an additional 70 to help carry out the work. He was known for not asking for money but depending upon God for the supply of the China Inland Mission.
8. George Mueller was known for carrying for orphans at his orphanage in Bristol England. He lived from 1805-1898. His orphanages often had 2,000 children in them at a time. He did all of this through prayer and without asking for money. In his journals, he had 50,000 recorded answers to prayers of which 30,000 of them were answered the same day that he prayed them.
9. William Seymour was a black preacher who was instrumental in establishing the Azusa Street Meetings in Los Angeles in the early 1900's. From the Azusa Street Meetings Pentecostalism spread across America. Seymour was generally in charge of these meetings. It is said that he often prayed behind two shoe boxes, and kept his head inside the top one. The Azusa Street Revival went on day and night for a number of year and God moved greatly. This revival was fueled by prayer by such men as Seymour.
10. Charles G. Finney was a great revival leader who lived from 1792-1875. He was a lawyer who was converted and baptized in the Holy Spirit. His revivals were instrumental in changing America and were a part of what is known as "The Second Awakening". However, a little known fact is that Finney used several "prayer warriors" including Daniel Nash and Abel Clary who would proceed into the area where Finney would be preaching and pray for the area and for the conversion of those who would attend the

revivals. Finney's revivals were known to be dynamic, many people were converted and few fell away from the faith after the revival.

11. Evan Roberts was a great evangelist living from 1878-1951 who was from a coal mining family in Wales. He spent many hours in personal prayer and public prayer each week. He received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and began a series of meetings attracting thousands which became known as the great Welsh Revival. He spent much of his time in ministry and prayer. After his health was broken through a never-ending schedule, he recovered in England. He spent much of his time thereafter in intercession. When he prayed people were often converted, healings and other signs followed his ministry and people could feel an electric-like force in his prayer.

12. In a large prayer circle in a Baptist Church a Charismatic Episcopal Priest began to pray and an electric charge went through the entire group of 15-20 people and they began to shake as though an electric current went through them.....

13. Rees Howells was a man from Wales who lived from 1879-1950. He was greatly affected by the Welsh Revival of 1904-1905. He became a missionary to Africa and later founded the Bible College of Wales. In 1934 he was led by the Lord to have faith and pray for world evangelism and the carrying out of the Great Commission of Matt. 28:19 and 20. This led him to pray for the extension of the Kingdom of God including the overcoming of wicked political leaders such as Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini. Much prayer was given for the allies to overcome the bombing of Britain which the RAF eventually did even though it was outnumbered 4 to 1. At one time, Rees had almost 100 people committed to regular intercession.

14. John Nelson Hyde, who lived from 1865-1912, was a missionary to the Punjab region of India. He began to pray so fervently in intercession that he became known as "Praying Hyde." By 1908, he was praying for one conversion per day and a year later there were 400 converts. He then prayed for two conversions a day and by 1919 four souls per day and finally eight souls per day. "Praying Hyde" would often work all day and pray all night. He died from a brain tumor in 1912 with his last words being "Shout the victory of Jesus Christ."

15. Many early Christians in second and third century Egypt went out into the desert and prayed for much of their lives in solitary or in small groups. These ascetics prayed against demonic forces and powers that came against mankind. They were considered to be, and were referred to, as being "Gatekeepers of the Nations", Guardians of the World's Peace," and "Keepers of the Walls." They lived alone or in small groups and focused their lives upon prayer with many of them staying awake all night to pray.

16. Anthony the Great was one of the Egyptian desert ascetics. He went to the desert at 35 and remained there alone for 20 years praying and fighting demonic forces and many temptations. Anthony spent much of his life in prayer. Christians and political leaders would often come to the desert to benefit from the wisdom and advice of those who had left all for a life of meditation and prayer. The examples from Egypt contributed greatly to the building of monasteries in Europe and elsewhere which became not only bastions for prayer but for learning at a time in which society was dying and fragmenting. Christians in Ireland also followed many of the principles of the early Egyptian Christians. Individual Christians in Ireland also retired to remote places for lives of prayer and to stand against darkness and demonic powers.

17. Simeon the Elder, a.k.a. St. Simeon Stylites (390 A.D.-459 A.D.) began to live a life of prayer and contemplation on a pillar (column, pole) in 420 A.D. The first column he used was about 6 feet high. Later he moved to another which was about 50 feet tall. The platform on top was about 11 square feet. He remained on top the column for 37 years. It had a railing so he would not fall off. He would receive small gifts of food from his followers. Many people came to him including the Emperor at Constantinople. When he died, his body was found stooped in prayer on the pillar. Other people who prayed upon columns included some who remained standing such as St. Alypius who stood for 53 years. When his feet no longer would support him he laid on his side for the last fourteen years of his life.

18. The Justice House of Prayer is located in Washington, D.C. Its purpose is to pray for national leaders as they deal with issues such as religious liberty, national security, the persecuted church and with the unborn. The Justice House of Prayer helps to promote corporate prayer and developing a group of intercessors. The focus is that "God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven." The group was originated by Lou Engle who was a Senior leader of the International House of Prayer.

19. The International House of Prayer in Kansas City was founded by Mike Bickle and is committed to praying and worshiping on a 24/7 schedule. In the spirit of the Temple of David, the International House of Prayer seeks to carry out the great commission by sending out intercessors and evangelists. The International House of Prayer has had continual prayer going on twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week since 1999.

20. The Jewish hours of prayer have varied historically. During the time of Herod's Temple they began when the Temple Gates opened which was at 9:00 a.m. This was known as Shacharit or Morning Prayer or at morning light. There were also prayers at noon which were primarily for thanksgiving. The second Jewish hour of prayer was at 3:00. This was the time in which offerings were made and were the hours of confession. This was known as Minchata. This is when Peter and John went to the Temple and healed the man lame from birth. The third hour of prayer was at 6:00 P.M. and was the time of Evening Prayer and was known as Arvith or Maariv. Today, these hours are not strictly adhered to. Many Jews pray begin their morning prayers with the rising of the sun. If you visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem, you will find that one of the busiest times for prayer among the Jews is as the sun rises.

21. St. Benedict, who many consider to be the Father of Monasticism, set a number of prayer times-7 times per day and one at night. These times are used for a liturgy that includes prayers, scripture and readings. Those times are as follows;

Matins-About 2 a.m. at night.

Lauds-Prayer at dawn often at 5 a.m.

Prime-Early morning prayer -6 a.m.

Terce-Mid-Morning prayer-9 a.m. (3 hours after Prime)

Sext-Midday Prayer-Noon

None-Mid-Afternoon (9 hours or about 3:00 P.M.)

Vespers-Evening Prayer-About 6 P.M.

Compline or Night Prayers-Prayers before retiring

22. John Wesley would spend about 2 hours per day in a walk-in closet praying. He generally prayed with an open Bible.

23. Almost 100,000 young people visit Taize, France for meditation and prayer each year. Taize was founded by Roger Schutz who during World War II decided that Switzerland was too safe for a Christian and went to Taize where he helped Jewish refugees flee from the Nazis. Today Taize is known as place of prayer, silence, meditation and beautiful music and chanting.

24. One of the most popular songs about prayer is "I Come to the Garden Alone." This song was written by C. Austin Miles who lived from 1868-1946. The song has these beautiful lyrics:

*"I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.*

*Refrain: And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the Joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known."*

Interestingly the song was written in a cold and dreary basement in Pitman, New Jersey which did not even have a window in it.

25. A number of years ago I met a Texas woman who regularly prayed to God while playing a guitar and singing her impromptu prayers to God. She also interceded for others in song.