



Praise and Prayer

Greg: The work to re-structure Cru Global Prayer in 2017-18 is mostly complete and working well: To God be the glory. I am about to let go of my responsibilities as “point” of Cru Prayer that I had carried over from a prior role. I’ll soon serve only as Partnership and Projects Coordinator, Office of the President.

Ryan: Leaves March 15 for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic with our local church and “Children of the Nations.” He is fully-funded! Pray that he enjoys the trip and is used of the Lord, and that God’s Holy Spirit deepens his faith commitment.

Kyle: Recently, Ravi Zacharias spoke at University of Florida. Pray as Kyle meets with students on follow-up appointments.

Linda: Praise God for the 40 Jesus Film Mission Trips that occurred in 2018. Nearly 3900 people indicated decisions for Christ and about 2400 locals were trained in short film evangelism with Linda administratively serving many of those teams.

HEART MATTERS



Above all else, guard your heart, for everything else flows from it.
Proverbs 4:23

Solomon spoke of the spiritual importance of our hearts. But in the event you haven’t heard, the week prior to Christmas I got reminded that the physical condition of the heart matters, too.

I went to bed December 16, but I couldn’t sleep due to discomfort. I believed it to be an intense case of acid reflux. But about 90 minutes later, and no ease to some felt pain in my shoulder, chest, and then my jaw, we decided to head to the ER. December 19, I received to stents to open a 95% and a 60% blockage in my L.A.D. artery (“the widow-maker”).

We praise God that I suffered no heart-attack (damage); I only had the symptoms. A one-month sabbatical in January that I’d had approved prior to my episode has helped me to establish a healthier pattern of life rhythms.

I completed cardio rehabilitation and am feeling great, maintaining regular workouts and an improved diet. I’m back to work full-time – grateful that my boss and leadership peers are engaged in helping to evaluate ways for me to lighten my load.

Healing Hearts with Prayers

I’m grateful for so many wonderful friends and colleagues who either visited, called, texted or prayed for me during my hospital stay.

Waiting for tests provided opportunities to minister to countless hospital staff. By caring, praying, or

Healing Hearts (continued)

sharing my testimony and/or the gospel, I helped whittle the hours away.

I asked Candy, a room custodian at Florida Hospital, “If there was one thing I could right now pray for you personally, what would it be?” She raced to shut the door some, and then exclaimed, “O glory – the Lord Jesus has brought you to me!” I prayed for Miranda (my favorite nurse) about a very personal challenge that she shared. Tears flowed down her cheeks in response. I prayed with orderlies wheeling me through the halls, X-ray technicians and more. Few, if any, refused my offer to pray.

Once home and out of the hospital, Omar, our Pakistani neighbor, popped over with a fruit basket. We visited for nearly two hours. We invited him to hear Lee Strobel speak this weekend at our local church on “The Case for the Resurrection.” He seemed interested, but as of yesterday, it seems unlikely that he will attend. Keep praying for Omar – that he might see dreams of Jesus.

My Heart at Rest

January’s sabbatical reading list included the following: The Bible (the Pentateuch and Acts, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians); The 40-Day Prayer Covenant (Jerry Kirk). All Things New (John Eldridge - 3X, loved it); Whisper by Mark Batterson; Gridiron Genius (a football book) and How to Stop Worrying and Start Living by Dale Carnegie.

Jerry Kirk, a new friend and dear brother, called and provided me a significant action point. At 87 years of age, Jerry said, “Greg, I’m working to ‘Ruthlessly Eliminate Hurry.’” God has shown me how “hurry” isn’t only evident in my pace and busyness. Hurry describes some aspects of godly character that need more of my attention (impatience, discontentment, ambition). Email me at greg.stoughton@cru.org if you’d like a copy of the “take-a-ways” from my “heart times”.

A Hearty Catch



Ryan snagged this 10-lb monster bass on a lure in one of our neighborhood retention ponds – catch and release. Not edible; but it’s a pretty good catch.

The two of us had a great hunting weekend in Georgia with a Floridian friend of mine. I don’t hunt, and we didn’t see any animals, but it was fun to enjoy a “manly” weekend. (Thanks Randy and Theresa!).

And thank you to all of our praying and giving partners. We daily praise God for you!