

Pride vs. Humility

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NED District Evangelism Committee Chair



I participate in a weekly Zoom meetup with two of my best friends who live in another state. Our weekly meetup focuses on developing healthy relationships that glorify Christ. Each week we have a different facilitator who prepares a short lesson on some aspect of healthy relationships such as communication, conflict resolution, or setting boundaries from a biblical perspective. We pray for each other, identify areas of needed change, growth, and accountability, and praise God our wins for the week.

This meetup has become a lifeline for me over the past six months or so. It has become a source of deep fellowship, brutal honesty, relational healing, and even a great number of laughs, especially in light of how ridiculous we can be when we are not governed by the Spirit. You know those moments, when the gloves come off and “the crazy” pops out. The moments when you give THAT look or say something in THAT way and you are so glad you are not on camera. But if you were, it would definitely make for some kind of crazy viral video. Doesn’t Satan just love to make us look ridiculous with what he tempts us to do? So we laugh at these moments and try to learn from them as best we can. With the help of God, the prayers of the saints, and the wisdom that only God’s word and the Holy Spirit can reveal, we can live in victory.

A running theme that has emerged in recent months is that of pride. One of my friends kept pinpointing pride as the main culprit in many of her own negative reactions, and the source of much of her relational conflict. This got me wondering how much pride has been involved in the choices that I have been making. I began to identify pride as a factor in many more situations than I’d like to admit, especially when I have done or said something that I later regretted. As a result, a variety of questions emerged for me. How does one remove pride when it seems to pop out in so many encounters? How can one cultivate a new gut response in the heat of the moment? What is humility really, and in what ways can I grow in humility?

It occurred to me that not only must I confess and pray against pride to remove it from my life but I must also actively pursue, study, and pray over its opposite virtue, which is humility. To fully take hold of the new life that God has for me and for you, we must make room for new things (Romans 12:1-2). One way to make room is to simply study and meditate on scripture and biblical concepts that encapsulates the

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2021-2022 National Project, “Belong”

NED 2021-2022 Goal—\$20,000.00

Year-to-date total—\$ 320.00



Pompidou Guest Home Needs



Just a reminder that we have a new guest home that we are supporting in Libreville, Gabon, Africa. Libreville is an important city as this is where all team members entering and exiting the country travel to as a starting point. The Pompidou Guest House has many needs and we have decided to take this on as our district project. Our goal for 2020-2021 is \$1,500 and the monies will go towards the following items that the Libreville guest home needs.

Pompidou Guest Home Needs:

Paint & Spruce up 3 upstairs bedrooms—\$1500.00

Total Project Money—\$1,500.00

Amount Raised to Date—\$ 2,126.44

Any extra that comes in over the \$1,500.00 will go towards new screens on a screened-in back porch, as well as furniture for the porch.

(Pride vs. Humility, continued from page 1)

virtues we believe God is trying to bring forth in our lives. If we only focus on the sins that hinder us, we are still bound and governed by sin and the old life. But if we move our attention to godly virtues, to the fruits of the Spirit, to Christ Himself, and how perfectly He exemplifies all that is good. Then God begins to usher us into His presence, into the new life, the Promised Land, and the abundant life that Jesus promised.

Here are eight aspects of humility on which I am currently meditating on with the help of the Holy Spirit:

- Accept and welcome valid criticism and feedback with grace and gratitude no matter the source. Express gratitude for everyone in my life.
- Avoid the temptation to defend myself or “manage” how someone perceives me. Be truthful, loving, and direct in a timely manner.
- Bring other people forward and resist the temptation to one up others in conversation or in thought, let other people truly shine. Honor people and God in my thought life.
- Ask someone who is good at something to pray for me in that specific area. Allow them to see my weaknesses, vulnerability, or need for help.
- Realize that “the rules” still apply to me no matter how long I have been a Christian.
- Recognize that God is God and He alone is ultimately in charge.
- Consider how my actions will truly effect other people and ask God for wisdom and strength to do what is right.
- Maintain an accurate assessment of my strengths and limitations and avoid pretending I am better at things than I am.

If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom (James 3:13).

Short-Term Missions Scholarships Available

The District Missions Committee offers four \$250 scholarships to anyone 13 years or older interested in doing a short-term mission’s trip to an international C&MA field or with a C&MA International Worker. This is a first come first serve opportunity.

If you are interested contact the Terri Groh at terrigroh@yahoo.com for an application and guidelines

Pray for our International Workers

Eikost, Mark & Kathy, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Praise:

- Our trip back to Bosnia was very smooth and the week following was restful and we're now over our jetlag.

Prayer:

- We were able to find a couple of prospective apartments through a real estate agency. However, they are not available for viewing until Aug. 5th. So, we would ask you to pray that one of these two apartments would be suitable.
- Also August 1-5th is our annual team retreat where we will reconnect with our Alliance team and plan out the year together.
- Once we have an apartment we will begin the process of applying for our residence visa. This involves collecting a number of documents, getting an all-clear from the doctor, etc. It can be a bit nerve-wracking, but after all these years we know what to do.
- Thank you for praying for a smooth process. We also want to be salt and light to the officials, potential landlords, doctors, etc. that we encounter along the way.

CAC Workers, K&K

Prayer:

- We are almost finished with our specialty classes: 2 more left. Our Envision intern is doing fine though has had some struggles. Please pray she finishes well and that God will use these two months she has been with us to encourage and challenge her heart to follow God more closely and be more involved with bringing people to Jesus.
- Please also pray God will meet her financial needs as she returns next month to Toccoa Falls College and has not been in the US to make any money towards this next school year.
- Regular classes start the 4th week of August so pray that registration goes well on the 14th, 16th and 17th, that God will continue to protect us from Covid. We are again planning on what Experience God classes to do so pray we will know God's direction in this matter.
- Still trying to promote our Envision site here. Pray God will help us promote it in a way that doesn't compromise our security, but will also bring us the right interns as well as teams.

Hopkins, Walter & Laura, Spain

Praise:

- We have reached over 35% of our support raising goal! Praise the Lord for His provision so far!!!

Prayer:

- Pray that God would continue to raise faithful prayer and financial partners for our family, and that God would continue to guide, sustain, and encourage us through the support raising process.
- We will be traveling throughout the month of August to visit family and friends, as well as to speak at churches and raise support. Pray for safe travels and for times of rest in the midst of the busy-ness.
- Walter and Laura are traveling to Spain to spend the week of August 14-21 with the staff of LIFE International School as they prepare for the new school year! Pray that this will be a meaningful time of connecting with the staff and that God would give us a greater vision for His work at LIFE.

- Pray for quick processing of visa approvals for new LIFE School staff so they can arrive in Spain by August 15 to prepare for the new school year.
- Pray for new students to enroll at LIFE, as well as for financial provision both for the school and for families who would like to enroll their children at LIFE.

Ingrassia, Phil & Chelsea, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

Praises & Prayers:

- Half of the nursing students finished their full-time hospital internship for the summer and enjoyed it. Many of them do not have funds to travel home with their spouses and children for the summer vacation, so they are looking for work around the Bongolo area. Pray for provision and encouragement for them. They give up their families and careers to do this 3 year program. Pray for creativity in how my family can encourage them.
- Phil was accepted into a 2 year doctorate and fellowship program that he can do from Bongolo while still working. It will be a big blessing to the hospital to learn new cost-effective anesthesia skills. Pray he can find a place to have a quiet office where he can focus. (Not our bedroom!) It starts Aug 30th.
- Praise for a weekend camping at the beach with other IWs (like the Spronks!) and a Gabonese lady. It was refreshing, especially for our kids.
- Anesthesia staffing has been bare-bones, but God is providing for the hospital and for our family. One night Phil got a call to go down to the hospital during dinner, and all 3 kids fell asleep just as he answered the phone. :-) I have shingles from stress, but it's not too bad.
- Praise that Renée Valach is coming soon and we finally get to work on the same team together. Our team is growing especially in August and September: Unity needed.

CAC IWs, Dave & Doris

PRAISES:

- Our family has stayed healthy.
- God has provided for our immediate needs during our extended stay (due to COVID lockdowns in Asia) here in the USA.
- God provided a paid internship for our son, Matthew, this summer just 20 minutes from where we are currently living.
- For many local pastors and church partners CAMA has been able to empower and channel relief aid funds to in Asia.

Prayer Requests:

- Wisdom with our work (done mostly virtually) and guidance for all of our CAMA staff from Asia who are not able to be in their ministry locations.
- That God would be glorified through the challenges many are facing in Asia due to COVID....that Asia would be able to open up soon.
- Especially remember Myanmar as they have political turmoil as well as the COVID pandemic. — we don't know if International Workers will be able to enter the country in the near future.

Continued NED IW Prayer Requests

- Matthew returns in August to start his Junior year at LeTourneau University where he is studying engineering.
- That God would lead and guide our steps for His name's sake (Ps. 31:3)

Spronk, Wayne & Suzanne, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

Prayer :

- For Wayne to find ways to empower other workers to take call on the weekends so that he can get a break and not burn out.
- That Wayne to get the rest he needs
- For our upcoming travels to put kids in college and then to return as empty nesters for the first time
- A good transitions for two of our kids to be on their own for the first time
- For the possibility to make changes to our travel plans to include a trip to Suzanne's aunt, the only surviving sibling of her dad who recently passed away
- For the emotions of the first visit "home" after her dad's passing
- Pray for our team which is feeling quite skeletal with so many of the teammates being gone for the summer
- The hospital which is struggling financially
- Hope and healing for people who are desperately ill when we have little to offer them besides prayer

Valach, Dr. Renee, Bongolo Hospital, Gabon

- Pray for Renee as she prepares to go back to Gabon on August 4th.

Zogg, Edward & Sandy, Dominican Republic

Prayer:

- Pray for our hospital and prison ministries as we continue to seek new and creative ways to minister to these people during this difficult time.
- Answered prayer for receiving our annual residency.
- Pray for our couples' ministry and new Alpha class starting now.
- Pray for Krista as she begins college in the fall. Pray for Rachel as she begins her third year in the nursing school. Pray for Robert as he seeks new employment in a trade and for their marriage, and new baby on the way!
- Pray that we can raise \$10,000 to buy land for the children's center/church
- The water pump and timing belt went on the van we are using here in the US. Please pray that it did not cause damage to the engine.

Session Speakers



Gloria Chapman



Lisa Sellen

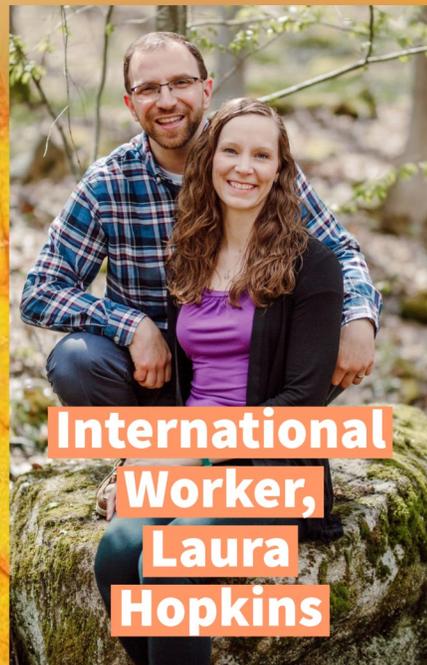
Fall Refocus Retreat "A Place Where You Belong"

September 24-25, 2021

Delta Lake Bible Conference Center

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**International
Worker,
Laura
Hopkins**