

The Ulloms and He Restoreth Ministries

Brent's Blog: Series on the "Lord's Prayer" Matt. 6:9

Matt. 6: 12 'And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.'

Relationships are the fabric of life. God has woven us to be driven toward relationships. (We can see that in the two greatest commands. See Matt. 22:38-39.) If we deny this, we destroy ourselves. Because of sin, relationships are often difficult, messy, and painful for all of us. But the solution is not to avoid relationships, or "burn your bridges" and find new ones. These strategies only lead to an ever-increasing snowball of pain and bitterness.

God's solution for maintaining relationships is not easy. It involves an environment in which people are dying to themselves, developing godly character, and moving toward God and others in loving, appropriately intimate healthy relationships. But to keep these loving relationships going, we need an ongoing cleansing. Hurt, disappointment, and frustration can easily explode into anger, anger to bitterness, and bitterness to hate. We need the scrub-brush of confession and repentance.

Matt. 6: 12 "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." This part of the prayer helps us to do a moral examination of our hearts and especially our relationships. With the psalmist, we pray, "Examine me" (Psalm 26:2). With God's help, let us apply the scrub-brush of repentance and forgiveness.



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1. "Forgive us our debts..." First, we need to ask for forgiveness from God. Psalm 51:4 says, "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned." While God in Christ has purchased forgiveness for all our sins, to maintain our side of the relationship, we need to confess and repent regularly. We also need to ask for forgiveness from others when we sin against them.
2. Forgive others! These two words can be extremely complicated when the hurt is deep and when we are confused about what it means to forgive. This is something we may need to do repeatedly, but just like a muscle strengthens with use, the more we forgive, the easier it will get.
3. Watch for signs of re-emergence of hurt. Let us ask God to cleanse us from any bitterness. Like scrubbing out a stain, one scrub is rarely sufficient.

For a nice cleansing shower, read Psalms 26 and 51.

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled" (Heb. 12:15).

HRM Report

Our platter is full this time of year with Skype counseling and debriefing, property maintenance, paper work, school work, splitting and stacking firewood, and caring for Ruth,

Please keep praying:

- Both the driveway and rental house repair have hit road blocks. Please pray for God's direction.
- Pray for several missionary families scheduled to come to the retreat center going through difficult transition times.
- Pray for the counseling and encouragement ministry.

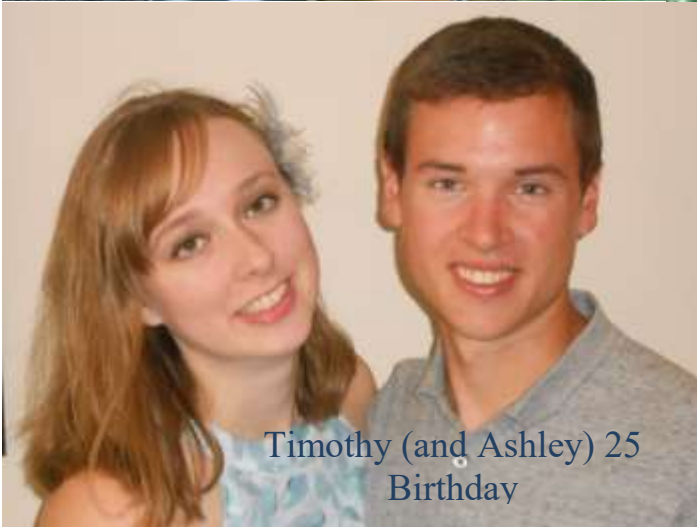




Rebekah 21 Birthday



Hannah 23 Birthday



Timothy (and Ashley) 25 Birthday



Elisabeth 16 Birthday

Prayer Requests

- Ruth's health. Pray that she would not be in as much pain and discomfort through the day and that she will be able to sleep better at night.
- Hannah is enjoying her classes at Columbia College (an online college) and continues to work as a teacher's aide at Grace Christian School. Pray for her as she balances a busy schedule.
- Praise the Lord! Pray for Rebekah as she finishes her second half of student teaching.
- Pray for Timothy and Ashley as they work hard. Pray for Ashley as she works as a daycare teacher. She and Hannah enjoy working together at Grace Christian School.
- Pray for Elisabeth as she works hard in her senior year. The classes are pretty tough, and she is needed to help around the house quite a bit.

May the Lord bless you with a wonderful, Christ-filled year!

Brent, Ruth, Hannah, Rebekah, and Elisabeth Ullom

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