

Bear Mountain Project Update: June 2023

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## **Summer Happenings**

The last day of school for the elementary was May 31st, and the kids were very excited to be done! I was too. There is a lot planned for the summer so I wanted to lay it all out and throw in some prayer requests too.

**June** - Half of the home office staff is traveling to southern Utah to visit some of our missionaries. Their church plant is doing very well and we want to give them some encouragement and celebrate the graduation from Tentmakers with them.

July - I will be traveling to southern Utah again to speak at two churches and share about my ministry (July 9th). I'm so grateful for the opportunity to share what I do in the home office and give a different perspective on what missions can look like. Please pray that God will provide a few more monthly supporters and safety as I travel to St. George and Las Vegas. Also, in July (24-28th), I will be flying out to Ohio to see my parents. I tried at Christmas but weather made that impossible. We are going to see the Ark Encounter in Kentucky, and I'm excited for that.

**August** - Tentmakers Bible Mission is finally able to meet for the European Field Conference. Due to Covid-19 and overseas travel restrictions, this trip has been postponed - until now! I have a wonderful opportunity to go with the home office team to visit four of our missionary families in Spain, France and Italy. TBM may be able to help with a part of the cost, but I will be paying for the rest. This would be my first time traveling outside the USA, and it would be a great experience to see the missionaries on a foreign field. Please pray that my passport comes back in time for us to leave in late August. Please also pray that I am able to raise enough funds to go.

As always, thank you for your prayers and support. If you have any tips for traveling internationally, please share them with me.

## **Spiritual Discipline of Prayer**

I have read about several other disciplines, but this one has stuck with me. It has been the most challenging so far, but the Bible has so much to say about prayer that it can't be ignored. Prayer is our lifeline to God the Father.

As Charles Spurgeon said, "Prayer is as sure evidence of the presence of God as the rising of the thermometer is evidence of an increase in temperature." If you are desperate to know Him, then read the Bible and pray. The Bible is His letter to us, how He speaks to us. And prayer is how we speak to Him.

Col. 4:2-3 - "*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it* with thanksgiving; meanwhile praying also for us, that God would open to us a door for the word, to speak the mystery of Christ." These verses kept coming up in my reading about the discipline of prayer (along with several others). Consistent prayer, persistent prayer, earnest prayer, daily prayer - this is what forms the discipline.

The discipline of prayer is an intimate pursuit and practice of the personal communication we have between God and us. Prayer is not just a selfish wish list to get God to cater to our needs and whims; rather, the purpose and reason is to shape us by what He has revealed, and to grow in faith, character, perseverance, and maturity. Prayer is meant to line us up with Christ and to conform us to Him, so it builds us up in Him.

## **Prayer Requests**

- safety for all the traveling that I will be doing
- for my passport to arrive on time, and to have enough funds to go
- to continue to grow spiritually
- for God to continue to provide for my needs how He sees fit