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TECH INTERCESSOR

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Pressing On & Eagerly Pursuing!

*Thoughts and Perspectives
by Birne D. Wiley*

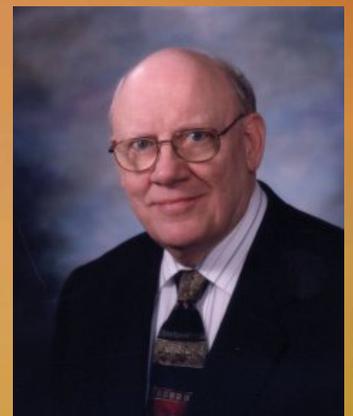
As we enter 2015, the Body of Christ is being individually and corporately challenged and confronted on an ever-increasing scale. Christians are being attacked in virtually every area of life and ministry. As the attacks increase both at home and abroad, they are causing shock, dismay and unexpected anxiety.

From a human perspective this emerging dynamic of our times makes it easy to become discouraged and perhaps even despondent. That's why, we need to personally focus on living, moving, and having our being in Him (Acts 17:28 and Philippians 2:1-5)! Through Christ and his enabling strength (Philippians 4:13), we can eagerly pursue our personal callings as we press on to the mark of the higher calling (Philippians 3:14).

Persecution of the church is widespread in the "Third World," and it is now becoming more prominent and prevalent in our beloved country. The direction of our judicial system, government regulatory agencies, and local governments continue to "put the squeeze on" those desiring to stand for righteousness,

While all of this is going on, the economic challenges are becoming larger and larger; physical maladies seem to be intensifying among Believers. Seldom does a day go by without my receiving word of serious illnesses of those serving in ministry, including some within the TECH family!

Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe, a dear personal friend of mine, has been and is an ever-present and ever-available encourager to me and the entire ministry team of Missionary TECH Team. He even dedicated one of his "Be" series of books, ***Be Determined***, to the TECH ministry. The following devotional, written by Dr. Wiersbe is one that offers each one of us great comfort and challenge during this period of time. Our prayer is that his thoughts in this devotion will be a great inspiration and encouragement to you as they were to us.



Dr. Warren W. Wiersbe

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The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of His heart to all generations.

Psalm 33:11

You and I should have no problems with the first half of your verse, because we know that our heavenly Father is sovereign and that his counsel will ultimately triumph. But when it comes to the second half, some believers might hesitate, and you may be one of them. You may have had painful experiences in your Christian life that make it difficult for you to believe that the will of God comes from the heart of God and is an expression of his love. If the Father loves us, why is there so much disappointment, pain, and sorrow in life? When what we consider to be “bad things” do happen to God’s people, these are times when the enemy asks us, “If God loves you, why did this happen?” How do we deal with these difficult experiences?

Accept God’s overall purpose. The Father’s wise counsel for all of his children is that we become “conformed to the image of His Son” (Rom. 8:29). The trials of life are tools in God’s hands to make us more like Jesus, and whether we see it or not, all things *are* working together for good (v. 28). But the Father also has purposes for us *individually*. He admonishes each of us to work out our own salvation, our Christian life, with fear and trembling as he works in us (Phil. 2:12-13). Joseph couldn’t fully understand why he was suffering so much, but it all worked together to put him on the throne and make him more like Jesus. The twelve disciples didn’t understand why their Master should suffer and die, but they finally got the message.

Submit to God’s daily plans. “There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the Lord’s counsel—that will stand” (Prov. 19:21). Many times in my life and ministry I have turned to Jeremiah 29:11 and found encouragement: “For I

know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.” God has a whole universe to manage, and the fact that he thinks about us at all is an encouragement in itself. If we trust him, his plans for us will enlarge our hope and lead to a bright future. This promise reminds me of the family in Bethany and the trials they experienced. John 11:5 says, “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” If so, why did Jesus allow Lazarus to get sick and then die? And why did he delay in going to Bethany to help the two sisters he loved? But it all worked together to bring glory to God. “My times are in Your hand” (Ps. 31:15.)

Rest in God’s love. Whether for Mary, Martha, and Lazarus or for you and me, the will of God does come from the heart of God and manifests his love for us. When our older son was in first grade, he tried to climb a picket fence and severely injured himself. As we drove to the clinic, he was frightened and worried and asked me, “What will the doctor do?” I explained that the doctor would sterilize the wound and give him a tetanus shot, and probably a few stitches, all of which would be painful. But all of it would work together to heal him. Why was I taking him to the doctor? Because his mother and I loved him and wanted the best for him. My heavenly Father did not spare his own son whom he loved (Rom. 8:32), and he will not spare us. The Father forsook his own Son *so that he might never forsake us!* No matter how we feel, the Lord by his grace can transform suffering into glory and make us more like his Son.

You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

Psalm 73:24

A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

*The above Devotion is taken from the book, **Old Testament WORDS for Today: 100 Devotional Reflections**. Written by Warren W. Wiersbe. Published by Baker Book (www.bakerpublishinggroup.com) Copyright 2013. Used by permission.*

*With eternity’s values in view Lord,
With eternity’s values in view.
May I do each day’s work for Jesus
With eternity’s values in view.*

My prayer for you and for myself is for God to encourage and enable each one of us to press on and eagerly pursue making our life in 2015 count for time and eternity. Then when we stand before our loving Father we may hear Him say of us, “Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter into the joy of your reward.”

~ Birne D. Wiley, President and Founder of Missionary TECH Team

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*And whatever you do (no matter what it is) in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in (dependence upon) His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him.
Colossians 3:17 (Amp)*

Please join our Missionary TECH Team board members and staff as we share what we desire God to do IN and THROUGH us in 2014.

1. January Birthdays & Anniversaries - 4th Barbara Slothower, 7th Larry & Lois Turner, 9th David Leventry, 10th Beverly Kanewske, 14th Basil Bickel, 18th Nancy Leventry, 20th Becky Ellison and 29th Ray & Peggy Tenpenny.

2. Mechanical Services - Rejoice with us in this service that provides such help to missionaries during their furlough time. Many missionaries have had reliable and affordable transportation without having to find a car, make sure of its dependability and then dispose of it upon their return to the field. We need to have several people to pick up responsibilities in this area, not necessarily on a fulltime basis, in order that other staff don't have to do double duty.

3. Facilities Planning - This year it's our goal in Facilities Planning to become more familiar with each of the ministries we are serving, so that in addition to providing facilities planning support, we can also support them by praying for any needs or challenges that they might be facing. Pray that we would be faithful in our prayer support for each of these ministries.



4. Ken & Katie Selden - Pray with us, for continued health and strength; in addition to His wisdom and the knowledge necessary to lead some of our client partners through tough huddles.

May the eventual completion of their projects bring Glory to God. *Psalm 18 "I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold."*

5. Evangelism & Discipleship - God continues to give challenging opportunities for each of us at TECH to be involved in this type of ministry although our specific giftedness and assignment at the Mission is of a more technical and creative nature. It is our corporate desire that each of us become more alert to, and involved in, such relationships.



6. Joel Kreider - My hope for this coming year, is to be an effective follower of Christ - a servant to my fellow believers, as well as to the community that surrounds me.



7. Bill & Joyce Daniels (Paul) - It is our prayer that the Lord would strengthen our faith and give us compassion, understanding and ability to help not only the ministries who call on us for expertise, but those who are around us on a daily basis this year.

8. Nation of Israel - World conditions underscore for the Christian community the enormous pressure that is put upon Israel. Even our beloved USA is showing weakness in standing with Israel during these tumultuous days. We are commanded to pray for the peace of Jerusalem - let's be faithful in this command!



9. David & Nancy Leventry (Tim) - That I would be fulfilled in what God has prepared for me to do as I continue to serve others, starting with family, Missionary TECH Team, church and wherever else.

10. Mission Representation - One of the most urgent needs within TECH is that of getting our story told in a much broader way. Several venues opened up during the past year and we are so grateful. However, we are asking the Lord to multiply this effort and its effectiveness many times over during 2014. This is needful for all age and discipline groupings.



11. Tim & Kay Meadows (Alex) - *"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."* *Philippians 4:8 ESV*

12. Ministry Partners - Words seem totally inadequate in expressing our gratitude and appreciation for each person that faithfully prays and gives in order that TECH can function. At the same time, we know that many also face challenges in their own lives but choose to put Christ first that others may also know Christ and make Him known.

13. Glenn & Judy Harris (Trustee) - Their church, one of six that support TECH's general fund, is seeking God's face in the selection of a new pastor and asks us to join them in asking for unity in that selection and that the mission emphasis will continue unabated.



14. Teri Comroe (Brenna) - My husband's passing this year continues to be very painful. However, I am aware that dealing with his illness these past three years has shaped the way I could serve God. I am now at a different phase in my life. Please pray with me that as I move into 2014 I will become very solid in my depending on God as my husband. In doing that I wish to be open to new or different areas where He can use me.

15. Boards - Continued wisdom and discernment is needed as the needs, opportunities and challenges of TECH's ministry are faced. We are asking God to direct those of His choosing to join in accepting the awesome responsibility upon our shoulders in charting the course for the future.

16. Don & Carole Smith - It is a great joy and blessing to be used of God in using my architectural skills and experience in retirement. We both are facing significant health challenges but rejoice in our loving Father's love and watch care. We look forward to more years of involvement as the Lord carries His return.

17. Retirees - Basil & Ada Bickel, Ken & Irene Edgar, Mary Ann Kuechler, Phyllis McClelland, Buel & Gerry Meadows, Larry & Lois Turner, Betty Wiklund. Several are facing physical challenges but remain faithful in serving their Lord in this walk of life.



18. Matt & Molly Ackerman (Sam) - My prayer is that this year my focus will be on God's will rather than my own. It is crazy how many times I see God bless actions that fall in line with His will, but then I choose to do what seems to be in my own best interest anyway... and it rarely works out as well for me or anyone else.

19. Generational Understanding - Balancing the uniqueness of varying ages, experience, professional qualifications, levels of spiritual maturity, financial issues, etc., is a constant personnel challenge. God has graciously enabled a very high degree of acceptance and compatibility within our Mission for which we are so grateful. Join us in asking for God's continued work in our individual and corporate lives in this regard.

20. Pete & Becky Ellison (Trustee) - 2013 was a good year for me, and I am very thankful for that. I look forward to what God has in store for me in 2014. My prayer is that I will be used in the Awana cubbies (3 and 4 year olds) program to help lead boys and girls to Christ and to show them that godly men can be part of their lives. I'm praying that my ministry of encouragement to others will always be used to honor our Lord.



21. Les & Gina Brown - This year it's my desire that I would grow in the area of my personal witness. Pray that I would allow God to work in my life in a way that others can see Him at work in me.

22. Bob & Jan Schill - Pray that we will serve the Lord this year with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength as the Lord gives physical and mental strength.



23. James & Ruth Wood - As I grow older (and wiser) I see that there are times that we are more teachable than other times. My prayer is that whether a teacher or a learner we would take advantage of these opportunities.



24. Ministry Development Services - Services in this department have assisted a number of organizations in recent months. Gene Williams, who provides leadership in this area, is facing the possibility of kidney dialysis. Please join us in asking the Great Physician to intervene and make it possible for him to continue to provide wisdom through his years of experience in this field.



25. Doug Shively - For 2014, I would like to see the Lord use each of our projects in each department to help get out the gospel in many technical ways.



26. Birne & Lynella Wiley - Our prayer is that God will grant us wisdom and discernment in ordering our lives in accordance with His plans for us during 2014. We desire to know Him better and serve Him with greater fervency in reaching others for Christ.



27. Dan Harding and family - That as we help people with their technical needs we would show Christ is love to them and encourage them in their personal walk with the Lord. Pray with us the prayer of Paul in Ephesians 3:16-19.

28. Missionary Kids - Our missionary kids span a wide range of ages – pre-school through college. Some foresee marriage in 2014 while others anticipate movement to the next level in their academic/career pursuit.

29. Computer Services - We have continuing need for qualified personnel in this department. One gentleman is now serving approximately halftime, which places an additional burden on the other person serving fulltime in this area. Interest is being shown by others although no known commitments have been made for future service.

30. Graphic Services - Our desire in Graphic Services would be to see a significant increase in projects. We have the ability and the time to do much more. We would like our time to be much more productive.

31. February Birthdays & Anniversaries - 1st Sandra Chin and Tim Meadows, 11th Kay Meadows, 18th Gerry Meadows and Molly Ackerman, 19th Pat Brewington, 23rd Ruth Wood, 27th Jonathan Harding and 28th Founding Trustee Charles Willis.

Because You Prayed...

- God is giving great peace to Anne Whiteman and Teri Comroe who recently lost their spouse and Ruth Wood in the loss of her father.
- Unanticipated opportunities for evangelism and discipleship have developed for several of our missionaries.
- Appreciation is frequently expressed for the insight we have been able to share with others due to our learning from the partnership with so many ministries through the years.
- Graphic Services received an order for 40 displays. PTL
- The fall Board of Trustee meeting was a great blessing as we continued to experience God's hand of direction in the life of TECH.

