

X'ENT NEWS

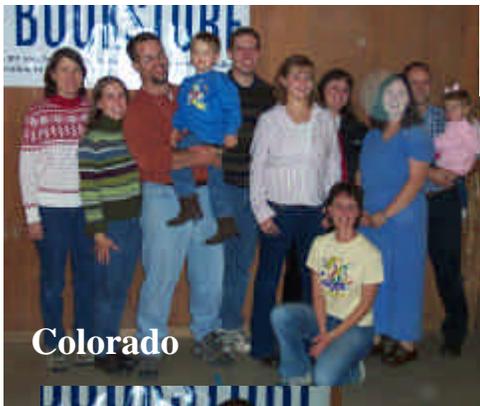
PROVIDING EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP
THROUGH QUALITY CHRISTIAN TRAINING

2 Timothy 2:2
And the things which you have
heard from me in the presence of
many witnesses, these entrust to
faithful men, who will be able to
teach others also.

Volume 13 Issue 1

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Multiple States...



Colorado



Pennsylvania



Texas



Missouri



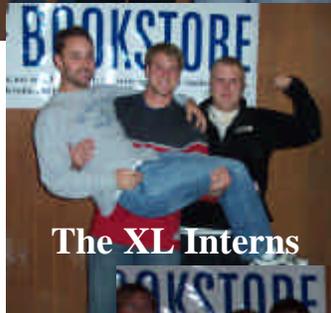
The XL Board



Mexico



Illinois



The XL Interns



Georgia



Tennessee



Arkansas

One Purpose...



California



Book Nook

The Theology of Prayer:

*The Valley of Vision,
A Collection of Puritan
Prayers and Devotions*
Arthur Bennett (Editor)

Prayer. What do you think of when you hear the word? For too many of us, what comes to mind is guilt. We know, at least in our mind, that prayer is a great thing, a needed thing, and something we should do more often. Those facts, however, have not always equated to us doing something about it.

Recently one of our staff guys gave me a copy of a book that has been a great encouragement to my own prayer life. I hope it will be to yours also. The book is *The Valley of Vision, A collection of Puritan Prayers and Devotions*. I have to admit, the title sounded like a real snoozer. Oh, how wrong I was. This book has become one of my all-time favorites and a deep source of encouragement for my own prayer life.

One of the first things I noticed was the theology that is woven through each of the prayers. That caused me to think of my own prayers and the prayers of our day. We are a selfish people, and that selfishness is represented in our prayers. “God, can I please

have this?” “God, will you please work this out so I can be comfortable again?” When was the last time our prayers included our praise for who God is, what He does, and the great things He has accomplished? Let me give you a taste of what I’m talking about. This is the first prayer in the book.

Lord, High and Holy,
Meek and Lowly,
Thou hast brought me
to the valley of vision,
Where I live in the depths
but see thee in the heights;
Hemmed in by mountains of sin
I behold thy glory.

Let me learn by paradox
That the way down is the way up,
That to be low is to be high,
That the broken heart is
the healed heart,
That the contrite spirit is
the rejoicing spirit,
That the repenting soul is
the victorious soul,
That to have nothing is
to possess all,
That to bear the cross is
to wear the crown,
That to give is to receive,
That the valley is
the place of vision.
Lord, in the daytime stars can
be seen from deepest wells,
And the deeper the wells the
brighter thy stars shine;
Let me find thy light
in my darkness,
Thy life in my death,
Thy joy in my sorrow,
Thy grace in my sin,
Thy riches in my poverty,
Thy glory in my valley.

Prayer. After reading this prayer, now what comes to your mind?

May the puritans guide us and teach us once again, to be diligent about the things that are really important and less involved with those things that really don’t matter. Prayer is one of those non-negotiables. In the Scriptures we are commanded to pray, asked to pray, encouraged to pray and given examples of how to pray. We see the great men and women of faith in the Bible and throughout history make prayer as much a part of their life as breathing is to ours. May we, also, engage in the sacred discipline that has the power to change our lives and our world around us. As we pray, may we engage our minds, our Bibles, and all that we know about God.

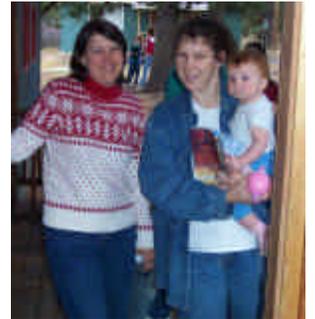
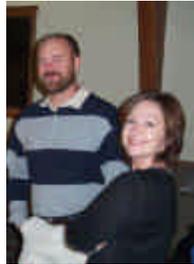
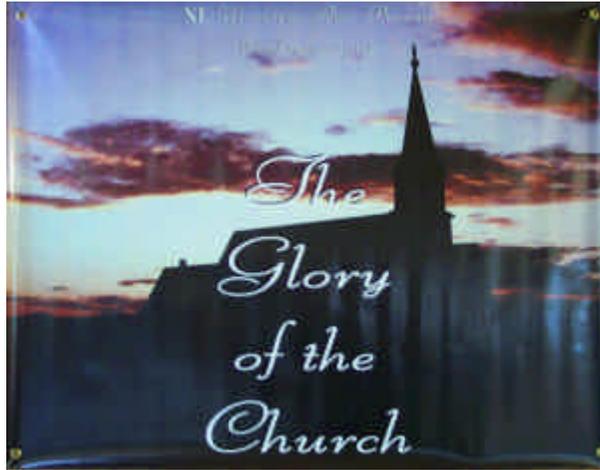
*Be joyful always, pray
continually.*
1 Thessalonians 5:17 NIV

✍️ Brian Murphy



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