

Saturday, August 29

Dear prayer partner,

Sandi & I want to thank you for lifting us up in prayer last weekend as wildfires ravaged forests
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place to live.

PLEASE PRAY . . .

. . . that God will guide us to an affordable apartment in a good location for our variety of
ministries.

. . . for divine blessing as begin the annual ordeal of applying for Greek residence permits next week.

. . . for the study of the Old Testament book of Daniel that I lead at the Samaria refugee ministry center.

This week we received an excellent call to corporate prayer from our friend and colleague, Roger Gulick, and
have decided to include an abridged version in this message. Sandi & I hope it speaks to you as it does to us. . .

I have been reading a small book by Jonathan Edwards,

A Call to United, Extraordinary Prayer.

Edwards' full title to his 1747 book is *An Humble Attempt to promote an explicit agreement and
visible union of God's people through the world, in extraordinary prayer, for the revival of
religion and the advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth, pursuant to Scripture promises and
prophecies concerning the last time.* They did things a bit differently with book titles than we
do these days.

David Bryant, who is a minister-at-large for Intervarsity USA, and chairman of America's
National Prayer Committee, wrote an introduction for this new edition of Edward's book. He
told what a powerful impact on his life this book had and ended his introduction with: "So, What
do I Take Away With Me from *An Humble Attempt?*" He mentioned six lessons:

1. Prayer is a co-working with God. It allows us to participate directly in God's
plan for the ages. It can be defined as "rebellion against the status quo."
2. The biblical emphasis on prayer is primarily *corporate* in nature. About 90 per cent
of what the Bible teaches on prayer comes down to concerted prayer.
3. Praying together increases *awareness* of, and heart *commitment* to, the purposes
and mission and ultimate victories of Christ.
4. There is a value in *appealing* for and *promoting* prayer if done humbly saying: I
need you to come with me, because I cannot do this alone."
5. The single greatest secret for igniting and sustaining individual and corporate
prayer is to help Christians get clear on the *hope* we're praying towards, seeing of
the Kingdom of God move throughout the world and Christ's glorious return.

6. If we are going to increase awareness and desire for prayer, far more important than our teaching on prayer is our teaching about Christ. Prayerfulness is the natural response of a heart that is fully caught up in all Christ is to us and for us, over us and within us, through us and before us and upon us.

I believe today there is a specific challenge in front of Entrust. I have been involved in the ministry of Entrust since 1982; on the board for about ten years and on staff with Joy as the pastoral team for over six years. Through these years there have been important times in the life of Entrust, but I do not believe that there has been a more strategic time than right now.

Needs are present as never before. Opportunities are present as never before. I believe now is the time to join together and do what Jonathan Edwards did in 1747: *to promote an explicit agreement and visible union of God's people through the world (at least in the Entrust Family), in extraordinary prayer, for the revival of religion and the advancement of Christ's kingdom on earth.*

At this strategic time, let us commit to gather once a week with some others and together for an hour pray for what God has called Entrust to do. Let it not just be petitions for our work, but also for our spiritual growth. When Paul prayed for the Christians in Ephesus he asked for:

- a) the Spirit to empower them inwardly;
- b) that Christ may dwell in their hearts;
- c) that they will know the love of Christ, and
- d) be filled with all God's fullness.

Take another look at the six things David Bryant learned and make a commitment to join with the whole of the Entrust family to pray.

In Christ's love,

Roger

Please join us in "*united, extraordinary prayer for the advancement of Christ's kingdom.*"

Sincerely in the Name of the God who answers prayer,

Dwight & Sandi Ekholm
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