



PARKSIDE CHAPEL

LIFE NEWS

The weekly newsletter article of Parkside Chapel

Daily Bread & Thanksgiving

By Jeremiah Shawver
Youth Pastor

When I was a kid, we would take time every Thanksgiving to say what we were thankful for. Often, we would say we could not think of anything. This led to my mom telling us we had to take five pieces of corn and list one thing for which we were thankful with each piece of corn. We still frustrated my mom. Within two rounds of giving thanks, we began making things up. Thinking back to these dinners, I imagine this was endlessly frustrating to my parents. We had many things to be thankful for and yet could think of nothing.

This week my wife and I got to pick up our daughter from India. This has been a long process. We have been completing different steps toward adoption for almost three years now. This week was spent on a small piece of concrete outside an orphanage where our daughter has lived for over two years. We sat on metal bed frames used as couches, and for five hours a day, we were able to see our daughter, and yesterday we got to pick her up. During our time visiting the orphanage, we met several of our daughter's friends. We suspect that most days they spent their time sitting silently on these same benches. We had brought snacks and

toys, which we shared with these little ones. Lisa's yellow bag became a source of joy for our daughter and her friends. Such small objects lit up the faces of five kids who were waiting for their families.

Over the last few months, our Jr. High students have been studying the life of Christ. One of the last lessons I taught before we traveled to India was about the Lord's Prayer. This prayer is amazing. Jesus, in Matthew 6, explains that we should not pray like hypocrites or pagans. We neither pray to be seen nor ramble on and on, thinking we will be heard for our many words. Jesus

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
YOUR NAME BE HONORED AS HOLY.
YOUR KINGDOM COME.
YOUR WILL BE DONE
ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD.
AND FORGIVE US OUR DEBTS,
AS WE ALSO HAVE FORGIVEN OUR DEBTORS.
AND DO NOT BRING US INTO TEMPTATION,
BUT DELIVER US FROM THE EVIL ONE.**



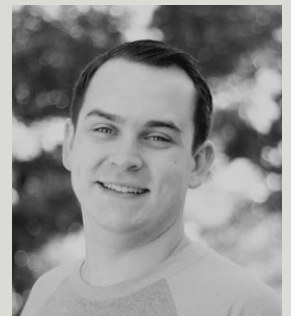
Continued on page 2

gives a prayer and He tells us to pray these words:
“Therefore, you should pray like this:

Jesus tells us to pray daily for God’s will, daily bread, forgiveness, and deliverance from temptation and the evil one. We are not commanded to pray for weekly, monthly, or yearly provision of these things. The regular rhythm of the Christian life is to ask God daily for what we need. In our journey through this life, we are to always lean on God for what we need. I was reminded of this prayer over and over again during our time sitting at an orphanage in a jungle rainforest village. Every day God has provided what we need. Amid difficulty, our daughter is in our arms. God has given us exactly what we need each day, whether it is food, rest, comfort, community, or the prayers of our friends and family.

This year as we move toward Thanksgiving, I won’t need to make up things to be thankful for. In fact, God has given us plenty to be thankful for each day as he provides for all of our needs. As we get closer to Thanksgiving, take time each day to pray the Lord’s prayer. Notice all the ways God is providing and has provided for all your needs. Your awareness of the provision of God will create thankfulness toward him. He truly is always with you and always providing for you.

One final note: Over the last week, we have had so many of you let us know that you are praying for us; this has been the greatest of blessings. This is the best care you can give us right now. Knowing that our friends and family have been praying for us has been a comfort to our souls, an encouragement when things are hard, and has given us rest when we feel restless. We covet your continued prayer knowing that while we are on the other side of the world, you are with us in spirit and praying for God’s continued provision for us. Thank you!



Jeremiah Shawver, Youth Pastor
Email: Jeremiah@parksidevisalia.org