He's ALIVE! April 21, 2011 e-weekend newsletter

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To: Adventist Heritage

Re: April 21, 2011 e-weekend newsletter

Sligo e-weekend Newsletter
More than words

Greetings!

This week I put a quote of mine on Facebook and asked the students from my class on prayer to give me their honest reaction to it. What became clear within a matter of minutes was that this statement resonated with many of my other FB friends as well. As a matter of fact, I received almost as many responses to it as I did the question on why so many Christians avoid taking part in the Holy Communion. Now, that's another story altogether. This is what I placed on my Facebook page, "God knows your needs without you having to utter a single word... Prayer is not confined just to the words you speak, but to every unspoken as well as unrecognized need that you may have."

...read more below

More than words...

So many times we confine prayer to a conversation that we have with God, and that is true, but the point that I wanted to make with this statement was that there are times when our conversation with God transcends the confinement of words. If you are like me, you can relate to this because there have been occasions when my soul wanted desperately to reach out to God but my mouth just couldn't find the words. In Romans 8:26, the apostle Paul expresses this very same sentiment. He says: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."

Christian author Ole Hallesby, in his book titled Prayer, describes this condition as our "helplessness", which in his opinion is the greatest prayer that we can offer God.

Can you imagine if our prayers were limited to our words? If that were the case, then those who possess a superior vocabulary would have a distinct advantage over those who didn’t. But thanks be to God that my ability to communicate my needs to my Creator are not restricted by my inability to express them. Because when it comes to this thing we call prayer, it’s about more than words, but it’s about our need. And the greatest need that you and I have as believers is our desperate need of God.

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Pastor Charles A. Tapp
Senior Pastor