March 1, 2012
Sligo e-weekend Newsletter
The Cry of Pain

Dear Lexie,

As some of you may know, one of the courses that I teach at Washington Adventist University is one that I developed a few years ago called the Fundamentals of Prayer. I developed this course because I felt that students on the college level would greatly benefit from exploring what I believe is the most basic aspect of the Christian's walk. Each semester we examine everything from the life and teachings of Jesus on prayer, the views of ancient as well as contemporary authors on this topic, in addition to many of the most familiar and well-loved prayers in all of Scripture.

...(read more below)

The Cry of Pain...

This week I introduced my class to the prayer of Jabez, found in 1 Chronicles 4:9, 10. This simple, yet obscure prayer is one of the most powerful prayers that has ever been uttered by human lips. "Now Jabez was more honorable than his brothers, and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain." And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

Can you imagine being given a name that meant pain, by of all people, your mother? I'm not sure what kind of pain Jabez's mother experienced...
that would have caused her to give such an embarrassing name, but it
must have been unbearable. My first thought is maybe her pain was
physical in nature. After all, anyone who knows anything about the
birthing process recognizes that it can be for many women, an extremely
painful ordeal. Although this might be the obvious choice, maybe her
pain went a little deeper than the obvious? Could it be that the pain she
experienced was the result of this being an unplanned and possibly
unwanted pregnancy? Could it be that she viewed her pregnancy as an
event in her life that presented challenges she was not prepared to handle
or simply unwilling to face?

In this life we will give birth to many things that at first glance, may be
viewed as something that will only bring us perpetual heartache and
pain. But just as in the case with Jabez, God can transform not only the
thing itself, but our perception of it as well. If God was willing to take
the label that society had placed on him and transform it to one
associated with honor and influence, then just think of what He is able to
do with our "pain" if we too will but cry out to Him for help.

Charles A. Tapp
Senior Pastor
UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

March 10
Pr. Charles A. Tapp

March 17
Pr. Charles A. Tapp

Worship Services every Saturday:
First Service - 8:45am
Sabbath School - 10:00am
Sabbath Celebration - 11:15am

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BULLETIN

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We hope you found this week's e-weekend newsletter helpful. If there is anything else you would like to see included, we appreciate your feedback. Just email us to sligo@sligochurch.org. We will continue to send this out on a weekly basis. Remember, you may choose to unsubscribe for any reason at any time, though, we hope you won't!

May God continue to richly bless you!