

Fasting Devotion: Day One

Can WE Change History? by Marlise Newman

A dear friend of mine called recently to tell me he had an unusual burden for St. Giles. He'd been thinking and praying and caring for us, and we aren't necessarily in his scope of interactions and thoughts. He had a prophetic sense about our new pastor. As he was "prophesying" on the phone, I scribbled as fast as I could to capture what I thought was an anointed moment. This is what he said: He senses that the next pastor is very important to the church and to God... St. Giles is a "Gatekeeper Church" in this region... that we have an historic position in the body of Christ because of the freedom the Holy Spirit finds with us. Our new pastor must love the church and embrace our history. He must be a secure person in himself, able to know, bless and honor the many major ministries housed in the church as well as the strength and maturity of many of our present members. He said it was very important to honor Percy Burns' work and that his (the new pastor) honoring Percy's work would bring favor and blessing into this next strategic season. He really emphasized LOVE the church... and also that this next pastor will be another historical figure in the life of the church.

As our visiting pastor recently shared with us his riveting testimony of how the Lord used a small band of believers to pray into and actually be a guiding force in their own nation and therefore changing it's history, I remembered my friend's word and made the connection that God has a bigger picture and opportunities for us than I really believed. My friend used the word HISTORY several times in his word for us.

In the book "Shaping History Through Prayer and Fasting" by Derek Prince he shares awe-inspiring examples of how God can move through us in prayer to shape history. He tells about a time when in 1948 they were living in Jerusalem after Israel was declared a nation. There was serious conflict between the Jews and Arabs physically surrounding them. Together they prayed "Lord, *paralyze* the Arabs..." Later, some of their young Jewish friends involved in the conflict shared their experiences. "There's something we can't understand," a young man said. "We go into an area where the Arabs are. They outnumber us ten to one and are much better armed than we are. Yet, at times, they seemed powerless to do anything against us. It's as if they are *paralyzed!*" Right there in the living room, this young Jewish soldier repeated the very phrase that had been uttered in prayer a few weeks previously!

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, **and** that He is a **rewarder** of those who diligently seek Him." Heb. 11:6

The very nature of this fast we have called is that we are diligently seeking Him. God is our **rewarder** and will answer our intercession.

PRAYER POINT: Pray that God would remove any road blocks that stand in the way of what He desires for St. Giles and that we would have eyes to recognize what these hindrances are.