

# Close to my Heart ...



I loved it!! God's presence was with us so much in our annual business meeting on January 22. It even seems strange to refer to it as a business meeting!

The worship time at the first part of the meeting was exceptionally energized with His presence. That wonderful presence just remained through the reports of how God has so blessed our church in 'the believe project.' It was just exceptionally inspiring. We are such a blessed church family and I feel so privileged to be a part of it. Wow!! All too often when we experience His blessings year after year, we tend to allow them to become so common that we fail to give God the worship, praise and thanksgiving that He is so worthy of. May we NEVER take for granted His presence or His generous blessings among us.

Our Ravenna ministry site is offering one of the most outstanding, balanced, humorous and practical video marriage seminars I have experienced in my entire ministry. It is called "Love and Respect" by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs. It certainly has "saved" more than one marriage and improved many other ones. It is being offered February 10-11, but at this point, there is a limited capacity, so if you feel you might like to attend this or even bring a couple with you, please call the office as soon as possible to register. I'm very confident you will not regret taking the time to attend.

It has also been very rewarding to join with other Kearney evangelical churches in a sermon series through what is commonly known as "The Lord's Prayer." When Jesus taught us to pray with this model, He was teaching us far, far more than the masses who have recited it have understood. I've heard so many comments on how people have so enjoyed how this study has opened up such great insights. One person recently commented, "*I'll never recite The Lord's Prayer in the same way again. In fact, I hear it being recited where I work every day for lunch, and I feel like I want to stop them and tell them what they are really praying!*"

Three of our other pastors will be speaking about a phrase in the prayer so you will be able to enjoy fresh presentations of it, as well as, sense how all our pastors have a passion about it as well. If you happened to have missed a sermon, or will need to miss one, for some reason, please go to our website [www.newlifekearney.org](http://www.newlifekearney.org) where you can click on a spot in the lower part of the page to either watch it live or listen to a podcast (even download it to listen while you're driving, working or exercising). You can even download the sermon notes so you can follow along with it. If you have a problem finding it or connecting to it, please call the office during regular hours. It is the next best thing to experiencing His presence in the sanctuary.

I continue to pray that you will never stop pressing forward in your spiritual journey to having the passionate heart the apostle Paul had when he wrote in Acts 20:24 NLT "*my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.*" The more my heart has become like that, the more joy, peace and significance I've experienced in life. Try it — because I know you'll like it too. It isn't just for pastors to enjoy!

You are loved  
Bob