Revival Through Prayer

By Sara Heatwole
Staff Writer

The late evenings in Martin Chapel have been filled with prayer and vision. Nathan Bontrager said, "It's all been pretty random (in our eyes) and completely of God. Somehow a few of us found each other and discovered we had this same passion to pray and so we started praying." He and other students have been frequenting the chapel to seek God's will for the campus and in their own lives.

"The purpose of what we do is simply to seek God," said Bontrager, "to know him in a deeper way and to seek his will for our own lives and this campus. We started out doing lots of intercessory prayer for EMU, but God has really shown us that the only thing that matters is seeking his face and worshipping him with all that we are. It's really a very open thing, anyone is welcome to come." In describing their meetings, Travis Kisamore said, "We don't come with much of an agenda, rather try and figure out what God wants us to do. The basic outline of what happens is we get together and pray for each other if that's what is needed, then usually worshipping and prayer that go together. Sometimes worship is done with a guitar or piano or we put a CD in and just worship. Worship is a key to everything, at least at this point in time. Worship brings us closer to God and at the same time serves as an awesome warfare tool."

Many of these students feel that God has been abundantly faithful to them. Jill Leaman said, "I have seen how God has been faithful in my own life - especially recently through my journey with cancer - but also in others' lives, touching hearts of people on campus as we have prayed." During prayer and fasting these fired-up students have been sensing that God is birthing a spiritual revival on campus. Leaman commented, "Revival might seem slow, and long in arriving, but I know that God is moving in ways that may seem small right now, but we must only be patient. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.' 1 Corinthians 2:9"

"What I most see God doing on campus at this time is changing us," said Ben Stutzman. "While we often like to pray for the campus, we also spend time praying for each other. In one session a member felt God leading him to ask forgiveness from some others in the group. It ended being an amazing time of strengthening our relationships and growing in unity as we all spoke out things we were holding against each other. I believe God wants to send revival to the campus, but first he must work in us."

"There is an amazing amount of trust; people share their deepest struggles, and we hold each other accountable day in and day out," said Kisamore. "The most important thing that takes place is that we seek God's face during this time. While seeking him everywhere, such as intercession for the campus and our desires, will fall into place."

The experience has deeply affected the lives of the students involved. Kisamore said, "I don't know exactly how this ministry has changed my life. I don't think that it really has. It gives me the opportunity each night to spend time with God and just to be with him. I usually come out feeling refreshed and ready to face another day. God has been faithful by giving me strength to go through the day. Sometimes I'd rather be studying, but God comes first and he gives me the rest that I need at night. Even if it's only a couple of hours he keeps me going through the day. One cool thing is that I have yet to find a good reason not to go and pray and worship each night. No matter what I think is more important, God is more important. I don't go every night and when I don't I can tell the next day. I feel empty inside. I love spending time with God."

The Weather Vane

OCTOBER 16, 2003
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By Glenn and Carol Hakey

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On the Sidewalk
Are you related to anyone famous?

“I think I’m related to Daniel Boone.”
- Amy Umbel, sophomore

“I came from the same family line as Babe Ruth, and my uncle is incessantly being mistaken for Prince Charles.”
- Emily Benner, first-year

“My dad’s the librarian here, and my ancestors were the kings and queens of Wales in the 1200s.”
- Emily Reese, first-year

“The world marble champion dated my best friend.”
- Maria Hoover, first-year

“Two of my ancestors were captured by Indians and taken to be their wives.”
- Nathan Alleman, resident director

“I’m related to King George, Robert E. Lee, Zachery Taylor, John Tyler, and Alexander Hamilton. My kids are related to General Patton.”
- Evelyn DeGolyer, senior

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