



Becky Dietz



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Come into His Presence

All my life I have known the privilege of having a praying father. He and my mother wove prayer into the fabric of our family. Talking to God was part of life. Every family meal began with our grateful acknowledgement that what we were going to enjoy came from God. Every family trip began with a pause to ask for God's protection and provision. Every Christmas included the reading Christmas story, sharing family communion and offering our gifts of thankful prayers to God.

As I visited in my dad's home these last few years I would overhear his nightly prayers right before he turned on his music CD and turned out his light. He prayed faithfully and systematically through everyone in our family. Every night he brought specific names and needs to God. Every night he remembered us and lifted us into the loving care of our Heavenly Father.

But now my dad doesn't pray for me every night. Since November 6, he talks to the Lord face to face.

The loss of my dad's prayers may be the greatest loss of my life. Something very, very important is missing. I'm not enough of a biblical scholar to explain it. I'm not sure that I should try. I just know that Dad's conversations with his Friend, relationally deep and familiar because of decades of consistent nurturing, were vital for all of us.

God is using the ache of that loss in a few specific ways.

The Lord is causing me to be very thirsty for more intimate times with Jesus myself.

The Lord uses that loss so that, more than ever before, I value and pursue friends who will pray for me.

The loss of my dad's prayers causes me to cherish the richness of using words of Scripture as I pray.

I'm asking God to use this simple newsletter to provoke us, my friends, to pursue deeper, more intimate conversations with Him. May the Spirit of God draw us to love God completely and practice His presence continually. May you enjoy our Lord in sweet, new ways! I'm asking this in Jesus' precious name and for His sake, with thanksgiving.

Joining you as we pray before His Throne,
Becky



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HALF WAY AROUND THE WORLD - and back again!

Having said all of that about prayer, I invite you to anticipate these things and pray with me...



1. I leave **January 28** with a team of four KidZ at Heart staff for almost two weeks in east Africa. We will lead a **Great Trainer Summit** for a group of Christian leaders who have already completed the Basic Teacher Certification. These qualified teachers will be licensed to lead other KidZ training events. Their completion of this Trainer Summit enables them to multiply the number of times children will encounter environments which nurture their spiritual growth.
2. Following the Great Trainer Summit we will meet with the leadership of **Kampala Evangelical School of Theology** to learn how we can continue to effectively partner with them. Our goal is to provide some of the curriculum that they make available to leaders - both informally and as part of the accredited course work they offer.
3. Finally, we will spend a day in a **spiritual retreat** with our KidZ at Heart - Uganda leadership, the trainers and other partners. This time is intentionally used to meet with God, to love and know Him, to gain His perspective for our future work together. These hours in prayer and worship together will build unity and a sense of community among us even though we work half way around the world from one another.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for physical stamina and protection - as well as spiritual, emotional and relational strength and provision. International travel for that time and distance will be rigorous. Ask God to give me endurance and joy; rest and health; wisdom and vigilance. ***Thank you, Lord, that You will guard (our) going out and (our) coming in from this time forth and forever. Psalm 121:8***

Please pray for insight and understanding as we discuss educational processes and procedural details in a cross cultural environment. ***May God make (our) joy complete by making (us) be of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, and intent on the same purpose. Philippians 2:2***

Please pray that the Spirit of God will move among us to draw each of us into a deeper love relationship with God. Pray that the Spirit of God will teach us and form the life of Jesus within us so that our work together will bring Him praise. ***Thank you, Lord, that You are reconciling all these people through the blood of Christ to Yourself, and to each other. II Corinthians 5:19***



Please pray for these requests, and also ...

- that, in our family, vibrant faith will emerge as we adjust to the homegoing of my dad.
- that the extra expenses beyond the flight costs to Uganda will be met. (Several expensive inoculations, as well as personal supplies/equipment and presentation expenses were required for this kind of international travel.)

It would mean so much if you would send me an email to let me know what time of day you will be praying. Thank you for traveling with me!

JOIN MY MINISTRY TEAM

Would you prayerfully consider joining my ministry team? Giving can be done online or via check. Give online at: www.kidZatHeart.org/staff/beckydietz or mail a check to KidZ at Heart (Memo: Becky Dietz) P.O. Box 21148, Mesa, AZ 85277.