

## Avery Willis Prayer Letter

January 2010

Dear

We are faced in 2010 with the greatest opportunities and challenges we have ever experienced. We are praying for a discipleship revolution, a spiritual awakening and massive turning to Christ. You are so vital to all that happening through your prayers and work together. Thank you for kneeling with us before the Father's throne to ask for only what He can do.

Avery and Shirley

### PRAYER REQUESTS FOR JANUARY

*"I am in pain and distress; may your salvation, O God, protect me. I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." (Psa. 69:29-30)*

1. Pray for someone to volunteer to construct the DNA-21 website to launch the DNA21 Discipleship Revolution and for a new Webmaster for our website [www.averywillis.org](http://www.averywillis.org). Josh Smitherman has served faithfully for five years but changing jobs, adding children and going back to school is limiting what he can do for us.
2. Pray for Avery's health. The white blood count that has been low for six months is now ten times higher than it should be and he has had constant excruciating pain in his hips for the last three weeks. He will have a second bone marrow biopsy Dec. 31 to see if they can discover the cause. Later in the day he will have a blood transfusion to counter a low red blood count. The doctor has cancelled Avery's participation the New Zealand Call2All which also means that our 15 year old granddaughter, Hannah Willis, can't go either.
3. Pray for the Call2All Next Generation Congress in New Zealand, Jan. 19-22. Pray for Samuel Chiang, ION Global Coordinator, as he secures others who will have to fill in for Avery. This Call2All differs from the normal Call2All Congresses that are for key leaders and focuses on recruiting 18-29 year olds as the next generation of missionaries to unreached people groups. They are expecting over 1000 participants. The International Orality Network will share a tent with Bible translators and will be asking participants to make personal commitments to:
  - OneLife--for young people to commit to go for two years to one of the top 20 most urgently needed unengaged, unreached people groups so that 50—60 Oral Bible Stories will be translated and put to use among a Bibleless people
  - OneStory--for people to commit to pray and give financially for the translation of 5 core stories for the 5 most urgently needed translations for unreached peoples
  - OneVerse--for people to commit to pray and give financially to have one specific verse of the Bible translated in the normal

translation process of Wycliffe and The Seed Company.

4. Pray for God to speak to individuals and churches that are studying, *Learning to Soar: How to Grow Through Transitions and Trials*. Avery and Rick and Jayne Brekelbaum trained 14 small group facilitators at our church, Bella Vista Baptist, on Nov. 14 and they will do a follow up training on Jan. 9. The pastor will preach eight weeks on Scriptures themes in the book beginning January 24 and small groups will discuss the book and learn to tell the Bible stories about Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. The church plans to follow this by beginning home groups in geographical zones in Bella Vista that will tell Bible stories. See Training on [www.learningtosoar.org](http://www.learningtosoar.org).
5. Pray for the Dallas Pre-Lausanne Congress, Jan. 25-27 for those going to Cape Town 2010.
6. Pray for the ION Task Force recommendations and a new structure for ION for the next three years to meet the growing needs all over the world, February 2-3.

#### PRAYER ANSWERS FOR DECEMBER

*Many the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us;  
establish the work of our hands for us." Psalm 90:17*

1. **REQUEST:** *Pray for Avery as he writes learning activities and edits five weekly studies for The DNA of Discipleship book, Dec. 1-7.*

**ANSWER:** We got the manuscript to the editor. NavPress is recommending a name change to *Real Life Discipleship in Action: Training Disciples to Make Disciples*. Pray as it goes through the editing process for release next August.

2. **REQUEST:** *Pray for Avery and Walk Through the Bible as they help him develop 52 hand signs to go with the recorded stories from Creation to Christ. Pray for him as he presents orality to them and consults with them on how they can use orality in their ministry, Dec. 9-11, Atlanta, GA.*

**ANSWER:** Walk Thru the Bible jumped at the challenge to produce a book of the 52 stories that will be used by small groups and families to go through the Bible in a year. They will link it with their WTTB seminars as well as the NavPress resources. The hand signs and stories we picked are super for instilling a Biblical worldview.

3. **REQUEST:** *Pray for Avery and Mark Snowden Dec. 12 in Atlanta, GA, as they plan for a Truth That Sticks DVD and the promotion of the book they have written to be released by NavPress in August 2010.*

**ANSWER:** Avery and Mark had a very productive day working on *Truth That Sticks*. We request your prayers for production of the *Truth That Sticks* DVD.

*They also met with Johnny Hunt, SBC President and talked about church planting as a part of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force. Pray for Johnny as he has his prostate removed Jan. 7.*

4. **REQUEST:** *Pray for Avery as he meets with potential donors to the International Orality Network in Atlanta and Memphis, Dec. 14-15. If you would like to have a part in this world-changing mission you can make your check to The National Christian Foundation, for The ION Fund, #429666 and send it and a note designating it to the ION FUND to the Tijeras Foundation, 1311 Tijeras Ave NW, Albuquerque NM 87102. Thank you.*

**ANSWER:** We had exiting meetings talking about all God is doing through orality. Pray as two donors consider what they can do in 2010. A couple of others have not included ION in their budget but said that we could submit the requests.

5. **REQUEST:** *Pray for our daughter, Krista and her family as they come home for Christmas from Indonesia Dec 12-14 and most of the Willis clan who will be home for our traditional week of holiday celebrations between Dec. 26 and Jan. 2.*

**ANSWER:** They made it home fine and all our children came home for several days. The only ones who couldn't make it are our grandchildren, Matt and Allison, who are serving the Lord in South Asia. "I have no greater joy than to hear my children are walking in truth." (3 John 4). Brett, our youngest son, has just been called to co-pastor Matthew's House, an SBC church in Durango, CO.

6. **REQUEST:** *Pray for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International missions. Due to the shortfall last year in the LMCO, Cooperative Program, and the weak dollar overseas, the IMB is faced with reducing the missionary force by 600 persons and cutting work budgets for 2010 unless the \$175 million goal is surpassed. For more than 50 years we have given an extra tithe annually to LMCO, all of which goes directly to the field. Would you join us? Pray many people will give Jesus a birthday offering this year.*

**ANSWER:** The reports on this year's giving will not be complete until spring but we are hearing good reports of individuals and churches' giving. Continue to pray for the International Mission Board and for Southern Baptists to give so those who are called can be sent.

7. **REQUEST:** *Pray for the 23 member Great Commission Resurgence Task Force as they make recommendations to focus Southern Baptists on fulfilling the Great Commission. Pray for a radical restructuring of the SBC and the filling of the three top missions related positions—the presidents of the International Mission Board, the North American Mission Board and the SBC Executive Committee in 2010. This seems to be a special time to join God in what He is doing.*

**ANSWER:** The Task Force says they are making great progress. They continue to ask Avery for input on reaching the lostness of the world and North America and

on church planting strategies. They make their first report to the SBC executive committee in February.

8. **REQUEST:** *Pray for our DNA21 Launch team as we plan the launch of a discipleship revolution to make disciples as Jesus did, at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, April 22-24, 2010. You can find out more on our [www.averywillis.org](http://www.averywillis.org) website.*

**ANSWER:** Plans are moving forward. Pray for Rick Brekelbaum who heads the DNA21 Launch Team and all who are working with us from various organizations. We hope to get a website available soon.

Normally we only ask for prayers for the month ahead but 2010 is such a pivotal year for missions we ask you post this list and to pray ahead for key events that we will be involved in that could make a real difference in the kingdom:

#### **JANUARY**

8-22: Call2All Next Generation - New Zealand

25-27: Lausanne Meeting of US Delegates - Dallas

#### **FEBRUARY**

2-3: ION Executive Board

3, 10, 17, 24: Avery speaking on nationwide conference calls to Executives of the Pinnacle Forum on the four sections of *Learning to Soar*

4-5: Table 71 Meeting

8-9: Real Life Ministries Immersion Discipleship Training - Post Falls, ID for a strong contingent of State Baptist Executives and their staffs

10-12: Avery records 18 more *DiscipleStories: Following Jesus Together* - Post Falls for use in small group discipleship

27-28: Speaking to *MasterLife* graduates and Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Richmond, VA

#### **MARCH**

2-3: International Mission Board Meeting, Memphis, TN

10-13: Call2All America, Cincinnati, OH

#### **APRIL**

6: Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach Advisory Board, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK

22-24: Launch of DNA21: Reclaiming 1<sup>st</sup> Century Discipleship, New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans and 14 extension centers

25-28: Call2All Middle East

29-May 1: Call2All Armenia

#### **MAY**

10-12: Tokyo 2010, Tokyo, Japan celebrating 100 years since the first Edinburg world missions conference

13-23: India

25-29: Global Day of Prayer 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Cape Town, South Africa with Call2All featured to highlight the partnership in prayer and missions.

#### JUNE

7-8: TWR Board Meeting, Cary, NC

13-16: Southern Baptist Convention, Orlando FL: Report of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force

17-18: Table 71, Orlando, FL

#### JULY

29-Aug. 1: Indonesian Missionary Reunion, Windermere, MO

#### AUGUST

NavPress DNA21 Launch, Colorado Springs, CO and the release of four new books and two DVDs on discipleship

Call2All Latin America

Call2All Latin America 2

#### SEPTEMBER

13-16: International Orality Network Conference, Rome, GA

#### OCTOBER

7: Avery T. Willis Center for Global Outreach Advisory Board Meeting, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, OK

15-24: Lausanne III, Cape Town, South Africa

#### NOVEMBER

7-8: TWR Board Meeting, Cary, NC

16-20: Call2All Congress, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

*Gazing on God's Glory and Telling His Story,*

Avery Willis

Executive Director

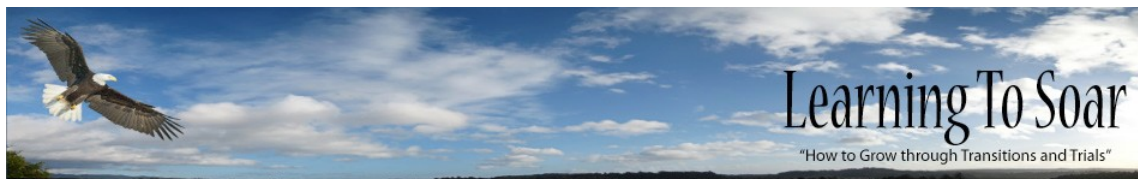
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For more information on the book, free downloads and resources go to

[www.learningtosoar.org](http://www.learningtosoar.org)