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Ministry Update

December 2024

Greetings to you, my dear friends.

Here we are in yet another Advent season, leading up to another Christmas season, and then another brand-new year. How does it all move so quickly?

For this prayer letter I'm switching it up a bit. I wanted to give you a picture, in full colour, of another angle of my work with NAIM, one that I've headed now for a while. About 20 years ago NAIM leadership approached me to ask if I would create a monthly tool that staff could use to lead them through a day of prayer and fasting. Three or so years ago the focus changed to the idea of prayer without ceasing. We call it Let's PRAY! This new focus encourages staff to pray throughout the month, instead of on one dedicated day. Every month a different NAIM missionary writes these. I'm writing the one for December, so what follows is my encouragement for staff to pray without ceasing. May you find encouragement in it too. And may you have a blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year! I am thankful for your involvement in this work with me.

Much love to you,

Kathryn

Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.
Matthew 11:29

In 2024 I turned 60. Whaaaaaaat???? How did THAT happen? I must confess: I'm excited. It feels like I've crossed a threshold of sorts. Feels like I've moved from the burdens of many years trying to navigate my life, and, in some ways, feeling like I've missed out on a lot, to being in a place where things are more settled and I can see now how God has taken care of me in rich, beautiful, and entirely unexpected ways. I'm also in a place where I can look ahead and I'm anticipating how God will move in and through me.

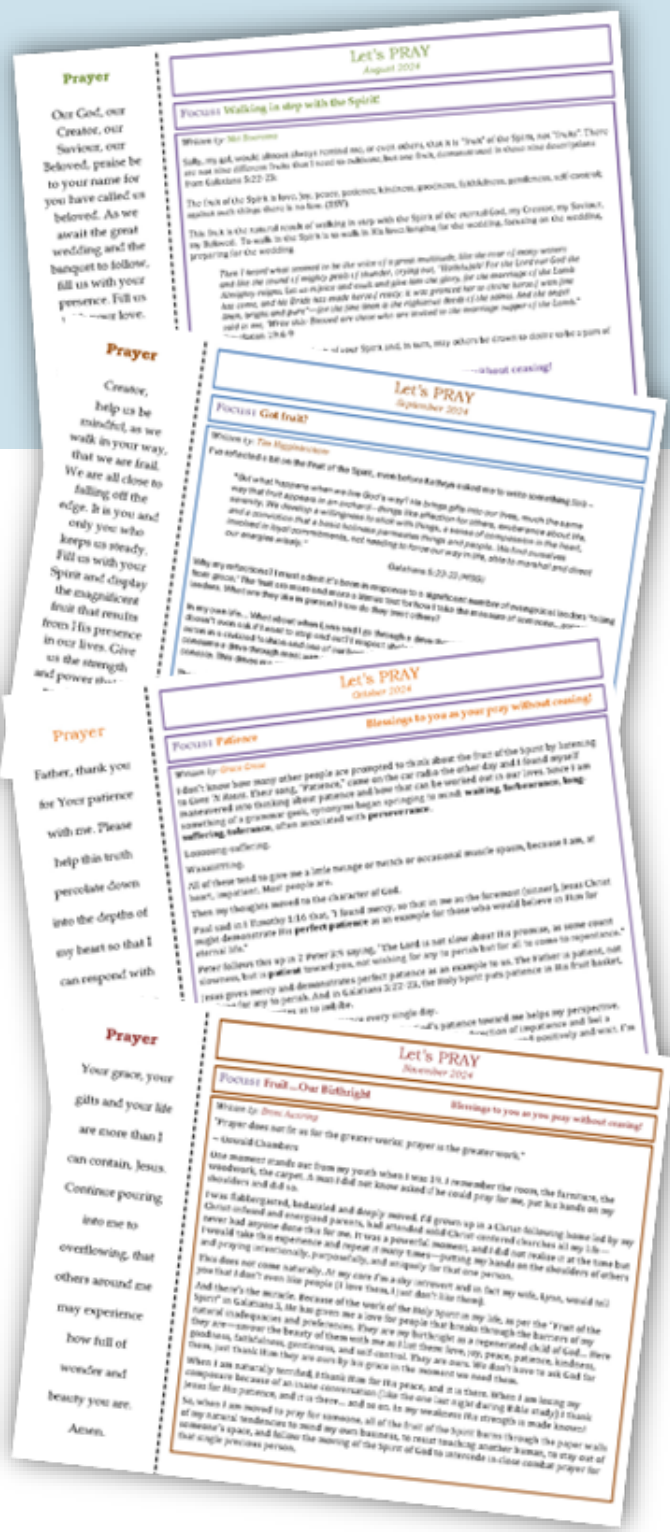
During these days of slowing and breathing and reflection I think about Jesus's extravagant invitation for me to be yoked with him. I would like to say that I've been yoked with Jesus uninterrupted. Some of my years I have either grudgingly or willingly walked along with him, learning, growing, and experiencing life as a believer. But there have also been many times when I've thrown off his yoke and clung for dear life to the many lesser yokes we all grab onto at times in our lives: fear, shame, anger, disappointment, bitterness, our good reputation, our pride, our version of the story—whatever that story is, maintaining our Christian image to those to whom we minister or to our supporters.

As I am yoked with Jesus and learn from him and find rest in him, I can know that I will become more like him, and that my life will exude the fruit of the Spirit. I can say this with confidence and full trust because I've experienced it in my life and have seen the result. Thank God for those memories that buoy my spirits when I feel threatened to go down with the ship.

Jesus has called each one of us to walk with him as his apprentices, learning under his guidance and instruction. As he walked with his father, doing his will, we are to be yoked with Jesus, learning his ways.

I'm looking toward the next years of my life with anticipation and excitement. What do they hold? I find myself saying, "Where are we headed now, Lord?"

Jesus, this sounds too simple but it's truth: thank you for your presence in my life. Help me to remember each day, as I sit with you and reorient my mind and spirit to you, that you long for me to be yoked with you, you long to fill my life with the fruit of the Spirit, and you long to give rest, even as I walk and learn from you. Amen.



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