

## HAPPENING PRAYER

Growing up, each night my entire family would gather in one room. I can vividly picture it, we sat cross legged on the floor, so close our knees were touching, with hands held. I remember little Amanda, trying to sit still as we recited the words of the The Lord's Prayer. My mind would always wonder and I didn't understand why we gathered to sit on the gross carpet that probably hadn't been vacuumed in a hot minute, just to hold hands till my palms were sweaty. Back then, clearly, the words of the prayer didn't really mean anything to me. I knew them by heart only because of the constant repetition of them each night. **(PAUSE)** I knew that they were important thought, based solely off the look on my Mom's face each time we said

them. She had the biggest smile as she looked from my sisters... to my brother... to my dad, and finally to me. She looked so genuinely happy, and I wanted to have that same genuine happiness.

Years later, I've found it. Each Sunday three generations of Colburns gather in the pews of Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral. I get excited as my favorite part of the service begins, The Lord's prayer. Without hesitation, each member of my family grabs hands and with heads bowed and says the words which now have so much meaning to me. I now know what the reason behind the smile on my mom's face was all those years ago. That warm feeling of complete and total comfort is why I keep returning to church Sunday after Sunday. I believe that

each week God is calling me to journey closer to Him....

As I grab hold of a loved one's hands in prayer, God reassures me that everything is made right through Him and that I should continue to follow Him.... In those moments, even with sweaty palms, I am completely filled with joy. I feel God pushing me towards to Him. *This call to come closer to Him, is what Apostleship is to me.*

Some of y'all might be wondering what an Apostle is. It's someone who answers God's calling to them. Someone who goes into the world declaring the God news of Jesus Christ. Someone who is empowered by and invested in God the Father. Apostles are messengers sent by God to share His love in this world.

Now that y'all have been through Happening, I wonder if you hear the same call I do. The point of Happening is not just to push people through system in order to have more staff members for the next Happening, but instead to be the instrument needed to renew and empower your faith. Happening is meant to find out if any of you feel the need to answer God's call to be an apostle. God reaches *each and everyone* of his followers in different ways. The thing in your life that you feel like is the single most empowering thing ever could mean absolutely nothing to the person sitting next to you. And that is ok. God calls each of his followers closer to Him in different ways, so even though I hear my calling when my head is

bowed in prayer with hands interlocked with others, your calling could be heard in a vast array of different ways.

The way to which you hear your calling is important, but more important is your response. Being an Apostle, means answering God's calling to serve Him. You can think of this call as one on your cell phone, which I'm sure all most of y'all are anxious to get back. When getting an incoming call, your phone gives you two options. It's either a green button to pick up the call, or a red button to deny it. This is true about life. There is only yes or no to God's call of Apostleship, there's no kindas, no maybes, and no when-I-feel-like its about it. God's calling requires you to either hit the red button and deny Him, OR hit the green button and accept Him.

That sounds easy enough right? But life is never that easy. Answering God's call to be an Apostle - to go into the world sharing His love - requires a lot of listening and a lot of trust. You have to continually be searching for what He wants you to do next.

Personally, I go through my days constantly looking for God. I seek those moments where I know He is calling out to me. I see Him everywhere, because I look for Him everywhere. I see Him at work, when I've been sitting on stand in the hot sun for hours, watching annoying daycare kids swim, and one pleasant parent walks up to me and thanks me for everything I'm doing to ensure the safety of her kid. I see Him in the kind driver of the giant pick up

truck that let me merge in front of him rather than being stuck in the entry ramp for years.

So see Him and listen to Him. Put effort into finding Him. Your relationship with God cannot be one sided. It required work from you as a follower. It is not a one way road, but a two way street. It is open minded and judgement free. It is letting go of control and trusting. Do not go into the world forcing God upon people, but instead allow everyone to see God through you. Know you cannot antagonize and evangelize at the same time. Always listen, and never attempt to control everything.

God works in mysterious ways. His love comes unexpectedly. For example, I used to sit hands held during the Lord's Prayer with my family, but soon others began to

join in. It started slowly, first my family would join hands, then Emily Morrison's family would join us, and finally my entire youth group continued the tradition. Over time, all of the GHTC youth began holding hands during the Lord's prayer, and last missionpalooza all of WeMo joined in on the tradition. I remember sitting on the floor of St. Paul's looking around me as we said the Lord's Prayer during compline. I saw a room full of the most loving, faithful people all connected physically and spiritually. I knew that God was there in that room. He was speaking to me.

That brings me to the point of this weekend, allowing God to speak to each of you. It was meant to give you the chance to hear Him and decide if you want to hit the red button or the green button. This weekend could have



given someone of you an aha kinda moment where everything in your spiritual life just clicked! Some of you may have heard God call out to you in the songs we sing. Some of may have seen God in the conversations have in family groups or while gathered around the tables during a meal. My hope is that somewhere, somehow each of you felt closer to God. Happening creates that closer relationship that inspires one to be an Apostle. So now go into the world and answer your call.