

Northwest FOCUS

God at Work Through Northwest Independent Church Extension

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Let's Put Callouses On Our Knees!

"Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for Kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

I Timothy 2:1-4



Steve & Celeste DeFord

NICE Missionary, Pastor Steve DeFord, who serves the First Baptist Church of Ekalaka, MT, sends a weekly devotional article to his congregation and friends. He wrote recently, "Today, I read an article titled, 'Standing Against the Left but Praying for its Leaders'. The author, Dr. Michael Brown,

reported that he was excoriated by many, (including Christians) for suggesting that we should pray for Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, in the hopes that they might change for the good. He quoted tweets from people, some who were appalled at the idea of praying for these two leaders. For example, Unapologetic Christian tweeted, 'Ha ha ha, sorry that so ridiculous it was funny...' *"

Pastor DeFord continued, "I have to wonder what kind of theology could lead a Christian to oppose praying for the President and Vice President, especially when we are so clearly commanded to do so in the Scripture. For the record, Mr. Brown also received a lot of tweets supporting his call to prayer.

"The Scripture tells us that such prayer 'is good and acceptable in the sight of God our

Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.' Dear Christian, no one is outside the reaches of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The Gospel is still 'the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,...' This is true as long as that soul remains on the earth. **Never underestimate the power of God!**"

Several years ago, Pastor Steve, following the death of their son in the Yarnell, AZ wildfire, stood with then Vice President Joe Biden, and gave testimony to the eternal hope that he and his family possessed because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He and his wife, Celeste, were able to assure the Vice President that they would one day be re-united with their son in God's presence. At that time, then Vice President Biden identified with their grief, but not their hope, as he told of losing his wife and two daughters in a train wreck.



Pastor Steve commented, "I have no idea if President Biden remembers our witness to him or not, but only God could put us together in such a face-to-face encounter. And only God knows how many times His Holy Spirit has prodded at President Biden's heart, convicting him of his need to come to salvation through the blood of Jesus."

As you pray for all the NICE Missionaries in their varied opportunities of Gospel ministry, will you also add your supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks to ours as we call upon God for ALL men, including those who are leaders in authority. **Let us put some callouses on our knees!**

*OneNewsNow.com, 1/18/2021, Dr. Michael Brown, Guest Columnist

So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. I Corinthians 3:7