

## *That Stupid Noise*

Craig was both my friend and spiritual mentor. In college he was on the Kansas State University swim team, and for years held all of the long distance swim records at K-State. A few years ago I saw Craig for the first time in many years. He was now in his middle to upper 50s. I asked him if he still swam. He said, “Oh, not much. Only about 6 miles a week!” (groan) With Craig’s 6’6” frame he glides through the water, almost effortlessly. For him to swim a mile a day, six days a week, is like me walking once around the block.

In college I still remember the two of us going swimming one Saturday morning when the varsity training pool was empty. Even though I’m not a bad swimmer Craig would swim past me like I had rocks tied to my feet. When we were done swimming we decided to pray. Just as we began to pray by the edge of the pool, the water pump at the pool began making a horribly loud clanking sound, metal to metal, CLANK!...CLANK!...CLANK! It echoed throughout the pool area and made it virtually impossible to pray. Craig stopped momentarily and then with a voice of authority said, “Lord, will you stop that stupid noise!” Immediately, and I mean immediately, the pump went CLANK, clank and abruptly stopped.

I was stunned to see such an instantaneous, tangible answer to prayer. Jesus taught his disciples that with faith they could move mountains—or stop a clanking pump. It breaks my heart to think of all the untapped power through prayer that the church of Christ relinquishes because so few believers, myself included, have ever truly learned how to pray. How tragic and sad is that?

Why did I share this story about Craig? Maybe it is because we all need to be reminded that there is so much more to the Christian life than most of us are experiencing. There is a power and closeness with God that is only unleashed through believing prayer. A friend of mine often says, “Much prayer, much power. Little prayer, little power. No prayer, no power!” Whatever it takes, may we be tenacious, with a dogged perseverance, to truly know God and learn how to pray. Of all the powerful things on earth, few are more under utilized or less appreciated than prayer. “Lord, teach me to pray,” is probably one of the wisest prayers we could ever pray and truly mean.



