

Gate Breaker News Digest

Matthew 16:18 "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against



Lessons from Watching

"Tick, tick, tick," goes the wristwatch, counting the moments of our lives. In the Bible, the word *watch* is used in a variety of ways. The shepherds kept watch over their flocks (Luke 2:8). There were watchmen in watchtowers that would guard the city. Angels were sometimes called watchers. There was a division of hours for the first, second, third, or fourth watches of the night.

In my book, *Servants of the Third Watch*, I point out that we live in a very significant time, the midnight hour of the third watch, in which the Lord may come!



However, one aspect of the book is simply about the importance of watching. Many times Jesus emphasized this to His followers: "What I say to you, I say to all: Watch!" (Mark 13:37).

The following are various excerpts from the book that reveal both spiritual and practical aspects of watching for Christians.

An Emphasis on Watching

As Christians, we don't normally consider the believer's call to watch, but in many places in the Bible the followers of God were asked to do just that. Sometimes the important thing was to watch simply to see what the Lord would do. There is much for us to learn from these biblical examples.

Animal Hotels

Noah was commissioned to build the ark and bring in the animals, but once this was accomplished he had to watch and see what the Lord would do next. If no waters came, he would have simply built a nice hotel for animals - not a very profitable endeavor. He would have been ridiculed and His faith in God mocked.

Just like Noah, believers are sometimes led by the Spirit to step out in faith in a certain thing and then wait and watch to see what the Lord will do. We might put great effort into a project or ministry in preparation and anticipation. However, there comes a point in time when we have done what we can in our own efforts. Now it is up to the Lord to "rain" upon us from on high, to show that He was the one who called us into the project, and then called us to watch and see what He would do.

If God doesn't get involved, all of our preparations are for nothing. People will wonder if we really heard from the Lord. Eventually, we will even question it. Some may try to cause something to happen in their own strength and say that it is God's involvement. The point is, we come to a place where we can do nothing else but watch for the Lord's outpouring or answer.

Conversely, if the Holy Spirit gives us an assignment, we need to do it in preparation for what

(Continued on page two)



Saint Declan's Day?



"Move over", Saint Patrick! Can you imagine celebrating Saint Declan's day each year? Well, that is what some do in Waterford County, Ireland, on July 24.

Of course, there are many saints who have been honored down through history. So, why should we take special note of Declan? For one thing, Declan ministered in Ireland before Patrick did. This is news to many people, who grew up thinking that Patrick brought Christianity to Ireland.

Though there are differences of opinion by historians, evidence

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shows that Declan of Ardmore predated Patrick, as did Ailbe of Emly, Ciaran of Saigir, and Abban of Moyamey. Also, with Declan, we see numerous miracles associated with him.

Declan was born in Drumroe, in what is now considered west County Waterford in southern Ireland. This is the eastern part of Munster. He belonged to the royal line of the Deisi Muman.

A sign from heaven, a ball of fire blazing on the summit of his home, supposedly appeared on the night of his birth. A priest named Colman came to his parents and prophesied over the child. His parents were converted to Christ, and they allowed Colman to baptize the



I am standing in front of Saint Declan's chapel in Ardmore.



child. Declan received Christian training as he grew.

There is some confusion

between the acts and miracles attributed to Declan and those of another man

named Declan who lived two centuries later. However, one of the things we know about Saint Declan is that he ventured twice to Rome, where he met the Pope!

It is written in the ancient account of his life, that when he

(Continued on page four)

Inside this issue:

Lessons from Watching	1
Saint Declan's Day?	1
Family News	2
Sewing Center Update	2
New Website	2
Ben Franklin and Prayer	3
Mission to Philippines	3

Lessons from Watching (Continued)

the Lord will do at the appropriate time. Noah was instructed to build the ark. If he had insisted that the Lord go first with his plan, what would have happened? How could the floods come before the ark was built? If he had said, "I'm not going to place myself in a position of ridicule before the Lord does His thing," then he would have thwarted God's specific plan of using him. He had to trust in the Lord and what He was saying to him. He had to believe and have confidence that God would not put him in a position of failure.

Today, many are not willing to take a risk for God, even after He has assured them that it will all work out if they will but trust in Him and do what He has asked them to do. They want to see what He is going to do before they take the time to do what He has directed them to do. In other words, they want to put "the cart before the horse." This is not possible. God wants to know our faith level. Hebrews 11 tells us "it is impossible to please God without faith." This has application that is both general and specific.

In a general sense, He tells us to build something that will protect us and those we love from the storms of life. If we say, "I will wait to see if the storms really come before I build," then we will not be protected when those very storms come.

There is also specific application. Someone prays and says, "Lord, I want to own a home." The Lord says, "Start saving your money and watch what I will do for you." However, the individual neglects to save his money and thinks, "That was probably not the Lord speaking to me. He is big enough to give me the home without my saving the money." So he places his faith in the wrong area. God told him to save his money to teach him prudence and patience, but the man had his eyes set only on the goal, rather than the process of attaining the goal. God wanted the man's faith to be built by following a simple plan, but the man wanted to complicate and change it. He tricked himself into thinking that his faith was bigger, supposing that God would simply give him a home. In due time, a home appears that would have been perfect for the man, but he didn't have the money to purchase it or even make a down payment. He would have had the money, but he neglected to follow God's plan and then watch what He would do.

Birth Pains

Consider Abraham; he was powerless to create a babe in Sarah's womb. The Lord had a plan, but Abraham and Sarah had to wait for His timing. The perfect plan would not happen in man's time but in the Lord's. All they could do was watch and wait. Sarah couldn't quite accept God's plan, however, so she asked Abraham to take her hand-

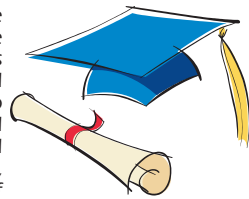
maid, Hagar, and have a child through her. This was man's plan and timing, not God's. The result was the birth of Ishmael. But this was not the only result. Enmity broke out between Sarah and Hagar. It might even be fair to say that confusion was a result.

In Genesis 17:17-18, we see Abraham laughing and questioning what He understood to be the Lord's plan and asking that Sarah's plan, Ishmael, might find the Lord's favor instead. In the next few verses, the Lord gently corrects Abraham and assures him that He will bless Ishmael, but that He will also carry through with His plan of Abraham and Sarah having a child in their old age that they will name Isaac. It is with Isaac that He will establish His covenant.

We know that the Lord's plan and His timing eventually happened and that Abraham and Sarah had their son, Isaac, at a very old age. Hagar was forced to leave and take Ishmael with her. Eventually, both Ishmael and Isaac had children and from their progeny came two great nations, Arabia from Ishmael and Israel from Isaac. Today, there is still great enmity between these nations.

This is an example of what can happen to us when we step out of God's plan and God's timing into our own. We mess things
(Continued on page four)

Someone prays and says, "Lord, I want to own a home." The Lord says, "Start saving your money and watch what I will do for you."



Family News

Congratulations to our daughter, Susanna, who graduated on May 24, 2010, from Capital High School in Boise, Idaho.

Susanna was an outstanding student! She was a member of the national honor society, maintaining a high grade point average, a leader in the student council, a dedicated and successful athlete, a well-liked friend among students, and a compassionate and faithful witness for the Lord!

Susanna's future plans include college, but first she has been invited to do ministry work in Paris, France, from September, 2010, to June, 2011. She was a French student for three years and this is a mission trip. She will be assisting the pastors of The Bon Berger (The Good Shepherd) church in Paris. Robert and Kathryn Baxter are the pastors and the website is www.lebonberger.org.

She has been working to save funds, but she is also seeking financial support. If you would like to donate to this mission, please make checks out to GBM and include her name on a post-it note. Thank you. Congratulations, Susanna! Good job!



Susanna Fleming

Update on GBM Sewing Centers

Khaliq Nagar near Lahore, Pakistan, will be the site of the newest GBM sewing center. Thanks to the contribution of a generous couple in Elk, Washington, many women will be able to receive a year of professional training in a Christian environment. This helps disadvantaged Christian women learn to earn money in a poor, oppressed Islamic society. Currently, we are working on policies with our ministry partner in Pakistan. As soon as this is complete, the new sewing center will begin.

This will be the third GBM sewing center and there may be a fourth one coming. \$1,500.00 can help start a new center, but there is also the need for monthly supplies and support. Would you please pray about donating to this? Perhaps your church could do fund raising. Any amount helps. For more information, visit the website and read the article entitled "Sewing to Live in Pakistan" in the Winter / Spring GBM News Digest. Thanks.

New GBM Website

Please check out the new website look. The updated site will include easier movement within the site, new downloads, and an inter active blog. It will continue to be developed throughout the Summer. Go to the site at www.gatebreakers.com. People can order books or DVDs, sign up for the News Digest, read articles, watch video clips, donate, or contact GBM with questions.



Note to GBM Supporters

To all of you who financially support GBM on a monthly basis, to all of you who have given special gifts, and to all of you who pray for this ministry, I want to thank you. Because of your faithful support, I am able to go and teach in many places.

Furthermore, GBM is able to support various ministries in Pakistan and India, produce and give away news digests like this one, and at times give away books and other publications. Please pray that giving will increase as ministry opportunities continue to expand. Thanks again and may the Lord bless you abundantly!

Dr. Stan Fleming

Benjamin Franklin and Congressional Prayer



Most people remember Ben Franklin for flying a kite in an electrical storm or his many inventions, political influence, scientific experiments, books, and great wit. His great accomplishments put him in a place of high regard by his countrymen. When he spoke, they listened. He spoke some words to the delegates of the Constitutional Convention on Thursday, June 28, 1787, that at first shocked them because of his stinging rebuke. However, upon hearing the wisdom of his words they immediately responded to his pleas by confirming his proposal.

Here is a summary of what the eight-one year old Franklin said: "Mr. President, (George Washington) the small progress we have made after four or five weeks close attendance and continual reasoning with each other . . . In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understanding? In the beginning of the Contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection — Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor. To that kind providence we owe this happy opportunity of consulting in peace on the means of establishing our future national felicity. And have we now forgotten that powerful Friend? Or do we imagine we no longer need his assistance? I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth — that God governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without his aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it'. I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better, than the Builders of Babel: We shall be divided by our partial local interest; our projects will be confounded, and we ourselves shall become a reproach and by word down to future ages. And what is worse, mankind may hereafter from this unfortunate instance, despair of establishing Governments by Human wisdom and leave it to chance, war and conquest. I therefore beg leave to move — that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service."

Congress was so moved by this speech that after Franklin's proposal, Roger Sherman of Connecticut seconded the motion for prayer. Then Edmund Jennings Randolph of Virginia

further proposed that a sermon be preached at the request of the convention on July 4th, the anniversary of Independence just six days from then, and that prayer be given every morning during the remainder of the Constitutional Convention. Prayer was given every morning after, and the convention did meet on July 4th to hear the Word of God. There was now a renewed sense of direction and unity among the delegates and they became effective in their efforts to frame the new government, and so were formed the famous words which begin our Constitution, "We, the people of the United States . . ."¹



Franklin

Franklin considered himself a Deist. However, it should be noted that unlike most modern deists; he believed in prayer, referred to the Bible in positive terms, and adhered to God's intervention in the affairs of men. Also, Franklin was a lifetime friend and supporter of George Whitefield, the popular preacher of the Great Awakening.²

Today, we can thank Ben Franklin that Congress opens each day with prayer. Please remember to pray for our country.

End Notes

1. James Madison, *The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787*, Max Farrand, ed. (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1911), Vol. 1, pg 450-542, June 28, 1787.
2. Ben Franklin, Wikipedia.

Join the GBM Ministry Trip to the Philippines

Would you like to go on a mission trip this November to the Philippines with Gate Breaker Ministries? You can help transform lives. Remember the *Parable of the Talents* that Jesus told in Matthew 25:14-30. Well, here is an opportunity for you to stretch in ministry and to help advance the kingdom of God.

Details are still being worked out, but here are some actions points:

- **Prayer:** Pray about it.
- **Passport:** Get your passport now.
- **Dates:** 10–12 days in mid - November prior to Thanksgiving.
- **Who:** Men, women, & young adults.
- **Location:** in and around Baguio, Philippines.
- **Ministry:** You will be on a team doing ministry to youth, pastors, outreach, evangelism, mercy ministry, and more.
- **Connect:** Call (208) 290-4007 or email sfleming@gatebreakers.com to receive a packet of information and ask about details. This will be an awesome experience. Contact Dr. Stan Fleming

Books FOR SALE



Lasting Legacy: Discover the roots of Christian faith, the facts, legends, people, movements, and miracles from Christ to the Council of Chalcedon in 451AD.



Islam and New Global Realities: Know the current issues, history and doctrines of Islam. Learn what the *Koran* says about Jesus and how it can be used to share the Good News with Muslims.



Servants of the Third Watch is based on a prophetic vision that the Lord gave me about the modern Church. What is the midnight hour of the Church? It may be closer than you think.



Gate Breakers is now in two volumes. Book One equips Christians regarding cults, and Book Two deals with world religions and the occult.

These are great, easy-to-read resource books for individual or group studies. You don't have to be an expert to teach from these. A perfect gift for pastors and students of Christianity.



Book One is also available in Spanish.

BOOK ORDERING:

- **On-line:** Order and pay for books at Gatebreakers.com
- **Price:** \$12.00 each. \$3.50 shipping for one book. Add .50 cents for each additional book. Contact GBM for discount on orders of five or more.
- **Direct order:** Make checks payable to *Gate Breaker Ministries*. Send to: 2508 S. Abaco Way, Meridian, ID 83642. Please specify which books you are ordering.

DVDs FOR SALE

History of the Early Church: Five hours of teaching, including full power point. Learn about what happened to the apostles, how the New Testament was formed, and much, much more. Perfect for church groups or individuals. It includes notes. \$30.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Worship and Prophecy Seminar: Four hours of teaching: The Thirst, The Rain, The Well, & The River. Get washed in the Spirit. \$25.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Darkness to Light - Exposing the Occult: Dr. Fleming shares at a youth event on the dangers of the occult. This video includes his own personal testimony. \$8.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Send check with request to GBM.

Lessons from Watching (Continued)

up and unwittingly create enmity and confusion. We are called to watch, but instead we get involved with our own plan and then ask the Lord to make it His plan. He has His own plan and His is better. I am glad that Abraham is referred to in the Bible as the friend of God and that his belief was counted to him for righteousness. He had to go through spiritual birth pains to learn patience and watch for the Lord's timing. So many of us make mistakes and do things in our own way and timing. It would be easy for us to become discouraged and give up altogether, but, somehow, the Lord is able to bypass even our mistakes and make things turn out for the best. His plan still gets accomplished. How much better it would be, however, if we could simply watch for the Lord's timing and His plan.

Questions about what we see

The prophet Habakkuk adds another dimension to the concept of watching. He prophesied to the nation of Judah just prior to the Babylonian invasion. Habakkuk questioned why God allowed the violence, strife, and contention to continue unchecked in Judah. God answered the prophet saying, "Look among the nations and watch – Be utterly astonished! For I will work a work in your days which you would not believe, though it were told you" (Habakkuk 1:5). The word *watch* comes from the Hebrew word *nabat* meaning "to scan" with the idea of looking intently. To me, it sounds like God – in answering the prophet's question – was telling him to slow down a little bit and to ponder what was happening among the nations.

God goes on to explain to Habakkuk that He would use the fierce and violent Chaldeans by which He would bring judgment upon Judah. This answer astonished the prophet so he inquired why a Holy God would use such a wicked people to punish those who were more righteous than they. He then retreats to his place of watch (watchtower) to see how God would respond.

God answers by telling Habakkuk to "write the vision" that would be used at an appointed future moment. A part of the vision God gave was a contrast between the proud and the just. The proud were not upright in their soul "but the just shall live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4) . . . God also informed Habakkuk that the wicked will give an account of their deeds and that the books will be balanced in His time, not ours (Habakkuk 2:4-20).

The book of Habakkuk gives us the picture that it is right to ask God even the difficult questions if we have the right heart attitude. He is not angry with us for it. . . . He might simply say, "Watch and ponder what I will do." Sometimes this is all we are required to do. It is a part of our watch.

We see wickedness of society around us, and because we care enough to bring it to God in prayer, He reveals to us a greater revelation than we previously had. Our watch has been enlarged. Our horizons have expanded because we have conquered tunnel vision. We have grown in our understanding of how God handles things. We have looked

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Prayer requests: Send us your need and we will prayer for it.

Board Members: Cary Chrisman, Stan Fleming, Ron Hamel, Larry Starke



Dr. Stan Fleming

out past our narrow perspective and have seen the watch from a Godly vantage point.

The Disciples

Then there are the disciples who could do nothing better than to follow Jesus and watch to see what He would do - a healing here, a feeding there, or walking on water, stopping the storm, raising people from the dead, etc. What could they really do but watch and learn from His example and His teachings? His timing was perfect! His plan was perfect!

The one thing that they had to develop was an attitude of expectancy. Every day with Jesus was an adventure of expecting profound teachings, revelations, healings, or other miracles. They had peered with their eyes beyond the natural order of things and into the supernatural eyes of the Master, and they were changed. They were constantly wondering what was going to happen next.

After His Ascension

The next step was to follow the directions of Jesus. He had previously spoken to them about going to Jerusalem where they would watchfully wait for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Once again, they had to go to a place to wait and watch what the Lord would do. They did this by joining together "with one accord in prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:14). Then it happened! The Spirit was poured out, tongues were given, people were saved, and the New Testament church was given genuine birth (See Acts 2).

The people were not only gathered together in unity, but they were expecting something to happen as they watched and waited for the promise of the Lord. The eyes of their hearts were on the Lord. They were in suspense, waiting eagerly for what God would do. Lack of faith was not even an issue at this time. In fact, the word faith is not even mentioned with regard to what happened there. They did not have to build up their faith level. They knew God was going to fulfill His promise and they simply watched for Him to show up and do what He would do.

Christians today could learn from this as they ask God to heal someone or seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit with tongues. We need to get our eyes off of ourselves and on the Lord, knowing that He is going to do something. It might not be in our way or our thinking or our timing, but we need to tarry for Him, waiting with suspense that He will do something amazing. [End of excerpt]

Let us have the patience of Noah, the faith of Abraham, the vision of Habbakkuk, and the expectancy of the disciples. Above all, let us learn to watch what the Lord is doing.

*Note: Excerpts come from S. F. Fleming, *Servants of the Third Watch*, pages 100–109.

Saint Declan's Day? (Continued)

visited Rome: "He therefore received marks of honor and sincere affection from the people and clergy of Rome when they came to understand how worthy he was, for he was comely, of good appearance, humble in act, sweet in speech, prudent in counsel, frank in conversation, virtuous in mien, generous in gifts, holy in life and resplendent in miracles." He was ordained and made bishop by the Pope and sent back to Ireland.²

His ministry work was among the Deisi people, and, today, he is considered the patron saint of East Munster.

Legend has it that he and Patrick first met on Patrick's way to Rome where he would be made bishop. Declan was on his way to Ireland, after meeting the Pope, to begin his ministry. Later, they would meet in Ireland. Declan, who felt called to minister to the Deisi people, was already doing this when Patrick arrived, so Patrick did not minister in that area of Ireland. It would appear that Patrick was older. Declan recognized that Patrick was "chief Bishop" of the Irish island.

Each year, hundreds of people celebrate the life of Declan in Ardmore where he built a monastery. They observe the impact and many conversions, as well as the miracles of healing, protection, and peculiar manifestations associated with Declan's ministry. A round tower still stands at the site of his monastery. Also, there is a chapel that was built later on in the eighth century. In this small chapel, the bones of Declan were buried.

Ireland has a rich history of early Christian influence. No one could replace the unique calling of Patrick to Ireland nor his passion, insight, or impact. Yet, we find as more history is revealed that Patrick was not alone, and not even first, in bringing the Good News of Jesus Christ to Ireland. Declan is honored as being responsible for the conversion of the Deisi people. Others were responsible too. Praise God for those early Christians who surrendered their lives that others might know Christ.

Endnotes

1. Declan of Ardmore, Wikipedia (accessed 5/26/10).
2. Life of Saint Declan of Ardmore, <http://www.ccel.org/d/declan/life/declan.html> (accessed 5/26/10).



Round tower at Ardmore.