



# STRAIGHT TALK

ministries



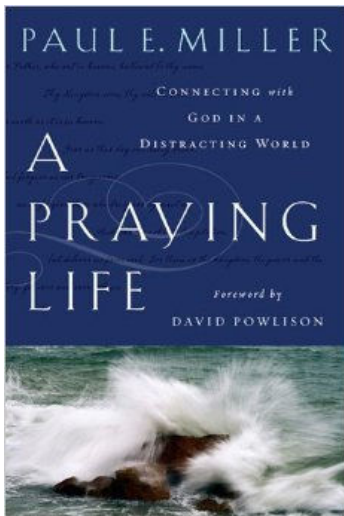
MAY 2015 VOL. 12, ISSUE 1

## Prayer Banking

“What is your fund-raising strategy?” a seasoned pastor asked me when he heard we were leaving local church ministry to pursue speaking ministry. I felt a bit sheepish saying it out loud. “We’re going to pray.” I said. “Oh” The pastor replied unenthusiastically. It wasn’t the first time I wondered if we were out of our minds trying to begin a ministry this way.

Not many people like talking about money and almost everyone hates asking for money. But I think the Straight Talk board would agree that I hate it more than most. I think God knew that if that’s what it took to get our speaking ministry off the ground, Straight Talk might have died an undramatic death in the hanger.

While Straight Talk was still in the dream phase,



Donna and I read a biography of George Mueller, the man known as the Father of the Orphans. This man of modest means cared for thousands of homeless children over decades without ever asking anyone other than God for resources. As we dreamed about the ministry God was leading us into, we believed he wanted to provide for us the

same way. That was fine with me. I was okay with asking **God** for money.

In the early days we prayed the money in. Our faith grew by leaps and bounds. God was never late in providing just what we needed. In fact, every payday for over 20 years, there has been enough money to pay Donna’s and my full

## Goliath’s Tall Shadow Outmatched by David’s Fat Faith

We stood on the hill top and envisioned David’s brave confrontation with the giant in the valley below. When the dirt beneath your feet is the same



dirt that powdered the combatant’s feet, the previously mythic becomes very material. At our leader’s invitation, Randy and I spoke on the precipice of that hill to our Israel tour companions about our thoughts gleaned from 1Samuel 17. We shared how we can “bank” faith compounded on our

*“We also stand off against an enemy who would have us believe we are merely skinny kids. The reality is that we, in our mortality and humanity are outmatched. But the realities that were true for David are true for us. This means we too are responsible to live with awareness of what is going on around us and taking responsibility for it.” ~DC*

## Did you know?

**Straight Talk is attempting to grow our prayer force to 1000 strong.**

*Leaving a Legacy*

salaries. Amazing!

As Straight Talk grew we began to realize we needed broader expertise on the board. Slowly the composition of our board changed to include highly competent business people. As a ministry we became more professional and Donna and I could concentrate more on studying and growing as communicators instead of researching what kind of liability insurance we needed. But we also began to believe we needed to fundraise in order to do what we were called to do.

Interestingly, our fund-raising efforts were never very successful. Despite the time our board spent talking about how to improve the bottom line, we always seemed to finish the year with just enough. Last May two things happened to turn us back to our roots. Our chairperson, Carolyn, told the board she believed God wanted Straight Talk to recruit 1000 prayer partners. On the heels of this, as we began talking about fundraising, Jon Young, our secretary said this: "I've been on the board for five years. In that time we've spent hours talking about how to increase donations. No matter what we try, it always turns out the same. We finish the year with our needs met and little to spare. Why don't we just forget about trying to raise money and spend our time praying instead?"

Jon's suggestion, coupled with Carolyn's impression resonated with the whole board. We decided to become far more intentional about prayer as a ministry; both praying more ourselves, and working to recruit others to pray for us. At our March meeting, we all agreed to read a book by Paul Miller called *The Praying Life* on our own time and discuss it at our monthly meetings. We are loving it. We love what we are learning and we love this return to our roots: radical dependence on God. We hope you pray for us. **Pray that God will provide for paper, stamps, fuel and flights to do what he's called us to do. Pray also for God's anointing so that as we stand before people who will live eternally somewhere, Hearts and Lives will be changed.**

**Please join the Straight Talk prayer force. You can register to receive email updates by going to [randycarter.org/prayer](http://randycarter.org/prayer).**

**To receive updates via text message, text "@stmprayer" to 587-333-2775 and follow the instructions that will be texted to you.**

previous adventures with God—That we should take risks to right wrongs that are offensive to Him—And we are free to be ourselves as we respond to God's assignments with the unique set of strengths and limitations we own.



After our devotional, one of our team ap-

proached us weeping. She thanked us for speaking especially to her. She said, "I have allowed fear to control me my whole life! We prayed with her that God would use the picture of this valley and her internal vision of David's dual to help her trust God with her fear and grow her faith. Then I picked up a small smooth stone and gave it to her. "Let this be your Ebenezer- your monument to help you remember this moment, this picture and this prayer.

*"The Ebenezer stone represented a fresh beginning, a reversal of course for God's people. It also said something important about God: his mercies are everlasting; his covenant is forever."~ from the website Another Think-One Christian's View of Postmodern Life*

The trip to Israel was life-changing for every one of us. It will enrich our teaching and my writing in countless ways. For this woman, it meant beginning again with fresh faith and the awareness that she doesn't have to be the hero of her own story. God already is.

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Straight Talk Ministries  
Donna Carter



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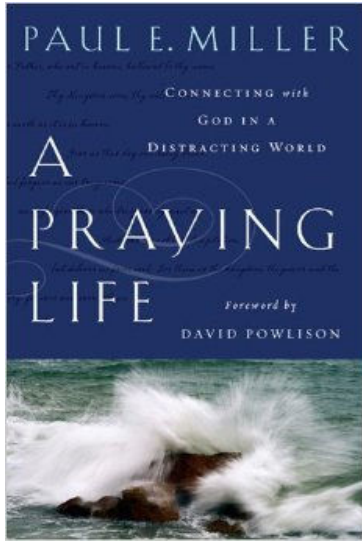
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Straight Talk Ministries finances are annually reviewed by an internal audit committee. Financial statement is available upon request. Tax Receipts are issued annually for gifts over \$10.00. Charitable Registration #0996611-49

Spending of Funds is confined to board approved programs and projects. Each restricted contribution towards a board approved program or project will be used as designated, with the understanding that when the need for such a program has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the board, the remaining restricted contributions designated for such programs or projects will be used where needed most.



HEART CHANGE  
LIFE CHANGE



I want to make a difference by investing in Straight Talk:

- With a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- By Praying.** Join our weekly prayer team.  
Email: [admin@straighttalkministries.com](mailto:admin@straighttalkministries.com)
- I want to support Straight Talk monthly:
  - \$250  \$100  \$75
  - \$50  \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Monthly Giving Options**

- I have included post-dated cheques to Straight Talk Ministries

**Giving on line.**

You can give on line with Visa or Mastercard through Canada helps.

Go to Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=d74727> and you can make your donation there today.

your contact information has changed please let us know:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations can be mailed to:

Straight Talk Ministries  
38 River Rock Crescent SE  
Calgary, Alberta T2C 4J4

**heart change**

**life change**

If