

Western PA
AUGUST 26

2003

campus ministry

This Month's Prayer Needs:

--peace for family and close friends of Dr. Bright as they continue to grieve

--staff and readers to be continually influenced by the humble life and testimony of Bill Bright

--student leaders during this first week of classes as they work to reach out to freshmen

“And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

(Hebrews 6:11-12)

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CSU 2003...

What could be more intense than 90 degree heat, 5,000 people, 10 days in a dorm room (the 11th floor, no less)? On Saturday, July 19, we found out as we grieved the passing of the ministry's founder, Dr. Bill Bright, at our semi-annual staff conference at Colorado State University.

During one of many prayer times between each day's sessions, we had received word that Bright's pulmonary fibrosis had worsened considerably. Thousands prayed fervently that God's mercy would allow him to be healed or taken quickly from what can sometimes be a violent death.

The next day, his wife Vonette flew from Orlando to Fort Collins to grieve with the staff who had been her family for years. A peace from God that passed my understanding radiated from this vibrant, red-clad woman as she shared of God's grace in these final moments with her "beloved."

A bondservant's pledge...

Bright had first given his self-centered life to Christ in his 20's, backed by the fervent prayers of his mother. After signing a written contract to be the Lord's bondservants, Bill and Vonette sensed a call out of their successful business (Bright's Delights) to feed UCLA students the bread of life instead of chocolates.

Bright would then spend 5 decades leading the world's largest Christian ministry, never drawing attention to his own accomplishments, outstanding as they are. The JESUS film and the 4 Spiritual Laws were both his idea and hold records as the most viewed and translated film and religious booklet in history.

In 1996, Bright received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. The entire \$1 million prize was donated to causes promoting prayer and fasting.

A life worth imitating...

Many impressive things could be said and astounding numbers calculated, as the volume of those directly influenced by Bill Bright is unreal. But what struck me most from the nosebleed section of that teary auditorium was the deep affection of this man for his Savior and the humility and compassion that resulted.

As we partner together in reaching the world for Christ, may we be as deeply burdened as Dr. Bright was for the love- and truth-starved world around us.

In Him,