



April 2018

Dear Friend,

Growing up on my parents' dairy farm in Oklahoma, there were two things I could always count on: hard work and my mother's prayers. She taught me the value of both. Even after I grew up and left home, I knew her prayers always followed me.

But years later, as a pastor with a family of my own, I still had one more lesson to learn from my mother about the power of prayer. And it's an experience I will never forget.

It happened when she was 80 years old, just three years before my parents finally sold their dairy cows. When the incident happened, I was home visiting for a few days, trying to help them with the heavy load of running the farm—something I did whenever I could.

There was a little Jersey calf that had been sick for days. Everything possible had been done to bring the fever down and stop her bloody, runny stool, but now she lay unmoving in her pen. The vet could do nothing more, and taking one look at the blood now staining the straw, he said, "This is a dead calf."

I agreed with him. If you've worked with cows on a farm, you know the signs. I'd had better calves than this one die in my arms. This calf was gone. She wouldn't last the night.

After my parents finished milking, Mother called me to go inside the barn with her and pray for the calf. I didn't want to. I was a pastor, but I also knew farming, and this calf was dead. On the other hand, I wanted to be nice to my elderly mother who'd worked and prayed so hard all her life. So, without complaint, I followed her inside.



A little Jersey calf very similar to the one on my parent's farm.

Mom took the lead, but she didn't just pray for the calf. She knelt on the soiled, blood-stained pen and placed her hands on the head of the calf. She prayed with tears rolling down her cheeks that God would perform a miracle and heal the calf!

I couldn't understand it. Why was this calf so important? Mother had many other calves, and she didn't need this one. But the worst part was thinking how disappointed my poor mother would be with God when her prayer wasn't answered! I felt sick about it all evening.

The next morning, we got up early as usual, and Mom asked me to get a bottle and go feed the calf. I almost told her I was sure the calf was dead, but didn't want to speak discouragement and shake her faith, so I did as she said.

As I approached the pen, I will never forget the sight that met my eyes. The "dead" calf was standing up with her tail wagging, wanting her bottle!

Three years passed, and my parents decided to sell the cows. It was time to retire. At the sale, my father pointed to a beautiful Jersey cow. "See that cow?" he said. "That's the calf Mom prayed for!"

More years passed, and now Mom was 92. I was on the farm, and we were reminiscing. Mom said, "Do you know why I prayed for that calf?"

"Sure," I replied, "You wanted to have another milk cow."


"Oh no," she said. "We had lots of cows. It wasn't that at all. The reason I prayed was because I wanted you, my son, to learn to believe in prayer."

Wow! That touched my heart. She wanted me—her preacher missionary son—to believe in prayer! Her tears had not been for the sick calf as much as for me to believe.

I praise God for praying mothers. Her example shaped and enriched my ministry and my prayer life.



This is an actual photo of the "dead" calf, fully grown.



That's why I love Adventist World Radio. It runs on prayer and hard work—the two principles my mother taught me. Every day, the AWR staff gathers to pray, not only here at the General Conference headquarters, but also around the world in the more than 1,000 radio stations and studios.

We pray for our listeners in far-flung, hard-to-reach countries, that the Holy Spirit will touch their hearts...and He does! We pray that doors will open for the preaching of the gospel...and they are! We pray that God will lead people to life-changing decisions for Jesus...and He is!

But we also pray for the thousands of letters we receive. People everywhere are hurting, struggling with health, family, economic, and spiritual problems. Their needs often bring tears to our eyes. It is our privilege to present these requests in prayer before God. His shoulders are broad enough to carry them all...and He does! Just like He carried the little calf.

And as we pray, we also work. I have shared with you the incredible doors that are opening right before our eyes. Things we were told could not be done—God is doing!

Let me share just a few. It's almost as if God is pushing us forward—urging us to finish the work:

- ▶ We now have 40 new churches in Madagascar as a result of our AWR broadcasts—and are expanding! Praise the Lord!
- ▶ From last year to the present, AWR is broadcasting on 26 new stations with many more in the pipeline.
- ▶ We are currently broadcasting in Tokyo, Japan, in preparation for next month's evangelistic events that will take place all across the country—a first for Japan!
- ▶ Plans are underway to send 10,000 solar-powered radios to our 19 media center sites in China for distribution. This is another miracle!
- ▶ A request has come in for 100,000 solar-powered radios for the Middle East. We don't have funds for this right now, but are confident the Lord will provide a way—because He wants His work finished!
- ▶ During the next two years AWR will assist with more than 45,000 evangelistic events across Africa, India, Japan and the Philippines, by opening the way with special AWR programming.

We could not have imagined any of this just a few years ago, but Jesus is coming soon!



I recently read a quote from Ellen G. White that hit home for me, reaffirming the mission of AWR:

“The third angel’s message must go over the land, and awaken the people... The light increases, and it shines out to all the nations of the earth... It will be attended with great power, until its golden beams have fallen upon every tongue, every people and every nation upon the face of the whole earth. Let me ask you, what are you doing to prepare for this work? Are you building for eternity? ... This angel represents the people that have this message to give to the world. Are you among that people? Do you really believe that this work in which we are engaged is truly the third angel’s message? If so, then you understand that we have a mighty work to do, and that we ought to be about it.”
(*Review & Herald*, August 18, 1895)

This is what AWR is all about. Our precious message is to reach every corner with the light of truth! But we cannot do it alone. We depend on your support. It is only as we work together that we can make a difference.

In just a few weeks we will be celebrating Mother’s Day. My dear mother now rests in the blessed hope of the resurrection, as do thousands—even millions—before her. They passed on to us the torch of faith, and now they wait. They are waiting—as is all of heaven—for us to believe God’s promises and finish the work. I want that to be very soon!

Thank you for joining us in this adventure of faith, for being part of the greatest calling ever: the saving of souls for the kingdom of heaven. Together, we can finish the work!

Yours in the Blessed Hope,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Duane McKey'.

Duane McKey
President



P.S. My mother was a great influence in my life, and her lessons on faith—like the “dead” calf—shaped my ministry. Faith is what moves us forward at AWR as we take on our largest outreach projects yet. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. Please take a few moments to fill out the enclosed card. We would love to hear from you and lift your name up in prayer before God.