

FOCUSED LIVING PRAYER June-July 2015

Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:31-32



Whether you are a baseball fan or not, Mo'ne Davis has given us all something to cheer about. And it goes way beyond her dominating pitching performance in the 2014 Little League World Series which inspired a Disney movie about her and resulted in her being named AP Female Athlete of the Year in 2014. This spring, she proved her maturity of character matches her athletic maturity. Her golden arm is connected to a golden heart. Here's what happened.

A Bloomsburg University baseball ball player, Joey Casselberry, sent out a tweet calling Davis a "slut." He also ridiculed the idea of a movie being made about her. The school immediately kicked Casselberry off the team. When 13 year old Mo'ne heard of this, she emailed the school president.

Mo'Ne's email to Bloomsburg University:

Dear Dr. Soltz, I am writing about the Tweet sent out by your baseball player, Joey Casselberry, and his dismissal from the team because of it. While I admit I was pretty hurt when I read his comments, I felt sad that he was dismissed from the team. As many people know, my dream is to play college basketball and maybe even professionally. I know how much hard work and dedication it will take to get there, and to have that dream taken away would be heartbreaking. I am sure Joey Casselberry has worked very hard to get where he is and dreams of playing in the major leagues. For this reason, I'm asking you to please allow him back on the team so that he can continue to chase his dream. He made one dumb mistake. I'm sure he would go back and change it if he could. We all make mistakes and deserve to be forgiven. I hope you will give him a second chance and allow him to play. Thanks. Mo'ne Davis

For his part, Casselberry, a sophomore first baseman and one of Bloomsburg's top sluggers, has apologized.

"An example that one stupid tweet can ruin someone's life and I couldn't be more sorry about my actions last night." - Joey Casselberry, Bloomsburg University

The University still gave him the boot, though a spokesman for the school commended Davis' opinion and maturity.

Men, if a 13 year old girl can go out of her way to extend forgiveness, how much more should we, as Christ followers, be willing to take the initiative to forgive when offended. As we walk through this summer, let's allow our vertical relationship with God to overflow in grace, mercy, and forgiveness towards the people God has sovereignly placed in our lives. Love covers a multitude of sins. (1Peter 4:8)

Ministry Prayer Items

Summer time marks a change in gears for Focused Living. Here are some items that need to be covered in prayer.

FORUMS – for the summer months, the weekly Men's forums are facilitated by the many leaders from within each forum. Pray that the study of Bill Hybels book, *Simplify*, and the corresponding scriptures would help men be better aligned with God's design for them. The initial response has been very positive.

BELIZE MISSION TRIP On **June 11-15**, Perry Bowers and Fred Altman will travel to Belize to lead a conference on Men's Discipleship with the Presbyterian Churches in the country. Pray especially that the male Christian leadership of the country would hear, receive, and implement the challenge to each disciple (meet with every other week for a year!) just one man from his church and community in order to help each other grow strong in Christ.

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP On **July 11-18**, Bill Manley and Derek Gowdy will lead a team to Guatemala to minister in a mountain village. A medical clinic, construction project, children's ministry, and outreach are planned.

PREPARATION Perry and David use the summer months to prepare Men's Forum content for the Fall season. Pray that themes and details would be made clear. We are looking to use the book of Acts for our set of tracks this next year.

PRAYER DESSERT On **June 29**, several men and women from Focused Living will gather to pray for the ministry and the Gospel outreach to men in Columbia.

FINANCES That God would provide the ministry finances He desires to see His Word reach the hearts of men in Columbia and beyond. Year to date short fall, income to expenses, through April is -18%.

Bowers' Family Prayer

Perry & Janet – That Perry would rest and be refreshed this summer before the Fall season of ministry. That Janet, by God's Spirit, may grow to trust and believe Him more and trust Him in prayer for many lives around me that are hurting. Both of them are looking forward with great anticipation to vacationing with grandkids in July!

Andes' Family Prayer

David & Katherine – Continue to pray that David would not miss the lessons God wants to teach him in this season of parenting! The reading intervention job that Katherine has been doing since the 90's is being discontinued at the elementary school where she has been teaching and there doesn't seem to be any open intervention positions in the district. Pray that we both trust God as we wait to see what He has for her.