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THE HARDEST PLACE TO LEARN TO PRAY? AMERICA PAUL MILLER INVITES AMERICAN READERS INTO *A PRAYING LIFE*

Paul Miller has worked in multiple cultures as a teacher, writer, and spiritual mentor—and he’s convinced there is no harder place to learn to pray than America. Why? “We Americans prize accomplishments, production. But prayer is nothing but talking to God—it feels useless—and every bone in our bodies screams, ‘Get to work!’” explains Miller. “Simultaneously, many Americans believe they can do life without God: money can do what prayer does, and it’s more controllable, less time-consuming.”

So how does one learn to pray in America? Miller writes in his new book, ***A Praying Life: Connecting with God in a Disconnected World*** (NavPress, May 2009), that the secret lies in a concept most Americans find shameful: helplessness.

“Jesus wants us to come to him as little children, just as we are,” writes Miller. “The difficulty is that we are messy, helpless and unspiritual. And nothing exposes our powerlessness like prayer. Thankfully, the welcoming heart of God cheers when we come to him as we are. The very things we want to hide—our helplessness, our weariness, our messiness—are what get us in the front door. That’s how the gospel works. That’s how prayer works.”

Paul Miller has personally learned to pray through suffering. From a disabled child and the challenges of parenting to financial difficulties and depression, Paul has experienced his share of life’s challenges. Yet Paul has found prayer to be the spiritual discipline that draws him into God’s larger story. “God’s larger story weaves in and out of our disappointments and joys. Prayer draws us into His story, surprising us with His loving creativity,” Miller writes.

The content of ***A Praying Life*** was originally developed for the *PrayerLife* seminar, which has been attended by thousands seeking to develop a personal prayer life. Within the new book, Miller guides readers to a new understanding of prayer by pointing to God’s larger story and inviting them to discover God within their own stories. He includes the themes of the *PrayerLife* seminar while weaving in stories from his own life (“Prayer is how I do life. I’m not an observer or reporter of prayer. I am a heavy user”).

Miller also shares stories of how prayer has impacted his life and his family (he does his best parenting by prayer), shares insights gained through years of study and prayer (Jesus' teaching on prayer can be summed up in one word: ask), and offers practical advice (such as prayer cards and prayer journals) to help readers pray for every area of life.

Miller is available for interviews this spring. While ***A Praying Life*** is not slated for release until May 15, it has already sold out of its first printing—the publisher has ordered a second printing to meet demand.

Paul Miller is director of seeJesus.net, a discipling mission that develops interactive Bible studies. He is the author of *A Praying Life* and *Love Walked Among Us*, both published by NavPress. Paul is a graduate of Temple University and earned a Masters of Divinity at Biblical Theological Seminary. Paul and his wife Jill are parents of six grown children and grandparents to seven grandchildren. They reside near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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A Praying Life:
Connecting with God in a Disconnected World
By Paul Miller

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