

# GREETINGS FROM GREENVINE



Karen and I have been watching some of the Olympic Games in the evenings the last few days. It is amazing us how much training goes into the lives of these people who desire to compete at this level. Discipline. Order. Rule followers. Proper equipment. Proper clothing. Training. Training. Training. Goal oriented lives. They have a strategy for winning. They study the competition to see if they can take an advantage of any weaknesses they see.

We heard the other night that some of the athletes began training when they were 6 or 7 years old. Some gave up family to train. Most of them wake up long before dawn to train in the early morning prior to going to school or work. Then, go back to training again when finished with responsibilities. One swimmer is in the pool for over 8 hours a day. Some of the athletes work out all day long and have devoted their lives to training for a chance to be the GOAT. Greatest Of All Time. And some will attain such a title.

One of the Chinese competitors in Ping Pong was 13 years old and she is beating women twice her age. Hey. I can beat a 13 year old in Ping Pong. I can hear you laughing here at the church. Stop it. I play a mean game of Ping Pong.

It takes not only a person who is “sold out” to the sport and its training, but also have a huge foundation of people who will help train. Instruct correctly. Work with the physics of the sport. Medical staff who know how to treat physical difficulties and counselors to help with the mental aspect of the high tension games. I am amazed at the many folks who are behind the scenes doing what is necessary for the athlete to progress in their sport and to help them along the way.

One of the Women’s Gymnastics was only 15 years old. What kind of dedication to the sport is needed in order to even get a chance to go to the Olympics. So much training and conditioning.

One of the unbelievable events in the Men’s Gymnastics is called the Still Rings. Two rings hanging from the ceiling and about 10 feet off the ground. The upper body strength is outrageous. They can support their body suspended from the rings and it is called the Iron Cross. Your arms are stretched horizontal and your body is completely vertical and you have to hold it for a certain amount

of time. Did I tell you that they were suspended from two rings that were on ropes completely independent of each other and have the ability to swing wildly.

We were watching a men's swimming event. The winner and the second place swimmer both broke the Olympic record and the world record. However, the winner won by 6 one hundredths of a second. That is .06 of a second.

It's no wonder that they train so hard. Everyone there is trying to be the best they have ever been.

I am reminded of the many times that Paul uses terms that were used in the Olympics back when he was around. He took those thoughts and truths and made spiritual truths out of them.

Paul writes to Timothy in **2 Timothy 2: 5** **"Anyone who competes as an athlete does not receive the victor's crown except by competing according to the rules."** Here Paul uses the picture of staying the course and competing according to the rules. All of the athletes in the Olympics know long before the games exactly what the rules are and how to abide by them. That is similar to the way we are to be obedient to God and to follow what He wants. He wants full control of our lives. He desires that we perform according to His Word. The old hymn is: "Trust and obey, for there's no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."

In **1 Timothy 4: 7 & 8** it reads, **"Train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise both the present life and the life to come."** Paul tells young Timothy that the physical training, like the athletes perform is some value, but godliness is valuable in all things. Godliness is the turning of yourselves fully over to God and what He wants.

We started with Train. Train. Train. Then Perform the way you are being trained.

Paul says in **Philippians 3: 12 - 14**, **"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and spinning toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."** Paul asserts that we must press on. Keep on keeping on. Continuance is the ear mark of Christianity. Don't stop.

In the men's triathlon race a few days ago, the athletes swim 1 mile then bicycle for 25 miles then a run for 25 miles. There was a group of about 20 out of the 60 men who were competing that were together most of the time. They called it a "break away group." They were actually the ones

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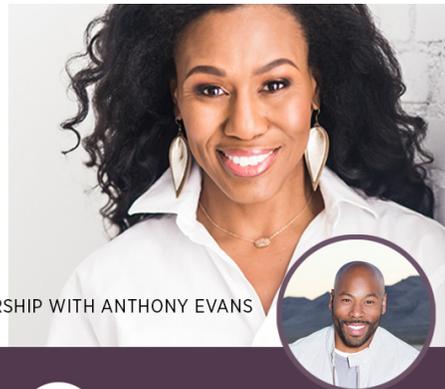
who the announcers said would break away and lead the group throughout the race. Sure enough, they led the entire way in all 3 disciplines. Finally at the running race, it dwindled to 3. The one who had the best chance to win, the one who would probably come in second, and finally a man who had little chance of even finishing the race. But he kept going. When they got about a mile from the finish line, the one who had little odds of winning took off like a shot. He got far enough in front of the other two that when he made the last turn, he looked around and was so surprised that he couldn't even see the other two. He actually slowed down and walked across the finish line. This man was a bit more bulky than the skinny other contestants. But he stayed the course. He ran the race that he was trained for and his hard work and following the strategy paid off with a gold medal. He kept on keeping on.

Let me encourage you to keep up the training. There is so much to learn from the Bible. Keep praying. Live a life well pleasing to God. Love one another the way you know Christ loves you. Finish well. Trust Him now more than ever. Let your life reflect the love of God in all that you do. There is an award for you. Maybe many rewards. Blessings upon all y'all. Jack & Karen

## Announcements

- Wednesday Night Bible Study -Wednesday nights @ 6pm
- Burton Bridge meal - Friday August 6 - Church serves and provides desserts
- Women's Ministry - 2nd Tuesday of each month @6pm - Next meeting August 10 @ 6pm
- Women's Ministry White Cross Workday - Saturday August 21 @ 9am
- Men's Prayer Breakfast - Wednesday August 25, @ 7am

JOIN US FOR THE  
*Going Beyond*  
SIMULCAST  
PRISCILLA  
SHIRER



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 8:45AM-4:00PM**

COST: \$20 INCLUDING LUNCH

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

WOMEN AND TEENS 14 AND UP

REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3BxK4MD>

CONTACT: [wendybethany16@gmail.com](mailto:wendybethany16@gmail.com)

 **Champion**  
Fellowship  
[championfellowship.org](http://championfellowship.org)

## Prayer Requests

Jack - Surgery for removing the kidney stones - August 11

Byron Rutland - Colon Surgery Monday August 9 @ Methodist Hospital

Carol Witte -Beginning to feel better.

Cliff Reed - MRI for his neck and back on Monday August 9

Debbie Reed - Recovery on her wrist

Cliff and Debbie Reed (and their family) in the loss of Cliff's dad.

Carolyn Cox - Having tests run for some pain she has been having. Pray that the doctors will find the answer.

Gerri Smart's daughter Terri is beginning to feel better. She received news that her tumor is shrinking

Denny's Sister is in need of a Kidney Transplant

Becky's granddaughter Taylor who has Cystic Fibrosis and is having health issues

Colin Smith - 18 yr old with a Traumatic Brain Injury. (Patient of Karens)

Joe Durrett - Stomach cancer and heart attack - home on hospice care

Ray and Bev Morris - Bev and been diagnosed with Alzheimers

Sandra Carson's daughter Candace is having some mental health issues

Bob & Sadie Easley - Health issues

Ed Ehring's sister Julie Robison is suffering from Alzheimer's.

Vicky Hoffman - legally blind but her eyes are getting worse

Prayers for those working in health related jobs, for protection. Especially those from our own families:  
Karen at St Joseph - Susan - State School - Zella Johnson