

May 2001

The Meyer Minute for May 7, 2001

After visiting family in China, Gao Zhan, her husband Xue Donghua, and her son Andrew were not permitted to return to the United States. After 26 days China finally released father and son but continue to detain Gao Zhan illegally.

Keyword: Intercessory Prayer

Andrew, welcome to the family of God! 5-year-old Andrew Gao was baptized this past Easter Sunday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in suburban Washington, D.C. What with the spy plane incident, tensions over Taiwan, and so on, I missed the "smaller" story of an American University researcher who has been illegally detained for 84 days in China. Her name is Gao Zhan and she is Andrew's mother. It's not a small story and Andrew's baptism makes it our concern. After all, one of the miracles of baptism is that people who don't know one another are bound together in Jesus Christ and in intercessory prayer.

O God, Your watchful eye is even on the sparrow and Your loving care is inexhaustible. Give success to the efforts being made to bring Gao Zhan home. May the knowledge that we are interceding for this Christian family help sustain them until their longed-for reunion. In Jesus' name. Amen.

See "The Washington Times" of May 3, 2001, p. A18

The Meyer Minute for May 11, 2001

Keyword: Mother's Day

A loving mother's heart for her children is so large that hurts enter from many sides. Simeon told the new mother Mary, "a sword will pierce your soul" (Luke 2:35). How intense her emotional pain must have been some 30 years later when she stood and watched her son Jesus executed on a cross (John 19:26). But how her mourning turned to gladness, how her heart must have burst with amazement when she heard that her Son had risen from the dead!

Easter, resurrection, hope for children that is centered in a Savior alive and present. This fills the heart of the Christian mother. For every such mother we praise God!

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom His world rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for May 14, 2001

Keyword: Caught, Not Taught

Back in the 50's my mom loved "The Perry Como Show" and so that's what we had to watch. Only one TV set per home back then, if even that. Perry Como didn't thrill this kid but it was better than doing homework alone in my room. So when I heard that Perry Como had died this past Saturday, I immediately thought about our family gathered around his show.

Today we have so many electronic gizmos and we're so over committed that we believe the nonsense that a little forced quality time can replace quantity time in an unhurried, loving family setting. It's Monday and your torrent of activity has resumed. Please, plan...when will your family have some quantity time together? Remember, the best lessons are caught, not taught.

Dear Jesus, You invited Your busy disciples to rest with one another and with You. Teach us to do the same. Slow us down. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for May 16, 2001

Keyword: Integrity

Monica and Chandler are to be married tomorrow night on "Friends." How, I wonder, can these non-virgins hope to make a lasting marriage? Since they've both regularly given their most intimate selves to others, how much collateral are they putting up on their vows to suddenly become faithful?

There I go again. I guess God has put a spiritual V-chip in me that turns off sex-driven TV. "God will judge those who sin sexually – whether single or married" (Hebrews 13:4; New Evangelical Translation).

May is sweeps month, one of three months a year when TV ratings help establish advertising rates. Sex sells, so biblical morality isn't the bottom line for most broadcasters and advertisers. Do you watch sex saturated shows? How about your integrity?

Heavenly Father, You have called me to holiness. Your Son Jesus has redeemed me from sexual sins for holy living. Help my viewing habits measure up to my profession of faith. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for May 23, 2001

Keyword: Ascension

Remember the forbidden graduation prayer I wrote about last time? The Chicago Tribune reported that cheers broke out when senior Ryan Brown paused to pray silently before speaking. When he faked a sneeze, many of the 213 graduates yelled, "God bless you!" Ah, the creativity of youth!

Will these youth be vindicated? Yes, eventually. Thursday we remember Jesus' Ascension, when he was removed from our sight so that we should live in faith and hope.

Whatever trials you're facing in your life, do right... in faith and hope. Then, when Jesus returns and all eyes see Him, you'll be vindicated. "Now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith... may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed" (1 Peter 1:6-7).

Do right...in faith and in hope...and with this prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus. Amen."

The Meyer Minute for May 28, 2001

Keyword: Praise

Hug a tree...or at least ponder a plant. "Ye forest leaves so green and tender that dance for joy in summer air. Ye meadow grasses bright and slender, ye flowers so wondrous sweet and fair, ye live to show God's praise alone. With me now make His glory known."

Monday our Jewish friends observe Shavuot, the fiftieth day after Passover. Shavuot is historical because it recalls the giving of the Torah on Mount Sinai and it's agricultural because ancient Jews brought the first fruits of the spring harvest to the Jerusalem Temple.

Christians, take note. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Colossians 3:16), so richly that God will receive from you a harvest of first fruits and praise.

Spirit of God, make me continually receive the Word of Jesus Christ with such great growth that I join nature in praising the God of creation and redemption, the God of life and hope. Amen.

The Meyer Minute for May 30, 2001

Keyword: Goals

Do you have some goals for this time in your life? I suspect that many of us don't.

Why is that? Since people have changed world history, why shouldn't we take charge of our histories? You have a performance review coming up with God, we call it Judgment

Day. While you can depend on Jesus to bring you safely through, why not have in hand many accomplishments from a grateful life? Age, work, family, health, education... you can put these together in such a way that one day you'll hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). You can start by breaking that eternal goal down into smaller goals for this time of your life. "To everything a season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Lord, too often my days lack desire. Help me define the purpose of this day, this summer, this season in my life so that I can live for You with purpose. Amen.