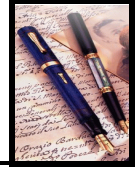


from the desk of
Danny D. Miller



Pumping the Swings

When I was serving as a principal, the school's playground had multiple rows of swings. It was always a mad dash for the kids at recess time to get to the swings and spend as much time as they could swinging. They would get the swings going as high as they could by pumping their legs and when they reached the apex of the swings, they would stop pumping and let the swings gradually come to a stop. Then the process would start all over.

The kids knew they could go for a short time, then they would need to "pump" their legs to get the swings going again. The life of a Christian is like that. There is always the consistent need to "pump" our spiritual life. Spiritual growth takes effort and in a busy society such as ours, there is a great need to "pump up" our spiritual growth even more. Opportunities for growth abound - Bible classes, attending worship services are two ways to grow. Individual Bible study and a time of prayer are excellent means of spiritual growth. Serving with various ministries the church is doing is another way to grow spiritually.

As we consider how to "pump" our spiritual growth, there is a Scripture found in Isaiah 54: 2, that points to this: *"Enlarge the place of your tent, and let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare: lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes."*

Isaiah was simply reminding the children of Israel that they must make room for God in their lives. They must "enlarge the place of their tent" because God's presence will add new dimensions to their life. The church, both individually and collectively, must do the same. We do not "add Christ on" to our busy lives. When Christ is Lord, everything changes and we must keep "pumping" to grow in having Christ be our top priority!

Just like the kids swinging and pumping to keep the swings going, we can do the same as we strive to grow spiritually. Brothers and sisters, "let's keep pumping" for the Lord as we reach a greater height of spiritual awareness!

Blessings,
Danny