



An initiative of WISCONSIN FAMILY COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

An Unexpected Opportunity

Dear Pastor,

The week before last as Dan and I were with pastors at the Capitol, my (Dave's) state representative, Will Penterman, came up to me outside the North Hearing Room and asked if I could come visit him in his office. Dan and I looked at each other both thinking the same thing: "What was this about?" I said sure, and left what we were doing. Once in his office, my representative asked if I would open the state assembly in prayer the following Thursday. I didn't see that coming. It was an unexpected opportunity.

But our goal is to get pastors connected in the Capitol for ministry, and so I asked if we could invite my pastor instead of me. Representative Penterman readily assented to that. Sadly, my pastor, who has connected with our legislators on other occasions, had a schedule conflict. So it was back to me. Again, it was an unexpected opportunity. It happened just because we were already there ministering.



I began praying about my prayer. There were several truths I wanted to be sure to include, with the gospel being first and foremost. The next thing I knew a week had gone by and last Thursday arrived. My opening remarks (short and sweet) and my prayer were prepared. But I woke up with a sore throat and so hoarse I could hardly speak. I didn't feel great but wasn't sick. And I tested negative for Covid. So off I went, asking the Lord to intervene. Paul's testimony kept coming to mind: God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. I certainly needed to experience that.

The Assembly was called to order at 11 a.m. I was on the platform and Representative Penterman stepped up to introduce me to his assembled colleagues. Then all eyes were on me. A powerful feeling of inadequacy rushed over me. But God is faithful. I made a few remarks and then invited them to join me in prayer. Here are the opening words of that

prayer: "Dear Lord, As we bow before you now, we want first of all to say thank you for your amazing grace that made redemption from sin possible. We thank you for paying the price of our sin on the cross of Calvary, and we thank you for your resurrection, which assures us that you have the power of life over death."

99 State Representatives and many of their staffers heard those words. There were other important things in the prayer, but none more important than that gospel message. Many have heard this from us before in the Capitol. Many more need to hear it for the first time, and many need to hear it again. When you join us, it may be that God will give you an unexpected opportunity for gospel ministry. We pray it will be so.

In Christ,



Dan Degner

Director, WFC Church
Ambassador Network
920-204-4447, Cell



Dave Lingle

WFC Church
Ambassador
920-342-1928, Cell

P.S.: If you would like to join us at the Capitol to connect with one or more legislators to pray with and for them, contact Dan (920-204-4447) or Dave (920-342-1928). Call or text. Or feel free to drop us an email: ddegner@wifamilycouncil.org or dlingle@wifamilycouncil.org.

P.P.S.: Some calendar items to note:

- Wednesday, February 15, "Lunch With a Purpose" webinar at noon with guest presenter Katy Faust, author of *Them Before Us*. For details and to register, click [HERE](#).
- February 15, registration for LEAD Wisconsin opens. For details and to register, click [HERE](#).
- Tuesday, February 21, Spring Primary election. Please encourage your people to vote in this critically important primary race for our Wisconsin State Supreme Court and for local offices such as mayor, city council, school board, town/village supervisors, judges, etc.