

## FEAR NOT

***"The angel said to her, 'Fear not, Mary; for you have found favor with God.'" - Luke 1:30***

These words were the preface to what would change Mary's life forever. Up to this point Mary was a young teenage girl who was recently betrothed to a man, Joseph. She is probably consumed with thoughts about her impending wedding, becoming a wife and making plans on what her life will look like in the future. Up till this point we can assume that Mary lived a good life (she did find favor with God after all). Gabriel, an angel delivering his message from God, abruptly interrupted all of Mary's plans.

Then comes the reminder of those words first spoken by the angel, "Fear not, Mary; for you have found favor with God." Those words that she probably thought only had to do with the angel visiting her will be the very words that give her confidence in her current situation. Mary found favor with God and knowing that you have favor with the Creator and Master of all things cancels out fear. Mary clearly understood that she had favor because she sang one of the most beautiful songs in Scripture giving praise to God for what He had chosen her to do. Her very reaction to her situation shows that her trust was in God's plan more than what she could see ahead of hers.

Many of us would probably love to have an angel come down from Heaven and tell us that we have favor with God but most of us would also never want to face the situation that Mary was called into. In that moment, Mary had to give up control of her entire life and let go of all the expectations she ever had for life. Often when God calls us into something great it requires great sacrifice. Most of the time that sacrifice is going to be things that we wanted and our reputation. One of the greatest challenges with Christianity is that the call of Christ requires us to lay down our reputations. In our modern world we see our Christian faith as an improvement on our reputations because we think as Christians we should be better people. However, it is often seen that our faith requires us to lay down our expectations, our plans, and our reputations so that we can shine the light of Christ.



I believe that God is in the business of demolishing the reputation of Jacob Crawford for the sole purpose that He can rebuild Christ's reputation within me. When I no longer care about the reputation of Jacob Crawford, I am capable of going into my workplace and truly doing what the Lord asks of me because there is no fear of what people will think of me. I am free to operate however I feel the Lord leading without having to worry about how each person might respond. Instead the only matter that I am concerned with is that I am fully obedient to Christ.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

- God's continued presence at Nucleus downtown and that He would continue to reveal His love to all
- Covering and protection over Anna and I as we travel to Kansas City at the end of the month
- Wisdom and discernment as we seek his purpose for us in 2016
- Thanksgiving for all He has provided for us this year and for those He has brought around us. We are incredibly blessed beyond what we deserve.
- Blessing and prosperity over Website Workbox, Jacob's business, to provide for our family and our ministry.

## PRAYER IN OLD NORTH DAYTON

In November, I was asked by a local pastor to bring the prayer team from PrayDayton to Old North Dayton for prayer. This pastor has been part of a church plant in that area. Recently some families that were acquainted with this pastor felt led to sell their homes in more suburban neighborhoods to join in the efforts to reach the people in Old North Dayton. The area is largely home to refugees, many of which are Turks, who are Sunni Muslim, which is one of the highest unreached people groups. They felt that God had marked 2016 as a season for breakthrough in ministry and that it would be based in prayer.

Our goal at PrayDayton has always been to come under the leadership of Jesus with all that we do and pray but to also go where God is moving. I gladly accepted the invitation to pray in Old North Dayton and we will be meeting through the month of December on Tuesdays from 1pm to 2pm to pray and ask God for the divine strategy of Heaven on how to reach these people. Please join us in praying during this time.

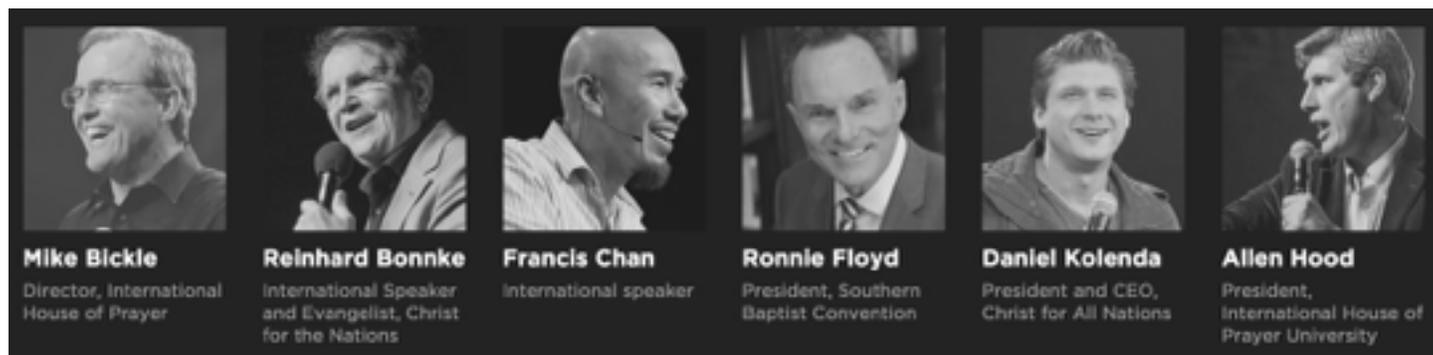
# PRAY DAYTON PRAY ON

OLD NORTH DAYTON

## UPCOMING TRIP TO ONETHING

Anna and I are looking forward to our trip to Kansas City at the end of December. Thankfully we received over half of the expense to make the trip. We are looking forward to receiving some encouragement from a week of worship and teaching. This year has been full of time to pour out what God has given us to share with others but it is always refreshing to be on the receiving end of ministry time too. Recently IHOP-KC posted that Ronnie Floyd, the President of the Southern Baptist Convention, would be one of the featured speakers during the event, which I am extremely pleased to see how this event seems to be a springboard for growing unity within the global church as well as continued support from predominant Christian leaders for the prayer movement.

Check out the conference for yourself at: [IHOPKC.org/onething](http://IHOPKC.org/onething)



### PARTNER FINANCIALLY

**Online Giving** - [www.jakedcrawford.com](http://www.jakedcrawford.com)

**OneThing Trip** - Make checks out to 'Dayton SHOP' and attach a note with '**Crawford - OneThing**' to designate the funds toward the trip.

**Check** - Make check out to 'Dayton SHOP' and attach post-it note with '**Crawford Family**' attached & mail to:

4114 Mapleview Dr.  
Beavercreek, OH 45432

THANK YOU  
Anna and I would like to extend a thank you to everyone who helped us provide Thanksgiving dinner to our local Fire Fighters & Police Officers. We were honored to serve three fire and police stations.