

A MOTHER'S FAITHFUL PRAYING

Although brilliant and well liked, young Aurelius Augustine (354 – 430 A.D.), also known as Augustine of Hippo, lived in utter immorality.

As a youth, Augustine lived a hedonistic lifestyle for a time, associating with young men who boasted of their sexual exploits. The need to gain their acceptance forced inexperienced boys like Augustine to seek or make up stories about sexual experiences.

For more than three decades, his mother, Monica, prayed for him, following him to Carthage, to Rome and on to Milan, weeping, pleading and assaulting heaven with perpetual missiles of prayer.

“The Lord finally answered in wondrous ways,” said Dr. David Jeremiah, author and senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California. In his book, *Turning Points*, Dr. Jeremiah wrote that “Monica’s wild and wayward son became one of the most influential figures in the history of Christianity.”

Among Augustine’s most important writings are *The City of God* and *Confessions*. He became the bishop of Hippo Regius (modern-day Annaba, Algeria).

Alluding to Monica’s faithfulness in praying for her son, Dr. Jeremiah said there was never a distraught parent in the Gospels who came to Jesus on behalf of a troubled child and found Him unresponsive.

“But God’s miracles come in many packages, and He deals with us all differently,” Dr. Jeremiah added. “As we see in the Gospels, for example, Jesus did not always heal in the same way. Sometimes He touched, sometimes He spoke, sometimes He healed in stages, and sometimes He made mud from spittle, smeared it on a person’s eyes and told him to wash it off.

“He custom-designs His aid to fit our circumstances, to develop our souls and to meet our needs. “

Let the story of Augustine and his mother – and the words of Dr. Jeremiah – encourage you.

If you are troubled about a loved one today – and most of us are, whether it be a relative, someone in our circle of friends or fellow church members – trust Jesus and await His special miracle for you.

He gently leads those that have young (Isaiah 40:11 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter