

MOUNTAIN-MOVING PRAYER

A small congregation in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains encountered a major problem when it built a new church home.

A church member had willed the growing church some property on which to relocate and construct a new sanctuary.

Just 10 days before the dedication service, the town's building inspector told members of the church that their parking lot was too small for that size building. He informed the pastor they could not occupy the facility until they doubled the parking.

Unfortunately, they had already taken every usable square foot of their property. The new building backed up to a mountain, so their situation seemed hopeless.

Rather than lose hope, however, the pastor called a special prayer meeting, and asked for those with "mountain-moving faith" to be present.

A couple of dozen people showed up for a prayer time that lasted nearly three hours. With confidence, the pastor said, "We'll open next Sunday as scheduled."

The following morning, the pastor was greeted by a contractor who came with a unique request. He explained his position as the builder of a shopping mall and related a problem they were having finding fill dirt. He asked if the church would be willing to sell them dirt from the mountain in back of their property.

In exchange, he said, the contractor would level the surface and pave it at no charge.

The mountain-movers' prayers had been answered. The church was packed for the dedication service.

No doubt, you are thinking, "So what is the point of this story for me?"

Well, it is this. God is faithful to answer our prayers. And my guess is that each reader of this story today has some kind of mountain he or she is trying to climb. Maybe it's a broken relationship, a financial problem weighing heavily on your mind, concerns at work, a health problem for you or one of your loved ones, or even the death of a spouse or child.

God is in the mountain-moving business. Jesus said it: *For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you (Matthew 17:20 ESV).*

Pray. And depend on Him.

– Beecher Hunter