

Want To Be Bold And Audacious?



Bold and Audacious...these words are pretty much interchangeable in meaning, but they sound even better when put together. What do you think of when you hear those words? I think of people like Amelia Earhart and Indiana Jones, jalapeno peppers and Thai food, or just about anyone who was brave enough to 'head west' on a wagon train.

What doesn't usually come to mind is *prayer*. I've heard of faithful, earnest, and never-ceasing prayer, but I didn't really categorize my prayers as audacious or very bold. I don't know about you, but my prayers are usually of the '*please help her*', '*thank you for that*', and '*forgive me for this*' type of prayer.

There is a term that is used in the business world sometimes – a **BHAG** or **Big Hairy Audacious Goal**. It is a "strategic business statement similar to a vision statement which is created to focus an organization on a single medium-long term organization-wide goal *which is audacious, likely to be externally questionable, but not internally regarded as impossible.*" I like the sound of that.

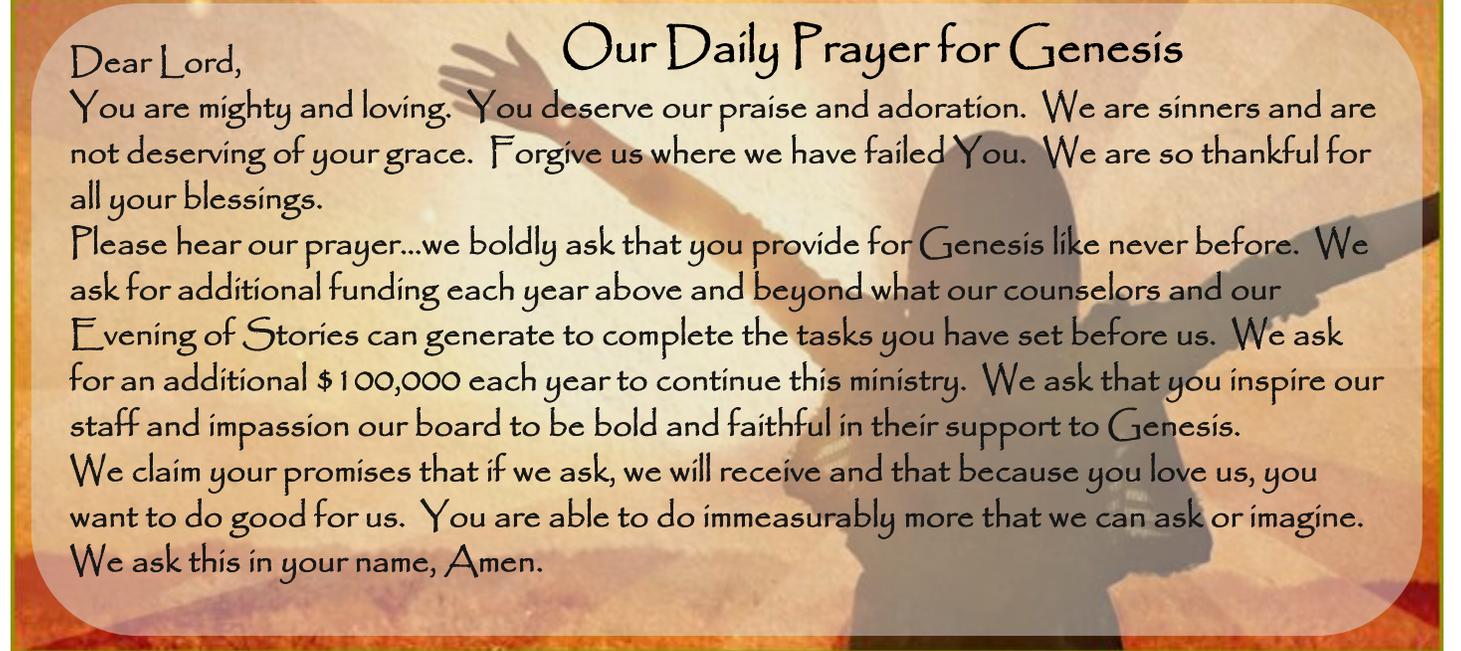
Wouldn't it be great to have a BHAG for your life? Wouldn't it be even better if we had a bold 'prayer' for our life instead? We could come up with our own acronym, like **BHAP 'Bold Hopeful Audacious Prayer'** Believe it or not, God wants us to be bold and audacious when we pray.

The disciples asked Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." (Luke 11:1-13). Jesus answered with what we know as The Lord's Prayer. He then told them a story. In this story, the request of the man is answered, "...because of the man's *boldness*" (ESV) or, "because of your *shameless audacity*" (NIV). I love that! He went on with, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened...If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" It's hard to argue with that.

My pastor has challenged all of our church to a 40-day prayer journey. It started on Ash Wednesday and will end Easter weekend. For some people, I'm sure it was a walk in the park, but for others, like me, it felt like a BHAG to commit to Studying, Observing, Applying and *Praying* (SOAP) scripture for 40 days...in a row. By the time you read this, the 40 days will be over and I hope to have successfully completed my journal. My journey, however, is just beginning.

The concept of praying boldly and audaciously is intriguing to me. I've written down (below) and have been asking God a BHAP for Genesis and I'm excited to see how He responds! I've asked Linda, Cathy & Amy to join me because you know...'where two or more are gathered...' Will you join with us? We would love to hear from you!

Denise



Our Daily Prayer for Genesis

Dear Lord,

You are mighty and loving. You deserve our praise and adoration. We are sinners and are not deserving of your grace. Forgive us where we have failed You. We are so thankful for all your blessings.

Please hear our prayer...we boldly ask that you provide for Genesis like never before. We ask for additional funding each year above and beyond what our counselors and our Evening of Stories can generate to complete the tasks you have set before us. We ask for an additional \$100,000 each year to continue this ministry. We ask that you inspire our staff and impassion our board to be bold and faithful in their support to Genesis.

We claim your promises that if we ask, we will receive and that because you love us, you want to do good for us. You are able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine.

We ask this in your name, Amen.