

## Polly's Pondering

Let Your eyes be open to the plea of Your servant and to the plea of Your people Israel, giving ear to them whenever they call to You. 1 Kings 8:52

I just discovered that the word April is from the Latin verb *aperire* which means “**To Open.**” This of course got me to pondering about **open** things near April. I began to visualize the **open** mouths of baby birds, and the freshly **opening** buds of iris. And the sight of children in spring colors running in and out an **open** door into the spring air to play. I recall Jesus entering through a locked door into the upper room having risen up from the tomb leaving it wide **open**. All around me are signs and sounds of new life springing up. God’s power on display and hope is strong.

The scripture I noted above did not occur in spring but somewhere in the seventh month. It is a part of the recorded prayer of Solomon as he stood before the Temple after it had been completed in Jerusalem. Gathered before him were the leaders of Israel and Judah as the Ark of the Covenant was brought into the city.

Each Sunday as the Word is being read and proclaimed in the House of God known as Franklin Methodist, I stand before the congregation, and ask them to share their prayer requests. I then lift them up in prayer asking God to be **open** to not only hear the prayers of the people but to answer them as well. And just as Solomon could declare the power of God that had been evident in the journey of these people. I too can point to answered prayers, hedges of protection, sustaining power amid grief and suffering, and other evidence of the faithfulness of God to his people in this mission field of Franklin. I believe in prayer and so do you!

Brothers and sisters, I come with to you with a prayer request that is heavy on my heart and I pray that you will be **open** to joining me in prayer. Here is a picture of Amanda, Max and their kids that was taken not too long ago when he returned from active-duty assignment in Egypt. He is a black hawk pilot, and she is a pediatrician ICU Nurse and a nurse anesthetist. They are both believers in Jesus Christ. Amanda grew up in my youth program and spent hours at my home hanging out with my girls. Max came into my life when he fell in love with Amanda. I officiated their marriage, dedicated their children to the Lord, I have prayed with them, laughed with them, and shed a tear or two as well. He has been diagnosed with six huge masses throughout his face, and under his mandible and pharynx. These seem to be the result of a poorly handled tumor removed 8 years ago. I won’t get into those details, but it is difficult not to feel anger at this poorly handled procedure which now has resulted in a serious situation. He is looking at an 8-15-hour surgery to remove the tumors and do what reconstruction can be done. This will be followed by 3-7 days in ICU, and a week or more on the hospital floor as well as six weeks of daily radiation. We need urgent prayer that all of the tumors can be removed without traumatizing major nerves. Everything needs to be removed or he will be looking at doing this process over and over the rest of his life, and if it were to become malignant it would not be survivable.



So today I come before God asking Him, begging Him, to “let His eyes be **open** to my plea and the pleas of His people of faith who are joining in prayer all over the world. Because I still believe the God who brought His people out of bondage in Egypt, can bring Max out of the medical bondage he is now in. I believe our God who raised Christ to new life can restore new life to Max. For I still see and hear the sounds of new life in the world God so loved even today. And I hold to this scripture from 2 Chronicles 7:14 &15

“If My people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be **open** and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.” Amen