

A PRAYING MINISTRY

“Prayer is the main secret of success in spiritual business. It moves Him who can move heaven and earth. It brings down the promised aid of the Holy Spirit, without whom the finest sermons, the clearest teaching and the most diligent working are all in vain. It is not always those who have the most eminent gifts who are the most successful laborers for God. It is generally those who keep up closest communion with Christ and are most instant in prayer, those who pray Ezekiel's prayer (Ez. 37:9). It is those who follow most exactly the apostle's method and give themselves to the ministry of the Word and prayer (Acts 6:4). **Happy is the church that has a praying as well as a preaching ministry.** The question we should ask about a new minister is not merely 'Can he preach well?' but 'Does he pray much for his people and his work?' ”

-J.C. Ryle (1816-1900)