

2022 PRAYER FOCUS:

ONE MISSION — ONE TEAM

ONE LORD — ONE MISSION — ONE TEAM — This theme, adopted at the 2021 national conference of the Missionary Church, is a focus on discipleship. It is about uniting our hearts and minds under the lordship of Jesus to accomplish one mission — the multiplication of disciples. It expresses a desire to see Jesus as Lord of our lives, Lord of our families and Lord of the Church.

OCTOBER PRAYER FOCUS — PRAYING FOR PASTORS

Disciples are people who reflect the character and priority of Jesus. They pursue an intimate relationship with the Father, seek to be holy people, reflect dependence on the Father, care deeply for lost people, are committed to leading others to life as disciples of Jesus, and seek to be the hands and feet of Jesus to a hurting world.

Pastors are disciples who have been called to equip the body of Christ for works of ministry. That calling involves finding the best ways to help believers live as disciples of Jesus and equip them to make disciples of others. While all of us are called to live as disciples and therefore make disciples, pastors are called to continually clarify what it means to live as a disciple and to challenge those who are struggling in their faith.

Leading the body to live as disciples of Jesus in a rapidly changing culture can be overwhelming. As the culture presses in on the church and demands to be noticed and even embraced, pastors often face a dilemma. If they stand on the Scriptures to confront cultural changes, they may very well lose people from the church. If they bow to the culture, they violate the Word of God and then struggle with their own faith.

Pastors have always needed prayer support. There is an enemy bent on destroying the Church, and he loves to attack pastors with feelings of doubt, insecurity, failure, and hopelessness. While the general population could say they experience those same feelings, pastors often feel the doubts, insecurities, and failures of those in the congregation and even in the community. It is amazing the weight that is lifted when a pastor has assurance that there are those who are lifting him to the Lord.

October is known as “Pastor Appreciation Month.” Pray for your pastor(s). Remind them you are praying for them. Pray for their families. Pray the Lord will encourage them and lead them so that they can give leadership to the body of Christ.

1. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might” (Deuteronomy 6:5). “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you” (Matthew 6:33).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for our pastor(s). We praise you for their love for you and that they have been captured by your love for them. We praise you that they seek your Kingdom. Forgive us for times when we have not joined them in seeking your Kingdom first but wanted our own way. We pray that our pastors’ love for you will grow deeper and deeper as they serve you. We pray that your Spirit will work in their hearts in power and that they will continue to lead in seeking first the Kingdom of God and Your righteousness.

2. PURSUING JESUS: “O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land where there is no water” (Psalm 63:1). “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that you are the Satisfier of the soul. We praise you that you refresh us when we are dry, and you renew us. We praise you for pastors who thirst for you — who long to know you more and more. We recognize that ministry can become so demanding that they can become distracted from their pursuit of you. Forgive us when we put undue pressure on pastors to “perform” according to our expectations. We pray you will refresh our pastors as they seek you. Satisfy the longing of their souls.

3. PRAYER AND WORSHIP: “And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed” (Mark 1:35).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that you are accessible to each of us. We can call on you any time day or night. As we look at the life of Jesus, it seems He delighted in the Father’s presence. Forgive us when we have not allowed pastors time to get away with the Lord. We pray they will seek Him early. We pray they will live a life that is full of worship because they have developed a deep intimacy with the Father.

4. A GROWING FAITH: “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen” (2 Peter 3:18).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the faith our pastor has demonstrated as he leads us. We pray that our pastors will grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus day by day. We pray that as they grow, they will find greater peace and that you will take away their worries and fears. We pray that out of a deeper knowledge of you will flow an even greater love for your people. We pray their love for you will grow deeper and deeper.

5. FRIENDS OF JESUS: “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you” (John 15:15)

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you have called us friends. We pray for our pastors that they will know deep friendship with Jesus so that they can serve with confidence knowing they have heard from Him. We pray you guard their hearts and minds from making faith an academic endeavor. We pray they will seek to know you better so that they hear your voice. We pray that other friendships will never replace their friendship with you.

6. GOD'S PRESENCE: "The LORD YOUR GOD IN YOUR MIDST, THE MIGHTY ONE, WILL SAVE; HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS, HE WILL QUIET YOU WITH HIS LOVE, HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH SINGING" (ZEPHANIAH 3:17).

PRAYER: FATHER IN HEAVEN, WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE ASSURANCE OF YOUR PRESENCE. WE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS THAT THEY WILL HEAR YOUR SINGING OVER THEM AND THAT YOU WILL QUIET THEM WITH YOUR LOVE. WE PRAY YOU WILL NOT ALLOW MINISTRY TO ROB THEM OF THE TRUTH THAT YOU REJOICE OVER THEM WITH GLADNESS. WE PRAY YOU WILL DRAW THEM DEEPER AND DEEPER IN RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU SO THAT THEY CAN HEAR YOUR SONG OVER THEM.

7. GROWING IN DISCERNMENT: "IF ANY OF YOU LACKS WISDOM, LET HIM ASK GOD, WHO GIVES GENEROUSLY TO ALL WITHOUT REPROACH, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN HIM" (JAMES 1:5).

PRAYER: LORD, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU GIVE WISDOM TO YOUR CHILDREN. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE WISDOM YOU HAVE GIVEN OUR PASTOR AS HE LEADS THIS BODY. WE PRAY YOU WILL PROTECT PASTORS FROM THE EFFECTS OF SINFUL OR NEGATIVE ATTITUDES THAT THEY ENCOUNTER IN THE CONTEXT OF MINISTRY. WE PRAY THEY WILL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF THEIR NEED FOR GODLY WISDOM. KEEP THEM FROM LEADING ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN UNDERSTANDING.

8. A FRESH ANOINTING: "AND WHEN THEY HAD PRAYED, THE PLACE WHERE THEY WERE ASSEMBLED TOGETHER WAS SHAKEN; AND THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND THEY SPOKE THE WORD OF GOD WITH BOLDNESS" (ACTS 4:31).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU HAVE SENT THE HOLY SPIRIT TO DWELL IN US AND EMPOWER US FOR MINISTRY. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN AND THROUGH THE LIVES OF OUR PASTORS. WE PRAY FOR A FRESH, DIVINE ANOINTING ON THEM. WE PRAY THAT OTHERS MIGHT SEE YOU IN THEM AND THAT THEIR PREACHING, TEACHING, AND LEADERSHIP WILL HAVE THE MARK OF THE EMPOWERMENT OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD. WE PRAY FOR A RENEWED DEPENDENCE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT.

9. REST: "COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST. TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU, AND LEARN FROM ME, FOR I AM GENTLE AND LOWLY IN HEART, AND YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. FOR MY YOKE IS EASY AND MY BURDEN IS LIGHT" (MATTHEW 11:28-30).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE REJOICE THAT IN YOU WE FIND REST. WE KNOW THAT MANY OF OUR PASTORS REACH A POINT OF SPIRITUAL, PHYSICAL, AND EMOTIONAL EXHAUSTION. WE PRAY THAT THEY WOULD REGULARLY COME TO YOU FOR REST. WE PRAY EACH ONE WILL REALIZE THEY CANNOT CARRY THIS MINISTRY LOAD APART FROM YOU. WE PRAY THEY WOULD FIND REST IN BEING YOKED WITH YOU. WE PRAY THEY WILL KNOW THE GENTLENESS OF YOUR TOUCH. WE PRAY YOU WILL GIVE THE CHURCH GRACE TO EXTEND TO PASTORS WHO ARE IN NEED OF TIME AWAY. RENEW THESE SERVANTS, WE PRAY.

10. A GUARDED HEART: "FINALLY, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE STRENGTH OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL" (EPHESIANS 6:10-11; SEE ALSO ROMANS 13:14).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE ARMOR OF GOD. WE PRAY YOU WILL CLOTHE OUR PASTORS WITH THE FULL ARMOR. GUARD THEIR HEARTS. REMIND US TO PRAY FOR THEM REGULARLY. KEEP THEM MORALLY PURE. WE PRAY THEY WILL RECOGNIZE THEIR NEED OF SPIRITUAL ARMOR AND THAT THEY WILL PUT IT ON DAILY. WE PRAY YOU

WILL STRENGTHEN THEM IN THE POWER OF YOUR MIGHT. WE PRAY THEY WILL HAVE AN INNER STRENGTH THAT COMES FROM YOU.

11. NOT ABOUT ME: “YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME, BUT I CHOSE YOU AND APPOINTED YOU THAT YOU SHOULD GO AND BEAR FRUIT, AND THAT YOUR FRUIT SHOULD REMAIN, THAT WHATEVER YOU ASK THE FATHER IN MY NAME HE MAY GIVE YOU” (JOHN 15:16; SEE ALSO JOHN 20:21; MATTHEW 28:18-20).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN PEOPLE TO GIVE LEADERSHIP TO THE CHURCH. WE KNOW THERE ARE MANY ISSUES CLAMORING FOR ATTENTION IN THE CHURCH. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL GIVE OUR PASTORS A CLEAR VISION OF THE MISSION TO WHICH YOU HAVE CALLED US. REMIND THEM OF YOUR CALL ON THEIR LIVES. REMIND THEM THAT THEY CAN DO NOTHING APART FROM YOU. KEEP EACH ONE FROM BEING SIDETRACKED WITH GOOD THINGS.

12. STRONG CHARACTER AND INTEGRITY: “THE AIM OF OUR CHARGE IS LOVE THAT ISSUES FROM A PURE HEART AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE AND A SINCERE FAITH” (1 TIMOTHY 1:5). “FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE DO NOT WRESTLE AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS AGE, AGAINST SPIRITUAL HOSTS OF WICKEDNESS IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES” (EPHESIANS 6:10-12).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR PASTORS WHO REFLECT THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST. WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU CLOTHE THEM WITH YOUR ARMOR. FORGIVE US FOR BEING CRITICAL WHEN WE HAVE SEEN WEAKNESSES INSTEAD OF INTERCEDING FOR THEM. REMIND US THAT THEY AND WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE AND THAT THE ENEMY SEEKS TO DESTROY. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL CLOTHE THEM WITH YOUR ARMOR. PROTECT THEM FROM THE ATTACKS OF THE ENEMY SO THAT THEY CAN LEAD FROM A PURE HEART.

13. THE MIND OF CHRIST: “THEREFORE, AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS THE LORD, SO WALK IN HIM, ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM AND ESTABLISHED IN THE FAITH, JUST AS YOU WERE TAUGHT, ABOUNDING IN THANKSGIVING” (COLOSSIANS 2:6-7).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU THAT WE CAN KNOW YOU THROUGH JESUS. WE PRAISE YOU FOR PASTORS WHO HAVE TAUGHT US TO KNOW YOU. WE ASK THAT EACH OF OUR PASTORS WOULD HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST. WE PRAY THAT THEY WILL BE ROOTED DEEPLY IN HIM AND THAT THEIR LOVE FOR HIM WILL INCREASE. WE PRAY THAT OUR PASTORS WILL LEAD IN A PURSUIT OF HOLINESS SO THAT OUR CHURCHES WILL REFLECT THE LOVE AND CHARACTER OF CHRIST. WE PRAY THAT AS YOUR CHURCH, WE WILL PURSUE A HOLY LIFE SO THAT THE WORLD MIGHT KNOW THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE IN EACH OF US.

14. PERFECTING HOLINESS: “THEREFORE, HAVING THESE PROMISES, BELOVED, LET US CLEANSE OURSELVES FROM ALL FILTHINESS OF THE FLESH AND SPIRIT, PERFECTING HOLINESS IN THE FEAR OF GOD” (2 CORINTHIANS 7:1).

PRAYER: LORD, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU ARE A HOLY GOD — HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS IN ALL YOUR WAYS. WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU CALL US TO BE HOLY AS WELL AND THAT YOU CAN MAKE US HOLY. FORGIVE US FOR NOT ALLOWING THE HOLY SPIRIT TO COMPLETELY CLEANSE US. WE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS THAT YOU WOULD CLEANSE THEM OF ANYTHING THAT IS DISPLEASING TO YOU. GUARD THEIR HEARTS SO THAT THE ENEMY IS UNABLE TO PLANT ANYTHING THAT IS NOT OF YOU. PERFECT HOLINESS IN THEM SO THAT NO ONE CAN BRING A CHARGE AGAINST THEM.

15. CALLED TO HOLINESS: “THEREFORE DO NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE TESTIMONY OF OUR LORD, NOR OF ME HIS PRISONER, BUT SHARE WITH ME IN THE SUFFERINGS FOR THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO THE POWER OF GOD, WHO HAS SAVED US AND CALLED US WITH A HOLY CALLING, NOT ACCORDING TO OUR WORKS, BUT ACCORDING TO HIS OWN PURPOSE AND GRACE WHICH WAS GIVEN TO US IN CHRIST JESUS BEFORE TIME BEGAN” (2 TIMOTHY 1:8-9).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE CALL YOU HAVE PLACED ON OUR PASTOR(S). WE PRAISE YOU FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO NOT ONLY PREACH THE GOSPEL BUT TO SUFFER FOR IT IF NECESSARY. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE CALLING ON THEIR LIVES. KEEP US FROM BEING THE CAUSE OF THEIR SUFFERING, BUT TEACH US TO ENCOURAGE AND FAITHFULLY LIFT THEM TO YOU. WE PRAY THAT THEY WILL FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN CALLED BECAUSE OF THEIR GOOD WORKS BUT BECAUSE OF THE PURPOSE OF GOD. WE PRAY THEY WILL BE REMINDED OF THIS “HOLY CALLING” SO THAT THEY ARE STRENGTHENED AND ENCOURAGED IN THE LORD.

16. GUARD THEIR HEARTS: “BUT FORNICATION AND ALL UNCLEANNESS OR COVETOUSNESS, LET IT NOT EVEN BE NAMED AMONG YOU, AS IS FITTING FOR SAINTS” (EPHESIANS 5:3).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE KNOW, ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD, THERE ARE TWO PATHS — THERE IS THE PATH OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND THE PATH OF WICKEDNESS (PSALM 1). FORGIVE US WHEN WE HAVE TRIED TO KEEP A FOOT ON BOTH PATHS. WE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS. GUARD THEIR EYES FROM WHAT MIGHT TEMPT THEM TO WALK TOO CLOSELY TO THE LINE BETWEEN THE PATHS. GUARD THEIR HEARTS FROM ANYTHING THAT IS UNCLEAN AND DISPLEASING TO YOU. PROTECT THEIR MARRIAGES SO THAT OTHERS WILL SEE YOU IN THEIR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS.

17. THE GOOD NEWS: “AND HOW ARE THEY TO PREACH UNLESS THEY ARE SENT? AS IT IS WRITTEN, ‘HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS!’” (ROMANS 10:15).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE PASTORS, YOUTH WORKERS, AND OTHER BELIEVERS WHO SHARED THE GOSPEL WITH US SO THAT WE MIGHT KNOW YOU. WE PRAY YOU WILL GIVE THEM A SENSE OF URGENCY ABOUT REACHING THE LOST. WE PRAY THE URGENCY THEY SENSE FOR THE LOST WILL BE CAUGHT BY THE REST OF THE CHURCH. USE THEM TO CALL THE CHURCH TO PREACH THE GOOD NEWS. FORGIVE OUR RELUCTANCE TO BE BEARERS OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS.

18. EMPOWERED: “BUT YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS COME UPON YOU; AND YOU SHALL BE WITNESSES TO ME IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE END OF THE EARTH” (ACTS 1:8).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU HAVE NOT LEFT US POWERLESS. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO EQUIPS YOUR PEOPLE AS WITNESSES. WE PRAY ESPECIALLY FOR OUR PASTORS THAT YOU WILL ANOINT THEM AND FILL THEM WITH YOUR SPIRIT TO THAT THEY MIGHT BE YOUR WITNESSES IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE PRAY THEIR MINISTRY WILL EXTEND BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AS THEY EMPOWER OTHERS TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL. WE PRAY OUR PASTORS WILL BE REMINDED THAT THEY ARE NOT ALONE BUT THAT YOU ARE WITH THEM.

19. HE WEPT: “NOW AS HE DREW NEAR, HE SAW THE CITY AND WEPT OVER IT, SAYING, ‘IF YOU HAD KNOWN, EVEN YOU, ESPECIALLY IN THIS YOUR DAY, THE THINGS THAT MAKE FOR YOUR PEACE! BUT NOW THEY ARE HIDDEN FROM YOUR EYES’” (LUKE 19:41-42).

PRAYER: LORD, WE PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR HEART OF COMPASSION. WE PRAISE YOU FOR THIS REMINDER THAT JESUS’S COMPASSION FOR THE LOST BROUGHT HIM TO TEARS. FORGIVE US FOR OUR LACK OF BROKENNESS FOR LOST PEOPLE. WE PRAY YOU WILL KEEP THE HEARTS OF OUR PASTORS TENDER SO THAT THEY HAVE COMPASSION FOR THE LOST. BREAK THE HEARTS OF OUR PASTORS FOR THE THINGS THAT BREAK YOUR HEART. WE PRAY THEY WILL NEVER LOSE SIGHT OF LOST PEOPLE AND THAT THEY WILL LEAD US TO CARE FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT YET KNOW JESUS.

20. A LIGHT: “FOR SO THE LORD HAS COMMANDED US: ‘I HAVE SET YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES, THAT YOU SHOULD BE FOR SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH’” (ACTS 13:47).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A LIGHT IN THE WORLD. WE PRAISE YOU THE DARKNESS WILL NEVER OVERCOME THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL. FORGIVE US FOR THE TIMES WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE WORLD IN DESPAIR INSTEAD OF LOOKING FOR PLACES TO SHINE THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL. WE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS. WE PRAY THEY WILL NOT ONLY BE A LIGHT IN OUR COMMUNITY BUT CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE US TO LET THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL SHINE THROUGH US.

21. UNASHAMED: “FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, FOR IT IS THE POWER OF GOD TO SALVATION FOR EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES, FOR THE JEW FIRST AND ALSO FOR THE GREEK” (ROMANS 1:16).

PRAYER: WE PRAISE YOU, LORD, FOR THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL TO TRANSFORM LIVES. FORGIVE US FOR ANY DOUBTS WE HAVE ENTERTAINED ABOUT THE TRUTH OR POWER OF THE GOSPEL. WE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS, THAT EVEN IN A CULTURE THAT CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE THE AUTHORITY OF YOUR WORD, THEY WILL REMAIN STEADFAST IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO PROCLAIM IT SO THAT PEOPLE MIGHT BE SAVED. WE PRAY THEY WILL REMAIN UNWAVERING IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE WORD AS AN EXAMPLE TO THE CHURCH.

22. LEADING AS A SHEPHERD: “SHEPHERD THE FLOCK OF GOD THAT IS AMONG YOU, EXERCISING OVERSIGHT, NOT UNDER COMPULSION, BUT WILLINGLY, AS GOD WOULD HAVE YOU; NOT FOR SHAMEFUL GAIN, BUT EAGERLY” (1 PETER 5:2).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR OUR PASTORS — FOR THESE SERVANTS TO WHOM YOU HAVE EXTENDED THIS CALLING. WE PRAISE YOU THAT THEY SERVE WILLINGLY AND HAVE WILLINGLY ACCEPTED THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OVERSIGHT OF THIS FLOCK. HELP US BE GOOD SHEEP WHO LISTEN TO YOU AND TO THE SHEPHERDS YOU HAVE GIVEN US. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL EQUIP THEM TO SERVE WITH A SHEPHERD’S HEART — THAT THEY WILL LEAD WITH COMPASSION AND THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.

23. COURAGEOUS PREACHING: “HIM WE PROCLAIM, WARNING EVERYONE AND TEACHING EVERYONE WITH ALL WISDOM, THAT WE MAY PRESENT EVERYONE MATURE IN CHRIST” (COLOSSIANS 1:28).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR PASTORS WHO DESIRE THAT WE BECOME MATURE IN CHRIST — WHO AREN’T SATISFIED THAT WE SIMPLY SHOW UP FOR CHURCH SERVICES BUT DESIRE THAT WE LIVE TRANSFORMED LIVES. FORGIVE US FOR THE TIMES WE HAVE RESISTED THE CHALLENGES AND CORRECTIONS. WE ASK THAT YOU WILL GIVE OUR PASTORS COURAGE TO PREACH YOUR WORD WITH CONFIDENCE AND BOLDNESS. WE PRAY THAT THEY WILL PREACH WITH INSIGHT, TRANSPARENCY, AND HUMILITY. USE THEM TO TEACH US WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS.

24. A SERVANT’S HEART: “BUT WHOEVER DESIRES TO BECOME GREAT AMONG YOU SHALL BE YOUR SERVANT. AND WHOEVER OF YOU DESIRES TO BE FIRST SHALL BE SLAVE OF ALL. FOR EVEN THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM FOR MANY” (MARK 10:43B-45).

PRAYER: FATHER, SERVING IS NOT EASY, ESPECIALLY IF THOSE BEING SERVED ARE UNGRATEFUL OR CRITICAL. WE PRAISE YOU FOR OUR PASTORS WHO SERVE, OFTEN UNDER CRITICISM. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL GIVE EACH OF OUR PASTORS A SERVANT’S HEART. WE PRAY THAT WHETHER YOU HAVE GIFTED THEM AS PROPHETS, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS, OR TEACHERS, THEY WOULD EXERCISE THOSE GIFTS AS TRUE SERVANTS OF CHRIST, AND IN DOING SO, THEY WILL SERVE OTHERS. HELP US, YOUR CHURCH, TO BE GRATEFUL.

25. A HEART FOR REVIVAL: “WILL YOU NOT REVIVE US AGAIN, THAT YOUR PEOPLE MAY REJOICE IN YOU?” (PSALM 85:6; SEE ALSO 2 CHRONICLES 7:14; PSALM 69:32).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR THOSE SEASONS OF REVIVAL WHEN YOU HAVE BREATHED NEW LIFE INTO YOUR CHURCH. WE PRAY THAT OUR PASTORS WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED WITH FULL PEWS BUT THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS SEEK YOU TO

BRING FULLNESS TO THE HEARTS OF BELIEVERS. RENEW OUR PASTORS. GIVE THEM A HEART FOR REVIVAL IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE COMMUNITY.

26. DEEP FRIENDSHIPS: “BUT YOU KNOW TIMOTHY’S PROVEN WORTH, HOW AS A SON WITH A FATHER HE HAS SERVED WITH ME IN THE GOSPEL” (PHILIPPIANS 2:22).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU FOR FRIENDS — FOR PEOPLE WHO WALK WITH US IN THIS JOURNEY OF BEING DISCIPLES. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL BRING TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE INTO THE LIVES OF OUR PASTORS. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL BRING MEN LIKE PAUL INTO THEIR LIVES TO ENCOURAGE AND CHALLENGE THEM IN MINISTRY — MEN WHO WILL PRAY FOR THEM. WE ALSO PRAY THAT YOU WOULD BRING MEN LIKE TIMOTHY INTO THEIR LIVES — MEN IN WHOM THEY CAN INVEST AND SHOW YOUR LOVE AND GRACE. WE PRAY THAT YOU WILL GUARD OUR HEARTS FROM JEALOUSY WHEN WE ARE NOT A PART OF THAT INNER CIRCLE OF FRIENDS.

27. GROWING IN HUMILITY: “HE HAS TOLD YOU, O MAN, WHAT IS GOOD; AND WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE OF YOU BUT TO DO JUSTICE, AND TO LOVE KINDNESS, AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD?” (MICAH 6:8; SEE ALSO GALATIANS 6:14).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU CALL US TO BE YOUR HANDS AND FEET IN THIS WORLD. WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU HAVE CALLED OUR PASTOR TO LEAD US TO MINISTER TO THE NEEDS IN THE COMMUNITY. WE PRAY YOU WILL CONTINUE TO HELP OUR PASTORS WALK IN HUMILITY BEFORE YOU. WE PRAY THAT THEY WILL SERVE WITH PURE MOTIVES AND THAT THEY WILL GIVE YOU GLORY FOR EVERY GAIN AND EVERY VICTORY. TEACH US TO WALK WITH THEM AND SUPPORT THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION IN OUR COMMUNITY.

28. TENDING THE PRAYER HEDGES: “FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL BUT MIGHTY IN GOD FOR PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS, CASTING DOWN ARGUMENTS AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, BRINGING EVERY THOUGHT INTO CAPTIVITY TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST” (2 CORINTHIANS 10:4-5; SEE ALSO MATTHEW 19:6).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE THANK YOU FOR THE POWER OF PRAYER. WE RECOGNIZE THAT WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT HAS BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE BY AN ENEMY OF THE KINGDOM. FORGIVE US FOR LOOKING AT THE WORLD AND ITS SINFULNESS AS THE ENEMY INSTEAD OF SEEING IT AS THE VICTIM OF THE ENEMY. WE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS THAT YOU WILL GRANT THEM DISCERNMENT THAT THEY MIGHT RECOGNIZE THOSE STRONGHOLDS THAT KEEP PEOPLE FROM BELIEVING IN YOU OR FROM FULLY TRUSTING YOU. WE PRAY OUR PASTORS WILL CONTINUE TO REMIND US THAT THE WORLD IS NOT THE ENEMY BUT THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE VICTIMS OF THE ENEMY. TEACH US TO INTERCEDE.

29. DO GOOD: “LEARN TO DO GOOD; SEEK JUSTICE, REBUKE THE OPPRESSOR; DEFEND THE FATHERLESS, PLEAD FOR THE WIDOW” (ISAIAH 1:17).

PRAYER: LORD, WE PRAISE YOU FOR THE NUMEROUS REMINDERS IN SCRIPTURE TO CARE FOR THE WIDOWS AND THE FATHERLESS. WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THOSE IN NEED. FORGIVE US FOR THE TIMES WE HAVE NEGLECTED THESE NEEDS AND EVEN CONSIDERED THEM A BOTHER. WE PRAY FOR OUR PASTORS THAT THEY WILL MODEL COMPASSION FOR THOSE IN NEED — NOT JUST THOSE WITHIN OUR CHURCH BUT ALSO FOR THOSE IN THE COMMUNITY. WE PRAY THAT THE PRESSURES TO “GROW” THE CHURCH WILL NOT DISTRACT THEM OR THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHURCH FROM CARING FOR THESE WHO ARE SO VULNERABLE.

30. ENTERTAIN STRANGERS: “LET BROTHERLY LOVE CONTINUE. DO NOT FORGET TO ENTERTAIN STRANGERS, FOR BY SO *DOING* SOME HAVE UNWITTINGLY ENTERTAINED ANGELS. REMEMBER THE PRISONERS AS IF CHAINED WITH THEM — THOSE WHO ARE MISTREATED — SINCE YOU YOURSELVES ARE IN THE BODY ALSO” (HEBREWS 13:1-3).

PRAYER: FATHER, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU SOUGHT US WHEN WE WERE STRANGERS. YOU WELCOMED US INTO THE KINGDOM. WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU CARE FOR FOREIGNERS. EVEN IN THIS CULTURE OF CONTROVERSY OVER

BUILDING WALLS, GIVE US HEARTS OF COMPASSION FOR THE FOREIGNER. WE PRAY OUR PASTORS WILL LEAD US TO CARE FOR THOSE WHO ARE NEW TO OUR CULTURE AND OUR COMMUNITY. REMIND US OF THEIR NEED OF JESUS. WE PRAY YOU WILL OPEN THE HEARTS OF OUR PASTORS AND LEADERS TO THOSE WHO ARE IMPRISONED. SHOW US HOW TO MINISTER TO THESE NEEDS.

31. DO NOT OPPRESS: “DO NOT OPPRESS THE WIDOW OR THE FATHERLESS, THE ALIEN OR THE POOR. LET NONE OF YOU PLAN EVIL IN HIS HEART AGAINST HIS BROTHER” (ZECHARIAH 7:10).

PRAYER: FATHER, ONCE AGAIN, WE PRAISE YOU THAT YOU CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE AMONG US. FORGIVE US FOR TIMES WE HAVE OVERLOOKED THE NEEDIEST IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE PRAY YOU WILL LEAD OUR PASTORS TO CHALLENGE US TO CARE FOR THE POOR AMONG US. GRANT THEM WISDOM TO KNOW HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO THESE NEEDS. WE BELIEVE WE ARE NOT PRONE TO OPPRESS ANY OF THESE PEOPLE, BUT NEGLECT MAY BE A FORM OF OPPRESSION. TEACH US TO BE GENEROUS.