

2022 PRAYER FOCUS: ONE MISSION — ONE TEAM

ONE LORD — ONE MISSION — ONE TEAM — SHIFT National Conference is now history. The conference theme was ONE MISSION/ONE TEAM all under the authority and leadership of **ONE LORD**. This is certainly consistent with what it means to walk as a disciple of Jesus. Disciples recognize ONE LORD; they are committed to ONE MISSION, and labor as ONE TEAM to accomplish the ONE MISSION.

Imagine being a student walking into school this fall, surrounded by peers who have a totally different worldview, and being instructed by teachers who regularly challenge the Christian worldview. That is the reality many of our students face. For our university students who attend secular schools, the challenges can be even greater.

Imagine being a teacher entering the classroom this fall knowing that if they use a wrong pronoun or refer to their personal faith they could be disciplined. We know that this is not the reality for all teachers, but many school systems are decreasingly sympathetic to Christian values.

Those school boards and school leaders who are trying to maintain Christian values are continually under scrutiny and threats. Added to that is the threat of violence on school campuses. Schools, teachers and students desperately need the prayers of the Church. Praise the Lord for those students who remain strong and have a solid witness for their peers. Praise God for godly teachers who continue to hold to biblical values in spite of threats and potential discipline.

There are so many ways to pray. Prayer walk around the schools in your community. Adopt a teacher to pray for throughout the year. Adopt a student from your church and let them know you will be praying for them. Use these Scriptures and prayers as prayer prompts for your own prayer time to pray for schools, students and teachers.

AUGUST PRAYER FOCUS — PRAYING FOR STUDENTS/SCHOOLS

1. **STUDENTS — guard their hearts:** “Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth

its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper" (Psalm 1:1-3).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that your Word is life-giving and that those who live by it are blessed and fruitful. Forgive us for neglecting your Word and for neglecting to teach it to the next generation. We pray for our students that you will guard their hearts and minds from the counsel of the ungodly and that you will lead them to be students of your Word. We pray your Word will bring them life and peace.

2. **STUDENTS — that they may know Christ:** "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:1-3).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you have called us your children. We praise you for this assurance and also for the promise that one day we will be like Jesus. Lord, our hearts ache for those students who have not experienced your love. Where we have failed to show them your love, forgive us. We pray for students across the country that they will experience your love so that they are filled with hope even in this time when so many are experiencing despair.

3. **STUDENTS — fully devoted followers of Jesus:** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.' Amen" (Matthew 28:18-20).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that we serve under your authority and have the assurance of your presence with us. We praise you for the reminder that many of the first disciples were young people. Forgive us for underestimating what you can do through students. We pray for our students. Assure them of your presence and your power as they walk as your disciples in their respective schools. We pray you will teach them how to walk with pre-Christians and new believers to help them become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

4. **STUDENTS — capture their hearts:** "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for your mercy. We praise you for your power to renew our minds so that we can live according to your will. Forgive us for not modeling a fully committed life to the next generation – for compromising and being conformed to the

values of the world. We pray for our students. Capture their hearts so that they eagerly give themselves fully to you. Renew them day by day so that they do not conform to the pattern of the world. Give them courage to stand strong in their faith.

5. **STUDENTS — guard them from the evil one:** “But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, both that you do and will do the things we command you. Now may the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God and into the patience of Christ” (2 Thessalonians 3:3-5).
PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you are faithful – that you can establish our hearts and guard us from the evil one. Forgive us for entertaining anything that comes from the enemy. We pray for our students that you will establish them. Guard them from the evil one. Direct their hearts into the love of God so that they may stand strong and full of hope.

6. **STUDENTS — may they know their identity:** “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).
PRAYER: Father, when we read Peter’s description of us — your people — we are humbled. We praise you that you didn’t just call us out of darkness, but you called us to something better. You called us to be a royal priesthood, a holy nation — your people — so that we might proclaim your praises. We praise you that you gave us a purpose. Forgive us for becoming so busy and distracted by our own pursuits that we have failed to proclaim your praises. Forgive us for those times when our lives haven’t resembled citizens of a holy nation. We pray for our students that they will live as your special people and that they will realize that they are not alone in this journey — that they are a part of your royal family. We pray that our students will unite together to reach their campuses.

7. **STUDENTS — purify them:** “For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor” (1 Thessalonians 4:3–4).
PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that it is your will to make us holy — to purify us and set us apart for your purposes. We praise you that you created us as sexual beings and that you intended that sexuality be expressed in the safe context of marriage between one man and one woman. We confess that we have misused, abused, and perverted what you intended for a special intimacy within marriage. We know from your Word that holiness involves sexual purity. We pray for our students. Keep them strong in the face of temptation. We pray that their commitment to purity will stand as a witness to others. Keep their hearts pure.

8. **STUDENTS — fill them with the Spirit:** “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 for the power of the Holy Spirit. We praise you that you empower your people to do the work you have given us to do. We praise you for the promise that by your Spirit we will be witnesses. Forgive us for trying to do ministry in our own strength and for being shortsighted in the scope of our ministry. We pray for our students that you will continually fill them with your Spirit that they might be empowered to witness for you wherever you send them. Guard their hearts from the attacks of the enemy.

9. **STUDENTS — that they walk boldly:** “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for young men and women who have chosen to follow you. We praise you for their commitment and love for you. Forgive us for not regarding them as highly as we should. Empower this next generation. We pray they will outpace previous generations in their zeal for the Gospel and in their commitment to live godly lives. We pray you will keep discouragement from their doors. We pray our students will walk boldly as Christ followers.

10. **STUDENTS — that they truly abide:** “I am the vine; you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for the privilege of abiding in the vine, Christ Jesus. We praise you that you have grafted us in and that our lives are in you. We confess that there have been times when we have tried to bear fruit on our own. We pray for students that they will learn to truly abide in you. We pray that as they abide more deeply, and become more and more dependent, their witness on campus will bear much fruit.

11. **TEACHERS — give them strength:** “And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the assurance of your presence. We praise you that as teachers enter schools as your disciples, you are with them, and you will equip them to live as disciples and to engage others. Lord, sometimes Christian teachers feel alone. We pray they will sense your empowering presence in every conversation. Give them strength and courage to boldly live their faith in you. Give them support through the Church and Christian colleagues.

12. **TEACHERS — harvest workers:** “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for the stories we hear of people coming to faith in you all over the world. We praise you for teachers who are trusting in you. We praise you for

those trusting you even when they are faced with ridicule and loss of employment for their faith. Forgive us for our lack of personal involvement in the harvest. We pray for our teachers that they will see themselves as harvest workers, whether they are in public school or teaching in university. We pray you will not allow the enemy to stand in the way of their being used of you. We pray you will also place Christian leaders on every campus who can be an encouragement to teachers in their faith.

13. **TEACHERS — Transform them:** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:1-2).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that you take worldly, ungodly people and transform them so that they can demonstrate what is your perfect will. Forgive us for our reluctance to present ourselves fully to you. Forgive us for those times we have resisted your transforming power and settled for looking more like the world around us. We pray that you will continually transform our teachers to be more and more like you. We pray you will give them faith that you can also transform the most ungodly people on their campus.

14. **TEACHERS — to love the Word:** “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for your Word. We praise you that it provides the correction and instruction we need to live righteously. Forgive us for the times we have tried to live out our faith in our own wisdom. Lord, we pray that you will give our teachers a greater love for your Word. Increase their understanding and confidence in its truth and authority. Help them instill a hunger for the Word in the lives of those they disciple – whether students or colleagues.

15. **TEACHERS — to have boldness:** “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, Father, for the power of the Gospel. We praise you that it has changed us. We confess that in some circles we have been ashamed of the Gospel — embarrassed or fearful to acknowledge our faith. Forgive us. We pray for our teachers. Remind them of the power of your Word. Give them boldness to speak when your Spirit prompts. Keep them from timidity.

16. **TEACHERS — focused on Jesus:** “Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them, ‘If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple’” (Luke 14:25-26).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that the expectations you have of disciples are very clear. These are hard sayings, and we want to gloss over them; but you are clear that our love for you must exceed our love for anyone else. Forgive us for putting anything or anyone ahead of you in our lives. We pray for our teachers that they will be truly focused on you. We pray, too, that in their desire to make disciples, they will not fail to help others count the cost. We pray for a spirit of selflessness as they trust and follow you.

17. **TEACHERS — wisdom for these times:** “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for the promise that you will direct our paths. We praise you that we can rest in you to lead us. When we have trusted in our own understanding, we have been lost. We have made choices that did not help us grow and did not advance the Kingdom. Lord, today we pray for our teachers that they will trust you with all their heart. We pray they will not lean on their own understanding. We pray you give them wisdom to navigate the changing culture while remaining faithful to you. We pray you will direct their paths and give them greater opportunities to advance your Kingdom.

18. **TEACHERS — for discernment:** “How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? *Selah* Defend the poor and fatherless; Do justice to the afflicted and needy” (Psalm 82:2-3).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that while you are a God of mercy, you are also a God of justice. You hold us accountable for our actions. Forgive us individually and nationally for defending the wicked because it served some personal or political agenda. We pray you will help our teachers discern the political movements and help them focus on defending those who are taken advantage of by wicked men. We pray that teachers will be allowed to live their faith freely on campuses across the country.

19. **TEACHERS — for protection:** “Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight. And consider that this nation *is* Your people.’ And He said, ‘My Presence will go *with you*, and I will give you rest.’ Then he said to Him, ‘If Your Presence does not go *with us*, do not bring us up from here’” (Exodus 33:13-15).

PRAYER: Father, Moses prayed that you would show Him the way, that He might know you. You promised your presence. We praise you that teachers can know your presence even when they are in a secular venue. Forgive us for the times we have worried that the noise of the political atmosphere would destroy the sense of your presence. We pray for our teachers as they return to school — public, private, or university — that your presence will go with them. We pray you will show them your way that they may know you. We pray your protecting grace will be with them each day.

20. **TEACHERS — for confidence:** “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 for the power of the Holy Spirit. We praise you that you empower your people to do the work you have given us to do. We praise you for the promise that by your Spirit we will be witnesses. Forgive us for trying to do ministry in our own strength and for being shortsighted in the scope of our ministry. We pray for our teachers that you will continually fill them with your Spirit that they might be empowered to witness for you wherever you send them. Give them confidence in you. Guard their hearts from the attacks of the enemy.
21. **SCHOOLS — for godly leadership:** “Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled” (Hebrews 12:14-15).
PRAYER: Father, we praise you for your grace. We know that holiness is rooted in your grace. Your Word connects holiness not only with our relationship with you but also with our relationships with those around us. We praise you for the people you have put in our lives — even those whom we find annoying and trying. Forgive us for any bitterness or grudges we hold against those who have hurt us in any way. We pray especially for our schools, that you will give leaders courage and grace to pursue peace with all people so that bitterness does not grow in them. We pray they will stand on truth and not public opinion. We pray you will put godly administrators in place in our schools.
22. **SCHOOLS — for wisdom and discernment:** “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow” (Isaiah 1:16-17).
PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you call your people to a higher standard than we would ever pursue on our own. You call us to seek justice and to rebuke the oppressor. Father, forgive our sins of omission — the sin of silence in the face of oppression and the sin of neglecting to seek justice for those who are treated unjustly. We pray for our schools. Give administrators wisdom and discernment to know the truth about matters of justice in our culture. Give them courage to stand for the oppressed. We pray their voice for justice and mercy will be a reflection of your heart.
23. **SCHOOLS — that leaders will find 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: Lord, we praise you for the invitation to rest in you. We praise you for your gentleness toward us. We confess that we get weary, and we know that most of that

weariness comes from carrying the weight of ministry and the needs of others on our own. We need you. Today, we pray for our schools and their leadership. We especially pray for those who are weary — weary with school, weary with choices, weary trying to walk as Jesus walked. We pray they will accept this invitation to be yoked with you and that they will find rest and peace.

24. **SCHOOLS — give leaders a full measure of love:** “Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (Romans 12:15-18).
PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you give us a greater capacity for loving others than we can imagine. Forgive us for not always tapping into that reservoir of love. Forgive us for any jealousy or envy that keeps us from rejoicing with those who rejoice. We pray for our schools that you will keep leaders from thinking they are better than others. Keep them from regarding the rich and famous higher than those of lesser means. Help them demonstrate the fullest measure of your love and grace toward others. Give them hearts of compassion toward those who are bullied.
25. **SCHOOLS — for teachers who abide:** “If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:7-8).
PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, for the privilege of abiding in you. We praise you that in abiding, you give us one mission — bear fruit. Actually, you give us a promise that if we abide in you, we will bear much fruit. Forgive us for thinking we could bear fruit on our own or that we could not bear fruit at all. We pray for our schools that they will be filled with students and teachers who abide in you so that the school might be a place of kingdom fruitfulness.
26. **SCHOOLS — God is doing more:** “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).
PRAYER: Father, we praise you that you are able to do more than we can even imagine. Forgive us for our small thinking. Even our largest dreams and greatest accomplishments pale in comparison to what you desire to do in and through us if we simply rest in you. We pray for our schools that you will remind the leadership that you can do more on a secular campus than they can imagine. Keep them from feelings of inadequacy. Remind them that you are doing more behind the scenes than they can see. Help them rest in you.
27. **SCHOOLS — fill classrooms with truth:** “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever

things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that your Word is true and that you have created a world full of wonder and beauty. You created man in your image, and you have given us the opportunity to know you in all of your goodness. Forgive us for filling our minds with things like envy, jealousy, lust, and hatred. Lord, we pray for our schools. We pray that you will fill the classrooms with truth. We pray that those things that are true, noble, pure and lovely will be celebrated rather than those things that totally violate your Word.

28. **SCHOOLS — give wisdom:** “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind” (James 1:5-6).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you are not stingy with wisdom. Forgive us for frequently ignoring this huge expression of your grace. We acknowledge our need of your wisdom. We need it for life and for ministry. We pray that you will give our school leadership wisdom to know how to navigate an increasingly challenging culture. Increase their confidence in you. Keep them focused on you so that they are not tossed about but rather are able to stand firm on the solid rock, Christ Jesus.

29. **SCHOOLS — for authentic leaders:** “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves” (Matthew 23:15).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you that we have the privilege of being a part of seeing the lives of others transformed. Keep us from being like the Pharisees. We pray for school administrators and school boards that they will live as authentic disciples of Jesus so that others will truly follow you. Guard their hearts and minds from thinking they are better than those around them. Help them lead in a spirit of humility.

30. **SCHOOLS — to be safe places:** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, that you desire a relationship with us. There is no other One like you. Forgive us for the times we put other things in front of you. We pray for our schools that they will be places where students can grow in their love for you and not be hindered. We pray you will be established as the One Lord over schools. We pray that teachers and administrators will recognize your authority.

31. **CHURCHES PRAYING FOR STUDENTS — for intercessors:** “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 Jesus, we praise you that you loved us enough to go to the cross for us. You wept over Jerusalem out of love and compassion. Forgive us for our lack of care for our cities and our schools. We pray that churches will see their schools as a harvest field. Give them hearts of compassion for students and teachers who do not share their values. Help them see the school as you see them. Keep them from becoming insulated and calloused to the needs of students. Raise up intercessors for the schools.