

# 2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

**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).

The greatest need of the human heart is a relationship with Jesus. The deepest longings of the heart can only be satisfied in Him. It is only as the soul thirsts for God that it can be satisfied. Being salt and light do not happen because of better methods or strategies. Being salt and light flows from the soul that thirsts for the Lord - from those who abide in Him.

## OCTOBER PRAYER FOCUS – PRAYING FOR PASTORS

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. These servants carry a greater load than most people realize. The weight of preparing to preach/teach the Word is often heavy because they take seriously that admonition to “rightly divide” the Word of truth. They weep with those who weep and feel that pain of grief as they watch people in the church or community deal with tragic loss. They feel helpless sitting beside the bed of a terminally ill patient. They pray for the right words to say to bring comfort and sometimes they just don’t come. Everyone experiences some of that, but pastors experience it in greater doses over longer periods of time. Pray for them that they will pursue the Lord with all of their heart and that they will find peace and joy in Him. Pray for pastors that they would lead from a place of deep intimacy with Jesus.

### WEEK #1

**PERSONAL REFLECTION - PURE HEARTS:** “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever” (1 Peter 1:22-23).

- Pray for pastors that they will lead with hearts that have been and are being purified by the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for unity among pastors in your community so that the Kingdom might not be hindered.
- Pray that their love for Jesus and the Word will increase from week to week.
- Allow the Lord to impress on you any special needs your pastor(s) might have and pray for them.

### BETHEL UNIVERSITY - GROUNDS

- First impressions matter. Pray that the staff in this department will be used of God to present Bethel in a manner that reflects the beauty of what God has created and provides an inviting atmosphere for students, faculty and visitors.
- Pray they will see this role as a ministry and that God will fill their hearts with joy.
- Pray that God will provide all the resources they need.

### BETHEL HOMECOMING - OCTOBER 4-5

- Pray for God’s presence

## VINIA

- Praise the Lord for the 55 pastors and their families who serve the Vinia Region of the Missionary Church.
- Praise the Lord for the work they are doing in 5 states.
- Praise the Lord for the 21 days of fasting and prayer that they observed last month to seek the Lord for the future.

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR: DAVE DEVRIES

- Pray for Dave who leads as a pastor to the pastors of Vinia that He will lead with a sense of dependence on the Lord.
- Since this is pastor appreciation month, pray that every pastor will sense the smile of the Lord on their lives and ministries.
- Pray that in spite of the great distances between churches - California, Nevada, Colorado, Oregon, Texas and Washington - pastors will be able to connect relationally and build community.

## PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for Dave and his leadership team as they partner on mission together to engage, develop and empower leaders for kingdom movement.
- Pray that God will raise up church planters with a heart for the harvest.
- Pray for God's blessing and equipping as he provides leadership coaching not just for Vinia but for other fellowships as well.
- Pray for Living Oaks Church in Thousand Oaks, California that God will provide:
  - Executive Associate Pastor
  - Student and Family Pastor
  - Worship Leader
- Pray that God will continue to build relationships between Vinia and those who were a part of the Northwest Region (which is now a district of Vinia).

## WEEK #2

**PERSONAL REFLECTION** - "DEPENDENT: "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).

- Pray that pastors will truly abide in Jesus so that they might bear fruit.
- Pray they will have ears to hear what the Spirit is saying and the boldness to follow Him.
- Pray for the Spirit's empowerment for every one of our pastors.
- Pray for intercessors who will pray for pastors - pray that critics will become intercessors.

## BETHEL UNIVERSITY - HEALTH SERVICES

- Pray for these staff members that they will not just treat symptoms that students present but that they will treat students.
- Pray they will have opportunities to minister to more than the physical needs of students and that the Lord will open doors to speak into their hearts.

- Pray the Lord will give students wisdom to practice healthy lifestyles and preserve health.
- Pray that these staff members will be gifted with listening ears.

## CONNECT REGION

- Praise the Lord for the 37 churches and 104 ministers who serve in the Connect Region.
- Praise the Lord for the work they are doing in eight states - Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee.
- Praise the Lord for their monthly ZOOM prayer meetings.

## REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Kevin Beasley

- Pray for Kevin as he gives leadership to the Connect Region and serves as coach and pastor to pastors across the region.
- Pray for strength, stamina, grace, and a keen awareness of his dependence on Jesus.
- Pray that God will use Kevin to bless and encourage the pastors of the region.

## PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for Horizon Bible Church in Palm Coast Florida that the Lord will provide a part-time worship leader.
- Pray that the pastors in this region will lead from a place of abiding in Jesus.
- Pray that God will raise up church planters for this region so that the Kingdom might be advanced.
- Pray that in spite of the great distances between many of these churches that God will unite their hearts and help them develop a sense of community.

## WEEK #3

**PERSONAL REFLECTION - LOOK TO THE HARVEST:** “Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and then comes the **harvest**’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for **harvest!**” (John 4:35).

- Pray that our pastors will never lose sight of the harvest.
- Pray that God will empower pastors to equip the church to be harvest workers and disciple makers.
- Pray that pastors will teach the church to so abide in Christ that they will bear abundant fruit.
- Pray for the harvest field near you that the Lord will send workers.

## BETHEL UNIVERSITY - HUMAN RESOURCES

- Pray for this team that God will equip them to deal with the complexities of compensation, talent management, insurances and safety.
- Pray that God will give them grace as they wrestle with rising costs of insurance and with limited resources to adequately bless staff.
- Pray for God’s abundant provision so that Bethel can meet the needs of faculty and staff.

- Pray that they will always show the grace of Jesus.

## **BUILDING BRIDGES**

- Praise the Lord for the 59 churches and 170 pastors making disciples among the Hispanic community across 10 states.
- Praise the Lord for the focus on prayer and for the regular ZOOM prayer meetings.

## **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Jose Mendez**

- Pray for Jose and Ana as they give leadership to this network of churches that reaches beyond the borders of the U.S.
- Pray that God will continue to use Jose to spearhead church planting in the Hispanic community.
- Pray that the Lord will equip him to build community among the pastors and leaders of this network.

## **PRAYER THE REGION**

- Pray for those pastors who went through a church planting training event a couple of weeks ago that they will be able to use the skills that were taught to plant more churches.
- Pray for God's protection on the marriages.
- Pray for God's abundant provision - many of these planters and pastors are bi-vocational.
- Pray they will all grow deeper in their walk with Jesus.

## **WEEK #4**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION - DISCIPLE MAKERS:** "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).

- Pray that each of our pastors will be engaged in a disciple-making relationship.
- Pray that our church leaders - elders, etc. will also be engaged in making disciples so that this ministry does not just rest on the pastor.
- Pray that each pastor will be encouraged in their ministry - that they will see fruit.
- Pray the Lord will surround our pastors with prayer support.

## **BETHEL UNIVERSITY - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

- In this ever-changing world of technology, pray the Lord will provide the right teams of people who can ensure the tech systems run smoothly.
- Pray the Lord will protect Bethel from cyber-attacks.

- Pray that this team will work with servant hearts and that they will recognize the importance of their work and that what they do matters.

## **NORTH CENTRAL REGION**

- Praise the Lord for the 61 churches and 179 pastors in the North Central Region with churches Indiana and Michigan.

## **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: JOHN GREGORY**

- Pray for John and his wife, Tammy, that the Lord will renew them day by day and that He will fill them with His joy and peace.
- Pray that God will use them to strengthen pastoral families in the North Central Region so that they might be used to multiply disciples.
- Pray that God will grant him wisdom, strength and courage to follow His leading on behalf of the region.

## **PRAYER FOR THE REGION**

- Pray for a broad commitment to prayer and to seeking the heart and mind of the Lord.
- Pray for unity among pastors and churches.
- Pray that God will raise up another generation of pastors to serve these churches and plant new ones.
- Pray that God will continue to use these pastors and leaders to multiply disciples.

## **STAFF POSITIONS NEEDED:**

- Bristol Missionary Church - Bristol, IN - Lead Pastor
- Camden Missionary Church - Camden, MI - Lead Pastor
- Vandercook Lake Missionary Church - Jackson, MI - Lead Pastor
- Warsaw Missionary Church - Warsaw, IN - Children's Ministry Director

## **WEEK #5**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION - HUMBLE SERVANTS:** "But Jesus called them to Himself and said, 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many'" (Matthew 20:25-28).

- Pray for our pastors that they will lead with servant hearts.
- Pray that those in the church who may be critical of pastors will become intercessors who pray faithfully for God's blessing on their pastor.
- Pray that pastors will serve alongside elders and board members who also are servant-leaders.
- Pray for God's leading and anointing on our pastors.

## **BETHEL UNIVERSITY - INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT**

- Pray that God will equip these staff members to find the resources Bethel needs.
- Pray that they will find favor among churches and potential donors.
- Pray the Lord will give them a love for Bethel.
- Pray that God will use them to advance Bethel so that God can use Bethel to advance the Kingdom.

## **PACIFIC RIM**

- Praise the Lord for the 20 churches and 36 pastors in the Pacific Rim Region with churches in Hawaii, California and Florida.
- Praise the Lord for their focus on prayer and seeking the Lord.

## **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Cal Chinen**

- Pray for Cal and his wife, Joy, that the Lord will renew them day by day and that He will fill them with His joy and peace.
- Pray that God will use them to strengthen pastoral families in the Pacific Rim Region so that they might be used to multiply disciples.
- Pray that God will grant Cal wisdom, strength and courage to follow His leading on behalf of the region.

## **PRAYER FOR THE REGION**

- Pray the Lord will unite the hearts of pastors across this region so that they can work together to multiply disciples and churches.
- Pray that God will lead this region as they seek to expand their ministry among Chinese immigrants.
- Pray that the Lord will continue to expand their vision.
- Pray that God will raise up another generation of pastors to serve these churches and plant new ones.

## **STAFF POSITIONS NEEDED:**

- Hilo Missionary Church - Lead Pastor