

## 2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

**“But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:5-6).**

This old Gospel song published in 1912 reflects the sentiment of 1 John 2:5-6. It captures the desire of the heart to be like Jesus — to walk like Jesus in every aspect of life.

### I WOULD BE LIKE JESUS

Earthly pleasures vainly call me,  
I would be like Jesus;  
Nothing worldly shall enthrall me,  
I would be like Jesus.

### Refrain:

Be like Jesus, this my song,  
In the home and in the throng;  
Be like Jesus, all day long!  
I would be like Jesus. — JAMES ROW

Jesus has invited His followers into a relationship that is transformative — a relationship in which He shapes us to be more and more like Him. It is the perfection of the love of God in us and is evidenced by keeping His Word; abiding in Him and walking as Jesus walked. As He shapes us and our love for Him deepens, we reflect His character more consistently and His priorities more faithfully. The more we become like Jesus, the more effective we are as Salt & Light. It could just be that how we walk will speak louder than what we say.

## JUNE PRAYER FOCUS — WALKING AS JESUS WALKED

As we focus on a different region of the Missionary Church and a different department at Bethel University each week, pray that our churches will be intent on walking as Jesus walked. Pray that our pastors and leaders will walk in humility (Micah 6:8) and that each one will demonstrate a deep love for Jesus. Pray that we will be a church that walks in obedience to the Word and abides faithfully in intimate relationship with Jesus. Pray the communities in which we serve will see us as a people who have been with Jesus.

### WEEK #1

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — THIRSTING FOR GOD:** “As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God” (Psalm 42:1-2a).

- The soul is never satisfied until it is satisfied in Christ. Take a moment to consider all of the pursuits you thought would satisfy your soul. Surrender those to Him.
- Are there passions that keep you from pursuing Him with your whole heart? Confess them to Him.
- Ask the Lord to give you a deeper thirst for Him.
- Pray that the people of the Missionary Church will have such thirst for God that will lead us to walk as Jesus walked.

### BETHEL UNIVERSITY — HISTORY AND CONTEMPORARY SOCIETY

- Pray for professors in this department that they will walk with Jesus and that their walk will speak volumes to students about what it means to follow Jesus.
- Pray that students will see the impact Christians have had in history and in contemporary society.
- Pray that students will see that walking with Jesus not only has a place in history and contemporary society but that those who walk as Jesus walked can actually change contemporary society.
- Pray that God will use Bethel students, walking as Jesus walked, to be world changers.

### **EASTERN REGION — Churches in Alabama, Florida, Massachusetts, North Carolina, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.**

Praise the Lord for the increased impact of the Eastern Region. This multi-ethnic region is reaching Latinos, Brazilians, Haitians, Jamaicans, and Anglos. Praise Him that He has raised up leaders for these ministries. Pray the Lord will multiply their number as they walk as Jesus walked.

#### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Jeff Getz**

Pray for Jeff as he gives leadership to these churches:

- Pray the Lord will help Jeff to continue to abide in Christ so that he might lead the region to bear more fruit.
- Pray the Lord will help Jeff walk as Jesus walked even when facing ministry challenges so that the name of the Lord might be praised.
- Pray that Jeff will know the fullness of the love of Christ so that the love of Christ will flow to others.
- Pray for Jeff so that as he walks as Jesus walked, those in the region will recognize that He has been with Jesus.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE REGION**

- Pray for pastors that the love of God will be perfected in them so that they will be obedient to the Word as a testimony to those they lead.
- Pray that the love of God will be so prevalent in the churches in the Eastern Region that pre-Christians will be attracted to Jesus.
- Pray that the people of the Eastern Region will abide in Christ so that they can bear much fruit.
- Pray that pastors and leaders in the Eastern Region will walk in humility as a reflection of the character of Christ.

#### **CHURCH NEEDING A PASTOR**

- Pray for Christ for all Nations Church in Bristol Borough, New Jersey. They are looking for a bi-vocational pastor who is fluent in English and Spanish.

#### **WEEK #2**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — RECEIVE POWER:** “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).

- To walk as Jesus walked is to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray for a fresh filling of the Spirit personally and for pastors and leaders in the Missionary Church.
- Pray that our witness to the world will be a reflection of who we are in Jesus.
- Pray the Lord will give us the humility to serve as a reflection of the humility of Jesus so that our witness touches the hearts of those who are often overlooked by our culture.
- Pray that walking as Jesus walked will mean welcoming the stranger — the ends of the earth that He is bringing to us.

#### **BETHEL UNIVERSITY — KINESIOLOGY/EXERCISE SCIENCE**

- Pray for professors in this department that they will be able to instill in students the wonder and majesty of what God has created in the human body.
- Pray that students will learn how to be salt & light through athletics & physical therapies.
- Pray that students in these fields of study will be bold witnesses for Jesus.
- Pray they will learn to serve and witness with humility as a reflection of their walk with Jesus.

#### **NORTHWEST REGION — Churches in Washington and Oregon**

This week we again encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the Northwest Region, which includes churches in Washington and Oregon. Pray for pastors and leaders in this region as they begin to transition to become a part of VINIA — our Western Region. Praise the Lord for Bob Ransom’s leadership in the Northwest for the past several years.

#### **REGIONAL DIRECTOR: BOB RANSOM/DAVE DEVRIES**

Pray for Bob and Dave as they give leadership through this time of transition.

- Pray they will lead as humble servants so that the pastors and leaders of the region know they can trust them to lead through this next season.
- Pray that God will grant them wisdom and discernment.
- Pray He will grant them favor as they make this transition.
- Pray that this union will result in the advancement of the Kingdom and glory to the Father.

#### **PRAYER FOR THE REGION**

- Pray for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit to bring an awakening in the Northwest that we might see a multiplication of disciples and churches.
- Pray for a renewed commitment by our churches to walk as Jesus walked.
- Pray for a fresh empowerment by the Spirit for each of our pastors and leaders that they might be witnesses for Jesus.
- Pray for pastors that the love of God will be perfected in them so that they will be obedient to the Word as a testimony to those they lead.

### **WEEK #3**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — MAKE YOU COMPLETE:** “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen” (Hebrews 13:20-21).

God desires to do an amazing work in each of us — the work of making us complete in every good work to do His will.

- As you reflect on this passage, where is the Lord working in your life to make you complete and well-pleasing in His sight?
- Pray the Lord will continue to work in you so that you might be equipped in every way to do His will.
- Pray that He will complete the work of making you more and more like Jesus so that others will see Jesus in you.
- Pray for a renewed spirit of submission to the transforming power of His Spirit.

### **BETHEL UNIVERSITY — LITERATURE AND LANGUAGES**

Pray for these professors that they will be able to help students grasp the power of words.

- Pray that students will learn to appreciate the many ways God has used to communicate His Word through the centuries.
- Pray that students will be moved to speak and write about the wonders of God so that others might learn to know and serve Him.
- Pray that God will raise up Christian authors from among these students who will have an impact on the secular as well as the Christian world.
- Pray that students will have an even greater appreciation for the wonder of the Word of God.

### **CENTRAL REGION — Churches in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin**

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR:** KEN SNYDER

**STAFF MEMBERS INCLUDE:** TIM JOHNSON, TRAVIS GEISEL AND LIZ VILLATORO

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the Central Region. Pray for Ken Snyder and his staff as they give leadership to this region.

- Pray for wisdom and discernment for Ken as he leads the region to reflect Jesus.
- Pray for Tim Johnson who is a pastor to pastors that God will use him to encourage and challenge pastors to walk as Jesus walked.
- Pray for Travis as he focuses on the next generation that God will use him to challenge young people and youth leaders to be “all in” for Jesus.
- Pray for Liz, the newest member of the team, that God will bless her in this role and make her complete in Him.

## **PRAYER THE REGION**

- Pray for pastors that God will make them complete in every good work to do His will.
- Pray that He would work what is well-pleasing in His sight in the life of every pastor and leader.
- Pray that each of the churches will reflect what it means to walk as Jesus walked so that the world might believe.
- Pray that pastors and leaders will lead with humility and grace as a reflection of having been with Jesus.

## **CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:**

- Grace Missionary Church, Canby, Indiana — Student Ministries pastor
- Hope Missionary Church, Bluffton, Indiana — Associate Pastor of Middle School Ministries
- Mt. Olive Missionary Church, Peoria, Illinois — Worship leader
- Life Community Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana — KidsLife Director

## **EVENTS**

- Middle School Camp — June 16-19
- High School Camp — June 19-23

## **WEEK #4**

**PERSONAL REFLECTION — ONE BODY:** “For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

- Take a moment to praise the Lord for the body of Christ — diverse as it is.
- Pray none of us would think more highly of ourselves than we should but that we would honor one another.
- Pray the Lord will remind us that walking as Jesus walked involves loving those who do not look like us or speak our language.
- Pray the Lord will increase our capacity to love all in the body of Christ.

## **BETHEL UNIVERSITY — ENGINEERING/COMPUTER SCIENCES**

- Pray for professors in this department that God will use them to challenge students to see engineering and computer science as ministry.
- Pray that God will raise up engineers who can someday manufacture new ways to alleviate suffering in the world.
- Pray that God will open the eyes of these students that they might see ways to advance the Kingdom through their work.
- Pray that the Lord will make them complete for every good work in Him.

## **EAST CENTRAL REGION — CHURCHES IN OHIO with a vision for West Virginia**

**REGIONAL DIRECTOR:** JEFF KEPHART

**STAFF INCLUDES:** Jeff and Jean Gerig

This week we encourage you to pray for the churches, pastors, and leaders in the East Central Region that God will lead them to multiply churches in Ohio and West Virginia.

### **PRAY FOR JEFF AND HIS STAFF**

- Pray that God will use these staff members to expand the body of Christ to other states and people groups.
- Pray they will lead with humility and grace as a reflection of walking as Jesus walked.
- Pray they will see the fruit of their labors as they continue to abide in Christ.
- Pray that God will grant them favor as they expand into new communities.

### **PRAYER FOR THE REGION**

- Pray for unity in the body of Christ throughout the region.
- Pray for an awakening in each church that they might know the fullness of Christ.
- Pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit that empowers people to walk as Jesus walked.
- Pray that pastors will continually seek a more intimate relationship with the Lord and that they will lead with pure hearts, fully dependent on Him.
- Pray that pastors will lead with humility and grace so that people know they have been with Jesus.

### **EVENTS:**

- Kid's Alive — June 21-22
- Kid's Kamp — June 22-27
- Journey Youth Camp — June 27-30