

2024 PRAYER FOCUS: SALT & LIGHT

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him” (JOHN 3:16-17).

This is such incredibly good news. It is the assurance that God’s love for the world — including each of us — gives us hope. By a simple act of faith in the atonement provided by the Son of the living God, we are assured of eternal life. We can’t earn it or purchase it. It is free. As believers, the light has shined into the darkest recesses of our hearts, exposed sin, and through confession and repentance and faith in Jesus, we are set free from the power of sin and death. That is the greatest news in all of the world. As Christ, the light of the world, comes to dwell in us, dispelling the darkness, we become salt and light in a world that is often very dark.

JULY PRAYER FOCUS — LIVING AS DISCIPLES IN A SECULAR WORLD

As disciples of Jesus in a secular world, it is very easy to become critical of lifestyles that do not comply with Biblical standards; become fearful of policies that may restrict the practice of our faith; and become cynical that nothing will ever change. However, as we read the New Testament, it seems that the posture of the disciples was not one of criticism of the culture but compassion that there were people who didn’t know Jesus. They weren’t restricted by the government (although governments tried) but rather prayed for opportunities and for boldness to speak the word even when threatened. They were neither cynical nor discouraged about the future because their message was full of hope. Could it be that if today’s disciples were less critical and more compassion; less fearful and more hopeful we might be salt and light to this generation.

WEEK #1

PERSONAL REFLECTION — “So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me. When I say to the wicked, ‘O wicked *man*, you shall surely die!’ and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked *man* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. Nevertheless if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul” (Ezekiel 33:7-9).

- We are surrounded by people who are living without Christ. How would the Lord have you intercede on their behalf?
- Pray for opportunities to speak into the lives of those who are walking in darkness.
- Continue to ask the Lord to show you how to walk as a disciple so that those around you might put their trust in Jesus.
- Pray that the people of the Missionary Church will be filled with compassion and hope so that they can share that hope with those who are without Christ.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — MUSIC AND ART DEPARTMENT

- 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 for those students who come to Bethel who are not believers that they will encounter professors who have compassion and who will speak into their lives.
- Pray that students will learn the power of music and art to communicate the good news of Jesus.
- Pray that God will raise up worship leaders from this department who will not only connect with the Church but will also be able to relate to pre-Christians.

MICHIGAN REGION

Praise the Lord for the continued focus on prayer and on church planting. Praise Him that pastors are meeting together to pray.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dale Rinke

- Pray for Dale as he gives leadership to the 52 churches and 93 pastors serving in the Michigan Region.
- Pray that God will use Him to communicate the vision for the region: “Every Church mobilizing believers to intentionally lead people to Christ and make disciple-makers.”
- Pray that God will grant him wisdom and favor with churches and communities.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray that the impact of their vision will result in...
 - Every believer being a Spirit-empowered follower of Christ
 - Every follower of Christ being a disciple-maker
 - Every church being a disciple-making, church planting church
- Pray for the regional camps that many will come to faith in Christ:
 - Mancelona Camp — July 21-27
 - Brown City Camp — August 1-11

CHURCHES NEEDING A PASTOR

- Bethel Missionary Church — Yale, MI | lead pastor
- Elkton Missionary Church — Elkton, MI | lead pastor
- New Life Missionary Church — Bay City, MI | lead pastor

WEEK #2

PERSONAL REFLECTION — LOVE GOD: “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself’” (Luke 10:27).

- It is easy to love God, but what about that second part of the command — love your neighbor as yourself?
- Is there a neighbor you have difficulty loving? Pray for them. Pray that you might be a beacon of hope for them.
- Are there people living a particular lifestyle that you have trouble loving? Pray for compassion.
- Are there government leaders you struggle to even like? Pray for them.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — NURSING DEPARTMENT

- Pray for professors in this department that they will be able to instill in students hearts of compassion, not just for the physical body, but for the whole person.
- Pray that students will learn to be messengers of hope even when the diagnosis is dire.
- Pray that students will learn the value of praying for their patients — especially for those who don't know Jesus.
- Pray that students will learn ways of integrating faith as they care for the needs of patients.

GREAT PLAINS REGION

Pray for this region with churches in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Texas.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Andy Petro

- Pray for Andy as he gives leadership to the 26 churches and 59 pastors who make up the Great Plains Region
- Pray that God will use him to lead churches to be multipliers of disciples.
- Pray that “while our churches remain culturally and geographically diverse, we are committed to one central and amazing message of God’s love and forgiveness” — from their website.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for God’s blessing on the Family Camp — July 29 - August 3.
- Pray that God will continue building relationships and partnerships that they might increase ministry effectiveness.
- Pray they will maintain their focus on the Kingdom — focusing more on mission than institution.
- Praise God for their commitment to the Word and to sound theological teaching.
- Pray the Lord will keep them open to the Spirit’s creativity.
- Pray that God will use them to continue to develop and release leaders.

CHURCHES NEEDING A PASTOR

- Hope Missionary Church — Clatonia, NE
- Northwind Church — Keewatin, MN

WEEK #3

PERSONAL REFLECTION — HE SAVES THEM: “Fools, because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, were afflicted. Their soul abhorred all manner of food, and they drew near to the gates of death. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them and delivered them from their destructions” (Psalm 107:17-20).

- Let us rejoice in the fact that God desires to save and we are beneficiaries of that grace.
- As you look at the “fools” who have been afflicted because of their transgressions, would you intercede on their behalf that they might cry out to God?
- Pray the Lord will give you words of faith and healing as you interact with those who are far from Him.
- Pray the Lord will guard your heart lest you become foolish and persist in transgressions that separate you from fellowship with the Father.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

- Pray for professors in this department that God will use them to help students understand how God has uniquely wired each of us.
- Pray that students will be able to rest in who God created them to be and yet understand their own unique sinful tendencies.
- Pray for the mental health of students — especially those who struggle with depression or suicidal ideation.
- Pray that God will call men and women to be Christian counselors who can serve the Church and community with Christ-centered intervention.

VINIA | WESTERN REGION

Pray for this region with churches in California, Colorado, Nevada and Texas. There are additional churches in Washington and Oregon that have recently been added as a district within Vinia.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Dave DeVries

This week we encourage you to pray for the 48 churches and 117 pastors who are a part of Vinia. Pray, too, for the additional 7 churches and 24 pastors from the Northwest who have become a part of Vinia.

- Pray that God will use Dave and his staff to help pastors make meaningful connections.
- Pray that Dave and his staff will be used to develop leaders and equip them for greater effectiveness.
- Pray, too, that God will use Dave and his staff to empower leaders for ministry.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray for God's leading as the former Northwest Region becomes a district of Vinia.
- Pray for meaningful connections with others in the region.
- Pray that God will use this partnership to multiply fruit in the Northwest.
- Pray for unity throughout the region.

CHURCHES NEEDING STAFF:

- Living Oaks Church — Thousand Oaks, CA

EVENTS

- Global Leadership Summit — August 8-9

WEEK #4

PERSONAL REFLECTION — PRAY FOR LEADERS: “Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

- Follow Paul's instruction and pray for those in all levels of leadership so that we might lead quiet and peaceable lives — making disciples of Jesus.
- Pray the Lord will raise up intercessors who will faithfully pray for government leaders that their hearts would be turned toward Him.
- While we live in a secular world, we have the privilege of changing that culture through prayer and relationships. Pray for opportunities to engage with those who do not have faith.

- Pray the Lord will give us hearts of compassion so that we intercede instead of criticizing.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — RELIGION AND PHILOSOPHY

- Pray for the professors in this department that they will help students focus on Jesus and commit to the authority of the Word of God.
- Pray that God will use these professors to equip the next generation of pastors, missionaries and professors.
- Pray for the next generation that God will continue to call young men and women into ministry.
- Pray that these professors will see abundant fruit from their ministries.

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

Pray for this region with churches in Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan.

REGION REGIONAL DIRECTOR: John Gregory

This week we encourage you to pray for John Gregory as he gives leadership to the 61 churches and 150 pastors in the North Central Region. Pray for John as he and his team:

- Work *together* to help pastors be the best pastoral leaders they can be.
- Work *together* to help churches toward health and vitality.
- Work *together* to promote the multiplication of disciple-making communities throughout the region.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Pray that God will bless and lead their church planting network led by Kevin Moore.
- Pray that God will use their residency program to train the next generation of pastors.
- Pray that God will work through GROW: A Training Event for Children's Ministry Leaders. This event is in August.
- Pray for God's anointing on ministry leaders across the region.

EVENTS:

- Family Camp — July 14-20

WEEK #5

PERSONAL REFLECTION — PEACE: And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace" (Jeremiah 29:7).

- We celebrate that this world is not our home. Truly we are just passing through. The Lord reminds us to pray for the city where He has taken us.
- As you think about your city, what would the Lord have you pray? What are the greatest needs?
- Pray the Lord will give you a burden to see your city or community transformed by the Spirit of God.
- Pray for an army of intercessors who will faithfully pray for your city.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY — THEATRE DEPARTMENT

- Pray for the professors in this department that God will use them to tap into the creative gifts of students who choose to be a part of theatre.
- Pray they will learn creative ways to tell the story of Jesus and other Biblical stories.

- Pray that Christian students from this department will enter an entertainment industry that desperately needs a Christian witness.
- Pray for those students who do not know Jesus that they will encounter Him while at Bethel.

CONNECT REGION

Pray for the Connect Region with churches in Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

REGIONAL DIRECTOR: Kevin Beasley

- Pray for Kevin as he gives leadership to the 39 churches and 11 pastors serving in the Connect Region.
- Pray that God will use him to unite this geographically and ethnically diverse region.
- Pray that God will grant him wisdom and discernment.

PRAYER FOR THE REGION

- Many churches in this region are new churches — some are led by bi-vocational pastors. Pray for God's provision.
- Praise the Lord for the expansion of churches throughout the South — for many years we had no churches in the South except for Florida and a couple in Kentucky. God is working.
- Pray the Lord will continue to multiply churches throughout this region.

STAFF NEEDED

- Part-time worship leader in Palm Coast, Florida