

2025 PRAYER FOCUS: HIS STORY

“Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you” (Mark 5:19).

As we continue to look ahead to the 2025 National Conference that will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, we embrace the theme of “This is my Story.”

“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).

Jesus looked at the multitudes and saw their brokenness. That brokenness gripped His heart and He wept. His compassion is unmatched. His love is beyond bounds, and we are the objects of His love and recipients of his compassion. Because we are blessed in so many ways, we can lose sight of where we were before Jesus. Because we live in a world that is far from God, it is easy to retreat into our safe places of worship and look out at the world, criticizing them for their lifestyle choices, their political views, and their absence from any church. Jesus, on the other hand, looked on the crowds and saw them as broken—as sheep without a shepherd, people who had no peace—and He wept.

APRIL PRAYER FOCUS — BROKENNESS FOR LOST PEOPLE

A major part of your story is that someone prayed for you. You were lost and far from God and someone prayed for you. Depending on the length of your journey toward Christ or the depths of your involvement in a sinful lifestyle, those who loved you may very well have wept for you – crying tears of anguish because you did not know Jesus. Most people don’t weep for lost people, until Jesus breaks their hearts over someone they love who does not know Jesus. Could it be that God wants to break our hearts, not just for lost family members but for the people on our streets? Are we willing to be broken to become intercessors for lost people?

PRAY FOR THESE KEY EVENTS THIS MONTH:

- Caribbean Regional Conference – April 5
- Great Plains Regional – Women’s Retreat – April 4-5
- Prayer Coordinator Conference calls – April 15
- East Central Regional Conference – April 24
- Michigan Regional Conference – April 29

WEEK #1 – April 1-7

This week, pray for the Leadership of the Missionary Church – for Rodney Arnold. Pray also for Regional Directors and members of the MLC/GOC, that all of their praying, planning, and strategies will flow from hearts that are broken for lost people, and that they will never lose sight of the harvest.

Pray that God will give them eyes to see the harvest as He sees it. Pray they will not just see fields that are ripe, but that they will see the faces of people who are lost, broken, and like sheep without a shepherd.

Pray they will have their own stories of working in the harvest and seeing fruit. Pray that in the midst of their busy schedules there will still be room for pre-Christians, and that God will use them to invite others into Jesus' story.

Allow the Holy Spirit to use the following Scriptures and prayers to inform your prayers for our national leaders. Your prayers matter more than you will ever realize.

Tuesday, April 1

“The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom is justified by her children” (Matthew 11:19).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you that we have leaders who are neither afraid nor embarrassed to spend time with lost people – leaders who challenge and encourage the rest of the body of Christ to be engaged with the “tax collectors and sinners” of our day: the outcasts and marginalized. We pray you will grant them favor among sinners, so that they might speak the name of Jesus and have the privilege of leading others to faith in you. We pray they will never be out of touch with the lost of this world.

Wednesday, April 2

“Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself”” (Matthew 22:37-39).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that we have leaders who love you with all their heart, soul, mind and strength. We praise you for leaders who seek your will. We pray you will continue to enlarge their capacity to love their neighbors. We pray you will lead them to know to whom they need to be a neighbor. We pray you will use the leaders of the Missionary Church to continue to challenge the church to love the Lord with our total being and to love our neighbors as He has called us to love them.

Thursday, April 3

“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: Father, we praise you for our Missionary Church leaders, who lead from a place of brokenness for lost people. We pray that the busyness of leading regions and the denomination will never burden them more than their burden for the lost. We pray their hearts will be continually broken so that their burden for those who have no peace – whose eyes are closed to the truths of Jesus – will be caught by those who are serving in the local church. We pray they will lead from their knees as they intercede for those who have no shepherd.

Friday, April 4

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight and am no longer worthy to be called your son’” (Luke 15:20-21).

PRAYER: Lord, our leaders frequently deal with wounded people and people who have run from you. Give our leaders the heart of a father who longs for the return of the prodigal. We pray their arms will always be open, even to those who have squandered so much. We pray You will give them hearts of compassion and a readiness to celebrate the one who has come home. Give them grace to forgive those who may have betrayed them.

Saturday, April 5

“I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance” (Luke 15:7).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we praise you for leaders who celebrate with the angels in heaven over that one sinner who repents. We praise you for leaders who are not just interested in running the machinery of the church, but who care about those who have lost their way. We pray you will guide our leaders to lead the church to seek that one who is far from you.

Sunday, April 6

“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).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for leaders who recognize that the harvest is ripe – for leaders who are personally engaged in the harvest and who are equipping the Church to be engaged in the harvest. We pray for them, that they will never lose sight of how near and how vast is the harvest.

Monday, April 7

“So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you’” (John 20:21).

PRAYER: We praise you, Lord, for leaders who recognize that they are on mission for you. They have accepted your call on their lives and your call to their specific ministry. We pray you will frequently remind them of that call and if necessary, renew it so that they lead as ones who have been sent; who lead not under their own authority but under the authority of the King of Kings.

WEEK #2 – April 8-14

This week, we encourage you to pray for Bethel University – for Dr. Bellefeuille, her cabinet, and staff, that God will regularly bring to mind those students at Bethel who are not walking with Jesus.

Pray that students who do not know Jesus will know that they are loved. Pray they will see the love of Jesus in the lives of faculty and staff. Pray for those peer-to-peer relationships, that they would produce kingdom fruit.

Pray that God will lead the search team to a presidential candidate who has a deep burden for students who do not know Jesus. Pray that the new president will demonstrate brokenness for the lost.

Pray for faculty and staff, that God will use them to introduce students to Jesus. Pray that God will use them to reap a great harvest at Bethel.

Allow the Holy Spirit to use the following Scriptures and prayers to inform your prayers for Bethel University. Your prayers matter more than you will ever realize.

Tuesday, April 8

“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 in heaven, we praise you for the harvest workers Bethel has nurtured and trained through the decades. Lord, we need more harvest workers – workers who give leadership to local churches, who are called to start ministries in other parts of the world, who are called to be doctors, teachers, and engineers, and workers in every profession engaged in the harvest. We pray you will continue to use Bethel to train more harvest workers.

Wednesday, April 9

“My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray; They have turned them away on the mountains. They have gone from mountain to hill; They have forgotten their resting place” (Jeremiah 50:6).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for the students who come to Bethel who have no knowledge of you. They have been led astray by a fallen world. We praise you for the opportunity Bethel has to introduce them to you and to shape their lives for the future. We pray for these students, that you will touch their hearts. We pray you will put the right people in their lives – fellow students, faculty, and staff. We pray especially for those who are troubled, that they will find their rest and peace in you.

Thursday, April 10

“I have gone astray like a lost sheep; Seek Your servant, For I do not forget Your commandments” (Psalm 119:176).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that you seek us. You pursue us because you desire a relationship with us. We pray for every student at Bethel, that you will pursue them and that they will surrender to you. We pray especially for those who have lost their way, who are troubled and perhaps have thoughts of self-harm, that you will seek them and give them peace. Pursue those who think they know their way but who need a course correction. We pray they will yield their lives to you.

Friday, April 11

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost” (Luke 19:10).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you that we have a redeemer who came to seek and save the lost. We pray for an outpouring of your Holy Spirit on Bethel’s campus, that there might be an awakening among the students who don’t know you – that they will realize they are lost and that you are seeking them. We pray that you will use faculty and staff to nudge, lead, and urge students to put their trust in you. We pray no student will leave Bethel without a clear opportunity to be one of those found by you.

Saturday, April 12

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned’” (Mark 16:15-16).

PRAYER: Father, we believe there are students at Bethel you are calling to go into other parts of the world to preach the Gospel. We pray they will respond affirmatively to your call. We pray you will equip faculty and staff to help students explore that call. We praise you for those who have already accepted your call on their lives and are serving you around the world. We pray that number will multiply.

Sunday, April 13

“To the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some” (1 Corinthians 9:22).

PRAYER: Lord, we praise you for the Bethel faculty and staff. We praise you for the passion they have for investing in students. We pray you will equip them to relate to the students in ways that will lead them to you. We pray that you will equip them, especially to engage with the marginalized – the outcasts. We pray they will see these students find joy in Jesus.

Monday, April 14

“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: Father, we pray for those students at Bethel who are Christ-followers. We pray they will never be ashamed of the Gospel. We pray you will give them a holy boldness to engage with unbelievers. We pray they will walk in confidence in the power of the Gospel to change lives. Along with boldness, give them grace and patience as they wait on you.

WEEK #3 – April 15-21

The focus for this week is praying for pastors. Praise the Lord for pastors whose hearts are broken for the lost. Praise Him for their faithfulness in reaching out to the community.

Pray for these leaders, that God will use them to lead the church to have an even greater impact on the community. Pray that God will continually break their hearts for lost people. Pray that God will use them to challenge the body of Christ to reach their peers for Christ.

Pray for protection from the enemy as they lead the church to reach more people for Jesus. Pray He will keep them encouraged.

Tuesday, April 15

“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: Father in heaven, we praise you for the reminder that apart from Jesus we can do nothing. We pray for our pastors, that they will develop a deep, abiding relationship with you, so that they can bear much fruit. We pray that as they abide in you, their burden for the lost will increase and their vision of the harvest will become clearer. We pray they will never be satisfied with simply having more people attend the worship services, but that the burden for the lost will remain clear.

Wednesday, April 16

“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: Lord, thank you for calling all of us to be your witnesses wherever we might be. We praise you for our pastors, who see this global need for men and women to engage in reaching lost people around the world. We pray for your special anointing on each of our pastors, that they might first be witnesses and also that God will use them to equip the church to be witnesses. We pray you will keep those ripe harvest fields always in their view.

Thursday, April 17

“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2).

PRAYER: Father, we pray you will put a Timothy — or two or three — in the life of each our pastors, so that they can disciple them. We know that some things are better caught than taught. We pray that their brokenness for lost people will be caught by everyone they mentor. We pray the portion of the body of Christ that each one serves will also catch the urgency of the harvest, so that we see more and more people engaged in reaching their friends for Jesus.

Friday, April 18

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, who bring glad tidings of good things!’” (Romans 10:14-15).

PRAYER: Father, we praise you for every pastor who faithfully proclaims your word – from the pulpit, in meetings, and in private conversations. We praise you for the thousands who have come to faith through the preaching of the Word. We pray you will continue to call men and women to ministry whose hearts are broken for lost people. We pray you will multiply the number of people in each of our churches who are broken for the lost. Use our pastors to equip others to be harvest workers.

Saturday, April 19

“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 what you are doing on university campuses around the country. We praise you for the thousands of students who are putting their trust in Jesus. We pray for this next generation. We pray you will fan into flame the spark you have put in their hearts. We pray that pastors will find ways of encouraging this next generation to reach their peers. We pray that pastors will give them opportunities to minister. Because of the harvest, we pray you will use pastors to equip this next generation.

Sunday, April 20

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16).

PRAYER: Lord, we know that we live in a confused world. People do not know truth or right from wrong. We pray for our pastors as they lead the church to engage in the harvest, that they will never be ashamed of the Gospel and that they will stand firm on the Word of God without compromise. We pray their zeal for reaching lost people will not keep them from proclaiming the truth of Scriptures. We pray pastors will be faithful to proclaim the Word as they should. We pray, then, that because of your word, there will be much fruit.

Monday, April 21

“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we pray for our pastors, that they will be faithful students of the Word so that they can defend the faith. We pray you will use them to equip the church to be ready to give a reason for the hope they have. We pray you will give them insight into the culture around them so that they know how to engage in conversation with those who do not have a foundation in the Word. We pray their burden for the lost will never be diminished by the busy-ness of the church.

WEEK #4 – March 22-28

As we continue our focus on seeking brokenness for lost people, we want to pray for each local church, that there will be a renewed awareness of the harvest. The burden for the lost cannot just rest with the pastor but every church must see the harvest as Jesus sees it. Could it be that we are walking in the middle of the harvest field, and we don't even see it?

We praise the Lord for the harvest that is taking place – for churches that are seeing multiple baptisms week after week. Praise the Lord for churches that are very aware of the harvest and who continually pray the Lord of the harvest to send more workers.

Pray that every Missionary Church will reap a harvest this year – for some it may be tenfold and for others a hundredfold. Pray that none of our churches will miss the harvest.

Tuesday, April 22

“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God” (2 Corinthians 5:20).

PRAYER: Father in heaven, we pray for our churches, that they will recognize this incredible privilege of being ambassadors for Christ – allowing Him to plead through us on Christ’s behalf to a world that needs to be reconciled to God. We have the privilege of standing in the gap. We pray, too, Lord, that as your ambassadors, you will use your church to plead with those who say that are believers but whose lives do not match what they claim, that they would be reconciled to you.

Wednesday, April 23

“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15).

PRAYER: Father, we pray that the hearts of the church would be so broken for the lost that each one will be diligent to present themselves approved to you. May each one become a student of your word, rightly dividing the word of truth, so that they can effectively share the Gospel with those who do not know Jesus. Equip you church to be harvest workers.

Thursday, April 24

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry” (2 Timothy 4:5).

PRAYER: Lord, these words that Paul wrote to Timothy apply to us today. Prepare your church to be willing to endure afflictions. Prepare your church to do the work of evangelists. We pray that brokenness for lost people will result in a commitment to face trials and a commitment to share the Gospel, in order that others might know Jesus.

Friday, April 25

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

PRAYER: We praise you, Father, that we are your workmanship. We praise you that you are making us more and more like Jesus. We praise you, that because we are more and more like Jesus, our hearts are broken for what breaks His. Our hearts are broken for lost people. We believe, Lord that some of those good works you created us for was the work of the harvest. Make us harvest workers.

Saturday, April 26

“Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends” (John 15:13).

PRAYER: Lord, we have difficulty comprehending the incredible love you have shown to us. We praise you that you were willing to call us friends and that you were willing to lay down your life for us. We pray you will give us such love for others – especially those who are far from you and from faith – a love that is willing to pay any price for their salvation. Help us consider the cost of one lost soul.

Sunday, April 27

“Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself” (Philippians 2:3).

PRAYER: Father, forgive us for comparing ministries in ways that puff up and promote pride and selfish ambition. We pray that in every church there would be a greater focus on the harvest – a greater brokenness for lost people than any focus that would cause us to be jealous or envious of another ministry or that would cause us to look down on a ministry. Teach us to esteem others for the sake of the lost.

Monday, April 28

“Now it happened, as Jesus sat at the table in the house, that behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Him and His disciples” (Matthew 9:10).

PRAYER: Lord, we come to you confessing that we are not always comfortable associating with “sinners” even though we have our own sins to deal with. Forgive us for not welcoming the stranger – that one whose lifestyle did not meet with our approval or yours. We pray that our churches will be filled with people whose hearts are open to those who are broken because of sin. Give us hearts of compassion.

PERSONAL BROKENNESS

In these last three days of the month, we focus on our personal brokenness for lost people. We are a part of the body of Christ – followers of Jesus. As His followers, we have been sent into the harvest fields.

As you reflect on this theme of brokenness, allow the Lord to break your heart for lost people – for neighbors, family members, and co-workers.

Tuesday, April 29

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

PRAYER: Father, thank you for the reminder that we were once sinners – that we didn’t have it all together and were far from you. Thank you for the people who were broken because of my sinfulness – people who prayed, who shared, who cared enough to show the love of Jesus to me. Give me the heart of Jesus so that my heart is broken for the lost.

Wednesday, April 30

“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15).

PRAYER: Thank you again, Lord, for the reminder of my own sinfulness. Use that reminder to give me compassion for those who are far from you. Thank you for the reminder that you came to save the lost, not just to make my life more comfortable. In fact, Lord, we expect there will be times of discomfort as you lead us into the harvest fields.

BEFORE WE LEAVE

WHAT IS YOUR HEART ATTITUDE TOWARD LOST PEOPLE?

- Do you typically criticize those who are not walking with Jesus, or do you intercede for them?
- Do you desire opportunities to engage with pre-Christians and do you pray for those opportunities?
- When you see someone far from God, does it break your heart?
- Have you wept in prayer for someone who didn't know Jesus?